



AUSTRALIA

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

2023 IN REVIEW (PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS)

2023 is behind us and we forge ahead into 2024 with much anticipation and eagerness welcoming another year of opportunities to reach out and help others, whether in our own backyard or across the seas. At this time it is good to reflect on what we have accomplished last year as a community and hopefully this will inspire us to greater service of the poor in 2024.

HOPE DAY OF GIVING 2023

HOPE *worldwide* Australia's annual appeal to raise funds for humanitarian programs in the SPA (South Pacific and Australia) region opened in April 2023 and closes next month. **We raised over \$30,000 for the following priority programs:**

- 1. PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA** – five HOPE clinics provide essential healthcare including the treatment of deadly diseases such as HIV and TB for over 90,000 people annually.
- 2. PRIMARY EDUCATION IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA** - supporting the Mercy Care school which provides primary education for over 200 students from a low socioeconomic background in Port Moresby. Volunteers from around the SPA region have engaged in fun educational activities with the children to support them on their journey through primary school.
- 3. MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS IN FIJI** - providing outreach health services to vulnerable communities, connecting them to healthcare workers to tackle chronic disease and social issues such as domestic violence. In addition, blood drives to cater for the ongoing shortage of blood donors.
- 4. FOOD AID IN FIJI** - partnering with local supermarkets to provide food vouchers for over 200 families living in poverty and unable to afford basic food due to unemployment, low wage and the very high cost of living.



School Children in Papua New Guinea Benefitting from HOPE's education program



KALVARY HEALTH CLINIC - in the remote Central Highlands, staff accommodation block remains to be built.



Children expressing their gratitude for the Fiji Food Voucher Program

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE'S VISIT TO PNG IN JUNE 2023

In June of last year, the U.S. Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken, visited the Lawes Road Clinic operated by HOPE *worldwide* Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Led by Priscilla Sine Mal, the Country Leader of HOPE *worldwide* PNG, the dedicated team continues to support the local community in various areas such as TB treatment, HIV prevention and treatment, access to clean water, support for women victims of violence and overall healthcare, profoundly impacting the lives of 94,000 people annually.

“This was a real privilege to be here at the Lawes Road Clinic where quite literally our partners are saving lives, changing lives, every single day,” the U.S. State Secretary said.



U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken's visit to the Lawes Road Clinic in June 2023

VARIOUS FUND-RAISING PROJECTS DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

HIKE FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA (Brett and Janette Bennie)

In December of last year, Brett and Janette Bennie ventured into what they called “The Great Ocean Walk,” an 8-day 110-km hike along the Great Ocean Road (from Apollo Bay to The Twelve Apostles) in Victoria, Australia. The purpose of the hike was to raise the required funds for the water filter program in Papua New Guinea. Their goal was to raise \$6,000 to cover transport, training and installation of water filters in 200 homes.



Brett and Janette after successfully completing their hike

We are happy to report that donations achieved the goal, having collected just over \$6,000!

HOPE CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS FOR FILIPINO FAMILIES (Jo Donado)

For the 5th year running, Jo Donado, a member of the Melbourne Church of Christ organised food baskets to the Philippines to provide essential food items for hungry families over the Christmas period. This year's beneficiaries were from the cities of Ormoc and Tacloban, in the province of Leyte that was devastated by the super typhoon Yolanda (also called Typhoon Haiyan) in 2013.



Food baskets distributed to beneficiaries in Tacloban, Leyte, Philippines (with the help of ICoC Tacloban)

ZUMBA FUNDRAISING EVENT (Gloria Del Fierro)

In November, Gloria a Zumba instructor and personal trainer led a Zumba session in Prahran, Victoria, to raise funds for the poor in Papua New Guinea and Fiji. It was a well-attended event and not only did it raise much needed funds, it was fun and promoted good health through exercise.



Gloria and friends, raising the roof and funds at the ZUMBA HOPE Fundraiser

UPDATE ON OTHER LOCAL PROGRAMS IN AUSTRALIA

HOT MEAL SERVICE IN SYDNEY

This project has been running for two years thanks to volunteers from the Sydney Church of Christ providing a weekly 'hot' sit-down meal for the vulnerable population in Telopea. The final celebratory hot meal for 2023 was held on the second Sunday of December.

FOOD DELIVERIES TO DISTRESSED FAMILIES IN ADELAIDE

HOPE volunteers in Adelaide provided weekly meals to distressed families living in emergency accommodation provided by the local RSL.

NADINE TEMPLER ANNOUNCED HER LAST DAY AS SENIOR DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEER CORPS FOR HOPE *worldwide* LTD.



Our dynamic and passionate Nadine Templer announced that her last day as Senior Director of HOPE Volunteer Corps was the 31st of December 2023.

For the last 10 years, Nadine spearheaded the Volunteer Corps programs in addition to the Global Service Internship training.

In her social media account, she shared, *“In my employment at HOPE worldwide Ltd, I have worked with the kindest people. I have also loved partnering with amazing Christians around the world. In addition, mentoring young people around the globe has brought me immeasurable joy. The youth have literally changed my life and challenged my thinking in ways no one ever has.”*

One might say that this is the end of an era. But as Nadine has effectively inspired and mentored the next generation of volunteers and leaders through her personal example, passion, and hard work. She is confident that the work that she has nurtured will continue seamlessly in the years to come.

She will remain involved with HOPE *worldwide* Nepal and the work in Kathmandu where she lives with her husband Mark and her children (one still at home).

From your HOPE *worldwide* Australia family, thank you Nadine for your invaluable contribution to the organisation, your love for the poor and the inspiration you are to both young and old across the globe!

To support HOPE *worldwide*'s programs



Online Donations (Tax-deductible):

givenow.com.au/hopedaygiving

Direct bank transfer:

HOPE worldwide Australia, BSB: 633 000, Ac: 150725133

A \$5 donation provides free healthcare for a vulnerable child in Papua New Guinea.