



Pupils at Ruben Primary School, Mukuru Slum, Kenya

Welcome to the winter edition of the Edmund Rice Development Newsletter.

As we approach the end of 2016, we would like to send a special thanks to you, our friends, for your ongoing kind support and interest in the many projects and ministries of Edmund Rice Mission around the world.

In this newsletter, we look at the progress of the new cluster of Edmund Rice Mission communities in Western Zambia. Community activities are now taking place there and we report on a community fun day in Luampa.

In this issue you will also read an update on the Mary Rice Day Care Centre in the Kibera slum, Nairobi and the centre's importance for children with disabilities.

This year, Edmund Rice Development was delighted to support the *Edmund Rice Beyond Borders (EREBB)* Congress, which I had the honour of attending in Kolkata, India in October. EREBB brings together the network of Edmund Rice schools from over 20 countries, they are promoting global solidarity and offer a transformational education for justice and liberation.

During 2016, we reflected on the call of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development to '*ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*'. Thanks to the valuable support of our donors, our *Education for Liberation* programme will support the provision of inclusive, quality education to more than 17,000 children and young people living in poverty around the world every year.

Once again sincere thanks for your ongoing support and interest and our very best wishes to you and yours for a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Jenni Barrett  
Chief Executive

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## *Journeying Together: First ever spoon and pebble race in Luampa*

Brothers living in the new mission community in Luampa, Western Zambia, recently took the initiative to organise the first ever fun day for children and teenagers of the local community. After weeks of intensive planning, the event took place on July 23rd.

The event was organised with the support of a team of local volunteers and was, by all accounts, an overwhelming success with a total of 350 children and teenagers between the ages of six and 15 taking part in the activities. Most of these children are non-school goers and with very little opportunities to socially interact with their peers in a constructive and fun environment.

The children were divided into four teams: Red, Blue, Green and Yellow. While the older boys played football and the older girls played dodgeball, the younger children were involved in novelty games like the spoon and pebble race, skipping race, and even crawling to the finish line for the much younger ones.



*Children engaging in fun activities*



*Fun moments in Luampa*



*Fun moments in Luampa*



*The team behind the first Fun Day in Luampa*

The Brothers' compound was transformed for the occasion: a music system played music so that the children could dance, and after a fun filled day all children were given a plate of nshima (a maize-based meal) with beans and cabbage.

Reporting on the day, Br Conrad writes:

*'The objective of the fun day was to give an opportunity to children from disengaged and marginalised families' entry into the community. The event was mainly for children who do not have an opportunity to go to school and who would therefore be deprived of opportunities to learn certain games and interact on a bigger scale. On the day we had about 350 children. We were humbled to discover towards the end of the day that this was the first ever event of this kind to take place for the children of Luampa'.*



## Sing When You're Winning



Education for Life Winning Choir

Education for Life (EFL) is a programme based in Eldoret, Kenya which supports people living with HIV/Aids. It currently offers support to over 300 households which includes counselling sessions and workshops. It also supports people through micro credit schemes and supports over 400 orphans and vulnerable children with access to education, including school materials. Education for Life has just completed a new toilet block, which will serve over 1,000 people attending the programme on a weekly basis, children included, thanks to the generous support of Edmund Rice Development donors.

Anyone who has visited EFL is filled with a sense of hope and joy and recently their very active choir won an award at the Uasin-Gishu Cultural Festival. This a great achievement and they have now qualified to represent the county in a regional festival.

*'Monday 10th October was a moment of jubilation and dance as the Education for Life (EFL) choir presented their trophy and certificates after winning at the Uasin-Gishu Cultural Festivals held earlier on the 7th and 8th of October. The choir dressed in traditional attire, presented some of the items to the EFL family amidst ululations. The choir has now qualified to represent the county during the regional festivals.*

*The most striking element is the diversity of songs sung by the choir, their cosmopolitan repertoire comprising of all tribes and denominations. They were commended to be the only choir that sung a Nubian folk song and performed a Luo folk dance in a region that is dominated by the Kalenjin community. I was also moved by the great energy shown by the choir members, challenging many of the other groups that participated in the festivals. In unity and solidarity with the members, two of our staff Judy and Monica were the soloists of the Nubian and Luo folk song.*

*Our challenge is now to mobilize resources to enable them participate in the next level.'*

(Original article by Angie Obutu)

## RUN Bolivia presents results of survey on child labour, education and violence

About two-thirds of the children surveyed by the group Religious at the United Nations (R.U.N – Bolivia) showed that child labour is an inherent reality because of lack of resources.

Data from these results come from a survey conducted by RUN – Bolivia to 1,376 children in rural and urban areas of Oruro and Cochabamba. The main topics of the survey focused on education, child labour and violence. The survey was conducted during September, October and November 2015 to 31 centres and schools. The main objective of this study was to raise awareness in the population about child labour and related issues that are facing the children.

On October 12th, four members of RUN Bolivia (Nora from Franciscans International, Maribel from FMSI, Jason from Marykoll and Br Eddie McArdle from ERI) have spoken with local media reporting the results.

Surveyed children highlighted the need of being heard and respected in their schools: violence is unacceptable but they believe that child labour is a necessity because they don't get support from the government.

The next step in this process that RUN Bolivia is carrying out is to present a report about these findings to local authorities.

*"It's very interesting because we are listening to the needs of children with their own voice. We are seeing that child labor and education are very interrelated, they see their classmates leave their studies to work", Br Eddie McArdle said – 45% of children surveyed said the government should help them improve their education and housing to deal with these situations of child labor.*

Br. McArdle said that the aim of collecting this data is to raise the level of consciousness of the Bolivian population about these issues, and allow children to enjoy their rights fully.

(Article from [edmundricelatinamerica.org](http://edmundricelatinamerica.org))



RUN Bolivia members present survey results

## From Cape Town to Buckingham Palace



*Jessica Dewhurst receives the Queen's Young Leaders Award*

The month of June marked a very special time in the Edmund Rice Network South Africa (ERNSA) Social Justice Desk. The desk coordinator Jessica Jane Dewhurst travelled to the UK to receive The Queens Young Leader Award, a recognition and celebration of exceptional people aged 18-29 from across the Commonwealth, who are taking the lead in their communities and using their skills to transform lives.

Jessica travelled to the UK, where she had the opportunity to visit and be trained at the Twitter UK Head-office, the BBC, AMV, and Cambridge University, among many others. She also had the opportunity to speak at the residence of the Security-General of the Commonwealth, and at the UK Prime Minister's residence at 10 Downing Street. Each winner also received a personal coach and mentor in order to support them in increasing and expanding their work back in their countries. On top of this, Jessica received her medal from Her Majesty The Queen at Buckingham Palace.

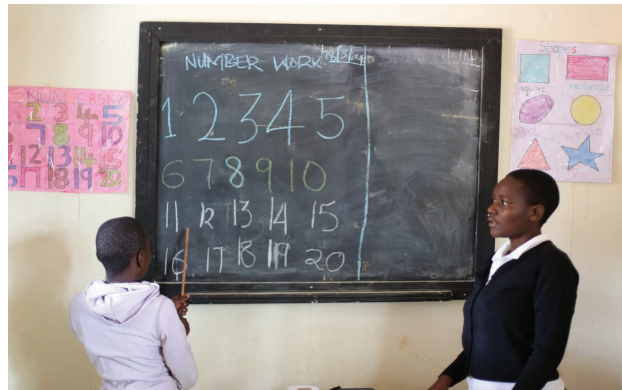
Along with this award, The Social Justice Desk has been congratulated for their work in human rights, and have been named an official organisation under the patronage of Queen Elizabeth.

This is a massive achievement and the entire Edmund Rice network is extremely proud of Jessica and all that she has achieved.

The Social Justice Desk was launched in 2013. The yearly developed Formation Programme serves to educate and skill the general public around Social Justice and Advocacy issues.

(Extract from ERNSA Newsletter Issue 27)

## Disability is not inability



*Teacher and pupils at the Mary Rice Day Care Centre*

The Mary Rice Day Care Centre cares for intellectually and physically disabled children of the Kibera slum in Nairobi. The Centre strives to create an environment where parents are educated and supported in enabling their physically and mentally challenged children to attain self-reliance through the development of basic social and physical skills that highlight the special abilities of each child.

Br Gerald recently reported on the progress made on some of the children who received sponsorship through Edmund Rice Development:

*'We got an opportunity to visit Gillian, one of the young adults who has now moved to a vocational training centre in Limuru. The aim of the visit was to assess and evaluate what progress Gillian has made since she left the Mary Rice Centre.'*

*Truly Disability is not Inability because, despite Gillian having difficulties in using her hands and one side of her body, she is now able to make beautiful necklaces, bracelets, and earrings using beads and pearls, and small purses using different beads and pieces of wood. In addition she takes tailoring classes. She is happy and confident.*

*At the end of the day we all learnt a great lesson: all you have to offer children and young adults who are differently abled is an opportunity!'*



*Br Gerald visits Gillian in a vocational training centre in Limuru*



# ROUND-UP OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## Photo-exhibition: 'The Ruben Centre, Mukuru Slum, Kenya'

Misean Cara recently commissioned a photographic exhibition of the Ruben Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. The exhibition simply entitled: 'The Ruben Centre, Mukuru Slum Kenya', highlights Edmund Rice Development (the Christian Brothers) overseas mission that empowers communities in some of the poorest countries. It features two projects in Kenya that are responding to a range of development challenges: slum dwellings, access to education, access to vocational education and income generation, and youth empowerment.

The exhibition is free and open to the public, and after visiting Coolock and Charleville libraries, it will travel to:

Ballyfermot from 1 December - 31 December 2016;  
and  
Finglas from 1 January - 31 January 2017.



*Misean Cara Exhibition previously located in Coolock Library*

Misean Cara is a members' organisation working to bring about transformation through supporting missionary organisations and their partners, who are involved in promoting poverty eradication, education, health care, social justice, peace, the integrity of creation, and inter-religious collaboration.

## The Home of Edmund Rice Education



*Jenni Barrett, CEO Edmund Rice Development presents Br Pat Madigan, Community Leader of Edmund Rice House, with framed commemorative silk from the Edmund Rice Beyond Borders Congress.*

Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders is the global network of Edmund Rice schools, present in over 20 countries, endeavouring to promote global solidarity and offer transformational education for justice and liberation.

Jenni, our CEO, attended the recent Congress, which took place in Kolkata, India in October and upon her return presented the silk to the community of Edmund Rice House, where Blessed Edmund Rice lived from 1831 to 1838. The silk was presented in recognition of the educational legacy of the Christian Brothers and the history of Edmund Rice education.



*Staff, pupils and parents in ceremonial dresses at the EREBB Opening Ceremony and Ritual*

## Lenten Activities and Harvest Envelopes: St Joseph's Prep supports worthy charities

Over the last year at St Joseph's Preparatory school has been involved in many different ways to raise money and support a number of charities. Ms Victoria Kent reports on the activities:

*'The two main ways in which we fundraise are our Lenten Activities and Harvest Envelopes. Lenten Activities consists of each year group from Year 3 upwards taking a week, during Lent, in which to raise money. Each class is encouraged to think of innovative ways to fund raise: this may be from Cake sales, 'Guess the Name of the Teddy Bear, or 'How many Sweets are in the Jar?' The children can run an activity individually or in a small group. The younger children in the school also take part; they have a Toy sale and all the money raised is added to the total for the whole school.*

*The Harvest Envelopes is a Prep activity. Each child in the Prep is given an envelope to take home and decorate, using themes of thankfulness and Harvest. The children are asked to fill the envelopes with money which they have raised from doing helpful jobs at home.*

*We have found that our children at St Joseph's Preparatory School are enthusiastic about fund raising and supporting and finding out about different charities.*

*Finally, we have just collected a large number of boxes for the charity 'Operation Christmas Child'. The children fill the boxes with goodies. The boxes are then distributed to needy children in parts of world where they are excitedly and gratefully received.'*

Thank you to all staff and pupils of St. Joseph's Prep for your ongoing support of Edmund Rice Mission.



St. Joseph's Prep Harvest Envelopes

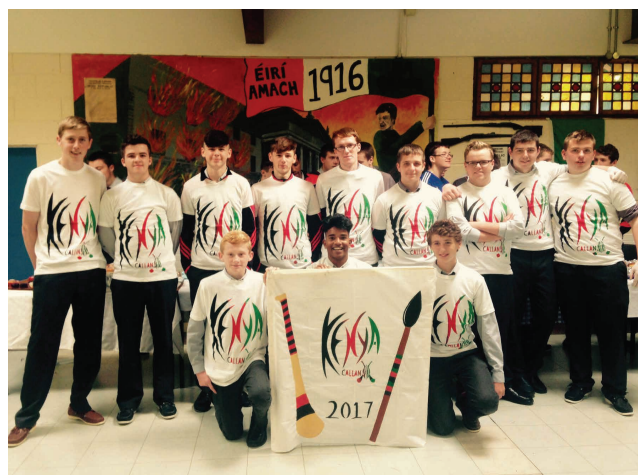
## Coláiste Éamann Rís Kenyan Immersion 2017

As part of the Coláiste Éamann Rís Kenyan Immersion Project 2017, 13 students from transition year and fifth year will travel to Embulbul in Kenya, along with Mr. Ryan, Mr. Murtagh and Ms. Griffin. Embulbul is an impoverished town located about 25 kilometres from Nairobi, Kenya. The surrounding district is a mix of shanty towns and open spaces with a large Christian and Moslem population of over 60,000 and with over 90% living on or below the poverty line.

The group has already organised a number of initiatives and are looking forward to this transformative experience:

*'The immersion team will travel next Easter for a period of 10 days. The aim of the project is to immerse ourselves fully in the poverty stricken region of Embulbul. We will mix with the local people, visit their schools and homes, and develop a better understanding of how these people live their day-to-day lives. The Immersion Project will provide our students with a life changing experience and allow them the opportunity to develop both as individuals and as a team. A number of fundraising events have been completed, and the current fund stands at approximately €17,000. It is our hope that this money will help improve the standard of living for the citizens of Embulbul. Each student, along with a personal contribution, has been working hard to organise various fundraising activities. Our goal is to reach €30,000 and further fundraising initiatives are to follow, such as a Tractor Run, Street Bucket Collection in Kilkenny, School Talent Show and Raffle, 5km Run and a Nowlan Park Bucket Collection.'*

(article written by Coláiste Éamann Rís' immersion group)



Coláiste Éamann Rís' immersion group





## Give the gift of Education this Christmas...

*Education is one of the greatest gifts, both to give and to receive. It has the ability to lift people out of a lifetime of a poverty and marginalisation by broadening minds and opening young people up to a world of possibilities.*

But education is not just a gift, it is a fundamental human right, one that too many children around the world are being denied.

In Africa today, 2 out of 5 children will drop out of school before finishing their education, globally currently only 49% of children will finish secondary school. As we approach the end of 2016, we reflect on the call of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development to '*ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*'. Edmund Rice Mission today is firmly committed to this goal and to building on our strong educational tradition over the past two centuries. Through quality formal schools and informal education programmes, together with local communities we continue to strive to liberate young people and their families from poverty and marginalisation.

We believe this is possible if we all come together to ensure that every girl and boy in the world has the opportunity to reach their full potential, and has a chance of a brighter future. Together we can strive to address this fundamental human rights issue and commit to 'Quality Education for All' and with the valuable support of our Education for Liberation Programme, we can keep providing inclusive and quality education for all children and young people in the world.

**Please consider joining us, and investing in the future of the world's children by supporting our educational work with over 17,000 children and young people living in poverty around the world.**

*If you are giving the gift of education in lieu of presents, we can send you a hand-painted card from the Ruben Centre, Kenya and a personalised gift certificate for you to give to your friend or loved one.*

## EDUCATION FOR LIBERATION

This Christmas please consider giving the gift of Education by making a donation or contacting us at:

**T: +353 (0)1 819 6782**

**E: [office@edmundricedevelopment.org](mailto:office@edmundricedevelopment.org)**

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**



# A ROUND-UP OF SOME GLOBAL GOOD NEWS IN 2016



The World Health Organisation released a report showing that, since the year 2000, global malaria deaths have declined by 60%.

[WHO]



Life expectancy in Africa has increased by 9.4 years since 2000, thanks to improvements in child survival, progress in malaria control and expanded access to antiretroviral medication.

[WHO's World Health Statistics 2016]



A new study from the world's leading health journal reported that the number of women dying from pregnancy and childbirth has almost halved since 1990.

[[www.thelancet.com/series/maternal-health-2016](http://www.thelancet.com/series/maternal-health-2016)]



In 2016, for the first time ever, the amount of money it would take to end poverty dropped below the amount of money spent on foreign aid.

[Brookings Institution / Laurence Chandy, Lorenz Noe and Christine Zhang]



In 1990, more than 60% of people in East Asia lived in extreme poverty. As of 2016, that proportion has dropped to 3.5%

[Vox.com]



The Paris Agreement on Climate Action became the fastest (and largest) United Nations treaty to go from agreement to international law in modern history.

[CBS News]



In July, more than 800,000 volunteers in India planted 50 million trees in one day. The country is planning on reforesting 12% of its land.

[National Geographic]



At the beginning of 2016, global spending on aid and development increased by 7%, and spending on refugees has doubled.

[Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development]

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