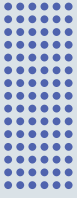




Marist Solidarity Cambodia Annual Report 2020





Marist Solidarity Cambodia

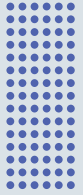
Giving children and young people with a disability a sense of their own value as individuals and as members of their family and community; a sense of purpose; a sense of the many possibilities that could be before them, and the means to live life in a meaningful way is the essence of what we strive for in the LaValla Project.



Bishop Olivier Schmitthaeusler

Bishop Olivier is the Catholic Bishop of Phnom Penh and a good friend of LaValla. We thank him for this friendship and support and we pray for his well being and for the work of the Catholic Prefecture of Phnom Penh





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From the Director

“At Lavalla our aim is the allow each individual to come to know and develop the unique person they are.”

When dealing with a group of young people such as we have at LaValla school and Village, there is always the danger of objectifying them (as it is with other groups) and treat them all the same. In reality, here at LaValla we encounter a diverse group of young people who have their own personalities, abilities, aspirations and hopes for their future. The richness and variety of the group is a source of growth and inspiration for all of us who work with them. At Lavalla our aim is the allow each individual to come to know and develop the unique person they are.

As with other countries around the world, the onset of the pandemic totally disrupted the education system in Cambodia during 2020. LaValla students - Primary, Secondary, and University - had their studies disrupted when all schools were closed in March. While the Government attempted to provide on-line learning, this was never going to be accessible by our poor rural students.

Our Grade 12 and 9 and University students lived at LaValla Village for much of the year and were able to access some lessons provided by some of their teachers. We are very appreciative of the efforts these teachers made to allow classes to continue. Likewise our LaValla primary teachers maintained contact with their students and provided work for them as far as possible. University students were also able to access classes provided by their teachers. But few other students had any opportunity to continue their school work.

Schools reopened again in October but this was short-lived as schools were closed again in early December.



A number of students stayed at LaValla for some time so they could receive ongoing medical attention that they would not have been able to get had they remained at home. The LaValla health staff did a wonderful job caring for these students.

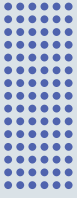
We were able to assist many of our families who, because of the pandemic, had no income. We provided food assistance to fifty families.

It has been a difficult time for everyone. I want specially to commend the work of all our staff who, in spite of the difficulties and concerns for their own families, continued to prioritise the care of all of our students and their families.

Our donors continue to support our work and their willingness to allow us to adapt the use of funds to suit the different situation was also very encouraging to all. We appreciate their ongoing commitment to the well-being and development of our young people.

Local, Provincial and National Government officials continue to be very supportive of the work we are doing and we thank them for their ongoing assistance.





Our Values

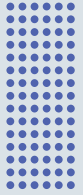


All students that are welcomed to Marist Solidarity Cambodia have disabilities, here they find that their lives are not defined by their disabilities and so can live as normal young people and develop their individual talents and personalities. They also able to build up a resilience to cope with being disabled in the wider society.

Marist Solidarity Cambodia

Giving children and young people with a disability a sense of their own value as individuals and as members of their family and community; a sense of purpose; a sense of the many possibilities that could be before them, and the means to live life in a meaningful way is the essence of what we strive for at LAVALLA.





Vision and History

Marist Solidarity Cambodia (MSC) is an international non-government organization which encompasses LaValla School, Villa Maria Hostel, LaValla Village and an Outreach Programme.

MSC aims to support young Cambodians with physical disabilities by way of furthering their education and assisting them into employment.

- MSC is an integral part of the mission of the Marist Brothers whose foundation in France 200 years ago initiated a commitment on the part of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, the founder, to provide schooling for poor children from marginalized families. That commitment and that dream are being realized here in Cambodia as MSC works for poor young people with disabilities wanting to give them new and better opportunities, hoping that their formal education will prove decisive in changing their circumstances.
- LaValla School established in Phnom Penh in 1998 is a government approved school in Cambodia providing a full elementary school

education for children and young people with physical disabilities.

- Villa Maria, built by the Australian Marist Fathers in 2005 is now a hostel for the young people attending university. The LaValla Village is a new facility opened in 2019 and is the hostel for students of MSC who are attending the local Government High School in Takhmao.

- An outreach programme based at LaValla assists approximately 100 young Cambodians with physical disabilities who live at home and attend their local schools.

- Many of MSC's students come from rural provinces of Cambodia and due to difficulties with travel they are residential.

- In 2010 MSC was established to integrate various programmes and sites into one entity, which we now call the LaValla Project, with its own Board of Directors under the aegis of Marist Brothers Province of Australia.





LaValla School

LaValla Primary School is a Government Registered school that follows the National School curriculum. The school was founded in 1998 in Phnom Penh and moved to the current site in Takhmao in 2000. The school caters for students with physical disabilities. They come mainly from poor, rural areas, and because of their disabilities were unable to attend their local school. Students are mostly referred to LaValla by other agencies working in the Provinces.

Because students come from many parts of the country, LaValla operates as a boarding school. Students are able to have regular contact with their families and family members are welcome to visit at any time.

The School year began with 87 students (51 boys and 36 girls) from 13 Provinces. There were 27 new enrolments. Their disabilities are varied, but include cerebral palsy, polio, amputations - most of those the result of accidents, congenital abnormalities, muscular dystrophy and for some consequences of meningitis and other diseases.

In mid-March all schools in Cambodia were ordered to close in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Initially it was thought that schools could reopen on 20th April, but in fact did not reopen until November.

The Government promoted online learning. But it is estimated that up to two million rural children could not access this service. This would include the majority of LaValla students.

Staff were concerned that the students who had had surgery in December would



Grade	M	F	Total
1A	10	4	14
1B	9	1	10
2	7	5	12
3	8	6	14
4	5	9	14
5/6	7	5	12
Total	51	36	87





not be getting proper attention. In May, staff visited families in the surrounding Provinces and contacted families who live further away. Consequently, we allowed a small group of students to return to LaValla so they could have ongoing treatment. There were also a few who, because of their family situation, were not being adequately cared for. These have come back to LaValla as well. Also, we assisted some families who needed funds for urgent medical needs.



In Late September, the Grade 6 students returned to prepare for their Final Examinations after the local Education and Health officials determined that we would be able to implement the COVID-19 prevention protocols. Exams were held mid-November and then started Grade 7 preparation. Schools reopened in November and most students returned. Unfortunately, all schools were forced to close again before Christmas. In all students were at school for less than four months of the year.



With the sudden closure of school, we were not able to have the usual Gr 6 Graduation ceremony, instead a small presentation of Certificates took place before they returned home.





Renovations and Maintenance

During 2020 major Renovations were done to with special grants:

Girls and Boys Shower and Toilet Facilities \$18,578.00

Renewal and insulation of roofing on Dining Hall.

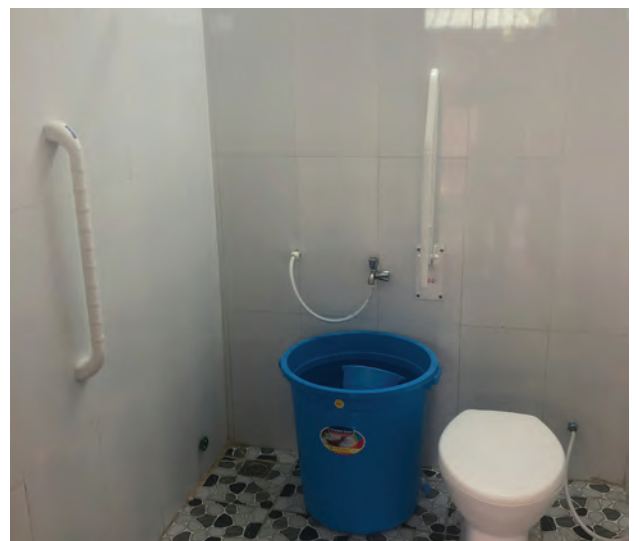
Renewal of Swimming Pool fence.

Re-roofing and insulation of Walkways between buildings.

Upgrade of Solar system for Pool Pumps. \$19,130.32

Classrooms and Dormitories repainted inside and outside.

Upgrade electrical fittings. \$ 4,967.20







LaValla Village - Inclusive Education Project

Upon successful completion of Grade 6 at LaValla Primary School, students with the capacity to go further are encouraged to continue their education, supported by a team of mentors, as part of the MSC Inclusive Education Programme. For most this will mean commencing High School while others will attend Vocational Skills Programmes. For those who would not be able to access Secondary education in their local environment MSC provides Hostel accommodation and students attend Hun Sen High School Takhmao. MSC liaises with the parents/families who are the primary carers for these students.

Essential elements of this program include:

- Accommodation in a place where their basic needs are met with families contributing in-kind where possible;
- Regular family visits during holidays;
- Transportation to and from school or university;
- Provision of essential educational supplies and school uniforms;
- Supplementary tuition in English, Mathematics and Computing;
- Individual mentoring;
- Regular medical examinations and personalised care, including surgery if required;
- Access to a range of rehabilitation services including physiotherapy.

University Students

In the academic Year Dec 2019 – October 2020

there were twenty two students studying at University – 14 were residential students living at the MSC hostel Villa Maria, and eight were community-based students. Of these, six were in Year 4 and Graduated in September 2020.

Of the six graduates, four have already gained employment related to their university studies. Two are employed by companies as translators (Khmer / English). One is employed by a Private school in Phnom Penh as an English teacher and one as a Primary school teacher in a Government school.

From mid-March 2020 University classes were mostly conducted on-line as all institutions in Cambodia were closed due to the COVID-19 virus. All students lived at the MSC Villa Maria hostel so they could access good internet facilities. If they had been at home this would not have been possible for most.

Secondary School Students

Altogether This programme assisted 79 students attending Secondary Schools. Of these 54 lived at the LaValla Village Hostel and attended the local Government Secondary School and 25 lived at home and attended their local schools.

Given the unusual circumstances brought on by the COVID 19 virus which meant months of school were missed, the Government decreed



that all students would pass their Grade and be promoted to the next Grade. Five Grade 12 students completed their High School. There were no final examinations so all students in the country were deemed to have passed. It is still unclear at this stage what the implications are for entry into Universities

Primary School Students

The programme assisted 13 students living at home to attend their local primary school.

Hostel Accomodation

During 2020 All High School students were accommodated at LaValla Village and the male University students at Villa Maria.

Students at the LaValla Village have appreciated the new facilities. Dormitories are far less crowded that was the case when all students were housed at Villa Maria, study facilities are more spacious, and the kitchen / dining area is a great improvement on previous facilities.



Five Residential Students who Graduated from University in 2020





Finance Report 2020

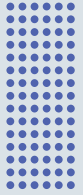
Statement of Fund Balance

	Year Ended 31 December 2020	Year Ended 31 December 2019
Opening Balance, beginning of year	212,310	216,797
(Deficit)/Surplus of receipts over Expenditure	119,033	15,979
Prior year's adjustment on bank balance		(20,466)
Fund Balance, End of Year	331,343	212,310
Represented by:		
Cash in Bank	353,050	227,588
Cash in Hand	753	1,190
Staff Loans Receivable	480	2,702
Severance Payable to Staff	(14,958)	(13,699)
Income Tax Payable	(7,082)	(5,471)
Misereor Audit Fee	(900)	
	333,343	212,310

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure

	Year Ended 31 December 2020 USD	Year Ended 31 December 2019 USD
Receipts		
Funds from Donors (Recurrent)	511,593	480,506
Other Income	8,056	40,116
Funds from Donors (Capital)	47,500	196,321
Total Receipts	567,149	716,943
Expenditure		
Programme Costs	171,628	297,305
Personnel Costs	146,084	143,052
Capital Expenses	65,994	221,456
Administration Costs	62,239	31,577
Commercial Enterprise Costs		2,104
Other Expenses	1,611	5,471
Total Expenditure	448,116	700,965
(Deficit) / Surplus of Receipts over Expenditure	119,033	15,979

(From the 2020 Audit Report)



Capital Development

During 2020 major Renovations were done to with special grants:

Girls and Boys Shower and Toilet Facilities \$18,578.00

Renewal and insulation of roofing on Dining Hall.

Renewal of Swimming Pool fence.

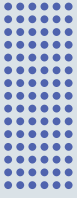
Re-roofing and insulation of Walkways between buildings.

Upgrade of Solar system for Pool Pumps. \$19,130.32

Purchase new bus for LaValla Village Students \$26,694.50




2020



Health and Rehabilitation Report

In 2020 physiotherapy program for the student was interrupted due to the Covid-19 virus outbreak in Cambodia. This was first in March when the schools were all closed until the end of September. There was a second outbreak in November and the schools were again closed to reopen in January of 2021. However, despite the outbreak of Covid-19, we were still providing physiotherapy services to a small number of students who we thought were special cases in this difficult time. Therefore, from May to August, there were 8 students who needed attention for prosthetics or physiotherapy following surgery during 2019.

During the time that the school was open students received medical health service at hospitals and clinics for assistance with hearing, nasal issues, vision, dental and general health. Some students required visits for a check-up and to obtain medicine for the treatment of epilepsy. There were also a number of students who had surgery in 2019 and required following up of cases by surgeons at the hospital.

Some of students received visual assistive devices (glasses) to assist with reading and classroom learning. With cooperation with the Cambodia World Family organization, all students received dental check-ups and all new students have been given blood tests for hepatitis.

In 2020, there were 41 students (22 boys) who required prosthetics or orthotics. They were taken for regular appointments on rotation on Thursdays each week when adjustments

or fitting for new prosthetic were required. Throughout the year there were 143 sessions conducted.

During the year there were lower numbers referred to the rehabilitation centre due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Cambodia and the closure of schools. Also because of Covid-19 the doctors were unable to carry out surgery for our students in 2020 and the number of rehabilitation sessions has been less than previous years.

Apart from referrals to the rehabilitation centre the health staff provided maintenance of wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, prosthetics, and orthotics here at Lavalla School.







Visit of Hope Health 2020



Ear Nose and Throat Doctors visit Lavalla

On the 1st of March 2020 a group of Ear Nose and Throat Doctors from the H.O.P.E NGO held a clinic at Lavalla School for the students from the school and the village. All were assessed by the doctors and treatments applied as necessary and medications distributed if needed. We are so very grateful for this generous gift of their time and expertise to care for our students and staff. Our students were treated with gentleness and thoroughness.







Covid-19 Response 2020

For many of our families the onset of COVID-19 created economic difficulties with parents losing employment, and therefore income.

Staff at LaValla Primary and at LaValla Village contacted as many families as possible to survey their current situation. As a result of this survey fifty families were identified as needing assistance with food and in some cases medical assistance. We were able to assist these families by delivering food and providing funds for medical procedures. Also we identified two families who had no ready access to clean water so we assisted with the installation of a well and toilet facilities.

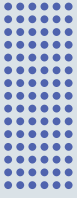




Covid-19 Response 2020

Grade 12 and Grade 9 and University students returned to LaValla Village while schools remained closed so they could access on-line lessons with their teachers.



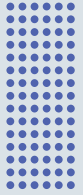


With Thanks - Donors and Supporters 2020

DONORS – 2020

Australian Marist Solidarity
Australian Marist Province
Misereor (Germany)
Grapes for Humanity Global Foundation
Mission Bambini (Italy)
Marist Mission Centre (Marist Fathers Australia)
Little Kings Movement (Australia)
United World College of South East Asia (Singapore)
St John's College Woodlawn (Australia)
Lenity Australia
Michelle Chiou Foundation
Michael McKenzie
Butta Family
Renshaw Family
Marist Schools in Australia





Images/Activities













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