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## NEWSLETTER

Volume Number 1      Issue Number      1      Date      June 2007

It has been three months since our last newsletter and a lot has happened since then. We held the toy and clothing drive and it was very, very successful. We now have 28 large boxes of clothes and toys to be sent over to the Dominican Sisters in East Timor to go to the orphanages in Dili and Soibada. We were hoping that the Lions club and the Christian Brothers of Brisbane would have had the container ready for the boxes by now but we still have them sitting in our living room, it looks like a storage area, awaiting for the notification that they are ready for them. We are hopeful that this will be later this month or July at the latest.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who donated the toys and clothes for the drive. The children of East Timor will be able to get a lot out of what we are sending over. We just hope that we will not get charged a customs duty on the boxes when they arrive in East Timor. Lets us all keep our fingers crossed that this doesn't happen.



Boxes being sent to Dominican Sisters in East Timor

We have been fortunate to meet with a producer Linda Arnold and her cameraman husband Phillipe Deseck who are headed for East Timor to film a documentary about East Timor in September this year. As Phillipe has said "Australians don't seem to know much about East Timor and all they hear about is the negative side and the fighting, but there is so much more there than what we see on the news. We don't want to delve too much into the negatives in this documentary, but into the positives. We are hoping to raise awareness about East Timor".

Phillipe has filmed documentaries and short films and Linda has produces T.V. shows and a recent short film "The Killing Room" about the Colombian rebels.

We have asked Phillipe and Linda if it is possible for them to make a small film on our Orphanages in Dili and Soibada so that we can show everyone here how things are going over there.

We have also been in touch with the Bendigo Shire Council in Victoria who have developed a friendship relationship with the village of Maubisse in the district of Ainaro in East Timor. Bendigo already has a distinctive link to East Timor via former resident Kirsty Sword Gusmao, the former first lady of East Timor. We asked them how they went about establishing this relationship and how we wanted to do a similar thing with Soibada. They were very helpful. But, more on that later.

We now have 63 sponsors and we would like to thank each and every one for their ongoing support and commitment. As you know without you and your support we would not be in a position to put any plans in place to support the children of East Timor.

Some of our plans are:

- \* The Mary MacKillop Institute has produced a set of about 20 books in the East Timorese local language of Tetum (this has never been done before) and we are purchasing two sets of these books to be supplied to the Dominican Sisters Orphanages in Dili and Soibada to start a library.
- \* Build a classroom for computer classes and music classes
- \* Set up a sewing room with sewing machines and materials

If you know anyone who wants to donate sewing machines or musical instruments, in good working order, please contact us at [info@easttimorchildrensfund.org](mailto:info@easttimorchildrensfund.org) or 0407 756733 and we will organise for it to be collected.

These are just a few of the plans we are working on achieving to help make a difference to the life of the children of East Timor.

Help us to make a difference.