



Step into my shoes...



LEARNING CENTRES

In communities where there is a lack of access to formal education, AMS supports learning centres offering tutoring and classes for further education, employment and self-sufficiency.

The Children and Youth Centre (CYC) Ponta Leste Timor-Leste (ET0019)

CYC Ponta Leste is based in Baucau, East Timor and was established in 2006. It aims to protect children's rights and provide a safe and friendly environment where children and youth can access education services and extra-curriculum classes.

CYC Ponta Leste engenders community spirit and fosters strong friendships between the students as well as the teachers. In Baucau there is a high level of unemployment, so the centre also creates employment and stimulates the local economy while students are kept off the street and engaged in educational activities.



Timor-Leste Snapshot:

- 14% of children aged 6 to 11 are not regularly enrolled in school and access to schools continues to pose problems in certain rural areas;
- Only 39% of girls and 34% of boys are enrolled in secondary education;
- 46% of the East Timorese population is between 0 and 14 years old, children constitute almost half of the population and are the first victims of the high rate of poverty of the country. In fact, 73% of the population lives on less than two dollars a day; and
- 70% of infrastructure destroyed by militia in 1999.

CYC Ponta Leste is a non-formal education centre providing English, literacy, computer skills training and a sports program to supplement the struggling school system in Old Town Baucau, Timor-Leste. This type of centre gives school students a place to extend their learning outside of school hours which is especially important when living situations at home are not conducive to studying.

In 2018, 403 students have been enrolled in various classes across the program (almost double 2017's enrolment). The benefits that are achieved are wide ranging and encompass many areas of life – social, emotional, educational and physical. Australian Marist Solidarity supports non-formal local education programs such as CYC Ponta Leste as they provide a safe place for children to learn as we believe in the power of grassroots initiatives.

Your support will help increase CYC Ponta Leste enrolments and reach in 2019.

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Operation Rainbow (IN0004)

Operation Rainbow, a Marcellin Trust project, was established in 2003 by the Marist Brothers to provide support to families and children affected by HIV. The support, care and educational programs have grown steadily over this time.

Of the 65 million people living in the state of Tamil Nadu, approximately 650,000 are HIV positive. Of these, one in seven is a child under the age of 14. These people are some of the most neglected in society because of their poor knowledge about the virus and its effects. Because of the stigma associated with the disease, many families don't access the services that can assist in managing the illness and its resulting hardships.



Operation Rainbow works with families in their own settings and assists them access resources available within their local communities. This support is provided through home visits, free medical seminars, counselling and HIV awareness courses. The program has seen steady growth in the care and support they have been able to offer and provide the local community largely thanks to the AMS donors and partners.

A key program for Operation Rainbow is the LaValla Evening Study Centres which have been created to provide additional opportunities for school children in rural villages to utilize their free time after school and access assistance on their educational endeavours. Currently there are 368 children attending the classes every day in 13 centres, guided by 15 teachers.

Operation Rainbow also plays an important part of Australian school immersions which sees groups of staff and student from the Marist network head off on mission to various host Marist communities in the Asia Pacific.

Support of Operation Rainbow will ensure that the LaValla Evening Study Centres can continue to provide students from rural areas across Tamil Nadu with educational support and guidance.