

Timor Children's Foundation

ONLINE NEWSLETTER Summer 2023



Annual Fundraising Luncheon

The Gap Uniting Church once again played host to the Annual TCF Supporters Luncheon. It was great to share the day with 90 supporters of the Foundation.

A particular highlight was hearing from Samara, the Manager of Goodles Australia. Samara traveled from Aubury/Wodonga to be with us for the day, and the ongoing partnership with Goodles Australia is a long, stable and highly valued relationship.



Samara, from Goodles Australia, speaking at the Luncheon

Don Van Cootan from World Relief Australia (WRA) spoke about the relationship and role that WRA provide in giving TCF tax deductible gift recipient status. Other highlights included entertainment by Churchie vocalist, Charlie Hartwright and organ music by Dr Steven Nisbet OAM.



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Funds raised on the day (approx \$3,000) are very much appreciated, however the focus of the day is sharing updates on the current projects and saying thank you to both long term and new supporters. It was particularly lovely to be able to honour Mrs Helen Finlay as a long-term supporter with a gift showing our appreciation. Alongside this, it was a joy to welcome folk from the Pilgrim Congregation who meet at Merthyr Rd, as new supporters of our work.

A quick snapshot of our projects:

Scholarship Project:

Rev Moises da Silva continues to be our administrator for the project, and we support approximately 300 tertiary students each semester at a cost of \$50,000 per annum. We have launched a new student survey for 2023/24 and will bring the results next year.

Samaria Children's Home:

Filomena continues to care for the children under her watch and as we have mentioned before we will be finalising our financial support for the home come 31 Dec 2024.

Dental Project:

Dr Mal Campbell bought a report about the dental work and both the joys and challenges of working in Timor with changing governments and legislation. A successful trip was undertaken in September this year with some existing and new dental partnership opportunities being explored.

Thanks again for all of those who attended the luncheon and we look forward to seeing you in 2024.



Luncheon delicacies

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TCF's Dental Project update:

Forging New Connections and Sustainable Dental Care in Timor-Leste

In September 2023, the Timor Children's Foundation embarked on a journey that would take an unexpected turn, leading to exciting opportunities and promising outcomes for our Dental program in Timor. Initially, we had set our sights on resuming our dental program at Marcello 2 School in Dili. Everything seemed set in stone – the team was ready, equipment had arrived, and local partners Maluk Timor had given us the green light. However, less than a month before our departure, disaster struck. Maluk Timor informed us that our Australian registrations would not be accepted, throwing our plans into disarray.

What followed over the next three and a half weeks was a complete change of focus for our trip, which ultimately led to remarkable developments for our Dental program in Timor. The journey was filled with challenges, but it also opened doors to new contacts, partnerships, and strategies that will shape the future of our mission.

New Connections and Partnerships

One of the most significant outcomes of our trip was the establishment of crucial new contacts, including:

1. SABEH - Saude Ba Ema Hotu: Our prayers were indeed answered when the director of SABEH expressed interest in collaborating with us. They plan to meet with the principal and staff of Marcello 2 School to discuss their support for establishing a permanent health room/dental clinic in the proposed new school extensions. This partnership aims to establish an outreach program, with nurses and dentists regularly visiting the school. This initiative promises improved dental care for students and makes it easier for us to send smaller teams more frequently.

2. Klibur Domin is a Timorese NGO allowing various programs to help those in need in Timor-Leste. These include an inpatient program for those recovering from illnesses or injuries, a mobile TB team to diagnose and treat those with tuberculosis in the community, and a dental clinic to provide dental treatment and oral health education. Our meeting with Klibur Domin opened up new possibilities for collaboration. They are eager to explore ways in which we can assist in establishing mobile dental clinics and public oral health programs.



Donated materials for Klibur Domin

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3. The Australian Embassy in Timor-Leste: Our discussion with the head of the Human Development Assistance Team at the Australian Embassy brought exciting developments. The Embassy is committed to streamlining the foreign dentist registration process in Timor-Leste. Additionally, we were informed of new grant opportunities that could benefit our charity and help with our registration process.

4. Balibo House Trust: Our journey also took us to Balibo, where we worked at the Balibo House Dental Clinic. Under their arrangements with the government, we could work and see patients from a local Catholic college and some primary school students. They are also eager to explore ways in which we can assist in establishing mobile dental clinics and public oral health programs, and our trip opened up possibilities for future collaborations.



Dental team in Balibo



Balibo House

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Oral Health Classroom Lessons

Despite being unable to operate clinically at Marcello 2 school, we continued our prioritization of oral health education. We conducted classroom lessons at the school, aiming to empower students with knowledge about maintaining their oral health. This educational aspect of our mission remains a vital component of our work.

While our trip faced initial setbacks, it ultimately led us to forge valuable connections and explore new avenues for our Dental program in Timor. TCF was able to make significant donations of urgent dental supplies to all 3 NGOs. The potential partnerships with SABEH, Klibur Domin, the Australian Embassy, and Balibo House Trust offer exciting prospects for more sustainable and widespread dental care. Our time in Balibo and commitment to oral health education further solidify our dedication to improving the well-being of the children in Timor-Leste. The future looks promising as we continue our mission to provide support and resources to enable local workers to be able to provide quality dental care and education to those in need.



Classroom dental lesson - Marcello 2



Balibo House Dental Clinic



Classroom dental lesson - Marcello 2

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A CHRISTMAS CHARITY APPEAL

You Can Help Us



Urgent Call for Support:

Improving security at Samaria Children's Home

During our September Dental trip to Timor-Leste, some members of the TCF executive had the privilege of visiting Samaria Children's Home, where we had the chance to meet Filomena and interact with some of the wonderful children in her care. We were heartened to see that the children were generally well and healthy, but during our visit, we identified some additional needs that require immediate attention.

Meeting Basic Needs

One of the most pressing needs we identified during our visit to Samaria is related to the living conditions of the children. We observed a need for extra bedding to replace old sheets and pillows, repair work for bathroom doors, and the installation of additional cupboards for food storage in the kitchen. These are essential items that can significantly improve the children's daily lives and well-being. We are pleased to share that our emergency cash reserves will cover these small but vital items, ensuring that the children have a safe and comfortable environment to live in.

A Concern for Safety

However, there is another issue that we cannot address with our current resources alone. Filomena shared with us a pressing concern regarding the security of the property and the safety of the children living at Samaria. Filomena described incidents where "young men" had been getting drunk at night and entering the property through a laneway at the back, potentially putting the children at risk.

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A CHRISTMAS **CHARITY** APPEAL

You Can Help Us



An Appeal for Your Support

To address this critical issue and ensure the safety of the children, we are launching an urgent fundraising campaign. We need to construct a security gate and wall that will provide a protective barrier and safeguard the children and property from unauthorised access. This significant undertaking requires the collective support of our generous donors and supporters.

How You Can Help

We invite you to join us in making a meaningful difference in the lives of these vulnerable children. Your donation can directly contribute to improving security at Samaria Children's Home.

To make a donation, please visit:

<https://www.timorchildren.com/donate-now>

You Can Help Us



Scroll down to the yellow donation box labelled "Donate Here to Samaria - Dental Project or Area of Greatest Need."

Your support is crucial in ensuring the safety and well-being of the children at Samaria Children's Home. We are immensely grateful for your generosity and commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of these young souls. Together, we can create a safer and more secure environment where they can thrive, grow, and build brighter futures. Thank you for being a part of this important mission.

www.timorchildren.com



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May the spirit of Christmas
be with
you all year round.

United in love,
from the TCF family to yours.



Gift cards

If you would like to make a donation to any of our projects in lieu of a gift - either for Christmas, or for other occasions, we can send you a card to give the recipient. Contact: donations@timorchildren.com for more information.

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