A BETTER WORLD FOR CHILDREN

Activity Report 2013



Marist International Solidarity Foundation ONLUS



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Reflections from the President: "Now let's start working together"

I am writing these few lines at a time when the Catholic Church is experiencing a profound renewal and transformation under the dynamic leadership of Pope Francis. Many people close to him have commented that "Pope Francis's election has been a breath of fresh air." Only a year has passed since he undertook the Petrine ministry, yet with a leader of his calibre, what a year it has been!

It's interesting to note the steps he is taking to make a positive difference and impact the lives of people the world over. Simple things, many would say. Much has been made of the new Pope's simple life-



style, which is capturing the imagination of many people usually not associated with the Catholic Church. In one of his interviews with a journalist, Cardinal Christoph Schönborn of Vienna talked about Pope Francis being encouraging — reviving and renewing the Church. Bishop Manfred Scheuer of Innsbruck, who also met with Francis during the recent "ad limina" visit of the Austrian bishops, told a German magazine that "the Pope has brought about a change in atmosphere. One can breathe easier." He stated that being a bishop is a high-intensity job, certainly true with regard to Francis.

We might say that our challenge as Marists following the dream of St. Marcellin Champagnat, the Founder of the Institute of the Marist Brothers of the Schools, today is to foster this kind of atmosphere, where children and young people can "breathe easier."

We remember the day Pope Francis was elected. He appeared on the Balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, humbly acknowledging the hundreds of thousands of people eager to greet him in the Square below. He asked everyone to pray for him, and then he said "Now let's start working together." What a difference he has made since that moment! With his joyful heart he has been constantly bringing people together to reform and enliven our Church.

What about us at FMSI?

This "FMSI Annual Report – 2013" focuses on the leadership that our Foundation has been providing through its offices in Rome and Geneva. As you will note in these pages, we have set our sights on promoting innovative thinking and practical initiatives that will benefit children and young people, especially those most vulnerable and neglected, everywhere we serve. We are committed to developing a better world for youth, where their rights are respected and protected, where they can grow and mature in a safe and healthy environment, free from violence and fear, and where their future is bright and filled with opportunities. In striving to achieve this goal, the Foundation has been greatly blessed and encouraged by many donors and be-

nefactors, whose generous support is enabling us to make a positive difference in the lives of countless children and young people around the world. To each one of you I say, "A million thanks!"

The plight of so many young people in this world is deeply troubling, and many individuals and organizations like our own are urging governments to dedicate themselves to building a more peaceful and just society. Many young people themselves are coming forward in inspiring ways to confront their political leaders, pleading with them to respect human rights.

Our Foundation is currently taking a closer look at the services we are providing in light of the worldwide injustices being perpetrated against the

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young. With the aim of becoming a more relevant, meaningful and dynamic presence in this troubled world, we are elaborating goals within our reach and endeavouring to chart our future in 2014 and beyond.

We are excited to announce that we have signed memorandums of agreement to work in partnership with our Marist collaborators in Asia and Latin America. The FMSI Asia Branch is located in Bangkok, Thailand and FMSI Cono-Sur Branch in Santiago, Chili to work in partnership with our collaborators in Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, Chili and Peru. The objective of these initiatives is to promote our solidarity initiatives and advocate for the rights of children and young people in these regions. We are confident that this commitment to work together will greatly benefit the youth in that

part of the world.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest thanks to the members of our Board for their guidance, and to the staff of FMSI for their commitment and dedicated work in helping to ensure the Foundation's continued effectiveness and success.

Sincerely yours,

Bro. Michael De Waas, fms March 01, 2013

2. Our work for Child Rights

FMSI works to affirm the rights of children in society and in institutions. This means, on the one hand, acting in the most opportune centers for its activity to be efficacious and produce real change in mentality; on the other, it means creating the material conditions so that children can actually enjoy their rights. In practice, in 2013 this commitment for us has meant: to present reports on the state of childhood in various countries having membership in the

United Nations through the appropriate UNO mechanisms for protecting human rights; to provide animation and training on the Convention of the Rights of the Child for members, teachers, educators of the Marist Brothers of the Schools, the natural interlocutor of the Foundation; to collaborate in initiatives of political incidence; to carry out educational projects and programs; bringing help in emergencies.

Networking

To make our action more effective, meaningful and dynamic in Italy and worldwide, we have renewed our partnership with the BICE consolidated partners (Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance) and Franciscans International; we joined FOCSIV as observer associates (an Italian federation of Christian volunteering organizations); we became members of the NGO group for the convention on the rights of the child (Child Rights Connect).

FOCSIV is a Federation of NGOs and international volunteering groups of Christian affiliation present in the Italian territory. It is formed by 65 organizations with about 7,650 members, 500 support

groups, and more than 60,000 people coming between members and supporters. There are more than 1,000 volunteers who work or have worked in the nearly 700 projects carried out in developing countries (DC), in collaboration with thousands of local operators.

Child Rights Connect is a global network of 80 international and national non-governmental organizations committed to ensuring that all children fully enjoy their rights as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Child Rights Connect works with independent NGOs in any country that has ratified the Convention on the

On 8 March 2013 at the General Assembly of Child Rights Connect in Geneva, Switzerland, FMSI's application to become a member was formally accepted.



Rights of the Child and/or its Optional Protocols. Since its establishment in 1983 to influence the drafting of the CRC, the NGO Group has developed leading expertise in child rights and the work of the Committee at the international level, providing a coordinated platform for NGO action and playing a central role in key child rights developments.

The new offices

FMSI established a presence in Asia by opening a representative office in Bangkok, Thailand, and another in Latin America, in Santiago, Chile to collaborate more effectively with its partners in many parts of the world.

The **Regional Office for Asia** coordinates the Foundation's activities in Asia, in dialogue with the Marist administrative units of South Asia (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka), East Asia (Korea, Hong Kong, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Japan) and the Marist District of Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Thailand, Viet Nam). The Office was created in March with the signing of a memorandum of Agreement by FMSI and the Marist Asia Conference, which represents the above mentioned administrative units.

It was intended primarily to assist the Marist missions' project management, fundraising, and the promotion of children's rights, but very soon it also became a logistics center for training activities in the area, and for the implementation of child pro-



Marco Blanco at FMSI's Office in Bangkok. The office is located in the large building which houses the St. Gabriel Foundation belonging to the Brothers of St. Gabriel Congregation.



FOCSIV was created in 1972 to promote a more global and cooperative culture that would help the peoples in the southern parts of the world in the fight against every kind of poverty and exclusion.

FMSI ASIA BRANCH. The establishment took place on the 25th of March. Bro. Mario Meuti, Director of FMSI Rome, and Marco Blanco, the new Regional Coordinator for Asia, were present for the occasion at the new office in Bangkok. FMSI's aim was to extend and enhance its services at the local level through a regional office in collaboration with the Marist Brothers. The Marist superiors of Asia saw potential benefits of such an operation in terms of fundraising for their missions, which FMSI has supported for years but with obvious operational limits.

The choice of Regional Coordinator was facilitated by the Secretariat for International Collaboration for Mission of the Marist Institute (CMI). Marco Blanco is a young Australian lawyer and former Marist student from St. Joseph's College, Hunter's Hill, Sydney, whose background includes a Master's Degree in Human Rights Law including UN human rights porcedures. His commitment to the project was immediate.

After a few weeks of training at the FMSI offices in Rome and Geneva, Marco began his work in Bangkok on March 21. Bro. Mario Meuti, the director of FMSI Rome was there to welcome him on the occasion.

tection policies. An important aspect of the work of FMSI Asia Branch is to meet with the Marist communities in Asia and to understand better the local context they work in, so as to collaborate better, both when carrying out education or basic-need projects and establishing mechanisms and procedures for child protection. We hope that our first year





Left: Pailin, Cambodia. In June 2013, FMSI Asia visited the Marist community in Pailin, Cambodia. The Marists are working with the local diocese to provide non formal education for children and young people. Pailin was the last stronghold of the Khmer Rouge and has only recently begun to develop economically. Many remote areas nearby face health challenges and children are not provided with meaningful education. The Marists are working to meet the needs of these remote communities. One major project will soon be commenced, with the construction of a hostel to allow children from remote areas to attend the local school. In addition, a mobile medical clinic has started with the assistance of Mexican volunteers.

Right: Samut Sakhon, Thailand. In November 2013, FMSI Asia visited a Marist community in Samut Sakhon, which is located 40 minutes from central Bangkok. The Marist Brothers run the Marist Migrant Centre, which provides formal education to Burmese migrant children. This school offers Burmese children an alternative to the dangerous and often exploitative work in the fisheries industry, through the transformative power of education.

is only the beginning of a great journey ahead. The year 2013 has been active, eventful and rewarding. We are privileged to be able to facilitate the great work carried out by Marists in Asia, in the service of marginalized children. We hope that FMSI Asia will

continue to grow and develop in the coming years to establish itself as a vital part of the Marist world in Asia. FMSI Asia thanks Br Shanthi Liyanage of South Asia, Br Luis Sobrado and Br Juan Castro of MDA, and Br Manuel de Leon and Br Robert Teoh for their continued support and encouragement.

FMSI CONO SUR BRANCH. The process for the establishment of an FMSI Office in Latin America started in May 2013 with a formal request from the Superiors of the three Marist administrative units of Cono Sur region: Province of Santa María de Los Andes (Chile, Peru and Bolivia), Province of Cruz del Sur (Argentina and Uruguay), and the District of Paraguay. The agreement between the Marist Provinces and FMSI was signed at the Hermitage in Lyon, France, during the General Conference of the Marist Institute, in September. The superiors of the three administrative units, the President of FMSI and the directors of Rome and Geneva offices of the Foundation were all present on the occasion.

The FMSI Coordinator for Cono Sur Branch is Álvaro Sepúlveda, a Marist Brother from Chile with great competence on the rights of His expertise includes different projects of political and social impact, and networking initiatives at national and international level. From September 2013, **the office of Santiago** coordinates, with particular attention to the issue of children's rights, the Foundation's activities in the region of Cono Sur, which includes Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. The objectives of the new office are related primarily to the

The first meeting of FMSI Cono Sur in Santiago, Chile. From left to right: Ricardo Miño (Bolivia), Analía Ruggeri (Argentina), Álvaro Sepúlveda (Chile), Arturo Latorre (Chile), Cecilia Varela (Uruguay), Martín Arteaga and Juan Carlos Pellón (Peru), Gregorio Delgado Soler (Bolivia), and Georg Raczynski (Chile).





The signing of the agreement for the opening of FMSI Cono Sur Branch. From left to right: Br. Michael de Waas (President of FMSI), Br. Jim Jolley (FMSI), Br. Antonio Peralta (Provincial of Santa María de los Andes), Br. Horacio Bustos (Provincial of Cruz del Sur), Br. Mario Meuti (FMSI), Br. José María Custodi (District Superior of Paraguay).

implementation of strategies for the promotion of the rights of children and adolescents in the Cono Sur countries, in dialogue with local government institutions and the UN delegations, given that FMSI has a special consultative status at the economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC). This also means having full access to a number of bodies already active throughout Latin America, such as the Ibero-American Forum, Niño Sur (Mercosur), Redlamyc, and also interacting with BICE, Save the Children, UNICEF and others, so as to be able to affect the public policies at the national and regional levels more effectively by acting together.

3. The work at the United Nations

During the year, FMSI submitted reports to the UN Human Rights Council for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the following states:

- Nigeria
- · Central African Republic
- · Democratic Republic of Congo
- Cambodia

In each report, FMSI made very significant and relevant recommendations regarding the rights of children. Lobbying various permanent missions in Geneva followed the report submissions.

The UPR is a unique process which involves a review of the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States every four years. It is a State-driven process, under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, which provides the opportunity for each State to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations. At the same time it allows the delegations of other Mem-

ber States to make "recommendations" and suggest further steps for the country in question.

FMSI relied on the Link Persons, our local contact people, to generate a draft report on children's issues within their region. Without their collaboration, we would not have been able to use the UN mechanism of the Universal Periodic Review in such an



effective way.

FMSI is among the 72 signatories of the Declaration made by the "UPR info" NGO to the UN Human Rights Council (Geneva, June 7, 2013).

FMSI has also participated in the launch event of the publication entitled "Universal Periodic Review"

 On the Road to Implementation", a study on the UPR's potential to promote human rights. The conclusions were presented by UPR Info and Franciscans International in October at the United Nations Office in Geneva.

4. Formation and animation in the Marist world

Courses and seminars

FMSI Geneva Office held following training courses and seminars on keeping children safe for religious, animators and educators of the Marist Brothers Institute.

- A workshop on the rights of Children for students and teachers of the Marist Studies Institute at the Pontifical University of Salamanca: Spain, March 14-15 (The workshop was organized by the Institute of Marist Studies (IEM). FMSI signed an agreement with the IEM (March 13) on the same day.
- Guest Speaker at the 6th formation meeting of the Marist social works: March 4-8, Vicente Falchetto, Geneva Office, Bucharest, Romania.
- A workshop for the local contacts of Asia: July 2013 Bangkok, Thailand.
- A workshop for the American Continent: Curitiba, Brazil, October 2013.
- A course on children's rights and United Nations protection mechanisms: Awareness-raising activities at two formation centers: October 16-24,

Marist International Center (MIC) in Nairobi, Kenya and Marist Asia-Pacific Center (MAPAC) in Manila, Philippines.

- A workshop for the African Continent: November 2013, Nairobi, Kenya.
- A workshop for representatives of some European countries: November 2013, Valladolid, Spain.
- A meeting for the English-speaking representatives of Europe and the United States in Geneva.
- Formation sessions for the brothers in the Marist spirituality centers of El Escorial, Spain (Spanish speakers), and Manziana, Rome (English-speakers).
- A course on children's rights for the FMSI link persons Brothers and Marist Educators from six/ African countries in the Province of Southern Africa.
- Training sessions in Barcelona (Spain) and in Ghana.

Left: Manila, Philippines, Course on children's rights at MAPAC. Right: The group attending the workshop in Bangkok, Thailand.





Two workshops aimed at improving the necessary skills to work in favor of marginalized children for heads of projects, directors of schools and universities and people engaged in the protection of the rights of children. The participants were from 15 Asian countries, Australia and New Zealand: Bangkok, Thailand, July and August.

- The first workshop on Project Cycle Management/ Fundraising: July 21-26, Bangkok, Thailand. Br Allen Sherry, the Executive Director of the Marist Solidarity Australia NGO, facilitated this workshop and provided his expertise. The course was designed to help the participants prepare their requests for funding, and to develop the skills required for project management. More specifically, the workshop introduced the participants to the importance of the holistic nature of fundraising: from initially identifying the needs right through to the monitoring and evaluation process, addressing self-sustainability of projects and maintaining fruitful relationships with donors.
- The second workshop on child rights and child protection: July 29 August 1, Bangkok, Thailand. Br Jim Jolley, the director of the Geneva office and Catherine Hannon, FMSI child rights link person from Australia facilitated this workshop. Br Jim Jolley highlighted how different link people in Asia can work together with the Geneva office to collaborate with the preparation and submission of UPR reports to the United Nations. Attention was paid to the specific needs of the participants in the implementation of child protection policies in

line with the Marist Institutional guidelines. Both workshops marked the first occasion that Brothers, lay Marists, and partners came together from across Asia. FMSI Asia was able to achieve its goal of encouraging better sharing of knowledge and good practices between its partners.

The workshop in Bangkok. Below: the workshop for representatives of some European countries (Valladolid, Spain).





Awareness-raising activities

The FMSI has produced a publication entitled "The World of Migrant Children". It collects stories of children regarding their life experiences, and offers excerpts of the contributions from different institutions to the day of general discussion convened by the UN Committee for children's rights in 2012 on the issue of migration. The pamphlet was distributed in the Marist world during Advent, as an aid for personal reflection, and as an in-depth tool on the subject of migration with its implications on the lives of the young migrants.

In his introductory presentation on the day of the

World Debate in September 2012 (The rights of children in the context of international migration), François Crépeau, Special Reporter on the Human Rights of Migrants, emphasized that "Migrant children must always be treated first and foremost as children". Unfortunately, terms such as "illegal immigrants", still predominate in the majority of deliberations — language that "demonizes migrant children and leads to greater alienation, violence and xenophobia... No child is illegal, no human being is illegal. All children have their rights, independently of their status".

5. Political and social impact activities

The Childhood and Adolescence Observatory of Chile launched its first report in May. This organization was created in partnership between FMSI, the Diploma Course on Childhood and Public Policy from the University of Chile, and the Chilean Association for the United Nations (ACHNU). The work was done by Álvaro Sepúlveda, before he was appointed the Regional Coordinator for FMSI Cono Sur Branch. The Observatory aims at monitoring the compliance with the human rights of children on the basis of the data available, especially those generated by state agencies. Official figures are analyzed in the light of human rights information, showing who, what, in what place, and for how long these rights were either quaranteed or violated.

The presentation of the document at the Central House of the University of Chile was attended by more than a hundred people, including Senator Patrick Walker, the experts from UNICEF and ECLAC – Soledad Larraín and Nieves Rico, respectively – and the Juvenile Defender, Gonzalo Berríos.

The main findings of the report were widely broadcast by media (television, print and radio), reflecting the high impact of the figures which summarize the degree of infringement suffered by the children in Chile. Some pieces of information were particularly underlined by the press:

- Complaints of all types have increased between 2009 and 2011.
- The most frequent complaints regarding violence outside the family (53.8%), followed by domestic

The group attending the Inter-American Seminar on the right to participation of children, held in Curitba, Brazil.





Mr. Norberto Liwsky and Br. Jorge Gaio at the Inter-American Seminar in Curitba, Brazil.

violence (28.5%), sexual abuse (17.6%), and homicide (0.1%).

- The high number of children killed outside the family context: in 2011 alone, 57 cases were documented.
- Poverty among the adult population reached 11.6%, while it amounted to 22.8% regarding childhood, as part of the structural violence affecting children. They represent 27% of the population in Chile, and 41.2% of the poor people. Hence, 4 out of 10 poor people in Chile are children.

The report is intended as a response to the muted cry of children and adolescents who continue to face situations as bad as those experienced by Marcellin Champagnat (1789-1840), the founder of the Marist Brothers, on his first day of school.

Making evident the problem of violence against women, raising people's awareness about how inadmissible it is, and legislating against it, is a battle that certainly gains momentum; but violence against children and adolescents still seems to be a pending task. To account for the official data in this regard is a way to start listening to the silent cry of children.

The Observatory in Chile was opened in September 2012, when Manel Mendoza and Vicente Falchetto (FMSI) visited the Marist Province of Santa María de los Andes (Chile, Bolivia, Peru).

The Geneva FMSI Office, in conjunction with other bodies – Marist Solidarity Network (Marist Province of Brasil Centro-Sul), BICE (Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance), Marist solidarity Sub commission Corazón Solidario – organized the "First Inter-American Seminar on the right to participation of children, adolescents and young people: methodologies and practices regarding the formation of educators".

The seminar was held in Curitiba (Paraná, Brazil) from September 30 to October 2, and brought together more than 70 people, including educators and experts. The event was a platform for reflection, exchange and networking which clarified the role of educators as facilitators of participatory dynamics; at the same time, it opened paths of research and review of the paradigms underlying concrete practices.

After the opening lectures, with the participation of Angela Pinheiro (Federal University of Brazil), Norberto Liwski (BICE) and Alejandro Cussianovich (IFEJANT), the workshop addressed the following

themes:

- Participation of children, adolescents and young people in decisions within the institutions where they live (schools, social centers, reception houses, etc.);
- the role of adults as participation promoters and facilitators for children, adolescents and young people;
- the action of children, adolescents and young people in participative spaces (social networks, thematic groups, blogs, etc.);
- the promotion of joint and collective organization of children, adolescents and young people.

FMSI also took part in the meetings of the Inter-American Marist Mission Commission held in Guatemala (May 5-9), and the African Mission Commission in Ghana (August 30 – September 2).

Finally, the staff of the Geneva Office offered their expertise to the Marist Institute regarding the rights of children by participating in the work of the ad hoc Commission for the protection of children, which met in Rome from May 13 to 17.

6. Educational projects

SUPPORT PROJECT FOR THE TUMBUKA COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN MALAWI

Nkhamanga, Malawi

Local partners: Saint Denis Parish and

Marist Brothers

Contribution paid: € 32,025 (project value: € 39,575)

Funding body: Manos Unidas (Spain) and FMSI

This project is mentioned in the 2012 Annual Report. It spoke about the Tumbuka community of Nkhamanga and the fulfilment of their first dream: the School of Nkhwangu, a village located in the middle of the larger territory. FMSI and Manos Unidas have decided to give a follow-up to the project!

The Parish of Saint Denis, along with the Marist Brothers, is monitoring an education program which began in 2009. During this time, the local Tumbuka community, which had realized the great importance of education, has seen the transition from a school under the trees or in classrooms

made of straw and mud, to the two new blocks of primary-school classrooms and a number of houses for the teachers, built in 2012 thanks to FMSI and Manos Unidas. There are now about 500 children, boys and girls, who are able to attend school not far from their village, and the school has obtained official recognition from the District of Rumphi. In addition, the local community – which is always the real engine of a significant development process – has undertaken other initiatives: literacy programs for adults, training courses in agriculture, promoting women and combating school-dropout rates for girls, without neglecting the health education courses and the assistance to AIDS patients.

Despite these new activities, their problems are still wide-ranging and serious: young people, particularly girls, lack the specific work skills to fit into social life; malnutrition is still very common; adult illiteracy and AIDS cases are still high. Therefore, both FMSI and Manos Unidas have intervened again to help the community take further steps. This is

how the 2013 project was born with its twofold objective: building a large multipurpose community hall, and promoting its use for more and better-defined education and social integration activities in order to benefit the community in General, and specifically women and young people in the villages around Nkhwangu.

A great promoter of this project has been Nelipi, an extraordinary woman whose story we record below: The structure has been completed and is truly a multipurpose hall: it is normally used as dining room for the many students from the school, but easily becomes the community's meeting place for its multiple common tasks. Thanks to the contribution of Nelipi and the Nkhwangu Women Forum, the women have discussion groups regarding matters of ordinary justice, in which they learn to assert their

rights together, given that traditionally their society is not very open to the role of women. The scheduled courses have begun, particularly the training on agriculture and irrigation techniques, and other income-generating activities, plus the health education courses, specifically regarding AIDS prevention. The project, therefore, has made a further contribution to a poor but very active community, which slowly, but firmly, is building its future.



A woman whose life seemed to be ruined, and yet...

Nelipi is a small woman, a widow, with 7 children and 5 grandchildren. In 2005, after her husband's death, she suffered greatly at the hands of the men who arrested her in order to seize

her husband's property. She spent four days in a police prison, while her husband's small farm was illegally taken away from her, and her house robbed and partially destroyed. She found herself alone, deprived of resources, with her children to feed and send to school... Her situation became public thanks to Action Aid Malawi, which turned it into an emblematic case of gender injustice towards women, and presented it as an example of unfair mentality not only in her village, but within the entire Rumphi District.

Nelipi was assisted and trained as an educator regarding several socio-economic issues. She now regularly participates in a number of workshops organized in the village, is directly involved in awareness-raising activities, and also follows other women, girls, and even men on issues concerning social injustice, besides working with people who suffer from AIDS, encouraging them not to hide their situation, and to look for treatment.

Nelipi became President of the Nkhwangu Women Forum organized by COWFA (coalition of farmer women), and is a member of the women's forum in the larger territory of Chikulamayembe. It was she who strongly asked for the Nkhwangu multi-purpose hall, because she immediately saw it as an opportunity to promote activities in favor of women and girls, and a place where women could find protection in order to solve cases of injustice similar to hers, when she was driven out of her house. Together with other women who are related to the school of Nkhwangu, she deals with issues affecting women and children, particularly girls, trying to avoid school dropout. Together they take care of the orphans and elderly people, and acquire agriculture skills which include irrigation techniques, in order to promote food self-sufficiency and generate an income. They deal with the safety of women, and fight against the forms of injustice that are inherent to certain traditional cultural systems. Their efforts are slowly beginning to benefit women and young people in a special way, and it could be said they are promoting a real change of mentality among men and in the community as a whole.

THE SUMMER CAMP FOR CHILDREN IN ESZTERGOM

Esztergom, Hungary

Local Partner: Marist Brothers of the Határtalan

Szív Alapítvány Contribution: € 3,800

Funding body: FMSI

The Marist brothers in Esztergom are directing "A Mi Házunk", a daycare center for children and youth. The city is in the northern part of the country, close to the Slovak border, and has about 30 thousand inhabitants. The neighborhood around the Marist Center is mainly inhabited by Roma people; they live in difficult conditions, given the fact that they are a culturally, socially and economically disadvantaged community.

The Marist Brothers' community has been working for 13 years to ensure an appropriate education and personal development opportunities for the Roma children and young people, in spite of the harsh economic and social context. In 2002 the Brothers opened the A Mi Házunk Center, which they run through the Corazón sin Fronteras Foundation. Today the afternoon program ran by the



Brothers offers attention, care, and an ideal setting for leisure and study to 90 children and young people from 1 to 25 years of age.

In 2013 – thanks to the FMSI support, and with the help of 8 young volunteers – A Mi Házunk organized a four-week summer camp in the city for the children and young people who attend the Center. The program included 5 hours of recreation a day and one excursion per week. The main goal of this initiative is to educate children and young people in their free time, giving continuity to the work of support and accompaniment carried out by the Center during the school year. In this way, the Brothers try to promote the social integration of the young people in their care, strengthening the social skills they have learned, and providing a setting that can be fun and offer healthy and protected recreation.

RESTRUCTURING OF THE MARIST SCHOOL IN MANHIÇA

Manhiça, Mozambique

Local Partner: Marist Brothers

Contribution: € 8,000 Funding body: FMSI



Manhiça is located in Maputo Province, about 80 kilometers northeast of the capital. The Marist brothers have a primary and secondary school there with 1,600 students. The school is in a rural area inhabited by poor people: average families live in simple brick houses; only 20% of the population has electricity and running water; the main economic activities are subsistence agriculture, cattle raising and trade.

A number of students in the Marist School of Manhiça cannot afford the tuition fee, and the Brothers have little resources, so they are in trouble when special investments are necessary, as it happened in 2013. At the end of 2012, in fact, the school was hit by a hurricane that heavily damaged the structure: the roof was blown off, the windows were shattered, and the classrooms were flooded. The Brothers' immediate concern was to repair the structure and prevent further damage due to neglect.

Thanks to an FMSI micro-project, the Marist Broth-

ers have completed the repair work they needed: they have new doors and windows, the electrical system has been restored, and the classrooms have been recently repainted. The school is once again a nice and welcoming place for the entire community of students and teachers!

A LIBRARY FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN ALGERIA

Mostaganem, Algeria

Local Partner: Marist Brothers

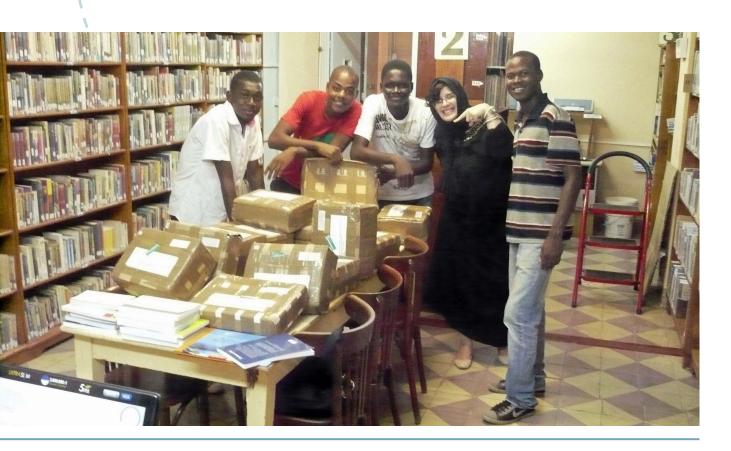
Contribution: € 3,500 Funding body: FMSI

The mission of the Marist community in Mostaganem is to offer religious accompaniment to the Sub-Saharan Christian students, and to assist the Sub-Saharan and Algerian university students. In order to help them with their studies, the Brothers have set up a library in English and French, and a reading room on the second floor of the house where the community lives. There are 100 subscribers to the library, but those who attend the reading room are twice as much. The FMSI microproject has allowed them to buy new books.

Most young people attending the Marist library live in campus housing, where they lack a suitable place for studying; the university facilities are

also limited regarding the number of books available and the opening hours. Young people find in the Marist library a welcoming and well-equipped setting to study and meet. In addition, Christian students find spiritual guidance, given that the community house is recognized by the Algerian authorities as a place of worship.

Mostaganem has approximately 150 thousand inhabitants, and is located on the northwest coast of the country. It is a port, and the capital of the homonymous Province. This mission has great symbolic value for the Brothers, since Algeria was the adopted homeland for 25 years to Brother Henri Vergès, a French Marist from the Province of the Hermitage who ran a library for high school students in a popular district of Algiers. Brother Henri was assassinated by two extremists on May 8, 1994, precisely in the library to which he had dedicated so much energy. The community of Mostaganem has inherited Brother Henri's spiritual legacy and splendidly carries on his valuable work in favor of the young people in need.



A NEW SPACE FOR CHILDREN IN TRICHY

Trichy, India

Local partners: the Marist Brothers of the

Marcellin Trust Contribution: € 4,600 Funding body: FMSI

Through the Marcellin Trust, the Marist Brothers of Trichy, Tamil Nadu, manage a welfare program called Operation Rainbow. It assists the children whose families have serious health problems. Sometimes the children themselves are sick, and are often orphans. These children, compared to their peers, have far fewer opportunities to access quality education and medical therapies. The children assisted by the program are 124, from 75 families. The Operation Rainbow program counts with a family counseling center, and offers medical care and school aid through periodical visits to the families, and by welcoming people at the Marcellin Trust Center.

This Center is therefore the place where the brothers carry out many of their social activities, and a community hub for the people they work with. The Center is where the Marists organize the distribu-

tion of medicines and food, parties for children, after-school activities, the celebration of popular festivities, and the training courses.

Until recently, the facilities were rather modest and inadequate: a small building on the ground floor, with a roof of branches requiring continuous maintenance, which did not shelter from rain or heat. The FMSI micro-project was used to renovate the Center and to lay the foundations for the construction of a Community Hall in the near future. Now the premises are much more welcoming and dignified, which will contribute to give new impetus to the Marist Brothers' mission regarding the children of Trichy.



MORE AWARE AND INFORMED YOUNG PEOPLE

Faisalabad, Pakistan

Local Partner: Joshua Welfare Organization

Contribution: € 5,000 Funding body: FMSI

The Joshua Welfare Organization has organized a training program on sexuality for young people in Faisalabad. FMSI's contributions was used to rent the classrooms, buy teaching materials, coordinate the activities, and assure the intervention of qualified speakers.

Because of the country's prevailing culture, young people often lack a proper sex education that could help prevent many uncomfortable situations like early pregnancies, and rejection from family and society. The Joshua Welfare Organization's program is divided into seminars, group work, and evaluation questionnaires, which are organized in 5 areas

of the city, involving 175 young men and 200 young women. The program was born after an investigation carried out in local schools, and is based on the needs that were identified by interviewing the students and teachers. FMSI has willingly decided to support the project because of its innovative character and – we are sure – for its educational effectiveness.

Faisalabad, with its 3 million inhabitants, is the third largest city of Pakistan. It specializes in the production of textiles and carpets, and the population consists mainly of industrial entrepreneurs and workers. The workers are not a privileged class; many are affected by unemployment, poverty, and illiteracy, as an effect of the economic crisis. The overall picture is quite bleak: more than 90% of the inhabitants are poor, and rely only on meagre wages. Much of the work is done by children aged 7 to 13, who work from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., earning 600/700 rupees a month (around 5 euros). Their education



level is very low: they seldom attend school, and grow up without developing occupational skills, unsuitable for most jobs. The young people who come from the poorest sectors of the population are exposed to many social risks, such as addictions, school dropout, and early sexual experiences.

YOUNG PEOPLE IN SEARCH FOR THE FUTURE: THE NEW HORIZONS PROJECT

Quoc Oai (Hanoi), Viet Nam

Local Partner: Centre for Sustainable

Development Studies Contribution: € 23,000 Funding body: FMSI

The efforts of Viet Nam to reduce poverty have been substantial in recent years, but nonetheless only part of the population is benefiting from the country's economic growth. Fifty percent of the Vietnamese population still lives on less than 2 dollars a day, and many are hovering between poverty and misery. The country's rapid development has resulted in a fast peripheral urbanization of Hanoi. An increasing number of families is leaving behind the work in the fields and the traditional rice cultivation, and coming to the city in search of fortune. But away from the rural setting many are struggling to fit into the new context without resources and adequate training to cope with the industrial and service market of the city. The Quoc Oai area, 20 kilometers west from the capital, is one of the major scenarios of this new settlement. Once farmland, it is now definitely an area of urban development. But unemployment and

the lack of opportunities are major problems for young people in Quoc Oai, who become marginalized from society and economic growth.

FMSI, along with CSDS (Center for Sustainable Development Studies), a Vietnamese NGO, has launched the "New Horizons" project to provide young people with training and employment assistance aimed at their social and economic integration. The first English language and computer courses began almost two years ago at the New Horizons Center. The program has quickly become popular in Quoc Oai through word of mouth. In 2013 they have also offered 20 class hours per week, engaging more than 200 boys and girls of different age groups. Around the same number of young people are on the waiting list for the new courses. The project is carried out with the cooperation of many native English speakers volunteering to take turns teaching for a period of at least 3 months. They live in Quoc Oai closely in touch with the young people and the community, who are very welcoming to them. This rich and valuable human experience is important for the future of both the young Vietnamese and the young foreign volunteers.

The significant success of the course is a real encouragement to keep at it and expand the project's activities. Priority was given to English and infor-

mation technology because they are two skills that greatly increase employment opportunities and allow young people to move beyond the local area, but in the medium term the project aims to start courses on hotel and tourism skills, graphic design, business and marketing, besides opening an employment office that will be in contact with different companies.

The project also wants to offer higher qualification in the areas of English language and language teaching skills to the teachers from the District schools. Much time will be needed to organize and coordinate this activity with the local authorities, but we expect to launch the first courses as a pilot project in 2014. And finally, another goal of the project is the promotion of social activities aimed at developing the community and training young people as leaders.

After the Mid-Autumn Festival, in which young people themselves organized different activities for the

children and the community, we want to promote other events and projects proposed by them.

The project is underway thanks to the excellent work of the FMSI representative in Viet Nam, Geoff Kelly, in collaboration with Linh Do Quy and the CSDS Director, Phuong Don Tan.

The project is carried out in agreement with: the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training; the Vietnamese Union of Associations for Science and Technology (VUSTA); the Education and Training Department of the Hanoi Municipality; the Cooperation Operators Coordinating Committee (PACCOM), and other international organizations (Volunteers for Peace Vietnam, British Council).

FMSI Asia visited Quoc Oai in December 2013, which is located about 1 hour outside of Hanoi in Northern Vietnam. The New Horizons project also collaborates with the REACH center, which provides vocational training to school leavers, offering various training courses. FMSI Asia is in the process of establishing a partnership with the Blind Association in Hanoi, which offers training to teachers of blind children in Vietnam and is the only place that produces braille educational texts.

Left: Geoff, Mrs. Linh and Br. Mario in Quoc Oai.
Below: Vietnamese students attending English classes with an Australian volunteer teacher.

7. Emergency aid

Through the FMSI Asia Branch, the Foundation has responded to the urgent needs of the Marist communities in Peshawar, Pakistan and in the Philippines due to two tragic events.

On the 22nd of September 2013, a suicide bomb blast in the Cristian church of Kohati Bazaar, in Peshawar, killed and injured many innocent civilians, which included a number of students and family members of the Christian community that the Marists work with. FMSI Asia has supported the rehabilitation of injured people and educational costs of children who lost parents.

The devastation of Typhoon Yolanda, that hit the Philippines on November 7, left the world shocked and appalled. The Marist world responded to this destruction by collecting considerable funds that will assist in the reconstruction of areas completely decimated. The money was collected in schools and communities, by the solidarity organizations, and also by FMSI, which was involved in the funds allocation process, in dialogue with the former Superior of East Asia Province, Br Manny de Leon, who will be coordinating the emergency relief.

FMSI continues to assist the Blue Marists of Aleppo (Syria), a group of Syrian volunteers animated by three Marist Brothers. From the very beginning of the internal conflict, the displaced population in the districts of "Djabal Al Sayde" (Christian), and "Cheikh Maqsoud" (Muslim) have been supported. FMSI has been in constant contact with Brother George Sabe, coordinator of the Blue Marists, and has sent support to cope with a range of emergencies during the year:

- first reception of displaced people, provision of basic necessities, bedding, spare clothing;
- daily provision of food and personal hygiene products to the displaced population and 900 poor families in the neighborhood;
- medical assistance and medicine provision, with special attention to children's health care;
- program for the animation and school activities of displaced children.

This has been extensively documented by numerous letters and articles published on www.fmsi-onlus.org and on the Marist Institute's official website (www.champagnat.org).

8. Financial report

The report is based on the financial statements available in FMSI Office. It gives an account of the sums collected by the Foundation, and their use in 2013. Some brief notes are given to help in interpreting the figures.

RESOURCES	Euros
Donations from the Founder	95,000.00
Donations from individuals	112,131.75
Donations from agencies	311,400.00
Revenues from financial activities	4,977.27
Indirect contributions from third parties*	27,500.00
Total	551,009.02

USE OF FUNDS	Euros
Financing of projects	319,679.16
Scholarships	12,402.00
Activities to promote and protect child rights	38,586.92
Expenses accessory to instit. activities	8,553.61
Operating expenses	8,834.29
Indirect financing of projects*	27,500.00
Total	415,555.98
Management surplus of previous year	252,777.45
Balance as of 31/12/2013	388,230.49

^{*} Please note that this report also includes information about the money indirectly managed by FMSI regarding projects it has promoted and directly given to the counterparts by third parties on site.

Resources

Donations from the Founder: the General House of the Institute of the Marist Brothers of the Schools is the Founder of FMSI and its principal donor. Apart from the amounts the General House bestows on the Foundation each year, consideration must be given to the free allocation of rooms and services, as well as the provision of personnel.

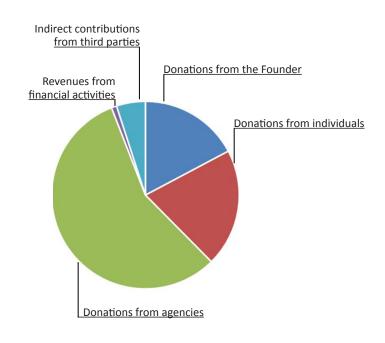
Donations from individuals: this applies to the amounts received, directly or through the Marist Provinces and institutions, from friends and benefactors of the Foundation who desire to contribute to its projects and programs for the benefit pf children.

Donations from agencies: this corresponds to the financing received from private organizations for carrying out specific projects.

Revenues from financial activities: the rubric refers mainly to the results of the financial management of the patrimony of the Foundation (yield from securities and sale of securities). It also includes the "5x1000" that the Italian taxpayers can destine for organization with a social utility purpose.

Indirect contributions from third parties: financial resources donated by third party financial organiza-

tions for projects promoted by FMSI. These finances are not remitted to the Foundation but sent directly by the donating organization to FMSI's project partner on place. FMSI considers these finances as a result – even though indirect – of its work of mediation and co-ordination of the projects.



Use of funds

Financing of projects: money disbursed by the Foundation for projects.

Scholarships: the entry refers to contributions by FMSI in favor of disadvantaged students, under a fund specifically established for this purpose.

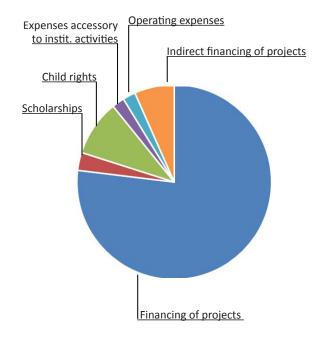
Activities to promote and protect the rights of the child: expenses incurred by the Foundation for working at the United Nations in Geneva, organizing formation activities on the subject of Child Rights and promoting, especially within the Marist Institute, awareness on this subject.

Expenses accessory to institutional activities: this corresponds to the operating costs in the carrying out of activities related to the projects and the advocacy for Child Rights.

Operating expenses: expenses associated with the ordinary running of the offices of the Foundation. The figure does not include the headquarters location, the services and emoluments of the personnel made available freely by the Founder, as a supplementary contribution towards carrying out the Foundation's objectives.

Indirect financing of projects: this amount corresponds to the "Indirect contributions from third parties" of the "Resources" chart. As stated above,

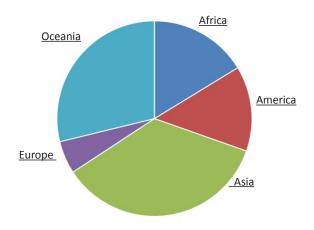
these grants are not managed by the Foundation. They were included in this report as an indirect outcome of the work of the Foundation, thereby giving a more complete picture of the FMSI's fundraising and coordination activity with respect to project activity.

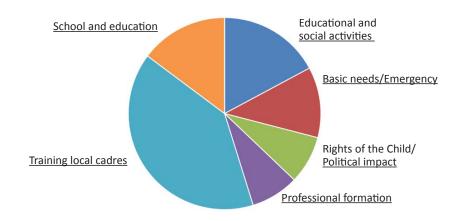


Distribution of the resources mobilized for projects

BY CONTINENT	Euros
Africa	56,570.00
America	48,906.00
Asia	122,903.16
Europe	18,800.00
Oceania	100,000.00
Total	347,179.16

BY SECTOR OF ACTIVITY	Euros
Educational and social activities	59,580.00
Basic needs/Emergency	41,270.00
Rights of the Child/Political impact	28,090.00
Professional formation	28,000.00
Training local cadres	138,953.16
School and education	51,286.00
Total	347,179.16





9. Our partners

Africa

ALGERIA

» Marist Brothers Community of Mostaganem

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

» Marist Brothers

KENYA

» Marist Brothers

LIBERIA

» Marist Brother

MADAGASCAR

» Marist Brothers

MALAWI

» Marist Brothers of Nkhwangu

MOZAMBIQUE

» Marist Administration of Mozambique

TANZANIA

- » Monfort Brothers of St. Gabriel
- » Benedictine Sisters of St. Gertrud Imiliwaha Convent

7AMRIA

» Marist Province of South Africa

America

ARGENTINA

» Marist Province of Cruz del Sur

BOLIVIA

» CADEMCA Centro de Apoyo al Desarrollo de la Mujer Campesina

BRAZIL

- » BICE Regional Network for Latin America and the Caribbeans
- » Marist Solidarity Network
- » Inter-American Marist Solidarity Subcommission "Corazón Solidario"

CHILE

- » ACHNU Chilean Association for the United Nations
- » Faculty for Children and Public Policies University of Chile
- » Marist Province of Santa María de los Andes

COLOMBIA

- » Los Niños del Mar Foundation
- » Marist Brothers of Norandina

GUATEMALA

» Marist Brothers

HAITI

» Marist Brothers

PARAGUAY

» Marist District of Paraguay

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

» Guadalupe Regional Middle School, Texas

Asia

EAST TIMOR

» Marist Brothers of Baucau

INDIA

- » Marist Brothers of Mangamanuthu
- » Marcellin Trust

PAKISTAN

- » Marist Brothers of Peshawar
- » Joshua Welfare Organization

CVDIA

» Marist Brothers of Aleppo

THAILAND

- » Marist District of Asia
- » Marist Province of East Asia
- » Marist Province of South Asia

VIETNAM

» Centre for Sustainable Development Studies

Europe

BELGIUM

» BICE Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance

HUNGARY

- » Határtalan szív Alapítvány Foundation
- » Marist Brothers of Karcag

ITALY

- » San Leone Magno Ex-Alumni Association
- » LumbeLumbe Onlus Association
- » Focsiv Federazione Organismi Cristiani Servizio Volontario Internazionale

SPAIN

- » Marist Studies Institute at the Pontifical University of Salamanca
- » Marist social work of Alcantarilla

SWITZERLAND

- » Child Rights Connect
- » Edmund Rice International
- » Franciscans International
- » UPR Info

10. Our donors

Individuals

André Défago, Switzerland

Angel Hernando García, Spain

Ángel Ozcoz Preciado, Spain

Arturo Rodríguez Torre, Spain

Dario Guccione, Italy

David Cerdán Santos, Spain

Fabrizio Guerra, Italy

Francisco Javier Franco Espinoza, Mexico

Giuseppe Mazzon, Italy

Gregorio Duque Juarez, Spain

Heloisa Afonso Almeida Sousa, Brazil

Irene González Antón, Spain

Jesús Manuel Fernández Pérez, Spain

Laura Elisa Vázquez

Llorenç Claramunt, Spain

Luigi Pasquali and Rosa Maria Viesi, Italy

Luiz Da Rosa, Italy

María José Luque Laguna

Manuel Jesús Gómez Cid, Spain

Maria Frasquet Bullejos, Spain

María Teresa Arcelus Iroz, Mexico

Marie Claire Fusulier, Belgium

Miguel Conde Rodríguez, Spain

Oscar Ortega Gómez, Spain

Paola Salvaterra, Italy

Pol Gregoire, Belgium

Robert Welsh, United Kingdom

Rosella Meuti and Graziano Barboni, Italy

Santiago Palacios Sousa, Spain

Marist entities

Friends of the Marist Brothers of Quebec, Canada

San Leone Magno Ex-Alumni Association, Rome, Italy

General Administration of the Marist Brothers of the Schools, Italy

Collège-Lycée Montalembert Toulouse, France

Marist Community La Inmaculada, Spain

Marist Community Miraflores, Spain

Marist Brothers of Belgium

Marist Lay, Ireland

MAPS, Australia

Maristen-Fürsorge-und Missionsverein, Germany

Marist Novitiate of Sevilla, Spain

Marist Province of Hermitage, France

Marist Province of Compostela, Spain

Marist Province of Mediterránea, Spain

Trustees of the Marist Brothers, Australia

Other entities

Artisti da sé Association, Italy Compudirecto SA, Mexico Europe Third World Association - ETWA, Netherlands Siervas de la Pasión, Spain

Agencies

CEI – Italian Bishops Conference Private Foundation, Netherlands Manos Unidas, Spain* Misean Cara, Ireland

^{*} Bodies which have funded projects promoted by FMSI.

Annex: project list

Country	Project	Local Partner	Grant in Euro	Financing body
Algeria	Library for college students in Mostaganem	Marist community of Mostaganem	3,500.00	FMSI
Brazil	The Inter-American Seminar on the Right to participation of children and young people : methods and practices	BICE, Marist Solidari- ty Network of Brazil, Corazón Solidario	13,584.00	FMSI
Cambodia	Computer lab for the student center of Mondolkiri	Marist Brothers Asia District	11,400.00	Dutch Private Foundation
China	Support to volunteers in the orphanages of Taiyuan	M. Asia District	3,680.00	FMSI
Colombia	City of Children	Los Niños del Mar Foundation	5,000.00	FMSI
	Training course on the rights of children	Marist Brothers of the Norandina Province	9,506.00	Misean Cara
DR Congo	Restructuring the Marist campus of Kisangani damaged by a hurricane	Marist Brothers of Congo	3,700.00	FMSI
East Timor	Reconstruction and development of the education system in East Timor	Marist Brothers of East Timor	100,000.00	CEI
Guatemala	Support to the Marist educational missions	Marist Brothers of Guatemala	2,500.00	FMSI
Haiti	Primary school program for child domestic workers	Marist Brothers of the Haiti Sector	13,316.00	FMSI
Hungary	Summer camp for children in Eszter- gom	Hatartalan Sziv Ala- pitvany	3,800.00	FMSI
	Summer camp for children from Szent Pal Marist School	Marist community of Karcag	5,000.00	FMSI
India	Multi-purpose hall for children in Trichy	Marcellin Trust	4,600.00	FMSI
Italy	"June 12, 2013" Youth in Action	LumbeLumbe NPO Association	5,000.00	FMSI
Liberia	Purchase of equipment for Sister Shirley Kolmer School	Marist Brothers of Liberia	5,000.00	FMSI
Malawi	Educational and social activities in Nkhwangu	Marist Brothers of Malawi	27,500.00	Manos Unidas
Mozambi- que	Renovation of the school in Manhiça	Marist Brothers of Mozambique	8,000.00	FMSI

Pakistan	Training program for young people	Joshua Welfare Orga- nization	5,000.00	FMSI
	Assistance for the victims of the attack in Peshawar	Marist Brothers of Pakistan	10,000.00	FMSI, General Administration of the Marist Brothers
Spain	Work-training project for young peo- ple at risk of social exclusion	Alcantarilla Marist social work	5,000.00	FMSI
Syria	Support of basic needs and school activities for the displaced population in Aleppo	Marist Brothers of Aleppo	26,270.00	FMSI, ETWA Europe Third World Association
Tanzania	Teaching aids for deaf-mute children	Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel	3,870.00	FMSI
	Water system for the primary school and the community of Ndelenyuma	Benedictine Sisters of St. Gertrude Imiliwaha Monastery	5,000.00	FMSI
Thailand	Training partners in Asia on rights of childhood and project management	Marist Administrative Units in Asia	38,953.16	Misean Cara, Dutch Private Foundation
United States of America	Extended day program	Guadalupe Educational Center Inc.	5,000.00	FMSI
Vietnam	New Horizons Project	Centre for Sustainable Development Studies	23,000.00	FMSI

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