

Jill Hillary



When Jill Hillary (from Perth) travelled to Timor Leste as a self funded volunteer in April 2004, she could not have imagined she would become the foundation, energy and work horse of a small non government organization with the capacity to change the future of a nation.

Jill is a single mother of four young adult children who (when she is at home) lives in Scarborough in Western Australia. Jill has spent a large percentage of her time living in Dili for the past five years.

Jill met Rosaria Martins de Cruz and was introduced to HIAM- Health 13 days after she arrived in Timor Leste and has been involved in assisting Rosaria to bring her vision to reality ever since.

Jill has been the energy and the drive behind the fund finding that have enable HIAM to become what it is today. In 2004 Rosaria first request to Jill was :

- 1) Funding for the day to day running of Hiam Health (for wages for staff, program and services, office outfit, plus other miscellaneous expenses such as food and sleeping mats for families in hospital etc .
- 2) Staff to assist monitoring and supplementary feeding of infants and children suffering from malnutrition
- 3) Staff, equipment and room for health education workshops for these parents and caregivers of vulnerable children which would be open to the general public
- 4) Staff and money for financial assistance to support the extremely poor and vulnerable in-patients and their families during their stay in hospital.
- 5) Vehicles and fuel to be able to repatriate deceased infants and children home for burial
- 6) Finding for the palliative care visits in the home
- 7) New premises

Jill approached this list as she does any challenge and it has been through this time that she also developed a deep respect for the energy and vision of Rosaria. Jill's amazing capacity to think outside the square saw her purchase two shipping containers to form the new offices of HIAM. These containers had a roof put between them and were outfitted. Jill did this so if they had to move again they could carry their supplies to a new environment. Jill said she was constantly devastated by the malnutrition in Timor Leste and will work forever to try and change the reality that faces 50% of the Timorese children.

In April 2004, Hiam Health was just a vision. Jill has dedicated her life and energy into making this vision a reality. Jill has single-handedly found funding to set up an office, staff wages, food supplements, materials for health education classes, and two vehicles. Jill has educated staff in office and computer skills, data collections, understanding fund application processes, basic hygiene skills and English education. Since 2007 Jill has single-handedly found the financing for the Malnutrition, Education and Rehabilitation Centre. Plus overseen the building design, administrative services, nursing services, garden set-up and building of the centre.

HIAM Health is now a vital well recognized Non Government Organisation in Dili and has become a leader in recognition, rehabilitation and prevention of malnutrition. Jill is involved in all areas of HIAM Health and works tirelessly beside Rosaria in all areas of clinic work, hospital visits, village education visits, deceased repatriation, setting up the kitchen garden as well as meeting with Ministry of Health, World Food Program, Baroness Cox, Embassy official, and much more. Jill does this so she understands intimately the needs of Rosaria and HIAM Health when she is seeking funding.

Jill has become a leader in understanding of the Timorese culture, supporting the HIAM staff and finding funding. Jill has been instrumental in developing relationships and partnerships with World Food Program, Timor Leste Ministry of Health, Rotary Australia, the HART Foundation in the UK, The Australian Foundation for the People of Asia and the Pacific, British United Providence Association, AUS AID and Optical Superstores.

Jill can name as personal referees, Kirsty Gusmao, Baroness Cox of Queensbury (HART UK) and Ian Melrose (Optical Superstores).



Jill and Rosaria at work