



PROJECT REPORT

A JOINT INITIATIVE OF
THE PARISHES OF SINGLETON AND BRANXTON,
ST CATHERINE'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE, SINGLETON
and ROSARY PARK CATHOLIC PRIMARY, BRANXTON

Table of Contents

Background	3
Project 1 – Evelyne Fabiane Moses.....	5
Project 2 – Esta Liliani Samweli.....	6
Project 3 – Rosa Pascali.....	6
Project 4 – A House for Rosa	8
Project 5 – Electricity for Bene Maria Convent	9
Project 6 – Fees for Elia Ericki	11
Christmas 2020 –Adopted Orphans.....	12
Project 7 – Help for Amos Ndaleouye.....	13
Project 8 – Urine Analysis Machine for Franciscan Sisters’ Health Centre	15
Project 9 – Income Generation for Noelia Paulo	16
Project 10 – Poultry Production at Bene Maria Convent	17
Project 11 – Vimala’s Liver Transplant	18
Christmas 2021 – Ratheesh the Artist	19
Project 12 – Gas stoves for Burundi Community	20
Project 13 – Playground for Anugraha School.....	22
Account Statement	Error! Bookmark not defined.
How to donate to the Hope Tree Group.....	24



ST PATRICK'S
P A R I S H
— Singleton —

ST BRIGID'S
— PARISH —
BRANXTON AND GRETA



Background

During Lent in April 2019, a notice was put in the bulletin for interested parishioners to join a Social Justice Group. This group would focus on creating a better life for others on a direct assistance basis.

The first meeting of interested parishioners and student leaders from St Catherine's Catholic College was held on 5 June 2019 at the College with the purpose of the meeting to discuss the creation of a social justice/mission group for the Parish of Singleton.

Fr Thomas Chirackal gave some examples of those in need who he had been asked to assist. They all only needed small amounts of Australian dollars to make a big difference to their lives.

The group was asked to come up with a name as the words Social Justice and Mission can sometimes be confusing. Many names were put forward with the group voting as a majority for the name 'Hope Tree Group'. This name was nominated by the students.

The vision of the group is to fulfill the commandment of Jesus to love our neighbor, to be the light of the world by making a difference in the lives of people who experience darkness of any sort.

The aim of the group is to serve the needy anywhere in the world. Reaching out to the unreached people who have no access to any other funding. Provide direct assistance to the beneficiary without cost for administration. The group would be a joint venture of the Parish and the College.

The process and methodology which was agreed upon would be that the group would receive small scale requests or projects with an overview and photos. These requests could come locally or internationally. The group would then assess the requests and make a decision on the level of support (if any).

Fundraising would be via donations, a collection box in the church and school, sale of items and other ideas of the group. All collected funds would be banked to a designated account for the Hope Tree Group.

A description of the project to be funded would be displayed clearly near the collection box so parishioners fully understand what they are donating to.

The money would be transferred directly to the beneficiary or to a local mediator via Western Union (if international).

The beneficiary would be asked to provide periodic updates so these could be published in the bulletin for parishioners.

The Hope Tree Group would run their projects away from the appeals from Catholic Mission, Caritas and Vinnies.

At the conclusion of the first meeting in June 2019 the Hope Tree Group had approved their first project for fundraising.

As at June 2022, there have been 13 projects supported by the group, which is now a combined parishes initiative with Branxton Parish and Rosary Park Primary.



Group Projects

A variety of projects have been funded since 2019. The majority of beneficiaries have been residents of Tanzania, Africa and have been assisted for many different reasons. The Hope Tree group also assist locals who need assistance.

Project 1 – Evelyne Fabiane Moses

Evelyne Phabian Moses was born on 8th September 1999 in Kigoma, Tanzania. She was studying in Kigamboni City College completing a 3 year course for a Diploma in Clinical Medicine.

Evelyne's single mother worked selling vegetables and sugarcane to be able to pay her school fees. Her business was doing well while Evelyne was attending primary and secondary school. During her first year of college her mother's business started declining and she was amounting debts, one of which was Evelyne's college fees.

They were able to borrow money from a family member so Evelyne could pay the fee for the exam to enter the second term of the course but no money for the yearly fees.

Evelyne's mother had remarried and her new husband was abusive and controlling of her money. Evelyne was unable to find the funds to buy basics such as exercise books, clothes, toiletries or food at school.

Evelyne had to leave college for non payment of fees. To be able to return to school Evelyne requested

- ▶ 2,280,000 shilling (\$1515 AUD) for 2nd year fees
- ▶ 800,000 shilling (\$500 AUD) for unpaid 1st year fees
- ▶ \$100 AUD had been paid to allow her to return

The Hope Tree Group agreed to support Evelyne with \$450 of her fees.

This project was to be in place for two months with whatever funds raised to be transferred to her.

Donations were received from the closed Parish Mission Group, a parishioner from Branxton and the donation box totalling \$648.

A transfer of 626291.13 shillings (\$453 AUD) was made to Evelyne Moses on 5 July 2019.

A thank you letter was received from Evelyne. She was able to complete her final exams for the term without any issues and received good marks. During the holidays she was completing field work at a local hospital.

Although school was going well for Evelyne, her family was still having issues with paying her fees.



Project 2 – Esta Liliani Samweli

Esta is studying in Form 4. She is from Kasulu, Tanzania.

Her Mother who is her primary carer, is a tailor and receives a minimum wage.

Esta required \$300 AUD which is nearly half of her yearly tuition fee.



Project 3 – Rosa Pascali

Rosa is a single mother who is blind who lives with her brother in Kasangezi, Tanzania (Fr Thomas' former parish).

Fr Thomas had assisted her to attend a school for the blind while he was in the parish there.

Rosa was unable to gain employment in her village before she attended the school.

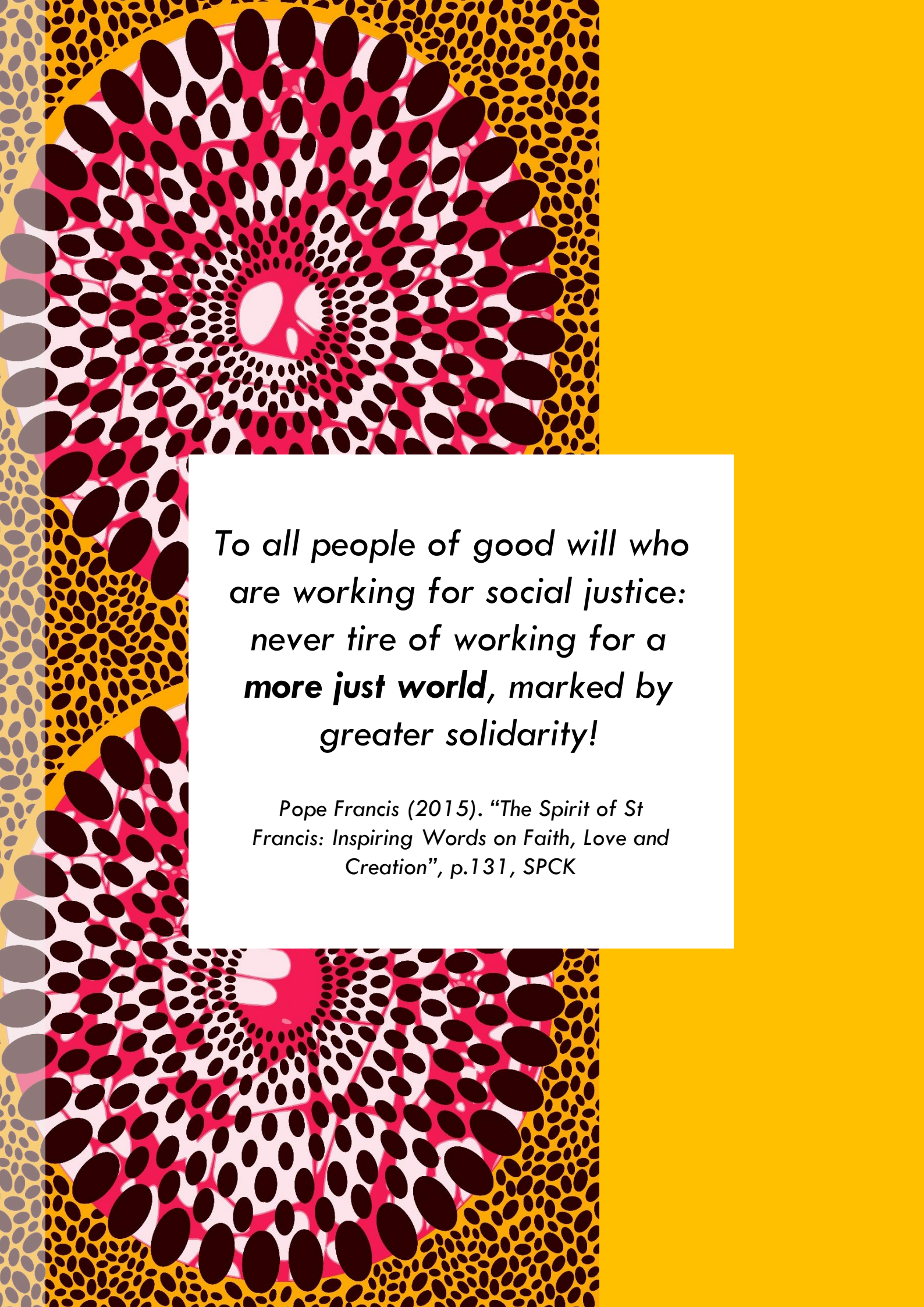
She was selling oil in the market. She needed to decant the oil from a large container into bottles to sell to her customers. The income from this is not sufficient to meet her needs.

Rosa would like to expand her stall to include more items to sell. She would like to purchase more oil, soap for washing clothes and peanuts for cooking.

She needs approximately \$200 to help her with this.



An amount of 630,353.20 shillings (\$510 AUD) was transferred on 25 December 2019 to assist these projects.



*To all people of good will who
are working for social justice:
never tire of working for a
more just world, marked by
greater solidarity!*

*Pope Francis (2015). "The Spirit of St
Francis: Inspiring Words on Faith, Love and
Creation", p.131, SPCK*



Project 4 – A House for Rosa

After Rosa was assisted with increasing the products she could sell at her market stall, she used the money she made to start building a house for herself and her daughter.

An amount of 272,562.87 shillings (\$170 AUD) was donated for her to purchase building materials.

Once she had a nearly complete structure 164,167.35 shillings (\$100 AUD) was transferred to Rosa for her to pay for flooring, windows, a door, pointing on the bricks and a mattress for her bed.

This was a very satisfying project to be able to see the house built from the ground up and the happy faces of her and her daughter.

A further 216,922.40 shillings (\$130 AUD) was transferred to Rosa to complete the house.



Project 5 – Electricity for Bene Maria Convent

The Bene Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary started their convents in Tanzania in Kigoma Diocese 50 years ago. They serve the parishes of the diocese by working in the parish office, teaching religion in schools, leading Sunday liturgy in the absence of priest, supporting the RCIA program and running tailoring centres. They also **provide** a 3-year course for girls to acquire life skills.

The Convent in Kasangezi parish also **provide** these activities. Fr Thomas worked **in this parish** for 9 years. The sisters in Kasangezi also help the handicapped. Sr Vesta Kahere is our contact person and she helped organise construction of the house for Rosa, who **was assisted by** our Parishes **in Project 4**.

Until now there has been no electricity in Kasangezi village. Recently, the government has commenced a project to supply electricity to the village. The Sisters are not in a financial position to install the electricity in their convent.

The electricity will enable the Sisters to provide further training for the people of the village.

The cost for the installation is more than 1500000 Tanzanian Shilling, that is approximately \$1000 Australian Dollars.

1,669,786.72 shillings (\$1000 AUD) was transferred in two amounts on 12 November 2020 and 18 November 2020 via Sr Theophila.

Another 403,971.17 shillings (\$230 AUD) was transferred on 31 December 2020 to complete the work.

A thank you note was received from Sr Theophila acknowledging the donation and thanking all the parishioners for their kind donations which were used for the electricity connection.



Work of the Bene Maria Nuns of Kasangezi Convent





Project 6 – Fees for Elia Ericki

When Hope Tree Group started assisting Elia Ericki he was a student of form 4 in Sinai Puma Junior Seminary Singida in Tanzania. His parents live in Dar es Salaam. His mother Priska has a small business and looks after her two boys. She was formerly in the parish Fr Thomas served in when she was a girl, living with her disabled mother and he had helped them to build house. The boy's father does not have anything to do with them.

In October 2022, Elia enrolled for 3 years in a diploma course at a government agricultural training institute.

Fr Thomas has been helping with Elia's education since 2016. Since 2019 a sponsor has been providing the money for his school fees. Since 2020 the sponsor has been sending the money through our Hope Tree Group and so Elia has now been included in the Hope Tree Group projects.

An amount of \$200 AUD was transferred on 2 January 2021 and then 266382.30 shillings (\$150 AUD) was transferred on 17 February 2021 to cover Elia's fees and \$700 in 2022.



Christmas 2020 –Adopted Orphans

A request was received from the Franciscan Sisters in the Diocese of Dar Es Salaam to assist three orphan children who have been adopted or were being supported by their convent community.

This project was the sole beneficiary of the Christmas Collection for 2020.

Maria Goreth was found on the border of Burundi and Tanzania as a baby, where her and her mother had been beaten. Her mother passed away in hospital. She is now attending a Montessori English school and staying in the convent with the Sisters.

Maria was assisted with the following school needs:

- ▶ Exercise books
- ▶ Pens and pencils
- ▶ School uniforms as showed in the pictures
- ▶ School bag
- ▶ School shoes and socks

Christopha Julius' mother was mentally ill and he was born on the streets. She passed away when he was 6 months old and was taken to live in the convent with the Sisters. He is now 15 and in Form One at St John Paul Secondary boarding school.

For Christopha to commence school he was assisted with

- ▶ School uniforms
- ▶ School books
- ▶ Exercise books
- ▶ School shoes

Claire Francisco's mother was also mentally ill and left her in the streets after her birth. She was taken to hospital by some good Samaritans and then she was taken into the care of the Sisters. She is now 6 years old and ready to start primary school at the Montessori English school.

Before starting the school year Claire received the following school needs:

- ▶ Exercise books
- ▶ Pens and pencils
- ▶ School uniforms as showed in the pictures
- ▶ School bag
- ▶ School shoes and socks



The children were assisted with a total of 1,054,536.66 shillings (\$600 AUD) in two installments on 31 December 2020 and 2 January 2021.

This amount went towards

- ▶ uniforms
- ▶ shoes and socks
- ▶ exercise books
- ▶ pens
- ▶ pencils
- ▶ school bags
- ▶ slash and brooms
- ▶ part payment of their school fees

The children still require ongoing assistance to cover their expenses as the convent are not able to assist.

Project 7 – Help for Amos Ndaleouye

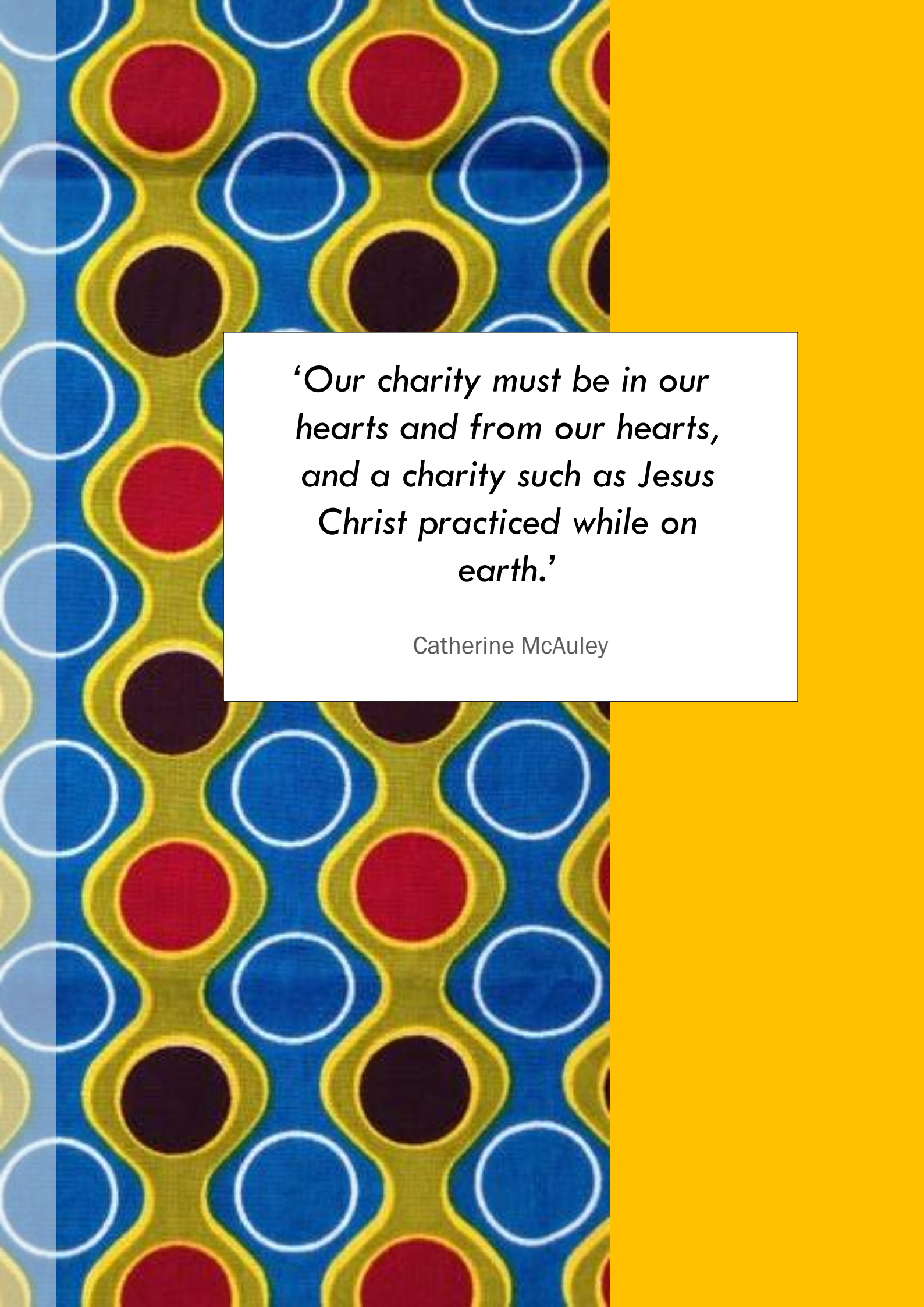


Amos Ndaleouye, is a needy man from Tanzania, who has HIV/AIDS and is living alone.

His condition has made him very weak and unable to work so he depends on neighbours for food and other needs. He is currently finding it difficult to get food, he was in need of clothing and the roof of his house was leaking. He had asked the Sisters to find someone to help him and they approached Fr Thomas.

With a donation of \$150 from the Hope Tree Group funds, the Sisters were able to assist him by providing pants, shirts, blankets, some food items and the grass needed to repair his roof.





‘Our charity must be in our hearts and from our hearts, and a charity such as Jesus Christ practiced while on earth.’

Catherine McAuley

Project 8 – Urine Analysis Machine for Franciscan Sisters' Health Centre

The Franciscan Sisters of the Reign of Jesus Christ in Mbagla, Tanzania identified a need to establish a private health care centre in their region for those who couldn't afford to travel to Dar es Salaam or who were unable to be seen at the government health centres which are overwhelmed with patients. This is a rural area with the population coming from a lot of different villages.

The increase in various contagious and non-contagious diseases has become the number one cause of deaths in the area, caused mostly by the lack of available medical care.

This lack of medical care has existed for some time and as a result the Sisters established the Saint Clara Health Centre. This centre is currently focusing on a program called 'Mother and Child'. The families who are not able to be seen in the government centre were coming to the Sisters clinic and, as they were not able to pay, they were receiving their treatment for free. This has, in turn, put a strain on the available funds of the centre. With limited funds the Sisters were not able to purchase equipment to strengthen the services provided by the laboratory on site.

Fr Thomas received a request for the Hope Tree Group to assist with 1,531,000.00 Tshs (AUD \$900) to purchase a Urine Analysis machine and associated equipment. This money was transferred to them from the Hope Tree Group account on 29 July 2021.

The staff have started using the equipment and are very grateful to the Parishes of Branxton and Singleton for their donation. Special mention to the Branxton Caritas group for their donation of \$4000 to the Hope Tree Group.





Project 9 – Income Generation for Noelia Paulo

Noelia Paulo is a single mother from Kasangezi, Tanzania.

When her husband passed away in 2018, he had been constructing a house for his family. Unfortunately, it was not completed. The flooring and doors still need to be finished. Noelia is unemployed. She has two children who attend school, and she is not able to pay the fees.

She currently makes some income buying and selling farm products in the market and making and selling baskets. She could supplement her income by selling the sweaters she knits but her knitting machine is damaged.

She is asking for \$500 AUD to assist her to have the knitting machine fixed or replaced.

An amount of 823,085.75 shillings (\$500 AUD) was transferred to assist Noelia on 29 September 2021.



Noelia's new machine





Project 10 – Poultry Production at Bene Maria Convent

A request for funding has been received from the Bene Maria Sisters to assist with establishing a chicken and egg production facility at the convent.

The demand for eggs, chicks and chicken meat is very high as the result of a lack of hatcheries and egg production centres within the Kigoma region.

The centre would house laying hens to enable them to sell eggs and day-old chicks to neighboring clients and farmers.

In recent years there has been a progressive increase in the number of people who are employed in the poultry production sector, especially women and youth. However, despite the increase in demand for layers, currently there is no one who supplies layer chicks in Kigoma and as a result farmers have difficulty in getting chicks as they need to order them from dealers in Dar es salaam, Arusha, Mwanza and sometimes outside the country like Nairobi and Burundi.

This outside ordering increases the costs due to transport and often the chicks die in transit.

The Bene Maria Sisters have believe this gap in the market could be of financial benefit to their convent community and in turn would enhance the availability of high quality safe and wholesome eggs and meat for public consumption. It would also increase the living standard of their convent and neighbouring layer farmers in line with Tanzanian strategy of food Self Sufficiency.

To bring the project to realization they Sisters will need 3,000,000 shillings (\$1800 AUD) to assist with

- ▶ building materials
- ▶ feeding equipment
- ▶ drinking equipment
- ▶ food and water
- ▶ purchasing chicks
- ▶ vaccines and medicines
- ▶ lighting
- ▶ labour
- ▶ veterinary assistance



The Sisters have completed the chicken coop and they are all very happy with their new lodgings.

822,158.33 shillings (\$500 AUD) was transferred on 4 Oct 2021
 823,085.75 shillings (\$500 AUD) was transferred on 6 October 2021.
 680,873.27 shillings (\$400 AUD) transferred on 27 October 2021
 664,356.52 shillings (\$400 AUD) transferred on 14 January 2022
 165,062.17 shillings (\$100 AUD) transferred on 24 April 2022



വിമല ആന്റണി ചികിത്സാസഹായ നിധിയിലേക്ക് പണം സ്വരൂപിക്കുന്നതിനായി

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Music Concert Fundraiser

Project 11 – Vimala’s Liver Transplant

Mrs Vimala Kakkanattu and her husband Antony are members of the St Mary’s Church, Kuttampuzha, India.

The Hope Tree Group was approached by Fr Thomas Anthony Vattathottathil to assist Vimala as she was suffering from third stage liver cirrhosis and urgently needed a liver transplant.

The community had been rallying around the family and running different fundraising events to help them with the costs of the transplant.

The approximate cost provided by the hospital for the surgery and hospitalization of both the Recipient and Donor was 16,000,000 Rupees.

An amount of 26,655.80 INR (\$500 AUD) was transferred to Mr Kakkanattu on 21 January 2021 to assist.

സഹായിക്കാമോ ! എനിക്കും ജീവിക്കാൻ കൊതിയുണ്ട് വിട്ടുപോയ കരൾമാറ്റ ശസ്ത്രക്രിയക്ക്

50 ലക്ഷം വേണം ! സഹായ ഹസ്തുവായി നാട്ടുകാർ ഒരുമിക്കുന്നു ..

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Name: ALBIN ANTONY
Account No: 403802010013448
IFSC Code: UBIN0540382

Union Bank
Branch: KUTTAMPUZHA

PhonePe 9645532946
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കോർഡിനേറ്റർ :- കോരമ്പലം MLA ആന്റണി ഓസ്, ഇടുക്കി എ.പി വിൻ കുറുപ്പൻപുഴ പഞ്ചായത്ത് പ്രസിഡന്റ് ശ്രീമതി കാഞ്ചി വേളുകുറുപ്പൻ ഓൾ ഓസ് ആന്റണി വടത്തോട്ടത്തിൽ കുടുംബവും പള്ളി വികാരി വാരിയ് ഓസ് വിമലി കെ.എ.

Contact : 9074608083

Fundraising Poster

വിമല ആന്റണി ചികിത്സ സഹായനിധി സഹായ ഹസ്തുവായി കുടുംബം യുത്ത് കോൺഗ്രസ് രണ്ടലം കമ്മിറ്റി നടത്തുന്ന കേക്ക് ചലഞ്ച് ഡിസംബർ - 15 - 31 വരെ

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കേക്ക് ഓർഡർ :- എൽദോസ് സ്റ്റീഫൻ -7012989662, 9446208281 (കൂറപ്പൻ)

Donations from food sale

കാരുണ്യയാത്രയുമായി പ്രിയ ബസ്

PRIYA

06/12/2021 തിങ്കളാഴ്ച

ചികിത്സ സഹായ നിധിയിലേക്ക് പണം സ്വരൂപിക്കുവാൻ പ്രിയ ബസ് നമ്മുടെ കയ്ക്ക് ഒടുങ്ങുന്നു !!

ഏവരുടെയും സഹകരണം ഉണ്ടാവണം !

All income from this bus service was donated to Vimala

Christmas 2021 – Ratheesh the Artist

Donations from collections at 2021 Christmas Mass were used to assist Ratheesh in India.

Ratheesh Pushkkaran is a young, Hindu, disabled man. He is an artist, living with his mother and his child, as his wife left him.

During floods in 2021, his motorbike was damaged as well as his laptop, on which he does his artwork. He is now going to his office by taxi and is left with nothing after paying for the taxi. A new laptop for him to complete his work and continue to earn money will cost approximately \$1200 and repairs to his bike will cost approximately \$500.

Pictured below is Ratheesh on his motorbike and some examples of his work.

An amount of 89,775.36 INR (\$1700 AUD) was raised from the Christmas Collections and from further Hope Tree Group donations and sent to Ratheesh on 11 January 2021.



Paintings by Ratheesh



Project 12 – Gas stoves for Burundi Community

The congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Bene Mariya) is a missionary congregation founded in 1958 and located in the Diocese of Ngozi, Burundi, East Africa. Bene-Mariya's mission is **“to help families to live according to the Christian Spirit”**. They have communities in four countries in Africa including Burundi, Tanzania, Chad, Niger and in Italy.

Burundi shares its borders with Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania. Burundi (called the heart of Africa) is a country located in East Africa, south of the equator and is a total of 27,830 square kilometres in size. The population is approximately 12,541,010. The political capital is Gitega.

In the city of Bujumbura the sisters have five communities of Bene Mariya sisters and they are ministering in different places to serve God's people.

The sisters are asking for assistance with the purchase of gas stoves for these communities.

Changes have recently been made to transportation due to the large number of deaths of people who ride bicycles, motorcycles and three-tired cars. The government has decided to stop the use of any of these vehicles in the city of Bujumbura where the sisters live.

These vehicles were often used to transport goods cheaply within the city. So now the cost of getting firewood or charcoal is very expensive due to the dangerous nature of transporting.

The Government is also promoting the use of gas stoves to decrease deforestation causing climate change. Large number of trees are cut down every day for firewood and making charcoal.

The use of natural gas stoves by the Sisters will be more cost effective and far better for the environment.

Each stove will cost \$630, so for five stoves the total is \$3150. The sisters can buy the gas in the city of Bujumbura and they estimate using 25kg per month at a total cost of \$122.26/month.

An amount of \$700 AUD was donated to purchase one stove on 3 November 2022.



The new stove has been installed

Work of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Burundi

Kampala Fair



Project 13 – Playground for Anugraha School

Anugraha special school for the mentally challenged was started in 2000. Managed by Sangli mission society of MST Missionaries. The name Anugraha means Blessing.

The school is situated in a remote village named Khed, in the state of Maharashtra. After a survey in the area in 2000, it was found that there are many mentally challenged children who have no access to education or other services.

It was after the findings of this survey that the Sangli mission society decided to open the school to serve these children. At present there are 55 students at the school. Students are given training in ADL (activities of daily living), physiotherapy, speech therapy etc.

Students are from poor families, so they are only able to contribute very little towards the fees. The school relies on donations from benefactors to continue teaching the students and stay open. They do not receive any government grants towards running of the school.

The first principal of the school was Sr Rosebel. In 2001 she put up a playground for the students. After serving the school for about 15 years she was transferred to another school in Kerala state. Now she has come back to the school and found all the play equipment for the children in a dilapidated condition. She wants to repair and make a better playground for the students.

These are the before photos of the playground.



Sr Rosebel sent through her wish list order.

St Catherine's Catholic College, Singleton rose to the challenge hosting a series of fundraisers at school and they raised enough to donate \$2600AUD – which is INR143,443.00 of the required INR216,000.00.

The amount of \$2600 AUD (plus transfer fees) was donated to put towards the purchase of the playground equipment. The playground was opened and blessed in July 2023.



"The mission of the Christian in the world is a mission for all, a mission of service, which excludes no-one; it requires great generosity and in particular the gaze and heart turned heavenward to invoke the Lord's help."

Pope Francis Angelus July 3 2016

How to donate to the Hope Tree Group

- Payment can be made at the parish office in cheque or cash.
- Envelopes or money can be placed in the Hope Tree Group collection boxes at church.
- Payment can be made via electronic transfer using these account details:

Account Name: CDF Agent 5565 (Hope Tree)

BSB: 062 815

Account Number: 0032 8161

Reference: Singleton Hope Tree Group {Surname}

- Payment can be made via credit online at <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/parishdiocesan-payments/>
Please select Singleton Parish and in the payment notes please say Hope Tree Group.

