Breaking the cycle of poverty
Through education and literacy

New Strategic Plan
Keeping true to our vision and mission

Education in Australia
A passion for justice

Giving hope
Meet one of our hope givers
Over April and May this year, Caritas Australia staff, volunteers, partners and guests attended a three-day ‘propositions for the future’ workshop at the inspiring Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney. As we plan for the next few years, we must keep true to our vision and mission; always placing the poorest of the poor at the centre of our hearts, as Jesus does.

Our process to date has also included a survey of many groups of stakeholders. We have heard from over 1,500 people including many of our supporters, as well as our partners; the communities we work with; school and parish communities; Bishops and the Caritas family, and many interested collaborators. The current work of the strategic planning process is to develop concrete goals and indicators to achieve:

- A greater deepening of our Catholic identity
- Stronger relationships with the poor and our supporters
- Stronger programs and advocacy
- Greater organisational agility and competence
- Robust financial sustainability for the programs that alleviate poverty and injustice, and the organisation itself.

Our new five-year strategic plan will create a more agile agency, capable of responding to the needs of the poor as they change and emerge; deliver programs that are effective, efficient and ultimately lead to the independence of the poor; and build relationships that empower people living in poverty to be agents of their own change, tell their own stories and shape and influence Caritas.

Together Caritas Australia and the most marginalised communities will continue to pursue justice, dignity and the end of poverty.

Thank you for your support in this process and your generosity so that we can make a greater change for those overcoming poverty and injustice.

Till next time,

Jack de Groot, CEO

For the latest news, events and updates head to:

Twitter: www.twitter.com/CaritasAust
Facebook: www.caritas.org.au/facebook
YouTube: www.youtube.com/CaritasAustralia
Our website: www.caritas.org.au

If you’d like to know more, please call 1800 024 413 (toll free). Our phones operate from 9.00am to 5.00pm AEST Monday to Friday.

Cover: When supporting children with disabilities, a big challenge is being able to accurately identify them and provide timely support. The Sight and Sound program in Laos is training teachers to give annual eye and ear exams. It also provides qualified health professionals so children can receive assistive devices such as glasses or hearing aids. PHOTO: CHANTHEA NOU

Thank you

In this issue of Caritasnews, we explore how education and literacy can break the shackles of poverty. Thank you to everyone who attended the strategic plan workshop at Mary MacKillop Place. In line with the strategic plan, we’re hoping to further enhance our relationships with educators, as we are dependent upon these relationships to meet the challenges of poverty and injustice.

To all who supported Project Compassion 2012. In 2011, we raised $9.7 million and this year we aimed towards $10 million. In total, we raised over $10.7 million!

Your support helps us assist many communities, including this one in Nepal. PHOTO: MARDEN DEAN

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"Only the educated are free," said Epictetus (AD 55–AD 135), a Greek philosopher who began life as a slave. His words ring true, even today.

WE KNOW THAT education is one of the best ways to free a person from poverty; but conversely, poverty is a direct barrier to education. It is a cruel and unjust self-fulfilling cycle for 120 million children, who every day, are unable to attend school because of hardship, poor health and conflict.

To release people from this cycle of injustice, Caritas Australia has programs for youth and adults in many countries around the world; including Indigenous Australia. We also have a wide Diocesan network and an in-house education team that informs Australian young people and adults about social justice.

Australia is lucky to have an education system that is compulsory for everyone and offers children a great start to life.

As human beings, we must stand in solidarity and pray for our brothers and sisters around the world and promote their basic human right to an education. We must demand that all children have access to primary and secondary education, just like Australia. On 8 September every year, we acknowledge the International Day of Literacy. The figures on global literacy are staggering. According to the United Nations, 793 million adults – most of them female – are illiterate. A further 67 million children of primary school age are not in primary school, and 72 million adolescents of lower secondary school age are also missing out on their right to an education.

Proverbs 24:4 states, "And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches."

Precious and pleasant riches are not necessarily riches in the sense of money and grandeur. But rather, wisdom and the ability to live a dignified life, free from the terrible burden of poverty. How wonderful that would be.

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), South and West Asia account for more than half (51.8%) the world’s adult illiterate population, ahead of sub-Saharan Africa (21.4%), East Asia and the Pacific (12.8%), the Arab States (7.6%), Latin America and the Caribbean (4.6%), North America, Europe and Central Asia (2%).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8 SEPTEMBER: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LITERACY
In 1967, UNESCO inaugurated its official observance of International Literacy Day. On this day, a community of nations host local and national events to recognise the value of literacy to individuals, families and communities.

5 OCTOBER: WORLD TEACHERS’ DAY
The United Nations’ (UN) World Teachers’ Day commemorates the work of teachers and their contributions to society. It’s been held every year since 1994.

14-20 OCTOBER: ANTI-POVERTY WEEK
On 15, 16 and 17 October there are three United Nations (UN) recognised days that are aimed at raising awareness for people in developing countries – International Day of Rural Women; World Food Day, and International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.
Jane Woolford, Education Group Leader has worked at Caritas Australia for over 10 years. She spoke with Caritasnews about her passion for educating young people about social justice and global issues.

In 1997, I applied for the Media Officer position at Caritas. I’d been a secondary school teacher in Catholic schools, a journalist and a radio producer for ABC and SBS – so coming to Caritas was perfect because I could combine these experiences with my passion for justice, and interest in global issues and global communities.

At the time, the agency only had three people in the Community Engagement team for the whole of Australia. The growth since then has been unbelievable; we now have 12 education staff in the Community Engagement team alone.

My role is very busy. I work with and support the education staff to inform primary and secondary students and teachers across Australia about global poverty as part of the Catholic school curriculum.

We work closely with the Catholic Education Offices, writing resources and training teachers, creating activities and fundraising ideas for students, and writing prayers and liturgies.

Our aim is for students to respond by learning about poverty, and by looking at their own lives and how they relate to people in global communities.

I have met people around the world who are incredibly inspiring in the way they live, and I feel fortunate to be able to have such a stimulating job.

I’ve taken teachers to developing countries to see our projects in person, and they’ve said the same thing: that their lives have changed fundamentally forever. The way they now live and think has changed in all types of exciting and better ways.

Carly also said that witnessing the work in-country strengthened her Catholic faith and made her role as a Catholic school teacher very clear. “The trip made me realise the importance of human dignity. I feel that Caritas Australia’s work aligns perfectly with the teachings and actions of Jesus. Jesus said that he is the vine and we are his branches. God’s fruits won’t be shown in us if we don’t water the vine and give back to it, as it has given to us. It is simple really. Love is to be shared.”

A Precious Resource

Jane says there are many questions to ask ourselves: how are we most effective? How do we have the most impact? How do we touch people’s hearts and minds, and what difference can we make? We can’t just focus on overseas, Australian’s are part of that story too; we’re all connected.

Fifteen years ago the team was made up of three people, these days we have a representative in each State. To be able to have that growth and presence in different Dioceses is exciting. But with that comes more responsibility, and while people welcome our presence, we must use this precious resource wisely.
In 1999, I worked in east Timor (Timor Leste) for Caritas Australia before the country’s separation from Indonesian rule. I also spent two years there after the referendum and felt privileged to stand alongside our friends as they recovered from violence and destruction. The entire nation was homeless. They had no crops or material possessions, but their ability to cope was incredible.

The east Timorese people had waited for 25 years to have independence, peace and stability, and I witnessed real change. The Church had been a safe haven for people through the years of oppression and violence; it saved lives and played a key role in the rebuilding and rehabilitation process.

Living in East Timor during this time challenged how I lived and how my family live now. It was a simple life – we had very few possessions; sometimes we had no running water and electricity, but we were happy as we weren’t worried about what we didn’t have, and it was liberating to be free of unnecessary possessions. Now, back in Australia, we try to bear in mind every day what we’re privileged to have, and not to be wasteful with resources.

My experience in East Timor helps me in this role as I take students and young people on a journey to development and justice. The education team as a whole works to engage communities to pray, act, respond and bring about justice – in their community and the wider world. And I’m proud to be a part of it.

The word Caritas means ‘love and compassion’, qualities that are exemplified by our Caritas supporters.

From 17-23 September, to help raise awareness of gifts in wills and encourage everyone to think about how you can make your last wishes really count, we’re taking part in Include a Charity Week.

We don’t expect you to write or update your will right now. This is something that takes time. Instead we only ask that you give a thought to Caritas Australia and when the time is right, after taking care of your loved ones, you’ll remember us in your will. Find out how you can help the work live on by contacting Jakki Travers on 02 8306 3449 or jakkiT@caritas.org.au
EVERYONE HAS A RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION

The Creating Caring Schools program is for vulnerable children to overcome barriers to learning and remain in school longer to gain a quality education in a safe environment. Caritasnews caught up with Sr Ivy Khoury, Africa Program Coordinator, Caritas Australia.

SINCE 2006, CARITAS Australia has partnered with the Catholic Institute of Education (CIE) to deliver the Creating Caring Schools program. With seven offices throughout South Africa, this program is helping thousands of orphaned and vulnerable children, including those that Caritas Australia is already supporting, in 23 schools.

Poverty and the impacts of HIV/AIDS have created serious barriers to learning for 3.7 million children throughout South Africa who are left without parents. With a high percentage of the region’s population still only teenagers, if they aren’t living on the streets, many of them are already the head of their household. This means that instead of completing homework, they are often cooking and cleaning for their other siblings, or walking long distances to collect water or firewood. By the time they actually walk through the school gates to start the school day, they are already hungry and tired.

In South Africa there is a saying that ‘everyone has a right to an education’, and yet concerningly if you’re poor in South Africa, and you can’t afford a uniform, you’re not allowed to attend school. To solve this, Caritas Australia provides school materials and uniforms.

"By providing a uniform and materials, children can go to school," said Sr Ivy. "They have a sense of dignity, confidence and self-worth; and other children will accept them and treat them with respect."

Caritas Australia also assists children’s nutritional needs by supporting school vegetable gardens. "The school staff and volunteers look after the gardens, which provides lunch for many of the students. Often this is their only meal for the day, and some of the vegetables are taken home to their families."

We also supply medical support through health screenings; as well as assistance with transport to the clinics which has been a great success giving children access to healthcare.

"Many children have said to me: ‘If we didn’t have the support of Caritas Australia we wouldn’t be able to go to school.’ They are always very grateful and this makes me feel good about what I do.

“The decisions we make with our family members changes the lives of children. I am an aunty and great aunty to nieces and nephews, and if I hear them complaining about their food or having to go to school, I always remind them how lucky they are.

“On my last visit, I met a young girl who said to me, ‘If I was not here I would be on the street’. The Creating Caring Schools program has given her a sense of dignity. But, not only that, it has created positive changes in so many children’s lives. It’s incredible to know they are not going to be left behind.”

Your support for Caritas Australia means thousands of children, born into poverty, are given the opportunity to learn. They now have a future through education.

LEARN
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE CREATING CARING SCHOOLS PROGRAM ON OUR WEBSITE. HEAD TO WWW.CARITAS.ORG.AU/CARINGSCHOOLS FOR MORE.
In the Solomon Islands, currently only 54 percent of children attend primary school. “In 10 years’ time, 70 percent of people here will be under the age of 20*,” said Caritas Australia’s Adam Elliott, Program Manager Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

BECAUSE OF THE great need for early childhood education, Caritas Australia, in cooperation with the Catholic Church and local communities, has built four Community Learning Centres in the rural areas of the Solomon Islands.

During the week, the Centres are used as kindergartens and preschools for children aged four to seven. In the last five years, more than 500 children have attended and another Centre is currently under construction.

“Currently, the government and education authorities do not have the capacity to meet demand. So this program is important in terms of teaching young kids how to learn, and teaching parents to value education,” said Adam.

Run by each community, the teachers are volunteers. “Every day when the kids come to school they bring a gift for the teacher, usually something like sweet potato or pumpkin from garden. As well, the community fundraise for maintenance of the classroom and contributions to the teachers.”

During the evening and on weekends, the Centres provide the locals with a meeting place for community development training such as maternal health, adult literacy and numeracy, nutrition and healthcare, life skills for women and youth, and election awareness meetings. Caritas Australia also runs a Catholic Social Teaching (CST) program which focuses on leadership, gender equity, environmental stewardship and peacebuilding. In the event of an emergency, the Centres are the designated community safe place.

**DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

As the region is prone to disasters such as cyclones, floods, tsunamis and earthquakes, the buildings are constructed with disaster-resistant characteristics such as cross bracing on the corner posts and floor-to-ceiling posts. This integrated structure gives them the strength to resist earthquakes and cyclones; they are also built in geographical areas that minimise the potential impacts.

“The communities contribute everything from the gravel, the sand, the timber and the labour; at the end of the project it really is something they have a good sense of ownership over,” said Adam.

The communities are also asked to contribute their labour to the maintenance and care of the building, tanks and grounds. As the availability of water remains a critical concern in the Solomon Islands, water catchment and conservation is a priority. The Centres incorporate water catchment and storage in the building design, and this serves as an additional clean water source.

The Centres really do serve whole communities and Caritas Australia is proud to be a part of such an important project.

To watch videos on the project, head to www.youtube.com and type ‘Caritas Solomon Islands’ into the search facility.

*Based on results from the most recent Solomon Islands population census.

Volunteer kindergarten teachers with their students. The community fundraises for maintenance of the classroom and contributions to the teachers.

**DONATE YOUR DONATIONS HELP SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRES IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.**
A LESSON IN PEACEBUILDING

From 14 May to 1 June, Indigenous partner Red Dust Healing, along with three Caritas Australia staff, attended peacebuilding training in Mindanao, Philippines. Originally from this area, Eleanor Trinchera, South Asia Program Coordinator, tells us more.

AS PROJECT COMPASSION’S 2012 theme was peacebuilding and featured Bae Lisa from Mindanao, it was timely that a handful of us attended training there. In the Autumn issue of Caritasnews, it was mentioned that since the 1970’s more than two million people have been displaced and 120,000 killed in Mindanao’s bloody conflict. Today, the island is the Philippines’ poorest with many development challenges contributing to insecurity and injustice.

So it’s poignant that the course titled ‘Restoring justice, Building Peace’ was launched by the Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute (MPI) within a country that is currently doing just that; with two of our four Philippines partners working directly with Bae Lisa and the Mindanao People’s Caucus to implement peacebuilding work in Mindanao.

The term ‘peacebuilding’ originated in the field of peace studies more than 30 years ago when Johan Galtung coined the term in his pioneering work Three Approaches to Peace: Peacekeeping, Peacemaking, and Peacebuilding. These days, peacebuilding is a fundamental aspect to many of our worldwide programs.

The main objective of this course was to enhance the knowledge and skills of Caritas Australia staff and partners who work in programs involving peacebuilding, conflict transformation or peacebuilding activities. This knowledge can also be used to review our peacebuilding work, provide a common framework and contribute to Caritas Australia’s mission to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

When thinking of peacebuilding, we often refer to the Encyclical of Pope John XXIII Pacem in Terris:

“(166) Our concern here has been with problems which are causing men extreme anxiety at the present time; problems which are intimately bound up with the progress of human society. Unquestionably, the teaching We have given has been inspired by a longing which We feel most keenly, and which We know is shared by all men of good will: that peace may be assured on earth.”

At Caritas Australia, we are hoping that our peacebuilding programs continue providing communities with a fully human dimension of peace and development. For more on our peacebuilding work, head to www.caritas.org.au/peacebuilding.

2. L-R: Kelly Shenk Koontz, US Mennonite Central Committee; Eleanor Trinchera; Faridah Salic, Community Development Worker of Maradeca; Angela Jill Lederach, co-author of When Blood and Bones Cry Out: Journeys Through the Soundscape of Healing and Reconciliation with John Paul Lederach; Jeff Yoder, Peacebuilders Community.

Caritas Australia supports peacebuilding and conflict-transformation programs in:

- Timor Leste (East Timor)
- Philippines
- Papua New Guinea
- Indonesia
- Burma (Myanmar)
- Sri Lanka
- Kenya
- South Africa
- Peru
- Brazil
- Nepal
- Indigenous Australia

"The training is very rewarding for me as I can develop and promote the vision and mission of Caritas Australia in Timor Leste and other countries around the world." Carolino Marquez, Team Leader for Caritas Australia’s Partnership program in Timor Leste.

LEARN THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT, CARITAS AUSTRALIA IS ABLE TO EDUCATE AND INFORM OUR STAFF, PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS ABOUT GLOBAL ISSUES. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARDS WORLDWIDE PEACE.
Gnan Samphors, 17, grew up in a poor village in Cambodia’s Kampong Thom province. Her days were spent cooking, cleaning and working in the rice field with her mother. Village life can be hard, but it’s much harder when you’re deaf, like Samphors.

ONE OF APPROXIMATELY 51,000 deaf people in Cambodia, Samphors – like 97 percent of others – never attended school and became entirely dependent on her family. Without learning a sign language or the ability to communicate with non-family members or hearing people, life becomes extremely difficult for a deaf person, and puts extra stress on the family.

With no professional skill or employment, no social services, no access to public services and no ability to communicate, it is impossible for deaf people to live independently in society.

Since 2008, Caritas Australia has been supporting the Maryknoll Cambodia Deaf Development Programme (DDP). This project works with deaf people who are generally considered part of the disabled and vulnerable population in Cambodia, and face discrimination from their communities.

The project assists them to become independent and confident through education, skills training, income generation support, a Cambodian sign language interpreting service, social service support and community development activities. As the students come from very poor families, all costs are covered, including living expenses.

In January 2008, Samphors began a two-year DDP basic education course where she was taught Cambodian sign language, Khmer writing and learnt to communicate with hearing people and a hearing world through access to public services. After graduating, Samphors gained employment as a housekeeper for a family in Phnom Penh, but her taste for education meant she wanted to learn more.

In May 2011, Samphors returned to learn sewing at the Cambodia Japan Friendship Training Centre. Other skills taught to deaf students are hairdressing, sewing machine repair and agriculture; giving them the ability to start their own business or gain employment.

“Before I came to DDP, I did not understand what people around me were doing. I went to the rice field and worked with my mother, and was responsible for all kinds of housework like cooking and laundry; I couldn’t understand what people were saying. At DDP, I learnt how to read and write Khmer, I learnt sign language and I have friends! I was very happy in class and I like signing. I sign every day and I am happy with signing.”

Samphors’ main goal is to earn a decent living so she can support her mother and family. She feels like she has become a new person and is hoping that her skills will play an important role reducing poverty in her community.

Honour those close to you with a memorable gift to Caritas Australia

In happy times or sad, a tribute donation is a lovely way to support the poorest and most vulnerable communities around the world.

To make your donation gift and order a card, please call 1800 024 413. All donation gifts will be used in the best way to support our work.
ALL THE CHILDREN

One of Caritas Australia’s newest partners is Redfern Jarjum College, a Jesuit Catholic primary school for vulnerable Aboriginal children of Redfern in Sydney’s inner-city.

Beatrice Sheen, Founding Principal, is looking forward to the school’s opening later this year or early 2013.

REDFERN JARJUM COLLEGE has a mission: to educate urban Aboriginal children who are not participating or coping in mainstream primary schools. And this mission is close to the heart of Aboriginal Gamilaroi woman, Beatrice.

With an Aboriginal father and a mother with an Irish background, Beatrice grew up wondering just whereabouts she fits in. For 25 years, she suppressed her Aboriginality – just like her father – but Beatrice is now very proud of her ancestry.

For most of her life, she has lived in Mount Druitt; however her connection to Redfern goes back to her birthplace in Crown Street, Sydney. The Gadigal people are custodians and traditional owners of the area where Redfern Jarjum College and Crown Street are both situated.

With a background in education, six children, seven grandchildren and currently completing a Masters in Religious Education, Beatrice is perfect for the role of principal at Jarjum, which means ‘children’ in the Bundjalung language.

THE COLLEGE IS OPERATING FOR THE WIDER COMMUNITY ...
WE WILL ENCOURAGE CHILDREN, TEENS, THEIR FAMILIES AND ELDERS TO COME TO THE CENTRE

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HOW OUR PARTNERSHIP BEGAN ...

In early 2011, Caritas Australia was approached by Redfern Jarjum College and asked if we’d like to support Beatrice and the school. As with all partnerships, the relationship is mutually beneficial.

As Redfern Jarjum College gets underway, this is an opportunity for us to learn from their holistic program that incorporates and values both western and Aboriginal knowledge and ways of learning. It is our hope that the school will provide its students with the best elements of two very different worlds, and in doing so, with an opportunity that will be beneficial for all Australians.

Sponsored by St Aloysius College on behalf of the Society of Jesus (Jesuit Order), the school was also developed in consultation with local Aboriginal Elders. And with an expected opening date around January 2013, it is quickly moving towards completion in what was a disused presbytery at St Vincent’s Catholic Church in Redfern.

FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULTS

With a low student-to-teacher ratio, the school will provide a culturally safe and supportive learning environment for some of the most vulnerable Aboriginal children in Redfern.

The program will focus on the educational foundations of literacy and numeracy, as well as Aboriginal culture and heritage for up to 20 students aged from 4-12 years.

One of the aims is to alleviate the social, emotional, behavioural and health disadvantages of Aboriginal children so they can pursue secondary education in mainstream schooling.

To help with this, all students will receive transport to and from school, after school care, free tuition, meals (including breakfast) and health checks. There will also be plenty of opportunities for families and the wider community to get involved in night school and activities such as meal preparation, storytelling, dance and art.

“The College is operating for the wider community … we will encourage children, teens, their families and Elders to come to the Centre. The Elders will receive a symbolic key to the door. We want them to come and teach the children about their culture.”

Beatrice believes that the attraction of the school rests in its strong sense of community, the values it celebrates, its commitment to realising the potential of young people, and the provision of a balanced education that addresses the academic, social, emotional, physical and spiritual aspects of students’ lives.

She hopes that the College will also be a community driven school that the Aboriginal community in Redfern will participate in and direct.

“We will consult with the children; they’ve got a lot of great ideas … If a kid needs a bit of a go, I’ll be there with them,” said Beatrice. “We’ve said to them that the world’s their oyster – but they’ve got to believe that.”

For more on Redfern Jarjum College, see www.rjc.nsw.edu.au

DONATE YOUR SUPPORT FOR CARITAS AUSTRALIA ASSISTS DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES WITHIN AUSTRALIA. TO DONATE, HEAD TO WWW.CARITAS.ORG.AU OR CALL 1800 024 413.
GIVING HOPE

Lauren Rayner from Caritas Australia spoke with long-term supporter and hopegiver, Kathleen Henderson, to find out what being part of the Caritas community means to her.

Q. HOW DID YOU COME TO BE AWARE OR INVOLVED WITH CARITAS?
I knew of Caritas through Project Compassion and I also like the meaning of Caritas, which is love and compassion. Over the years, I became more aware of the actual work that Caritas does, and think it is an extremely worthwhile and effective organisation.

Q. WHY DO YOU SUPPORT CARITAS AUSTRALIA?
Caritas changes people’s lives – not by offering a band-aid solution, but by making people self-sufficient and giving them dignity.

Quite often, these people are made to feel pitied; to have people feel sorry for them. I like the way Caritas is helping these communities be in charge of their own lives. I also enjoy reading the newsletters and finding out about the work that is being done worldwide.

Q. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A HOPEGIVER FOR?
I suddenly realised how valuable life was three years ago, when my husband died. I became a hopegiver soon after that.

Q. WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN TO BE A HOPEGIVER AS OPPOSED TO MAKING ONE-OFF DONATIONS; WHAT BENEFITS DO YOU SEE?
I’m quite forgetful. I’ll get a letter from someone and think, “I’ll deal with that later”; a few months go by but I still have not.

By becoming a hopegiver, I can’t forget about it. It is a little bit like income; when you get a bit at a time, it is valued. That’s how I feel by donating monthly to Caritas.

Q. ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A SPECIFIC REGION, PROGRAM OR SECTOR?
Not really, I look at the needy people throughout the world and see that everyone has an equal need. Obviously when there is a natural disaster there is a greater need in that particular area. But I feel we are called to look after all the peoples in the world and I don’t see one region as being more important or more favoured than any other. So I simply ask that Caritas use my donation where it is most needed.

I am in a position which is extremely fortunate. I have the ability to donate money and I have been really blessed. My husband’s background was farming and there were hard times, but even then we never went without; we always had food, a house and a car.

I believe that I’m called to help other people; whether they are in Australia or elsewhere.

Q. WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO BECOME HOPEGIVERS?
Becoming a hopegiver is a practical way to help others. I would not push it on anyone, although if it came up in conversation I would say that it’s a great way to help people in need.

I congratulate Caritas for the wonderful work that is being done and I pray that you are able to keep doing the work and helping those in need throughout the world. I’m sure, with God’s help, this will happen.

In my parish at home, our parish priest is always commenting on the generosity of the parishioners. I’ve just returned from Canada and a parish priest there said, “Christ does not want you to go without, he wants you to share what you’ve got with other people”.

I thought that was a really nice way of putting it. I get a lot of pleasure out of giving and feel very privileged to do this interview with you.

Have you thought about becoming a hopegiver too?

Join our monthly giving program today by either:

CALLING 1800 024 413
FILLING OUT THE COUPON OVERLEAF
HEADING TO WWW.CARITAS.ORG.AU/HOPEGIVER

Thank you for caring
From now on I want to give monthly through the hopegiver program. Please charge my credit card or direct debit account with this amount on the 27th of each month.

Your details:

Donor Number (if known) ________________________________

Name [ ] Ms [ ] Miss [ ] Mrs [ ] Mr [ ] other

Address: ________________________________________________ Postcode: __________

Phone: __________________________ Parish: __________________________

Signature: ______________________________________________

Amount: [ ] $35 [ ] $50 [ ] $80 [ ] Other $ _______ (min. $10)

Please debit my credit card:

[ ] Visa [ ] MasterCard [ ] Amex [ ] Diners

Card Number: ____________________________________________

Expiry date: _______ / _______

Name on card: ____________________________________________

Signature: ____________________________________________ Date: _______ / _______

Please direct debit my account:

Financial institution name and branch:

______________________________

BSB: _______ / _______

Account No: ________________________________

Account name: __________________________________________

Signature: ____________________________________________ Date: _______ / _______

[ ] Please send me information about including Caritas Australia in my will.

Every day, 120 million children are unable to attend school because of poverty, poor health and conflict. Education is a major key to releasing people from poverty.

You can help change this alarming statistic for the price of your daily coffee.

Hopegiver is Caritas Australia’s regular giving program. As a regular giver you are assisting to effectively ensure the continuation of life changing community projects worldwide.

IT’S SIMPLER THAN YOU MAY THINK...

You know about the good work Caritas does. Now you can be more involved in reaching out to people who are so often forgotten. When you become a hopegiver we send you a photo frame and regular postcards and stories on the projects that your monthly gift is supporting.

Complete the form and post to Caritas Australia GPO Box 9830, Sydney NSW 2001 or fax to 1800 887 895.

or call us on 1800 024 413 with your credit card details

or visit us online at www.caritas.org.au/donate

or drop in to see us at 24-32 O’Riordan St, Alexandria NSW 2015

Before payments commence, Caritas Australia will provide you with a full Service Agreement and confirmation of your details regarding this arrangement. Payments will be deducted on 27th of the month. If this is not a normal business day, payment will be deducted on the next normal business day.

I would not like to receive information about the work of Caritas Australia Privacy Statement: The information provided by you will only be used for the purpose of giving you information about ‘hopegiver’ and the activities of Caritas Australia.

The Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development caritas.org.au