



adozioni
sostegno
a distanza



The **80 projects** established in 41 countries are currently reaching the needs of **12,000 children**

ADOPTIONS AT A DISTANCE

Fact Sheet

This worldwide project is administered by the **New Families Centre** in Rome. New Families is a branch of the Focolare Movement and it launched this particular form of international solidarity in 1975. Through this project, provision is made to support the economic and educational needs of children without uprooting them from their own countries and cultures.

There are currently 80 projects underway in 41 countries giving assistance to 12,000 children. Contributions are given for access to education, medical treatment and nutritional needs of the children and their families, and training in basic skills.

Financial contributions are collected and distributed by *Azione per un Mondo Unito (AMU)* which was established in 1987 as an **non-governmental organization** and which is included on the European Union's list of NGOs. It is associated with C.I.P.S.I. (Coordination of Popular Initiatives of International Solidarity).

The aims of AMU are inspired by the Focolare Movement's spirituality of unity and it supports a number of human promotion initiatives around the world.

EAST TIMOR PROJECT

Adoptions at a Distance is currently helping more than 100 children in East Timor. Here is a summary of the participating institutes.

Institute Maun Alin Iha Kristo

The three orphanages located in the villages of Dare, Aleiu and Viqueque are administered by Sr Maria de Lourdes Martins Cruz, founder of the Secular Institute *Maun Alin Iha Kristo* (*Brothers and Sisters in Christ*). Together with her collaborators, she works untiringly to give a home and an education to children and adolescents who currently number around 80 and who are aged between the ages of 5-17 years. Many of these are orphans due to the civil war while others are there because poverty and illiteracy makes it impossible for their families to care for them and to sustain them in their studies.

The work of Sr Lourdes (known as Manalu) also consists in transmitting to the children the Timorese traditions and culture obliterated in practically their entirety by the Indonesian occupation. The children at the Institute learn Tetum, their native language

Trauma clinics

During the civil war in East Timor, thousands of people were evacuated from their villages and many fled to the jungle and to the mountains. They were in constant fear of their lives. One of Sr Lourdes' initiatives has been that of establishing a trauma clinic to help those children who were casualties of the horrendous atrocities. Specialised personnel from overseas have been invited to work in the clinic.

Escola Canossa

The Canossian Sisters in East Timor work throughout this new nation ministering to the young through education, empowering the local community and offering pastoral care to the sick and the poor. They have schools and orphanages in a number of places.

Escola Canossa at Comoro, Dili, is a fulfilled dream of the Canossian sisters. It offers education from Pre-school to Senior High School in order to strengthen the integral promotion of a person. Some students are exempted from paying fees because of their family financial situation.

Sr Aurora Pires, local coordinator for Adoptions at a Distance, says that the financial support received from sponsors will ensure that orphans and children from poor families in Dili will receive a good education, and therefore a solid foundation for a better future.

OdeBe (Basic Development Organisation)

An East Timorese couple with four children are totally dedicated to the care of orphans in Dili. They currently have **43 orphaned girls and boys** in their care. With the help of members of the Australian Defence Force they have been able to build toilets and a kitchen and to install a water pump. They are currently in the process of building a dormitory. **Celestino** and his wife have been unable to get financial support for the children from aid agencies and have relied largely on local benefactors who are also poor. Through the 'Adoptions at a Distance' project, Celestino hopes that the children in his care may be able to have such basic necessities as food, clothing, education and ongoing medical treatment.

SPONSORSHIP DETAILS

When you participate in the Adoptions at a Distance project you will receive:

- a letter of acknowledgement and a receipt for your financial contribution
- photo and details of the child allocated to you
- information about the institution caring for the child
- newsletters and updates

Communication with the child

You may correspond directly with the child via the address of the local coordinators. Children normally communicate with their sponsor at least twice a year.

Age-limit of children: There is no set age limit for children in the program. A child may be in his or her late teens but still need to continue attending school or learning a trade. Due to the war in East Timor, many of the children have missed out on at least four years of schooling. You will be notified when your sponsored child is able to work and earn a living, or when the family no longer needs help. At that time, New Families will offer the opportunity for you to sponsor another child.

Child Protection: New Families, in administering the Adoptions at a Distance project, is fully committed to **protecting the security, privacy, and dignity** of the children whose parents/guardians and community leaders have allowed to be a part of our program. While the sponsors are permitted to send correspondence or gifts to the children, they are not permitted to make personal telephone calls or unplanned visits to the child without written permission and oversight by New Families and by the local coordinators of the project.

Participation in the program

You can participate in the Adoptions at a Distance project by making an **annual contribution of \$360**.

Tax-deductibility

We regret that, at this early stage of the program in Australia, contributions are not tax deductible. An appropriate application will be made to the Australian Taxation Office.

Renewal of sponsorship

A letter is sent to sponsors at the end of the sponsorship period with the option to renew or discontinue the sponsorship.

Regional Administrators in Oceania

The regional administrators for the East Timor project are **Maria and Ray Murphy**, delegates of New Families in Australia. Their role is to allocate the children to sponsors and to maintain contact with the local coordinators of the project who administer the funds on behalf of the children.

Contact details for Maria and Ray:

Tel: (03)

Fax: (03)

Email: newfamilies@focolare.org.au

ADOPTIONS AT A DISTANCE

APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Sponsorship preference

Would you like to sponsor a boy or a girl? _____

(Please note that it is not always possible to meet this request)

Payment

A contribution of \$_____ is enclosed

Payment can be made by cheque to: **Focolare Foundation Economy of Sharing**

(The Focolare Foundation is classified by the Australian Taxation Office as a Non-Profit Organisation - ACN 005 020 128)

Postal address:

New Families (Adoptions at a Distance)

76 Winfield Road

North Balwyn. VIC 3104