

Friends of Suai/Covalima



Scholarship Newsletter June 2024

Dear Friends

We are delighted to share this update which includes some of the wonderful outcomes for scholarship graduates this year.

The Friends of Suai (FoS) scholarship program helps students from low-income families to gain the education they need to secure employment, thereby improving their quality of life and that of their families.

The benefits also extend beyond the individual scholarship recipients. Graduates are also contributing to their communities by sharing their skills and knowledge to provide vital services including education and health care.

We hope you enjoy reading this update and we thank you for your continued support for this important program.

2024 scholarships

The Friends of Suai scholarship program, facilitated by the Covalima Community Centre (CCC), is fully funding scholarships for five students at Baucau Teachers College. This includes two students who are close to completing their fourth year to attain the Licentiate (Bachelor of Education).

Vocational scholarships have also been awarded for certificate courses in General Construction (one student) and Motorbike Mechanical training (two students).

FoS is also continuing to provide financial support to three students in the process of completing their post-graduate studies in Community Development at the National University in Dili.

In addition to tuition fees, all scholarships include contributions towards living and travel expenses, graduation costs and pastoral care by the Education Coordinator at the CCC.



Photos: (Above) Deolindo is completing the General Construction Certificate 2 at Don Bosco Training Centre.

(Left) Meliana is doing her final three-month practical teaching placement at a pre-secondary school in Suai.

Jobs for teachers

As part of the Timor-Leste National Government teacher career regime, many qualified teachers are now being appointed as permanent teachers at public schools throughout the country.

To date, three FoS scholarships recipients who completed their qualifications at Baucau Teachers College have been formally appointed as teachers.

Each of the three students has shared photographs with us and have sent their thanks and best wishes to all FoS supporters and donors.



Photos: The three students Augusta (above), Ercilia (below) and Simao (left, standing on the left) at the public-service swearing-in ceremony held in Dili.



Congratulations to Ercilia, Augusta and Simao on their appointments. FoS acknowledge the hard work of many graduates working as volunteer teachers since graduating and eagerly await news of further appointments.

Graduation ceremonies

In 2023, Emanuel and Meliana completed their third year of study at Bacau Teachers College. Their formal graduation ceremony was held on 16 March 2024, and both have been awarded a Bachelor of Teaching. Emanuel was awarded a Certificate of Academic Distinction for achieving the highest academic results in three years of study, and he gave the student response to the guest speaker at the ceremony.

Both students are continuing their studies this year to complete the Licenciante (Bachelor of Education) and have recently completed their three-month teaching placements in Covalima.



Photos: (Above) Meliana and Emanuel at their formal graduation ceremony in March.

(Left) Hospitality students at the graduation ceremony in December 2023.

(Below) Revalino graduating at Don Bosco Training Centre after completing automotive studies.



Four young women completed the Certificate II in Hospitality at the Canossian Vocational Training Centre in Suai and graduated on 14 December 2023. Two of the graduates are now employed in Suai.

One student successfully completed the 12-month Certificate in Automotive at Don Bosco in Dili and the graduation ceremony was held in April.

All tertiary and vocational courses provide students with extensive practical placements which allow them to utilise their skills in a workplace environment. This is a great way to prepare them for future employment.



Employment for Midwifery graduates

Elsa and Jenia, two of the qualified midwives who graduated in April 2023, now have paid employment as nurses and are working at health posts in their home sub-district of Zumalai in Covalima district. They are two of six young women who were offered FoSC scholarships to train as nurses at the National University in Dili and continued on to complete their post-graduate studies in midwifery.

Odelia graduated in November 2023 and she is now employed by an NGO called Frontline, to provide maternal and child health services in Dili and Bobonaro district.

Congratulations to all of these young women. Their skills will be of immense value to the community.



Photos: (Left) Elsa working at the Fatuleto health post, Zumalai sub-district, Covalima. (Below) Odelia at her graduation ceremony in November. She is now employed by NGO Frontline.



Donations

Donating to the Friends of Suai is a powerful way to contribute to Timor Leste's development, promote equality and help build a brighter future for its people.

Donations can be made via the following methods:

- Direct deposit into our Commonwealth Bank account. Acct Name: Friends of Suai Donations BSB: 063 243 Account Number: 1034 3552
- On-line via the Friends of Suai Covalima Give Now webpage: <https://www.givenow.com.au/foscsholarships>

We are grateful for any amount that you can contribute. Thank you!