

## **MEDIA RELEASE: Caritas Australia's Christmas Appeal celebrates the Joy of a Child's Smile**

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In the wake of a year filled with crises, Caritas Australia has launched its annual Christmas Appeal to support the most vulnerable communities across the globe.

"This past year has brought the global community some serious challenges, including the war in Ukraine and the global food crisis that continues to sweep the world. But the beauty of Christmas is that every year the Holy Season brings us the promise of hope and joy," said Kirsty Robertson, Caritas Australia's CEO.

"The season of Christmas reminds us of God's gift of love and hope for the world through his Son. We can choose to show gratitude for our blessings, demonstrate compassion for others and to lend a helping hand to the stranger on the road."

"Caritas Australia's Christmas Appeal features the story of Lan from Vietnam, who, with the support of our partner, the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development, and the generous contributions of supporters, was able to provide her children with opportunities and an education despite their disabilities."

Children living with a disability in rural Vietnam often experience discrimination or exclusion, affecting their future education and employment prospects. Thirty-nine-year-old Lan\* in Vietnam is a mother of three, with her eight-year-old son, Quan\*, and 12-year-old daughter, Loan\*, both living with a vision impairment.

With your support, Lan participated in the Empowerment of People with Disabilities program. Through the program, Quan and Loan were able to join community-based classrooms so that they could interact with other children living with disabilities.

Her children are now more confident and are looking forward to completing their schooling. Lan has volunteered to help run the classes and is now a leader of a parents' group in her area.

Donate today to help create opportunities for mothers like Lan by giving them the support and education they need to lift their children out of poverty.

To learn more visit: [www.caritas.org.au/christmas-appeal/](http://www.caritas.org.au/christmas-appeal/) or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

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