

## OVERSEAS PROJECTS

### Peru: vocational training to prepare poor young women for employment in hospitality

The purpose of this project is to provide vocational training to prepare poor young women for employment in the hospitality and catering industry. Students also undertake work experience in hospitality establishments in order to receive experience, giving them a better chance of obtaining employment once studies have finished. In the year 2013—2014 a total of 119 direct and 476 indirect beneficiaries benefited from project initiatives.



### Philippines: access to economic means of development for women experiencing social exclusion

The project's main objective is to enable low income women access to means of economic development. This is achieved through skills training and industry experience in the area of tourism, hotel and restaurant services or by helping the women to establish their own micro-enterprises. In the year 2013—2014 a total of 2400 direct and 10,578 indirect beneficiaries benefited from the project.

### Paraguay: women's micro-enterprise program

The main initiative in this project is a women's micro-enterprise program. Women learn how to establish and manage micro-enterprises in order to earn a profit, hence lifting them and their families out of poverty. A mobile medical clinic also rendered assistance to 70 women and 259 children. In the year 2013—2014 a total of 373 direct and 1492 indirect beneficiaries benefited from the project.



## SERVICE PROJECTS/WORKCAMPS

### Operation Bohol

From February 1—21, 2014 a group of ten women volunteers went to the village of Bonbon, Clarin, located in Bohol, Philippines to help in the relief effort following the earthquake. Their work included: building work to repair a badly damaged office for the local school, repainting of classrooms and offering remedial classes in science, mathematics and English to make up for lost school time due to the earthquake. The project was organised by Creston College.

### Men reaching out

A group of nineteen young men made their way to Vietnam from February 3—24, 2014 where they spent time in Ho Chi Minh City, K'long; Duc Trong and Lam Dong. Their work included the building of three toilet blocks and four houses in the town of K'long, refurbishing a house and fence in the Ben Tre region, teaching English to the locals in K'long and assisting in the care of orphans at Phy My orphanage. The project was organised by Nairana Study Centre.



### Holiday program with a difference

The 2013/14 Dubbo service projects took place twice: 7th—14th July 2013 and 19th—26th January 2014. The project's main activities include: focusing on engagement with the local indigenous community through holiday activities, running leadership programs for teenage girls and community gardening. Volunteers also visit the elderly to provide companionship and conversation. Dubbo service projects are organised by Creston College.



## Case studies and completed projects



### Brigid Hanson "why I volunteer"

Why do you volunteer? If someone had asked me this question a year ago, I would have said the cliché "because it gives back to the community, and it makes me feel good to help others". However, in February 2014 I went on a service project to Bohol in the Philippines that changed my life in ways I had never expected. To say this service project was hard work is an understatement. For me, the hardest part wasn't the physical labour or dealing with the heat/humidity of the Philippines, it was learning how to truly help the people around me. I had to learn how to work and problem solve in a team and to listen to others. Sometimes I would be exhausted and I would have ten children wanting to play with me, or I would have older teenagers and parents wanting to talk and ask me difficult questions, all of which were the last things I wanted to do. This is where I learnt the most important part of volunteering; not to focus on 'how I felt', but to give these people the time and affection that they truly needed.

Since going on the service project I realised that volunteering does not just help the people you serve to live better lives, it teaches one to be selfless, and helps me as a volunteer to live a better life. So now when I am asked 'why do you volunteer?' I say that not only is it about helping those less fortunate than myself, but it's also about wanting to be better, to grow in life skills and to strengthen my knowledge of how to devote myself to loving others around me; this is why I volunteer.

### Peru – Angelica Suárez

Angelica Suárez was born in Santa Barbara, in the St. Louis District in Cañete. 4 years ago Angelica's father passed away. She had recently finished school and realized that in order to become the breadwinner and support her mother she had to study and begin a professional career.

Angelica heard about training offered by Condoray Centre for the professional formation of women and decided to apply for a scholarship to study for a diploma in Management of Catering Services. Angelica's attitude to service quality was cultivated throughout her studies. "Little by little I was attracted to the food and beverage course. I learnt new techniques such as setting a table, serving the customer well, preparing buffets, desserts, fruit carving etc. I was selected through Condoray to work on weekends and holidays in different restaurants. This is where I first made contact with the world of work and I found it very enjoyable. My experiences have been enriching as I have been able to implement everything that I have learnt through Condoray."

The owners or managers of restaurants, hotels and accommodation where Condoray sends students commented that they see in the students' teamwork, coordination and practical skills. The incomes that the students earn contribute to family income. Angelica's family, particularly her mother, has benefited from the income that she earns. "My studies strengthened me and gave me hope that I can succeed. The experience I have gained over the years gives me optimism for the future and I hope to begin my own catering business."



### **Lebanon: Small business development in Rural Lebanon and capacity building of the Institute of Management Services (IMS) in Maad, Jbeil.**

2014 marked the final phase of Reledev's intervention in this project. Since 2006 Reledev, with funding under the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), has worked with two Lebanese NGOs: the Association Libanaise pour le Developpement el la Culture (ALDEC) and Promotion et Developpement Sociale (PRODES). The project supported the empowerment of women by training professionals in the tourism industry and closing the gap between demand for services and a lack of skilled workers in Lebanon.

The project developed a Tourist Route between Jbeil and Bartroun. The Route covers 50 km through 20 villages of Northern Lebanon. The primary outcome was training women to become local tourist guides and establish small businesses. Continuous support and training is provided through the Women in Rural Lebanon Areas (WIRLA). Funding also contributed to the establishment of the Institute of Management and Services (IMS) in Maad, Jbeil. The IMS provides vocational training to young women for employment in the tourism or hospitality industry or the establishment of their own micro-enterprises.

Between 2006 and 2014 4,064 direct and 16,342 indirect participants benefited from the Project. ANCP funding and donations from Reledev contributed \$469,000 to the project.

Reledev thanks all those who have contributed to the project's success and congratulates ALDEC and PRODES for their vision and hard work.

*For more information please email Reledev.*



Reledev is accredited with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and receives a yearly grant through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), a long-standing program providing grants for Australian accredited NGOs to undertake international development projects.

Reledev is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct.

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