



# **Annual Charity Report 2019**

## **Militare Ordine del Collare di Sant'Agata dei Paternò**



**During the summer of 2019 the Grand Hospittaller of the Order  
Ecc'ma da Estela Velasco de Lebrón Coll MOC  
passed away after years of conspicuous service to the Order. This report  
will be in memory of her dedication to the charitable work supported by all  
our Knights and Dames**



During a couple of weeks in February 2019 Don Stephen Screech visited BRA in India. Apart from helping making candles he also visited the new structure that will be part of our International Project. He was as usual greeted in an overwhelming way. The gratitude we are shown when we visit the different projects are a way to thank **all** of us who are working and contributing to these projects. This should be communicated to all our knights and dames around the world. It should also be a reminder to us all to have a collection at all our events, grand or small. All contributions count.



## **International Project – Blind Relief Association**

The project – to be shared by all jurisdictions of the MOC – to provide the furniture for the new BRA Ladies' Hostel was put on hold due to issues related to the design of the building, not taking into account the need for special windows with safety features for use by blind people, but also waiting for the monsoon season to come to an end. At ground level it is open to keep the play area unobstructed, as the upper floors are supported by pillars. The ladies' hostel will be a self-contained area on the second floor. The Trustees of the English Tongue agreed to set aside the sum of 7.500 GBP / 8.800 EUR as a contribution to this project until the current financial year when it would be revisited. The Trustees of Terra Nordica has set aside 14.000 EUR.





## **The Grand Priory of Terra Nordica**

**Distributed amount: 851.000 SEK**

**The Blind Relief Association** has received a donation to continue the Job Placement project. With the establishment of training programmes, each year, more and more blind people graduate from these training courses. The Association has started a Placement Project for securing employment for its trainees. The project is primarily meant for finding jobs for eligible blind trainees leaving the Association's various vocational training programmes. The project also helps blind persons approaching the Association for jobs from other places in the country. The project was visited by the Grand Chancellor Don Stephen Screech during some weeks in the beginning of 2019.



**Catholic Cathedral Parish in Stockholm** has received a donation for Youth Activities and open house activities for the unemployed and others who somehow live in isolation. The open house activity is a very popular activity especially for those from other countries who have difficulties finding new friends or employment in their new homeland. There is also an activity that makes home visits to elderly and sick that are unable to get out.



**The Bridgettine Sisters of Bethlehem** have received a donation to help poor families with food and medicine packages. The Sisters also sponsor some families so that their children can go to school by paying their fees.



**Processkedjan.** The work is supported by the police and aims to help young people between 13-29 years who have turned to crime and / or drug addiction or risk ending up there. Those who work at Processkedjan have themselves lived a life of crime, drug abuse and have experienced the negative consequences. They have personal experience of absent parents, parents with drug and alcohol addiction and a distrust of everything that comes from the establishment.



### **Arcoiris Project, Hospital La Divina Providencia, San Salvador, El Salvador**

The Hospital gives free medical care for deprived women and children living in rural areas in El Salvador. This grant, provided in partnership with the MOC The English Tongue, allowed the purchase of equipment necessary for updating the clinical laboratory of the maternity unit of the hospital. This has resulted in better quality of antenatal care and faster detection of problems during pregnancy and delivery.



### **Sorelle for Sri Lanka – Micro Credit & More**

**MOC Terra Nordica** cooperates in this project with **Rockids Foundation**, from the Netherlands, that supports underprivileged children and their families in Northern Sri Lanka. Vavuniya is a province where after almost 30 years of civil war in 2009 the weapons were laid down. Now, 10 years later, this disadvantaged area is still characterised by high poverty, poor infrastructure, high unemployment and above average abuse and suicide rates. But also by resilient mothers, who support each other and work hard to build a better future with their families.

Together with our local partner organisation Caritas, we support these mothers through a micro credit & buddy project entitled 'Sorelle for Sri Lanka' (Sisters for Sri Lanka). Our partner has selected 17 economically vulnerable but enterprising women, who after a training 'entrepreneurship' receive a micro credit to start or expand their own business. Think of investments in a fruit stall, cow, chicken, sewing machine or a shop. The ladies will have 1 year to repay the loan. In two previous projects this has been achieved in 98% of the cases. This makes it a sustainable investment.



### **Mental Wellbeing Project, Vavuniya, Sri Lanka**

This project is aimed to build up the self-confidence and to handle the effects of the war and the years in the camps. The area is isolated, not walking distance to next village, and when they started to build up the village there was absolutely nothing. Slowly they are starting to build up a life outside the camps. They get counselling both on an individual level and in groups, both children and families are included.

The project is designed for 2 years as this mental health response process is a series of actions to recover the people from the traumatized status. Initially the budget is proposed for a year and then decisions will be taken for a possible second year.



**Apeitolim Agriculture Mechanical School, Karamoja, Moroto, Uganda**

The Diocese of Moroto is committed to start a new Agricultural Technical School in order to offer an opportunity for the many young people of the region to get education. The school aims at offering this semi-nomadi population the possibility to convert their lifestyle from raiding activity to agriculture. This will pave the future for the boosting and development of the entire area. This project is run in cooperation with Archbishop Eugenio Sbarbaro.



**Meth Sewana Pre-School, Eppawala, Sri Lanka**

To finish the former International Project with a partition wall a smaller amount has been added.



**Monastero delle Suore San Benedetto & Chiesa San Benedetto, Catania, Sicily**

A decision from the investiture in Catania 2019 was taken to assist the sisters with some financial aid to maintain Chiesa San Benedetto as a gratitude for recurrent occasions for our investiture with the sisters.



**El Amal School, Hassake, Syria**

A project aiming to restore a christian school in Hassake. A school seriously damaged by the ongoing war.

This project has been approved but due to severe problems of transferring the money, it has not yet started. We have not yet found any safe way to transfer the money due to bank regulations.



## **The Grand Priory of the English Tongue**

### **The Blind Relief Association (BRA), New Delhi, India**

The BRA, Delhi provides education for 200 visually impaired students. Some have associated conditions or disabilities and need special training and individual care. The main objective is to develop possible academic skills and independent living skills among these children to rehabilitate them into the mainstream society. For over five years the Charitable Foundation has supported the running of the unit. In the current academic session (2018-2019), a total of 17 students are being cared for by the unit. The Charitable Foundation also supports the production of education materials in braille and audio books. (Picture below left)



### **Basic Healthcare, Rajasthan, India**

Basic Healthcare Services (BHS) is a registered non-governmental organization in India running clinics in rural areas in southern Rajasthan. It concentrates on providing preventive, promotive and primary curative care to the deprived tribal communities. The Charitable Foundation has supported BHS for the past five years. The first years of support saw the establishment of crèches for young children of very poor families – allowing mothers to take paid jobs and older siblings to go to school while the young ones were fed and cared for. After the demonstration of the success of the crèches local funding has been provided for

their maintenance and expansion. The Charitable Foundation is now helping to meet another pressing need by funding a project to give access to tuberculosis treatment and nutrition rehabilitation for children, adolescents and the elderly. (Picture above right)



### **The Leprosy Mission, Rangpur, Bangladesh**

We supported The Leprosy Mission England and Wales in 2018 to provide reconstructive plastic surgery and cataract surgery in the Mission Hospital in Rangpur, Bangladesh. The Leprosy Mission is an international development organisation that diagnoses, treats and offers specialist care to leprosy patients. As well as healthcare, they provide rehabilitation, education, vocational training, small business loans, housing, fresh water supplies and sanitation for thousands of people in 11 countries across Asia and Africa. (Picture below left: Hands disabled by leprosy. Credit: Tom Bradley)



### **HCPT (Handicapped Children Pilgrimage Trust), Group 181, UK**

HCPT is a UK registered charity offering pilgrimage holidays to Lourdes in the south of France for disabled and disadvantaged people from around the UK and further afield. Every Easter, 1,000 disabled and disadvantaged children and young people enjoy a life changing pilgrimage holiday. They are supported by volunteer doctors, nurses, helpers and priests who work during the year to raise the support to make this possible. The MOC Charitable Foundation grant enabled four handicapped children to be part of the pilgrimage group. (Picture above right)



### **Arcoiris Project, Hospital La Divina Providencia, San Salvador, El Salvador**

The Hospital gives free medical care for deprived women and children living in rural areas in El Salvador. This grant, provided in partnership with the MOC Terra Nordica, allowed the purchase of equipment necessary for updating the clinical laboratory of the maternity unit of the hospital. This has resulted in better quality of antenatal care and faster detection of problems during pregnancy and delivery.



### **Blind Relief Association (BRA – New Delhi) - The Common Project –**

The project – to be shared with the other jurisdictions of the MOC – to provide the furniture for the new BRA Ladies' Hostel was put on hold due to issues related to the design of the building and also waiting for the monsoon season to come to an end. The Trustees agreed to set aside the sum of £7,500 as a maximum contribution to this project until the current financial year when it would be revisited.



## **The Grand Priory of Italy**

**Chiesa di Sant Anna in Catania.** Contribution for restauration.



Recurrence of S. Agata in Latisanotta offered to the Parish.



A golf competition at Lignano for the benefit of the **International Project** collected 1.00 EUR



**Ospedale di Rovigo.**

Contribution to don Camillo Magarotto for charity works.



**Associazione Aguila Nera of Albania**

Contribution to support earthquake victims.



**Associazione Sportiva**

Contribution for handicapped children.



## The Grand Priory of Terra Danubica

Donation of collection of 560 books to the Secondary School “Stoyan Zaimov” in the town of Pleven, Bulgaria.



Donation of computer configurations for the High Vocational School “Velizar Peev”, Svoge, District of Sofia, Bulgaria.



Donation of collection of 300 art-books to the Donation for the High School for Stonework in the village of Kunino, Vratsa region, Bulgaria.



Donation of collection of 260 books to the Sociocultural centre – chitalishte “Saint George – 1999” Sofia, Bulgaria.



Donation to the National Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria.



## **The Priory of Saint Peter Nolasco in the United States**

**St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Food Pantry.** The St. Mary Food Pantry services 135 families in South Amboy, New Jersey, through their once monthly distribution day. For more than a decade they have provided sustenance and some emergency services (for example, electricity bill aid) to those most in need. Their vast network of food contacts and the great generosity of St. Mary parishioners ensures their shelves are always full.



**Triad House, Ewing, New Jersey.** The Triad House, a subsidiary of LifeTies, nurtures wellness and selfsufficiency in vulnerable youth, young adults and their families. Triad House services youth aged 14-21. It is only one of the few homes in the United States to provide services for the LGBTQ youth population who remain at risk in this country.



**Madonna House, Neptune, New Jersey.** Madonna House Inc., founded by Rebecca Blonski in 1987, is dedicated to serve infants, children and women by providing clothing, juvenile furnishings, toys, infant formula, diapers, small household items and other necessities to impoverished and needy families free of charge.



## **The Priory of Saint Stephen in Austria**

### **Zukunft für Kinder' (ZUKI) - English: 'A future for children**

This charitable organisation supports street children and children living in poverty who would otherwise not have the opportunity of an education or medical care, in the third world. Current projects:

*Project Kolkata* - ZUKI has supported Xavier Raj Arul since 2002, who for many years worked with Mother Theresa helping Kolkata's poorest, decided in 1994 to dedicate his efforts to caring for street children from the slums, red light districts and suburbs. Today, ZUKI cares for the complete needs of appr. 250 children, providing them with a home, food, education and medical care in a supportive, loving environment.

*Project Streetwork* - ZUKI's most recent project focuses on the support of appr. 150 children still living on the streets, providing them with 2 hours of education daily and medical care.

*Project Sundarbans*

A project, founded by Xavier Arul in The Sundarbans, a mangrove forest area 100 km south of Kolkata in the vast Delta on the Bay of Bangal. Here ZUKI supports a school project and provides medical care for appr.300 children. (Picture below left)



## **WORSEG VISION ACADEMY**

Prof. Dr. Artur Worsseg is not only a member of the Priory 'Saint Stephen', he is also the founder and supporter of this charity project in Africa. The WORSEG VISION ACADEMY in Momella contains currently of a hospital, an orphanage, an Education Center and of a 'Restaurant' of AFRICA AMINI ALAMA, a central point of contact for a better future of kids. On 2.11.2012 the foundation stone was laid. The opening of the school was already celebrated on 15.2.2013. In record time, the classrooms, the teachers' housing units, the storage facilities and the sanitary facilities were built. Currently they have space for 120 children aged 6 - 13 years, divided into three preschool classes and one "right" 1st grade. In the first class may only who passes the aptitude test. In the Baby Classes this exam is being intensively worked on. Initiator Dr. Artur Worsseg is important that "the school has a high level and the students can be proud." The language of instruction is English, which gives students the opportunity to later attend a secondary school. Secondary schools are taught exclusively in English. (Picture above right)



During 2019 the Grand Priories and the Priory of the USA and Austria have arranged a number of fundraising activities. All these activities contribute to our collection of funds to distribute. It is interesting to see how much can be collected with just a few words of our aims during a dinner.

2020-01-17

Don Anders Blomqvist

Vice Grand Hospitaller MOC / Hospitaller Terra Nordica

