



Transforming Lives, Building Communities, *Together*

Carmel Impact Schools Partnership Program

Becoming Ambassadors for Education

**By transforming the lives of children and young adults
in Timor-Leste**



Education = Freedom for the children of Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste is one of the most impoverished countries in the world. Living on only \$3 a day, families struggle to make ends meet, parents are unable to provide for their children and communities face the real prospect of younger generations staying in the cycle of poverty.

As children go without food and basic essentials, they also go without realising their hopes and dreams of a better future – a future where poverty becomes a distant memory for themselves, their families and their communities.

Carmel Impact recognises that education is the key to freedom. Freedom from hunger, freedom from ill health, freedom from poverty.

Here in Australia, education is something we take for granted. Aussie children will learn to read and write, will be encouraged to study hard with all the resources they need, and will one day head off to University or Tertiary College to become contributing members of society.

That is why we are reaching out to schools, to come together as a community and support children in Zumalai and other regional areas in Timor-Leste, so that these children receive the same opportunities as their counterparts in Australia.

We also recognise that students here in Australia want to be of service, want to make a difference, want to get involved, and want to create change.

This is your school community's opportunity to help raise vital funds, in fun and inclusive ways so that:

- Timorese families can buy school uniforms, books and pencils so their children can go to school
- Timorese teachers can purchase essential equipment and teaching aids
- Children from remote villages can stay in our Boarding House to attend school; and
- Provide tertiary scholarships for Timorese young adults so they can attend Uni or College

And so much more.



Our Schools in Timor-Leste

Located in the sub-district of Zumalai, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School is made up of three campuses - one central campus in Zumalai town and two other campuses in the small villages of Raimea and Beko. Altogether this school caters for over 600 students from Prep to Year 9.

Recently, three kindergartens have also joined our community, providing children as young as 4 years of age, the opportunity to begin their education.

In time our vision is that our schools become model schools, offering more children the chance to go to school and receive a quality education.

Become Ambassadors for Education in Timor-Leste

As Ambassadors Your school can get involved and help raise awareness and funds that support our development programs for education, youth engagement and building the capacity of our educators through training.

Your fundraising efforts and activities can help:

- 1) Give compassionate teachers the resources they need to teach
- 2) Train passionate volunteers to become professional teachers
- 3) Help more eager children go to school
- 4) Build new and refurbish current classrooms

We invite your school to become Ambassadors for Education for the children and young adults of Timor-Leste. Together let's discover and discuss the various ways your school community can get involved, to help raise awareness and funds through our Schools Partnership Program.

Be part of our Immersion Program

Walking in someone else's shoes helps us to understand, even for a brief moment, what life for the Timorese is truly like.

Students and teachers from your school may have the opportunity to experience for themselves, albeit briefly, what life is like for a child growing up in Zumalai.

Through the guidance of Mayra Walsh, our Community Development Coordinator, we will look to build a deeper cross-cultural understanding of the Timorese people and instil a sense of global citizenship through sustainability goals.

Walk for Timor

Get your students involved in a Walkathon and help raise much needed funds so children and young adults are given the chance to pursue the gift of education.

Compete with other like-minded schools and see who raises the most. Dress up for the Walkathon, create posters to promote involvement, encourage family and friends to also walk with you and your school community.

The involvement of more schools in such an event will not only create some fantastic inter-school partnerships, but of course will benefit the children and young adults of Timor-Leste.

Establish Social Justice Inter-School Leadership Opportunities

Social justice is a high priority for Australian schools, students and teachers. Seeing a need and doing something about it, helps students understand the world they live in. It also provides them with essential life-skills, such as critical thinking and problem-solving.

Our goal is to establish a Social Justice Group facilitated by Carmel Impact staff and attended by student leaders and teachers from a cross-section of schools.

Coming together, united in a common mission based on faith, will help students to feel that they are part of a broader caring and compassionate community, focused on creating momentum for sustainable change.

This group will then also act as ambassadors to help spread awareness of the plight of Timorese children and young adults within their own community. This may be in the form of a social justice for Timorese children day which includes lessons across all year levels on the role of social justice, the right to education, the life of a Timorese child, and other millennial goals as set out by the United Nations and UNICEF.



Present the life and culture of Timor-Leste through Education

Unfortunately, right now only a select few from any Australian school population will get the chance to visit Timor-Leste due to the lack of infrastructure, the treacherous terrain and the lack of resources.

However, there is an opportunity with a number of young Carmelite students from Timor living in Australia that we can bring a slice of Timor-Leste to your school community.

Presenting the life and culture of Timor-Leste can happen in your school and would include the following proposed activities:

- Presentation at School Assemblies by a Carmelite or Carmelite student
- Presentation to Teachers and Parents by the Community Development Ministry
- Student and Teacher Leadership forums facilitated by a Carmelite Student &/or Community Development Ministry
- A school assignment based on research and experience

Along with the above, a goal could be to create a day of Timorese festivities whereby students here in Australia can experience Timorese culture, food and language.

Initiate a fundraising opportunity – “Live the life of a Timorese”

Many years ago World Vision developed one of their most successful campaigns – the 40 hour famine. School students signed up to experience what living in a third world country meant for a child, going without food for about 40 hours. At the same time, they asked their family and friends to sponsor them, raising much needed funds for the organisation to do even greater work.

Timorese children go without every single day. We propose creating an event whereby students can experience what it means to live the life of a Timorese child, for example:

- Go without technology
- Live on just \$1 a day
- Give up something they are attached to for a week

Our goal is to create a situation that, just for a short time, students can experience what life may be like for a child living in Timor.

Build engagement with your School’s Alumni

Reaching out to your Alumni community to share the difference your school is making for creating for children and young adults in Timor-Leste is a great way to get them involved in helping to raise funds.

Linking Alumni members’ experience with the reality of what children and young adults face in Timor-Leste can help to raise essential awareness and funds to grow our work.

This would include creating:

- 1) a series of articles that present real life stories of children and young adults living in Timor. These articles would also include the work undertaken by Carmel Impact, and the difference your school can make;
- 2) fundraising appeals for donations and other forms of support including advocacy through social media / digital channels;
- 3) attendance to various Carmel Impact events to learn more about the difference our work is creating for people in Timor;
- 4) a connection with the alumni association and create small event to bring awareness of Carmel Impact’s work in Timor-Leste, which offer philanthropic opportunities

Forming exciting experiences, lasting memories and stronger relationships

Your school can become a partner in transforming the lives of the children and young adults of Timor-Leste.

Our goal is to help you create exciting and memorable experiences providing your students with the opportunity to learn more about Timor-Leste while raising essential funds to help alleviate poverty for children and young adults. The initiatives throughout this paper have been designed to add a rich dimension to the students' learning and development and to build their awareness of global social justice.

Our aim for the Schools Partnership Program is to not only create lasting memories for students of a people's rich in culture, history and language, but also to instil positive social values to empower students to act as agents for social change. We also see an opportunity here for participating schools of the program to forge stronger relationships with others.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the above initiatives and other ideas with you so together we can create real and lasting change for Timor-Leste.

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