



**SPORT at the
SERVICE OF
HUMANITY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY TO THE HOLY SEE FUNDS SPORT FOR HUMANITY PROGRAM

Funding to support youth education kits in Tacloban, Philippines in honour of Australia Day

(January 26, 2021 – Rome, Italy) In commemoration of **Australia’s National Day** today, **HE Ambassador Chiara Porro** of the **Australian Embassy to the Holy See** has announced a contribution to the work of **Sport at the Service of Humanity**. Ambassador Porro confirmed this during her visit to **HE Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi**, President of the Pontifical Council for Culture and Sport for Humanity’s Vatican Patron.

“Australia Day is a day to reflect, respect and celebrate the Australian spirit, our sense of community and our resilience. The work of Sport at the Service of Humanity aligns very well with Australia’s objectives particularly in sports for development purposes,” noted **HE Ambassador Chiara Porro of the Australian Embassy to the Holy See**. “I think it is a wonderful way to commemorate Australia’s National Day during these challenging times.”

At Ambassador Porro’s request to direct funds towards a sport-focused youth development program in the Asia Pacific region, Sport for Humanity Foundation has partnered with **Fundlife International**, a non-profit organization based in Tacloban, Philippines to deliver the program locally.

Fundlife uses the power of play and sport as a platform for education. The funding from the Australian Embassy will enable purchase of 50 **Sport for Humanity Educational Safe-at-Home Packs** created by Fundlife for distribution to children in Tacloban who are unable to go school due to the lockdown. The packs will feature Australian athletes who embody Sport for Humanity’s Six Principles – Compassion, Respect, Love, Enlightenment, Balance and Joy – as well as activity books with educational sessions, hygiene kits specially aimed to help adolescent girls and young women including sanitary pads, toothpaste, shampoo, baby powder milk, soap and food packs.

“We are grateful to the Australian Embassy to the Holy See’s support through Sport at the Service of Humanity,” says **Marko Kasic, Founder and Program Director of Fundlife**. “The funds will allow us to reach children who have been unable to go to school since March 11, 2020. Every week that passes puts all children further behind, lessening the window for them to catch-up and lowering their own belief to achieve their goals.”

“Sport at the Service of Humanity combines the passion for sport with the values of faith to serve humanity,” shared **Msgr. Melchor Sanchez, Undersecretary, Pontifical Council for Culture and Board Director of Sport for Humanity Foundation**. “What a meaningful way to honour Australia’s national day and its commitment to respect, resilience and community. We want a world where we **Live Like We Play**. Thanks to the Embassy and the Australian Government, we can bring this to life. We hope your action serves as inspiration for others to follow.”



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About the Australian Embassy to the Holy See

HE Ms. Chiara Porro has been Australia’s Ambassador to the Holy See since August 2020. The Embassy represents Australia’s interests and advances key bilateral and multilateral priorities in close cooperation with the Holy See. In 2023, Australia and the Holy See will celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations. For more information, please visit: www.holysee.embassy.gov.au and/or follow us on Twitter: @ausambholysee.

About Sport for Humanity

Sport for Humanity is the only global faith and sport movement that combines the passion for sport with the values of faith to serve humanity. “Live Like You Play” embodies the movement’s ethos - rooted in Pope Francis’ inspirational words - “Challenge yourself in the game of life, as you do in the game of sport”. Sport for Humanity’s beliefs and aspirations are founded on Three Pillars – Inspiration, Inclusion and Involvement and Six Principles – Compassion, Love, Respect, Enlightenment, Balance and Joy. For more information, please visit: www.sportforhumanity.com and/or follow us on social media: @sportforhumanity (Facebook); @sport4humanity (Twitter) and sportforhumanitytx (Instagram).

About Fundlife International

Fundlife was founded on a belief that no child should be denied quality education and equitable opportunities to reach their fullest potential. Using the power of play and sport, they spark children’s desire to learn and help them build confidence and equip them with the skills and mindset necessary to prepare, adapt, and tackle real-life challenges that they will encounter in the future. For more information, please visit: <http://www.fundlife.org/>

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