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Newsletter #32

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE?

With Love from Zambia

Greetings to our beautiful Cagliero family! We've been busy over the last couple of months; visiting our volunteers, attending countless weddings and speaking at conferences too. While it has been a fruitful time, both of us are feeling very grateful to be back in the office for now.

Romina spent 2 weeks in Zambia in late February and was able to see first-hand the wonderful work that Miranda and Jenelle are doing. Ellen has now joined the two of them and the girls at the City of Joy in Mazabuka.

Lauren has also been out on visitation in Cambodia where she met with both John and Teaghan at DBTS, Phnom Penh. John is doing wonderful things with the boarder boys and with his music classes, while Teaghan has just gotten her students through the first round of exams for the school year. Stay

tuned for a full recap of Lauren's visit in the next edition of our newsletter.

Linda is doing amazingly well with the Salesian Sisters in the Solomon Islands. We are happy to report that she is working very hard in her teaching and is enjoying all the time she gets to spend with the girls at Laura Vicuna Hostel.

The Samoa Immersion is fast approaching and we are excited to continue on through the next few months of the Cagliero year. As always, we ask you to remember our volunteers and the young people for whom they work in your thoughts and prayers.

Wishing you every blessing for the months ahead!

Many blessings,
Lauren & Romina



Ellen, our newest volunteer, departed for Zambia earlier this month



Congrats to Cagliero Volunteer Matt on his new position at Dunlea Centre, Engadine

Zambia Visitation

by Romina Martiniello

In February this year I travelled to Zambia and spent two weeks at the City of Joy to visit our volunteers, Miranda and Jenelle.

At the time of my visit, Miranda had been at the City of Joy for eight months, and needless to say, was looking very much at home with the girls. It was beautiful to witness the close relationship she has been able to cultivate with each one of them. The girls are incredibly comfortable around her and look to Miranda as a teacher, sister, mother and friend.

Jenelle had only arrived at City of Joy a few weeks before my visit, having departed in January. It was so wonderful to see how well she had settled in already. Jenelle and



Miranda has such a calm and warm temperament; attributes that are so well received by the girls and the entire community.

During my time in Mazabuka I was also able to spend time with Kim, a young volunteer from Belgium, Paul, a returned volunteer from Ireland, as well as the three wonderful Salesian Sisters who run the centre. It was very clear that the City of Joy volunteer house is one that people feel they can return to and stay connected to long after their initial time there.

The City of Joy is home to 24 beautiful young girls who stay there while completing their secondary education. The girls come from diverse backgrounds, usually involving multiple forms of trauma, hardship and disadvantage. The centre is run by Salesian Sisters and has been a constant recipient of Cagliari volunteers for many years now. Volunteers are able to assist the girls with their studies and are able to provide personalised tutoring to ensure that the girls are able to pass their exams and eventually complete year 12.



The volunteers spend half of their day tutoring and assisting the girls around the hours they are at school. The other major part of their role is to animate the oratory which takes place every afternoon. Young people from the local area come to the City of Joy in the afternoons to play, laugh and learn. From toddlers to young adults, all are welcome to paint, draw, play football and hang out with the volunteers and the local oratory leaders. The volunteers are not only able to assist in running what goes on at the oratory, but are able to get to know the young people and befriend them, if only for a short time. In this way, by simply being present each afternoon, they show the children that they care for them and enjoy spending time with them. It is a small thing, but a truly empowering one.



Cagliero news...



TRANSFORMING SERVICE CONFERENCE

Lauren had the privilege and honour to represent the Salesians of Don Bosco as a keynote speaker at an ecumenical conference on Service Learning earlier this month. The topic of her presentation was: 'Trials and Tribulations – Living Service Learning'. She spoke about the Cagliero immersion program and the mistakes and successes of the program. It was a fantastic conference and it was very important to be part of the conversation about the best way to approach service learning in schools.

ANOTHER CAGLIERO WEDDING!

A huge congratulations to Melissa (2014) and Neat on getting married in March! The couple were joined in Cambodia by fellow past Cagliero volunteers Christine (2015) and Travis (2015) for the celebration. Romina (2014) was also there as one of Melissa's bridesmaids. The two-day wedding included many Khmer and Western ceremonies and traditions. It was an incredibly joyous occasion for everyone involved. We wish Mel and Neat every blessing as they begin their married life together!

CONGRATULATIONS:

Best wishes to Paul Poutney, on his appointment as the new manager at Don Bosco Camp, Safety Beach. Paul is a past Cagliero Project volunteer, having spent 9 months at Don Bosco Technical Centre, Samoa in 2010. He will take over from Stephanie Wood, who has managed the camp for the past 3 years. We wish both Paul and Steph well as they transition into their new roles and beyond!



Please keep us updated with what is going on with you – we love to hear and share your news!