

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MUCH NEEDED SEWING MATERIALS ON WAY TO ORMOC, PHILIPPINES FOR TCF GLOBAL VILLAGE SEWING PROJECT**

The Textile, Clothing and Footwear Resource Centre of WA (TCFWA), Belmont BEC, TCF Global, BPW Belmont and members of Janome Perth have been busy collecting and collating donations to assist with the TCF Ormoc, Philippines community village sewing project.

This innovative project provides opportunities to 29 village sewing centres with 250 women and men that live in Leyte Province, regional Philippines to expand their small sewing-related business to generate income and assist additional village sewing centres to start. The TCF Ormoc Project has also expanded to include a TCF Centre of Entrepreneurship at the local ESVU University.

TCFWA/TCF Global CEO Carol Hanlon said, "Materials collected and donated by the Western Australian community included reference materials for sewing training courses, books on design, patternmaking, textiles and other craft materials. This year once again we had great support from the TCFWA Industry in WA and also members of the Janome Sewing Club who donated a huge range of valuable craft books and a great number of sewing machines."

"Welshpool Rotary Club donated \$1000 to assist with the 20ft container shipping costs to Ormoc and freight company Sadleirs Transport donated the freight documentation. It has been a real team effort to keep this valuable and positive community project moving forward together with our wonderful TCF volunteers Miss Poppy and Kasim Bultan who have worked tirelessly in packing and storing over 420 cartons of donations, 100rolls of fabrics and 65 sewing machines."

TCFWA/TCF Global CEO Carol Hanlon said, "I have been lucky enough to have the opportunity to volunteer and visit Ormoc on a number of occasions to give business workshops and assist with the annual Ormoc Fashion Festival. "

In 2011, Belmont BPW accepted a global award for the Ormoc Sewing project at the BPW International Congress in Helsinki, Finland. The Ormoc sewing project was voted 3rd place in the world in the Power to Make a Difference Award – Excellent Project, which highlights ongoing international recognition. In 2011, Belmont BPW President Carol Hanlon was invited to make two presentations at the United Nations Commission Status Women (UN CSW55) NGO Forums in New York on the successes of TCF Global fashion business projects with included the TCF Ormoc village sewing project and the benefits to the local area in micro enterprise development. In 2012 TCF Global / BPW presented a forum in New York as part of the United Nations CSW56 NGO Forums on 'Empowering Creative Rural Women through Enterprise development and Global Fashion Opportunities' where the TCF Ormoc project was again featured to a global audience.

TCF Ormoc's new partner Eastern Visayas State University (ESVU) has agreed for its engineering students to take on the role of sewing machine repairs as a class project and provide machine maintenance training and ESVU is now delivering a range of sewing training classes for the local region.

TCFWA/TCF Global CEO Carol Hanlon said, "TCFWA and Belmont BEC are Belmont based non-profit community organisations that helped established the TCF Global Community Sewing Project. In addition, Business & Professional Womens Clubs in Belmont and WA (BPW) that aim to assist development projects supporting women also support this project. I would also like to sincerely thank Mr Steve Rose from Blu Murda Truck Washing Belmont, who donated warehouse storage for all the donated items to allow the packing and space to store all the goods during the collection period." Carol Hanlon said.

For more information on the project please view [www.tcformoc.com](http://www.tcformoc.com)

**For further information please contact:**

Carol Hanlon

CEO

Belmont Business Enterprise Centre

Textile Clothing Footwear Resource Centre of WA Inc. (TCFWA)

P| 08 9479 3777 M| 0417963231

E| carol.hanlon@tcfwa.com



**Textile Clothing Footwear Resource Centre of WA Inc. (TCFWA)  
Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc.**

PO Box 370, Cloverdale WA 6985 Phone 08 9479 3777 Fax 08 9479 3888

[www.tcfwa.com](http://www.tcfwa.com) [www.tcfaustralia.com](http://www.tcfaustralia.com) [www.tcfglobal.com](http://www.tcfglobal.com) [www.mygreenincubator.com](http://www.mygreenincubator.com)  
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**ABOUT TCF ORMOC**

In 2007 through generous support from across Western Australia a 40ft container of donated sewing equipment was sent to Ormoc, Philippines resulting in the establishment of 21 community sewing centres providing the opportunity for 130 women and men to start their own community sewing business. WA Supporters included TCFWA, Belmont BEC, Matilda Bay Rotary Club, BPW Clubs WA, Express Link, volunteers and all who donated their sewing items.

In 2008 TCFWA volunteered to visit the sewing centres at Ormoc, Philippines and coordinated with volunteers Adam Barralet from Metro Modelling Academy and designer Hideaki the training of 160 teenagers in Ormoc and assisted TCF Ormoc to stage its first ever major fashion show displaying the fashion garments made from the TCF Ormoc sewing centres.

TCF Ormoc international support includes TCF Ormoc Project Co-ordinator Jean Justimbaste Pagtinabangay Foundation Inc, Jun Yrastorza, ECLIPSE, LEYAN, CSWDO, International Ammodo Foundation, Otto Energy, Nor Asian Energy, Rotary Clubs from Ormoc and Malaysian designer Hideaki.

2009 TCF Ormoc new project partner includes Metro Ormoc Community Cooperative (OCCCI) who are generously assisting with sea freight, warehousing and training programs for the sewing machinists involved in TCF Ormoc sewing centres. This support provided the necessary support to increase the sewing centres to 29.

2011 TCF Ormoc 3rd container collection was despatched in December 2011 and the project expanded to include the ESVU University. In August 2013 the 4<sup>th</sup> container is now being sent.