



Salesian Missions

World Bulletin

Prepared Exclusively for Special Friends of Salesian Missions
A Written Testimony Of How You Bring God-Saving Grace To A Troubled World

Innovative Salesian Program Helps Runaways And Dropouts To Succeed As Young Adults

There are many obstacles that can prevent a young person from making the difficult transition from child to productive, successful adult.

Those who are most affected include children who are abandoned, suffer from learning difficulties, or lack the social skills to "fit in."

In many cases, they drop out of school, resort to drugs and crime and are shunned by society.

Most tragic, however, is that these precious lives waste away in poverty and despair because they never had the proper chance to succeed.

But hope is on the horizon for dozens of at-risk youngsters thanks to a special Salesian program in Brussels, Belgium.

It's called the "Project Center" and is part of the Don Bosco Institute of Sint-Pieters-Woluwe.

Here, young people are



given the education, skills, support and confidence they need to become productive, responsible adults.

The Project uses several effective approaches, each catering to different circumstances.

For those who need to improve their technical and language skills, the Project Center offers job placement in the non-profit sector. Here, in combination with training provided by the Salesians, young people are allowed to develop at their own pace while gaining the experience of a

work environment.

Meanwhile, for those who possess skills but need guidance along the path to independence, the Salesians offer assistance in obtaining insurance, connecting with employment agencies and managing money.

Even dropouts, runaways and other troubled youngsters are given the chance to succeed at the Project Center through special courses specifically tailored to their delicate situations.

The results of the Project Center have been remarkable. Young people once destined for unemployment and poverty are instead succeeding in the workplace ... and in society. It's yet another inspiring example of the strength of the human spirit when properly nourished.

And, it's a testament to the accomplishments made possible through your generosity.

This Month's Child



Name: Haji
Home: Don Bosco Boys Home
Sunyani, Ghana

Haji's story is similar to that of so many street children. Unable to cope with poverty, hunger and abuse at home, he ran away to the city -- hoping to attend school, find a job and live a better life.

What awaited him, however, was a harsh cruel world unsympathetic to the plight of homeless children.

Each day was a struggle for Haji. Often there was no food and his makeshift home was the crude shelter provided by a park bench.

He had lost all hope ... until one day when he was found by workers at the local Don Bosco Boys Home.

Immediately, Haji's young life was miraculously transformed. In addition to receiving nutritious meals, proper medical attention and a safe and comfortable place to sleep, Haji realized his dream of attending school.

Today the future is bright for Haji thanks to caring friends like you.

This Month's Call For Prayer

It is estimated that 300,000 children around the world are involved in armed conflict. Many of these child soldiers are under the influence of drugs and are serving against their will. Please pray that the efforts to rescue these children are successful ... and that worldwide violence will someday come to an end.



Monthly Missions Report...

In Paraguay...

In response to the growing crisis of street children in Paraguay, the Salesians have teamed up with the Secretariate of Ninez to help an additional 40 youngsters.

The project involves the expansion of Don Bosco Roga, an existing program that has successfully rehabilitated the lives of many former street children.

The Salesian program starts by offering a safe place to eat and sleep. It's a low-pressure approach that allows time for the children to build up their trust and willingness to accept further assistance.

When they do, Don Bosco Roga is there to provide schooling, counseling and other important guidance.

With this support, the children are able to build the foundation of moral values, respect, confidence and knowledge necessary to lead happy and productive lives.



In Brazil...



A brand new Salesian Center is providing a positive alternative for street children in the city of Abaetetuba.

Now, instead of roaming the streets fighting to stay alive, these abandoned and runaway children can direct their energies toward a wide variety of healthy and productive activities.

The Center includes a recreation facility where children are able to participate on teams, make friends and gain a sense of accomplishment.

By having a better choice, these children are far less likely to join gangs and partake in criminal activity.

The ripple effects of the new Salesian Center are certain to benefit the community as a whole, while rescuing many children in the process.

In Dominican Republic...

Six hundred children from the Dominican Republic will receive valuable training in communication and computer technology thanks to the Salesians and loyal friends like you.

The new Salesian Information Technology Center in Moca opened its doors in April to much celebration and fanfare.

The facility is equipped with 30 computers, including 10 that are connected to the Internet.



The impact of the Salesian Technology Center will be far reaching. It is intended that the students will use their new skills in ways that will benefit their entire community. With updated technology and better communication, many families will have access to a wealth of information and knowledge for the first time.

Missionary of the Month: Brother Georg Wagner

Brother Georg Wagner says that the recipe to his long life is very simple: "to work hard and pray a lot."

His formula has worked wonders. This year, Brother Georg celebrated his 100th birthday.

Equally impressive are the past 77 years that he has devoted as a Salesian missionary.

In 1927 he entered the novitiate in Enseldorf, Germany, and two years later moved to Unterwaltersdorf which became his home.

He served in World War II

between 1941 and 1945, followed by assignments in Benediktbeuern and Linz before returning to Unterwaltersdorf in 1950.

Farming has always been a passion of Brother Georg, and credits it for making a positive contribution to the formation of his students.

In fact, he first learned of the Congregation of Don Bosco while growing up on a farm in Upper Bavaria.

"I like the cheerfulness and the friendliness of the Salesians," he reminisces. "I thank God that



Don Bosco called me."

After touching so many lives over the last century, there's no doubt that countless former students of Brother Georg are also grateful that he responded to such a meaningful vocation.

All They Need Is A Chance

I'm always in awe at the amazing accomplishments made by children, families and entire communities faced with the most overwhelming obstacles.

In so many cases, all they needed was a chance.

A child with no parents blossoms when given love and support. A family thrives when taught skills for employment. A community prospers thanks to a clean water supply, a new school

and appropriate housing.

We see it everyday. When given a chance, people can overcome extraordinary odds.

And caring friends like you makes it possible.

Through your ongoing support of our work, you are providing the essential funding that makes so many miracles happen.

We are grateful for your kindness and inspired by your



generosity. Thanks so much and may God bless you and your loved ones.

Brother Emil

