



Brother Rohan D'Souza, a member of the new Western Zambia cluster, meets with a local family in Senanga as part of his listening survey (see pg.2 for full article)

Welcome to the latest edition of the Edmund Rice Development Newsletter. We do hope you will enjoy reading the news from our projects and some of the stories of the wonderful activities taking place in support of the Edmund Rice missions.

We extend our best wishes at this time to the cluster of new brothers' mission communities in Western Zambia - inside you can read about the set-up of the new cluster and about the importance of compassionate presence in Western Zambia and the *Our Way into the Future* journey.

The search for locations for a second cluster of new communities in India got underway earlier this year. The team are currently reviewing 34 potential states against given criteria. At the end of this field search they will have developed recommendations for the location of the new Indian cluster. We wish them well in this process.

India will also be the destination of our Global Friends visit from 11 - 19 November, when we will bring a small group of community leaders, business people and change-makers from Ireland and the UK to visit a variety of Edmund Rice projects in Kolkata, New Delhi and Asansol. The experience will offer participants a valuable opportunity to view the world and humanity from a very different perspective. Places are still available on this trip and if you would be interested in learning more, please do get in touch.

A core focus for us at the moment in Edmund Rice Development is ensuring our operation and the projects and mission sites you support are fully compliant with fundraising and development best practice. As we continue to navigate an increasingly challenging regulatory and governance environment, our efforts in this regard are focused on ensuring we achieve the maximum possible impact of donor funding and the best outcomes for those people and communities. We thank our colleagues in the field, and you our supporters for your cooperation and support of this important work.

With best wishes,

Jenni Barrett
Chief Executive

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Compassionate presence in Zambia



Ms. Mary Nasilele, the brothers' teacher for Silozi, the language of Western Zambia.

When Edmund Rice looked out of his window in Waterford, he saw destitute children outside, playing, fighting and without any hope of rising above poverty. So he moved out of his house and began to dedicate his life to people made poor.

Building the legacy of Blessed Edmund Rice and deeply aware of the levels of poverty, vulnerability and exclusion in our world, today Christian Brothers and Edmund Rice people continue to reach out to people made poor, journeying with them to create a brighter future.

The first phase of this *Our Way into the Future* journey has seen the start of four new Edmund Rice communities in Western Zambia, a province with immense social problems where three in every four people live in extreme poverty.

Brothers are now living in a new cluster of communities among the people of Mongu, Senanga, Limulunga and Luampa. Here, they are learning more about the reality of people's lives and the challenges they face. They have been taking lessons in the local language, Silozi and conducting listening surveys and group discussions to identify some of the root causes of problems. In Mongu four of the brothers have even joined the local volleyball team and the 26 members of the team visited the brothers' hub. In time, brothers and the communities together will seek to develop some responses to these challenges with the ultimate goal of liberating people from poverty, promoting human rights and enabling a better life for all.

Compassionate presence is a distinctive element of Our Way into the Future: to live, and be in solidarity with the local community, especially those most marginalised. This allows trust to be built and equal relationships to form. The team responsible for the set-up of the new clusters experienced this during a recent immersion experience in the Kamanga and Ngombe compounds in Lusaka, Zambia:¹

'We were bringing nothing... no gifts. What were we here for? One of us felt like a fraud... listening to stories of suffering and sickness and deprivation... and then being able to do nothing. We all felt the rawness and direness of the situations of the four families we met each morning... I felt myself helpless as a Brother... and yet something came from the depths of my heart... a truth trying to relate to the depth of the person in front of me.

We heard of the little jobs people do... washing other people's clothes, buying and selling packets of charcoal, brewing local beer, selling fritters or bananas, breaking stones... all to earn a few kwacha to buy some mealie for the one meal in the day.

We were still not sure why we went to the compounds, but we left sensing that our presence had made a difference. Somehow we had allowed physical interaction with the people to impact on us and become part of us and our spirituality. The people who benefited most from our being there was ourselves. Perhaps we were enabled to take one smaller step on the journey to being "Brothers for the world". We hope so.'

¹(from 'Our Immersion Retreat', www.ourwayintothefuture.org.)



Brs. David Gibson and Donal Kirk meet five caregivers resident in the Kamanga compound in Lusaka, Zambia.

JOURNEYING TOGETHER TOWARDS A BRIGHTER FUTURE



Please support the early work of the new Western Zambia cluster by making a donation or contacting us at:

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Alternatively you can make a donation by Cheque, Bank Draft, or Postal Order and send it to:

Edmund Rice Development, Edmund Rice House, North Richmond Street, Dublin 1

Edmund Rice Camps East Africa: A Mission for Fun

Edmund Rice camps in Eldoret and Kibera in Kenya are a place for children from disadvantaged backgrounds to have fun through sports and games, and through these to develop their confidence and self-esteem and build new friendships.



Edmund Rice Camps, Eldoret, Kenya.

Edmund Rice Camps, Llangas, Eldoret:

'It was a bright sunny Saturday a day long awaited by many young children of Llangas. It was a perfect day for our Edmund Rice camp. The mission was to have fun and celebrate together as a group, despite their different backgrounds. We provided a program of drinks and lunch breaks, which was a real attraction to many children, many of whom don't get enough to eat normally. There were signs of peace and unity among the camp leaders and the children as a result of the good coordination among them.'

Br. Elly Sakwa and Br. Paul Mutuku

Edmund Rice Karibu Camps, Kibera, Nairobi:

'We were blessed with a cloudy day that modified the usual heat hence the wonderful energy of leaders and children, non-stop for five hours. I was thrilled by the way that children and leaders integrated with one another with plenty of shouting and laughter. The afternoon highlight was one small boy leading his group plus the rest of us in song accompanied by plenty of physical movement. One young lady on her first camp gave a moving testimony as to how her involvement was enabling her to play games for the first time in her life.'

Br. Peter Cole

A Safer Environment for Children in Peru

The levels of violence against children are sadly high in Peru. Fe y Alegría, a school located in one of the poorest areas of Lima offering access to education to over 1,700 students. The surrounding area can be a violent environment for a child. Recently workshops took place in Fe y Alegría and with the local community in Omas, Lima to share the importance of creating a school and home environment where even the smallest and most vulnerable children feel safe, confident and happy. 'If we educate with respect, protection and love, we have children with a better future' was one of the lessons of the workshops.

Andres Cano, one of facilitators commented, *"The mothers of Omas listened carefully and remembered clearly their own stories in which fair treatment sometimes did, and sometimes did not, happen. They acknowledged the difficulty of coping with childhood and, worse still, coping without the support of a father."*

The workshops were possible thanks to Christian Brothers who provided educational material to guide and educate the community – they were kindly funded by Edmund Rice Development and Misan Cara.



Workshop participant in the Omas community.



Group discussion during a Child protection workshop.

The Hills are Alive with Education!

Easter Monday, March 2016 saw the opening of a new school building in Wahrinong, located in the West Khasi Hills District in Meghalaya, India. Wahrinong is a very remote part of India with limited infrastructure and high levels of poverty.

In 2012, the Brothers made the decision to open a ministry in Wahringong and to live within the local community to work with them to address their needs. Education was identified as a primary need and a small primary school was started in the village by the Brothers- classes took place in a small shed initially. In 2013 the Brothers started the process to build a new school which would give children from the local area good facilities and access to quality education. The result was an impressive three storey building including 10 classrooms and open space for the children to play and present plays and music concerts.

Below is a testimony from the Indian Province about the opening of the new school:

'The strong winds and chill didn't dampen anyone's spirits and the children in their new school uniforms, as well as their parents and families, all turned up in good numbers. The newly covered meeting space was put to great use on day one as all of those who turned up for the big day could be comfortably accommodated under it.'

The chief guest on the occasion was the Home Minister of Meghalaya, Kong Roshan Warjri, with the Bishop of Nongstoin, Rev. Victor Lyngdoh giving the blessing. Together, the Government representatives praised and thanked the Brothers for their commitment to the rural Khasi community.

The Edmund Rice Mangkara School building was sponsored by Misean Cara, Edmund Rice Development, Ireland, Br. Kevin's 'Little Abu' Group and the Indian Catholic Association of Central Texas.'



Children performing at inauguration of opening of a new school building in Wahrinong.

ROUND-UP OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Google Volunteer Expertise

Edmund Rice Development was delighted to welcome Google volunteers Vadims Sondors and Amanda Nance to our offices recently.

Edmund Rice Development was one of a small number of charities chosen to participate in the Google Professional Skills Programme. The programme provides charities with the expertise of two volunteers for a full week. While with us, Vadims and Amanda analysed and worked on improving our digital presence and strengthening our digital footprint, as well as providing advice on Google AdWords and our website.

Thank you to Vadims, Amanda and Google.



Google Volunteers Vadims Sondors and Amanda Nance.

Brother Rice Chicago reaches *Beyond Borders*

Within a week of returning from the Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders Conference in South Africa, Brother Rice Chicago Principal Jim Antos addressed the faculty/staff about his experience.

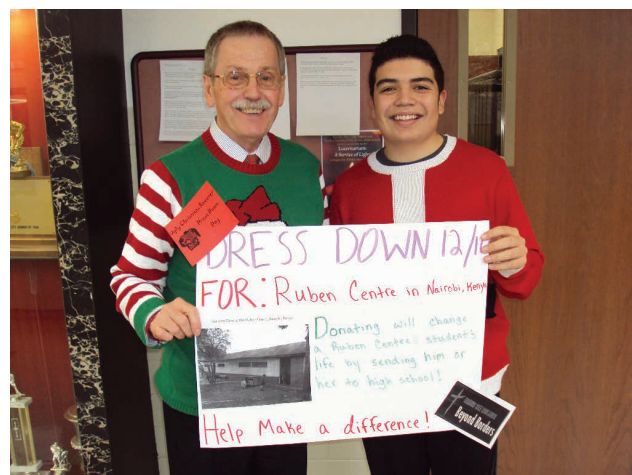
Mr. Antos's experience inspired conversations throughout the school as to how Brother Rice Chicago can begin creating projects that would extend their reach beyond their local community. Of particular interest to the student council was to support educational development in fellow Edmund Rice schools and Student Council Moderator Becky Pacetti learned about the Ruben Centre in Kenya.

Ms. Pacetti called for a student council meeting to discuss the goals of the Ruben Centre and what the students of Brother Rice Chicago could do to help further those goals. The students decided that they could make an immediate impact by designating the funds they collect for the yearly "Ugly Christmas Sweater" dress-down day to Ruben Centre scholarships. The dress down day raised US\$1,600 and its success has prompted the students to make a pledge to do the same for the next three years, so that

Brother Rice Chicago can help see those Ruben Centre students through their four years of high school.

"By supporting the Ruben Centre, I saw an opportunity to provide other children with one of the greatest gifts I have ever been given in my own life: an education," said senior Frank Basile, Student Council Special Events Coordinator. *"Allowing these students to gain a higher level education gives them a real chance to move out of poverty."*

With thanks to Mr Jim Antos, Principal of Brother Rice Chicago, and Ms Becky Pacetti, Student Council Moderator.



Br. Rice HS Chicago Principal Jim Antos and senior Tom Alvarez.

St. Aidan's CBS supports Sinon School in Tanzania



St. Aidan's CBS and Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School students.

In October 2015 a group from St. Aidan's CBS travelled to Arusha, Tanzania on their fourth immersion trip to Sinon High School. The trip was led by teachers Patrick Traynor, Niamh Ní Bhraonáin and Patricia Nash and aimed to introduce students to the developing world and give them an insight into a world far removed from their own.

The students put together a moving account of their journey:

'On Friday 23rd of October 2015 the long awaited day had finally arrived. Countless hours of fundraising and preparation had finally paid off and we departed Dublin Airport at 20:15 on Ethiopian Airlines flight 505 bound for Mt Kilimanjaro, a journey that would last nearly twenty four hours. Many did not know what to expect when we reached Africa for the first time the next day. For most it was a culture shock. For me in particular, it took a while just to fully grasp how bad the poverty was. It wasn't just in a single street or area of the city, it was everywhere, you couldn't avoid it wherever you looked.

The highlight for me was probably the St. Aidan's CBS vs Sinon High School football match. The locals came in their hundreds to watch the men of Whitehall take on the East Africans. Vuvuzelas were even present! Having suffered a 5-2 defeat, we swapped jerseys and shook hands in solidarity, and began to reflect on a life changing trip.

Goodbye Africa'

In January 2016, the student presented Edmund Rice Development with a cheque for €7,000 in support of Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School in Arusha, Tanzania. This provided sponsorship for Sinon students to complete their education.

A message for the young people of St. Edwards College, Liverpool

On Wednesday 2 December 2015, Brother Edmund Garvey, European Province Leader of the Christian Brothers visited St Edward's College in Liverpool. There, head boy Owen and head girl Rachel presented him with a cheque from the College for £25,000 to support missionary work in Africa. The funds were the result of fundraising events over the past three years including annual Edmund Rice Runs, cake sales, non-uniform days and the Year 7 Drama Showcase.

Brother Garvey explained to Year 13 pupils during their Assembly about the valuable work the Christian Brothers perform in West Africa and the massive impact a sum such as £25,000 will have on the communities in this area of the world.

Brother Garvey thanked the students warmly for their support and assured them of the great impact their support would have on communities in need. He spoke of his powerful first-hand experiences of worldwide poverty. Poverty is more than a lack of food or water; it robs people of a dignity and respect that all deserve. Yet, poverty can be tackled, and ridding it from the planet will indeed be one of the greatest challenges facing the next generation – a message that the young people took to heart.

As long as dire poverty exists, so too will the vision of Edmund Rice and the profound work of the Christian Brothers and Edmund Rice people. It was a privilege to receive just some of the wisdom of Brother Garvey and as a College, we give our sincerest thanks.

Adapted from article by Emma Quayle, St Edward's College Communications Manager.



Head Boy Owen and Head Girl Rachel present cheque to Br. Edmund Garvey.

Omagh CBS supports Changa Changa Primary School in Zambia

On Saturday 20th February Omagh CBS had a memorable day with the annual 10k Run & 5k Run/Walk. The sporting event was a huge success: almost 200 registered for the 5k run, an equivalent number registered for the 10k run and several more participated in the walk.

It was a great family day and community occasion for the school with whole families participating and competing alongside Omagh CBS students and students from within the Omagh Learning Community.

The event raised £3,610, which Omagh CBS kindly donated to Changa Changa Primary School, a community based school in Mazabuka, Zambia providing less privileged children with access to quality education. Funding will be used to purchase equipment and furniture for a computer lab, needed



Presentation of cheque for £3,610 raised through the CBS 10K/5K Run in aid of Changa Changa Primary School, Mazabuka, Zambia. L-R: Dan Haigney (CBS 5K winner), David Gormley (CBS 10K winner), Darragh Welsh (top student fundraiser), Mr Foncy Mc Connell (Headmaster), Mr John Cooley (Edmund Rice Development), Mr Ciaran Mc Bride (Organiser), Brother Tom Gough.

to introduce computer skills classes for the pupils, as well as for parents and adults attending Literacy classes.

Well done to everyone involved in organising such a brilliant event and our heartfelt thanks to everyone who generously supported it.

Edmund Rice Easter Camino Journey

The idea for an Edmund Rice schools Camino de Santiago walk emerged at a gathering of the Edmund Rice Education Beyond Border (EREBB) lead schools in Callan in the autumn of 2015. As a result, Midleton CBS from Cork and Ardscoil Rís from Limerick came together and a group of 40 students and staff from both schools set out on this exciting adventure on Palm Sunday, March 20th 2016.

Paul Kelly, Deputy Principal of Midleton CBS:

"As Catholic schools in the Edmund Rice tradition the trip was a pilgrimage - not merely a walking tour. Our Camino intentions and plans were mindful of the various characteristics of the Jubilee Year of Mercy as proclaimed by Pope Francis. It took place during Holy Week and included elements of prayer, spiritual reflection and/or liturgical celebration each day and concluded with our participation in the Easter Vigil Mass in Santiago on Holy Saturday night. Significantly, the Camino event gave witness to the vision that inspired the establishment of EREBB including: sharing identity, partnership, collaboration, networking and gospel centered formation. It was a wonderful example of the blending together of two Edmund Rice schools for a common purpose. We quickly became a unified group of students and staff bound by our identity, by friendship, co-operation and solidarity with each other in the spirit and the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice."



The group during their Camino experience.



Pupils and Staff from Midleton CBS and Ardscoil Rís on their Camino journey.



Midleton CBS and Ardscoil Rís proudly fly the Irish flag in Spain.

A Passage to India

Global Friends Visit November 2016

From 11-19 November 2016, a small group of community leaders, business people and change-makers from Ireland and the UK will visit a variety of Edmund Rice projects in Kolkata, New Delhi and Asansol. **Global Friends** is an Edmund Rice Development programme aimed at connecting men and women from Ireland and the UK with communities living in poverty across the globe.

The programme will challenge participants to directly experience life at the margins and to meet with the inspiring people who live there. This can be a deeply moving, transformative experience for Global Friends participants, offering them a valuable opportunity to view the world and humanity from a very different perspective. The visit will also embrace the diversity

and colourful cultural life of India's cities, featuring a visit to the stunning Taj Mahal in Agra and to the bustling markets of Delhi and Kolkata.

The hope is that the experience will inspire and challenge participants to be an agent for change in their own community, to recognise injustice in the world and to go on to motivate others to seek the liberation of all people and communities from poverty and injustice.

Places are still available on this Global Friends India visit - if you would be interested in learning more, please contact:
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