

A message from the Mercy Association Board

Welcome to the second edition of the *Mercy Association for the Underprivileged* Magazine. Above all, we would like to thank God for His many blessings over the past two years, without which, we would not have expanded to this extent, nor would we have helped as many people as we have; and we pray that He continues to guide us through every step of our journey.

We have grown to encompass Canberra, Sydney, Wagga Wagga and Perth, and we would like to extend our greatest appreciation for the many Mercy volunteers, supporters, and donors, who have worked tirelessly over the years to love and support our less fortunate brothers and sisters in both Australia and Egypt. Also a special thanks is due to our project partners in Canberra, Sohag, El Minya, Bani-suef, Cairo and El Mansoura for the hours of commitment in reaching out to the hundreds of families in need, and providing support for their wellbeing.

We are pleased to say that the donations received have been used to provide numerous facilities to the underprivileged. The provision of water, electricity, sanitation facilities, building maintenance, shelter, blankets, clothes, food, educational support, and medical supplies have given joy to the homeless, the widows and orphans during the tough times, especially during the colder months and the festive seasons. On behalf of our dear brothers and sisters who received your blessings, Mercy would like to thank you and hope that God will bring joy to your hearts as you brought joy to those in distress.

This production will provide you with more information on how donations are used to help the underprivileged, and upcoming events that will help raise funds for these causes.

Please visit our website <http://www.mercyassociation.org.au>

We are a non-profit organisation, run by volunteers, that wishes to thank you for your ongoing commitment.

May God bless you all and continue His good works in the many years to come.

AUSTRALIA

Supplies Bags for Homeless Individuals and Families

Through the collaboration with The Red Cross organisation and the Early Morning Centre program, *Mercy* volunteers prepared and distributed hundreds of Crisis Care Kits to homeless individuals and families around Canberra.

"Once again a huge thank you to the Mercy Foundation - these donations are an invaluable help to us and the people who access the Early Morning Centre." Chris Stokman, Director Uniting Care Canberra City


"I just wanted to write to say how grateful our clients were for the generous donation your organisation made in the form of food and toiletries. The items were well chosen and everyone was really appreciative. It made Christmas Day that much more special to be able to give the clients a bag of gifts that they could really use and appreciate." Penny Stokman, red Cross Canberra



Canberra Homeless Connect Day

On the 8th of August 2012, at the first Canberra Homeless Connect Day, *Mercy* volunteers tirelessly cooked and distributed homemade Egyptian meals and sweets, alongside volunteers from various charity and government organisations, to help support the needs of the homeless.

The organisers commended the services provided, and *Mercy* was invited to attend the event in 2013. We are delighted to say that this will be one of the ongoing contributions of *Mercy* to the homeless communities in Canberra.

Mercy Association for the Underprivileged 

HOMELESS CONNECT DAY

9th August 2012 (during Homeless Persons Week)

Mercy Association for the Underprivileged (MAFU) aims at relieving poverty, sickness, suffering, distress, misfortune and helplessness and seeks to make poverty free communities and assist individuals and families to realise their full potential in Australia and Egypt.

It is our pleasure to support the first Homeless Connect Day in Canberra through preparing and serving a range of Egyptian food.

MAIN DISHES

Egyptian meat stews
(meat, Peas, Carrots, onions; tomatoes)
Rice
Kofta BBQ (Lam minced Meat, onion, parsley)
Kosharie, vegetarian meal (hommos, lentil, pasta,
rice and garlic and tomatoes souse and dried onion;
vinegar and garlic souse)

SALADS:

Green Salad
Yogurt Salad
Tahina Salad

SWEETS:

Basbosa, Egyptian sweet (Semolina flour, yogurt,
cream, coconut, sugar, nuts for decoration)
Chocolate cakes

Mercy Association for the Underprivileged (MAFU) is a non-governmental and private voluntary organisation established under the laws of the Commonwealth of Australia. ABN 21 722 078 060

Christmas Lunch

Our youth volunteers enjoyed serving in the 2012 Christmas Lunch for the Homeless and organisers were very pleased with the friendly and warm services provided. Once again, the homeless community enjoyed the Egyptian sweets, handmade by the lovely ladies of *Mercy*.



Multicultural Festival

Mercy volunteers proudly participated in the Multicultural Festival celebrations in Canberra that took place on the 7th, 8th and 9th of February 2013. More than 20 families were involved in sharing delicious Egyptian meals and sweets with the Canberra community over the two days of the event. The event was a prime opportunity to advocate the charitable works *Mercy* delivers with all of its fundraised money by introducing *Mercy* activities and the Egyptian community within Australia to the Canberra community.



Expanding *Mercy* to the Surrounding Communities: Wagga Wagga

Mercy board members and volunteers were gratefully given the opportunity in Sunday 21 of April to introduce the association to the Wagga Wagga community. *Mercy* was kindly received by the community and was provided with generous, ongoing support. *Mercy* is thankful for the collaboration and support provided.

Expanding *Mercy* to the Surrounding Communities: Sydney Charity Dinner

Mercy volunteers in Sydney hosted a very successful dinner, attended by over 180 members of the community. The event allowed *Mercy* to present the aims and objectives of the association to the Sydney community, and it was an invaluable opportunity to give an insight into the *Mercy* funded projects in Egypt.

Mercy would like to acknowledge the Sydney *Mercy* volunteers and supporters and thank them for all their efforts. Some of the event was aired on Aghaby TV.

Masters Department Store Fundraiser BBQ

Mercy volunteers in Canberra persisted through tough weather conditions on the Saturday 20 July, with the aim of hosting a fundraiser BBQ. It was a successful event for which *Mercy* is very grateful.

EGYPT

The formal collaborations with charity organisations in Egypt began in 2012. *Mercy* provided support to several projects, addressing hundreds of families in a variety of locations across Egypt including; Sohag, El Minya, Bani Suef, greater Cairo and El Mansoura. The following events represent the main projects funded during 2012/2013.



Easter and Christmas Help

Thousands of families in Egypt lack basic foods and needs throughout all the year. It brings joy to *Mercy* volunteers to provide support to these families and share in the blessings. Therefore more than 500 families, last Christmas and Easter, received cash and basic necessities from *Mercy*, such as clothes, food, and blankets, to help them get through the tough times. This support was provided to disabled children

and families in Sohag, Cairo and El Mansoura.

Education Support for Children and Illiterate Women

Offering education to women and children provides them with the opportunity to make informed decisions and to take control of their futures. The lack of reading and writing abilities has made countless women and children vulnerable to abuse.

Mercy has therefore supplied funds to support the education of women and children in Upper Egypt, most notably the orphans. The funds were used to purchase stationary supplies and books, support outreach staff, provide meals and venues for excursions, and promote health awareness education.

Support was also provided for the opening and operation of literacy classes for women. The main focus of the classes is to support women to read and write, and to increase awareness of their environment, health and rights.



Water, Sanitation and Electricity

The basic needs for any house are water, toilets and electricity, to contribute to the health and hygiene of the residing families. These also impact on the security of the families, as many women and young girls are exposed to abuse when they simply use the public toilets provided in the villages or go out to the fields, especially at night.

Mercy supplies funds to support the installation of water and sanitary facilities for families lacking these basic needs. With ongoing contributions, *Mercy* aims to continue the good work in these areas.

Income Generating Activities for Widows and Unemployed Youth

Many widows suffer silently with their children due to the lack of basic needs that were previously supplied by the income generating man of the household.

To aid these widows in caring for their families, *Mercy* has provided funds to support them in initiating or expanding income generating activities, which will in turn help them support their families and these basic needs. This support includes providing the women with basic education in finance management, record keeping and budgeting.

This mission also empowers the women, with reports that the project had protected them from exploitation by money lenders in the villages, who had previously supplied them with loans with very high interest rates.



Health Care for Children and Adults

The cost of seeing a doctor is beyond the financial capabilities of thousands of Egyptians.

Mercy supplies funds to support health care facilities in three communities in Upper Egypt, including nutritional awareness for mothers, family planning services and awareness meetings, medical check-ups, and access to essential medications.

Animal Care and Veterinarians

Animals are major sources of income and are used for security by simple farmers in Upper Egypt.

Mercy realises the value of the animals to their owners and has supplied funds to aid in the training of veterinarians that will be able to support the farmers in care and health issues, and provide awareness on how to care for the animals to ensure their longevity.

More than 40 farmers have already participated in this training program and are able to deliver better care for their animals. Funds are also being supplied to support the deworming of animals in three villages.



Agriculture Extension and Support

Many simple families in Upper Egypt rely on incomes generated by small farms. As such, an improvement in land productivity is very important.

Mercy aided in the provision of improved quality seed, and provided support in training the farmers to manage their lands and maximise productivity. The project served 60 farmers over 90 acres of land.



Environmental Improvements

Mercy supports tree planting and street cleaning campaigns in several villages across Egypt in the attempt to improve environmental conditions for the village residents. Families and young children volunteered in a group effort to clean their villages and plant trees in front of their houses. The project provided a suitable venue for people to peacefully cooperate in the common goal of creating a better living environment.

These are only some of the several ongoing projects that have been funded through your donations. The *Mercy* board expresses the utmost gratitude for your love and support, and they pray that you continue to give generously to those who are less fortunate than ourselves.



If you have any queries please contact us

For more information please visit our website

<http://www.mercyassociation.org.au>

**MERCY ASSOCIATION FOR THE UNDERPRIVELEGED INC . AIMS AT
RELIEVING POVERTY, SICKNESS, SUFFERING, DISTRESS, MISFORTUNE
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