

### *Education for people with disabilities*

#### *What is Katilosa?*

Katilosa is a registered Non Government Organisation (NGO) in East Timor working with persons with disabilities (PWD). It has a board of four people including the Catholic Bishop of Baucau, Monsignor Basilio do Nascimento. It is the ONLY provider of this type of care in East Timor, the poorest nation in Asia.



#### *What is the work of Katilosa?*

Katilosa has as its mission promoting equal rights and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities in East Timor through concrete programs and activities.

These activities currently include:

- Community based rehabilitation of children and youth with disabilities.
- Culture, arts, music and sports development for children and youth with disabilities.
- Vocational and technical skills training to enhance the economic conditions of PWDs and their families.
- Advocacy of PWD rights through multi-media campaigns.

Currently Katilosa provides physiotherapy for children in three districts: Venilale (Baucau), Ermera and Dili. In all, 150 children benefit from these services. It also conducts training sessions and a national workshop; in January 2006 it had forty-five participants. Katilosa has sixteen persons in two self help groups training for income generating activities.

#### ***What is NEEDED...***

In November 2005 Katilosa conducted a survey in the region of Baucau, Vernase, Laga and Venilale in the District of Baucau, where 381 disabled people in total were identified. There were 107 children, among this figure, who have needs for physiotherapy, speech therapy and education access. And only three of these children had access to schooling.

The programmes of Kalitosa across these areas cost \$US20,000 annually including salary costs. Some new assistance is being sought from external donors in Europe and Australia. The Government of East Timor has extended a lease on a property in Dili, for ten years. This property is being renovated by funds obtained by the Marist Solidarity in partnership with Kindermissionswerk, Aachen, Germany.

#### ***What you can do...***

Continue to support Marist Solidarity programs for people with disabilities. Australian Marist funds provide the seed money that helps Katilosa source international funds vital to the sustainability of this project.