



Lasallian Family of Papua New Guinea

PROJECTS

Pad Project

Hygiene Hampers

2022 Women's Symposium

Lasallian Women Advocates for Change

When Lasallian Women of Hope (LWH) shared their expanding mission and hopeful aspirations during the 2017 International Lasallian Women's Symposium (Auckland, New Zealand), the 22 representatives from Papua New Guinea (PNG) were thrilled. They realized that finally, assistance might be possible for girls living in remote PNG areas. Many of these girls might be completely unfamiliar with soap or a sanitary pad. Coalescing under the PNG Lasallian Family Office, the women boldly applied for an LWH grant.

But they didn't stop there. The symposium participants worked together to establish Lasallian Women Advocates for Change, a branch of LWH that focuses on educating, organizing and advocating issues affecting girls and women in Papua New Guinea. Many women are unfamiliar with female hygiene products because of PNG's geographically dispersed tribal units and linguistically separated niches (over 800 different languages are found in the country). In academic settings, LWH addresses the needs of young Papuan girls attending classes by providing them with socio-culturally appropriate education on women's issues and female hygienic products, facilitating class attendance during menses.

An innovative Hygiene Hampers Project used LWH funding in September 2020 to airlift 320 hygiene hampers filled with sanitary pads, underwear, soap and toothpaste to girls in 10 rural and five urban schools.

"Almost everything in the package was new to them so I demonstrated how to use those things. It was so emotional during our discussion. The girls were so excited but most of all they were so proud and happy. I could see that they were thinking and wishing that they could be able to use such things every day in their lives but they are unable to do that. That really touched me, and I was silently in tears. They didn't know how to say thank you because they thought that their thank you won't be enough."

—Karen Mondo, teacher, Hobe Primary School

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