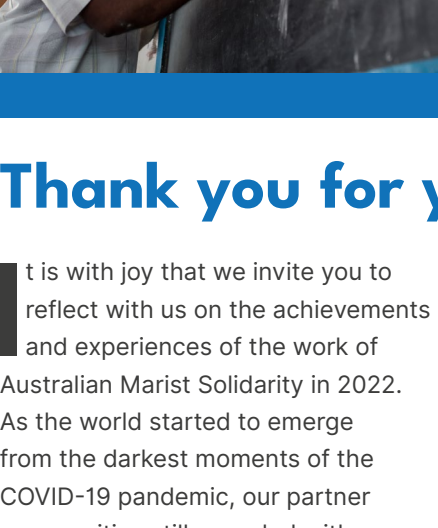


SOLIDARITY MATTERS



Winter 2023



Thank you for your support in 2022!

It is with joy that we invite you to reflect with us on the achievements and experiences of the work of Australian Marist Solidarity in 2022. As the world started to emerge from the darkest moments of the COVID-19 pandemic, our partner communities still grappled with many of the challenges exacerbated by this period. They embraced these challenges with great hope and tenacity, and we are inspired by the incredible contributions being made across our region for children and young people, ensuring that even through the most difficult times they are educated, supported and loved.

You'll find some of their stories captured in the 2022 Annual Report, offering a glimpse into the communities, individuals and work that enables young people across our region to have hope and access to education.

AMS would also like to apologise to the Somerton Park Brothers Community for the omission of their generous contribution of \$6,129.70 on page 30 of the Annual Report. We deeply appreciate their support over many years.



2022 Annual Report

Mid Year Appeal 2023 | Chetana Boys Hostel

Thank you to all our supporters who donated to our 2023 Mid Year Appeal. Together you raised \$39,139 for projects like the Chetana Boys Hostel in India, and it could not have been done without your tremendous support.

Chetana is currently home to more than 60 boys in grades 5-12. Most of these boys are of the Santali ethnic minority group, an extremely socially marginalised group. Opportunities for education and employment are significantly limited, meaning that many Santali families are caught in a vicious generational poverty cycle.

Children like Anish will have the opportunity for a brighter future thanks to your donations from our Mid Year Appeal. Anish is from a large family and helps them with their rice farming. Due to illiteracy amongst Santali parents, many do

not recognise the importance of education for their children as they did not receive this opportunity when they were young. As such, children often miss out on primary education as they are needed to help with family farming practices to keep the family afloat. This can sometimes extend to missing out on health services as well.

Programs like Chetana are working hard to break the cycle, by providing education to young people who are often the first in their families to ever step into a classroom. Together with your support, we are providing accommodation, education, health services, nutritious meals, and extracurricular activities such as sport and supervised study sessions.

Your support is changing lives and communities, and we thank you for your generosity.



PROGRAM UPDATES

Balay Banaag | Philippines

Balay Banaag is a residential centre that provides care and support for the girl children of females working in prostitution. This period saw a number of successful initiatives completed at Balay Banaag in the Philippines, most notably meetings with the students' families, home visitations, and reintegration of some students with their mothers.

Students and their mothers were also given the opportunity to have an outing outside of the centre, including going to a resort pool and doing karaoke together. Students were also involved in counselling sessions,

art therapy, and classes such as yogurt-making and clothes mending. The students also had a school year awards day. Thank you to Sr Lilibeth and the team for all your hard work!



PROGRAM UPDATES

Anondo Neer | Bangladesh

The Anondo Neer Project for children living with disability in Bangladesh has been delivering inspiring outcomes for the children and young adults across the project. Basic physiotherapy is provided for children living with disability in order to improve their mobility and quality of life.



There are also a variety of activities available for the children to take part in, including group dancing, making bottles and beads. These activities allow the children work together and develop social skills and respect for one another. Visiting families are provided with support and counselling on how best to manage the issues faced by their children, which helps the child feel individually valued.

The Anondo Neer Project is making extraordinary progress for the children and families involved, and we thank Sr Juliana for her hard work over the years and welcome Sr Janet and Sr Suporna.

PROGRAM UPDATES

St Joseph's College | Bougainville

We are delighted to share that all students and staff are safe and well following the eruption of Mount Bagana in Bougainville last month. There were no impacts on the community other than the disrupted days of school due to government-issued evacuations. Everyone is now back in classrooms and learning again!

Thank you to Parramatta Marist High School for your fundraising support in helping the students get back to school.



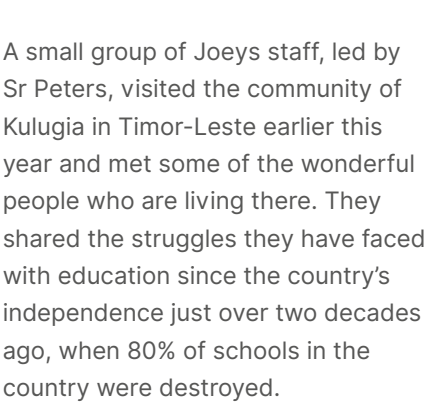
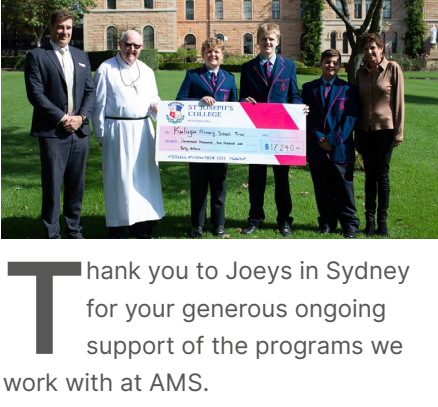
AROUND THE SCHOOLS

School fundraising support

Marcellin College, Bulleen held a walkathon for AMS on 24 May 2023, raising more than \$10,000. This was part of the college's annual Champagnat Day fundraising.

We thank the students and staff at Marcellin College Bulleen for organising this event, which not only assists people in need but also

enabled students to walk in the footsteps of our founder St. Marcellin Champagnat in being the face of Jesus to those most in need.



Thank you to Joeys in Sydney for your generous ongoing support of the programs we work with at AMS.

A small group of Joeys staff, led by Sr Peters, visited the community of Kulugia in Timor-Leste earlier this year and met some of the wonderful people who are living there. They shared the struggles they have faced with education since the country's independence just over two decades ago, when 80% of schools in the country were destroyed.

With the funds raised by Joeys, the local primary school in Kulugia will be rebuilt so that children in the area can receive the education they deserve!

Connect with us to find out more.