



*Bringing help to
Philippine Children with disabilities*

NEWS

Issue No 13 - May 2007

Keeping you in touch with the work of the Project

NEWS DIRECT FROM BAMBANG

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter where we have the advantage of Florencia's first hand knowledge of the Project in Bambang from her recent visit to the Philippines, together with details of some of the activities that Florencia initiated while she was there. We are also pleased to report that not only have donations also been received from America and Australia but they have also raised money in Bambang itself with a sponsored walk organised by Florencia. Guess what time she had them on the starting line. Below you will see details of our annual fun run to raise money for the Project here in Hyde Park so come on Ladies and put your best foot forward, the start time is much more civilised.

LADIES COME AND JOIN US IN THE PARK

This year will be the 10th successive year we have entered a team in the Hyde Park fun run to raise money for the Project. It's a great day out, the run or walk is only three miles and afterwards we all enjoy a picnic in the Park. The date is Sunday 16th September, why not come and join us. For an entry form contact Florencia.

MEDICAL OUTREACH DENTAL MISSION

As part of Medical Outreach there was a specially arranged cleaning of teeth for the children and parents. Dr Kristin Daguio and Dr Mahra Mabanag came from the neighbouring Province of Isabela to organise this first-time event for the Project. The children were all given free toothbrushes and shown how to use them. The parents were particularly grateful for this service for their children.



Looking to the future

Whilst in Bambang, Florencia learnt from the committee what they had been doing for the children in the past year and initiated some proposals of her own to help the committee go forward even more. A Workshop was convened where the committee members reviewed the Mission Statement and Objectives of the Project and their budgeting requirements. They then carried out a SWOT analysis for the Project's future.



SUMMER FAIR Saturday 30th June

We are again taking part in a Summer Fair on the Piazza at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 30th June. Last year was enjoyable and successful so we hope our supporters will come along again this year.

Annual General Meeting

All friends and supporters are invited to this year's AGM, which will be held at Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church, Jesuit Residence, 114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH. Light snacks and refreshments provided.

Thursday 21st June 2007 from 6.30 - 9pm.

So that we might have some idea of the numbers attending, please let Florencia know if you are coming.

Early start for "Walk for a Cause"



The cock was crowing for this eventful fundraising walk in Bambang organised by Florencia. Committee members with their families, parents, children and adults from the community who took part in the walk gathered at 5am in front of the Municipal Town Hall, where the 3 kilometre walk started. It continued around the town to the University Oval. Afterwards at the Soriano's residence the walkers were greeted with cups of rejuvenating freshly brewed coffee and rice cakes.

The total amount of money raised by the 32 walkers was 10,639.75 pesos which is equivalent to £114. A wonderful sum for the children of the Project. The event was not only intended to raise money and promote fitness and exercise but more importantly to increase awareness of the Project's existence and how it is effectively helping many children with disabilities. The participants spread the word to many people in the community who kindly sponsored them. Florencia hopes to encourage committee members to make this simple but enjoyable and effective fundraising exercise, an annual event.

Your support

If you would like to support our work in bringing help to Philippine children with disabilities, please send donations to:

Alan Beavis, BSP Treasurer
Berkshire Scout Enterprises Ltd
Gravelly Court, Gravelly Bridge Farm
Grazeley Green Road, Grazeley
Reading, RG7 1LG
Cheques should be made payable to
Bambang Sunshine Project.

UK Contact: Florencia C Kingscote, Secretary Bambang Sunshine Project Tel 07875 867 739
email florak@tiscali.co.uk www.bambang sunshineproject.org.uk

The children show their talents at Christmas celebrations

Highlight of the Christmas celebrations held in December was the children showing their talents in singing, dancing, playing the piano and acting. Many of the children, including those who are hard of hearing and without speech took part in panunuluyan, which is a dramatisation of the flight to Egypt and the Nativity. One child was the narrator, three children were angels, others played the Virgin Mother, Joseph, the shepherds and the three Kings.

After lunch there were games for the children and they wore party hats and costumes made by the committee and parents. They all received a food basket and gifts (stuffed toys) donated by Mr and Mrs Eleazar T Soriano, son of Rev and Mrs Soriano. This was followed by the awards to the winners of the Bambang Sunshine Project's Model Family. The model families were chosen because they participated in all the meetings and joined the livelihood programme of backyard gardening.



BACKYARD GARDENING FLOURISHES

In line with the government campaign for healthy eating, the committee launched a challenge that involved the whole family, encouraging them to plant vegetables in their back gardens. In association with this initiative, the committee organised a meeting to teach awareness of the dangers of eating processed and fatty foods and the benefit of healthy eating. The parents subsequently participated in a 'best vegetable garden' competition. Despite the rains and storms they were successful in producing vegetable crops. This is an ongoing programme for the parents, which is proving to be a significant help to their families and some parents presented vegetables from their garden to Florencia at the Valentine's party.

Parents Retreat

One important part of the work in Bambang is support and education of parents in their care of their children with disabilities. 36 parents along with committee members enjoyed a trip to a resort in the hills for a spiritual retreat. The topic was 'Acceptance, Love, Patience and Perseverance'. Pastor Soriano and Mrs Soriano led the prayers and the group discussion with the help of the committee and parents were able to share their experiences and thoughts.

VALENTINE'S DAY OF HEARTS CELEBRATION

Newly ordained priest, Father Loubert Agduyeng started the day by celebrating Mass which he said was particularly pertinent as this was the year of the sick. Later in the Senior Citizens Hall, the children were entertained by The G-Clan Sunshine Band and two of our children Elsa Mahor and Jake Fontanilla. The committee members and parents helped the children make hearts with thank you messages to show their love and appreciation for the donors and supporters in England. Guest speaker was Mr Bert Estilong, President of Nueva Vizcaya Federation of People with Disabilities who is partially disabled himself.

'Disability,' he said, 'is not a hindrance to success'. To help their children to succeed, parents need the qualities of support, love, encouragement dedication and patience. He felt the Project is an inspiration and encouragement to others. After lunch the children had games and the selection and crowning for Mr and Miss Valentine.



FUND RAISING AROUND THE WORLD

The word has spread about the project and we are most grateful for donations from Florida and California in America and from Australia. Florencia's sister, Nena Schwach, organised a "bowling for charity" event at Spring Hill in Florida and raised the wonderful sum of \$550. Our thanks to Tom and Gigi Smith who helped Nena and her friends, especially those who provided prizes for their raffle. From California, Dr Elaine Soriano, daughter of Pastor and Mrs Soriano, together with her friends donated \$270 as well as towels and toys. Dr Emille De Campo, another of Elaine's friends, also donated \$300. Their son Eleazar Soriano and his wife, also in California, donated stuffed toys given to the children at Christmas. Mrs Ella B Neuenhaus and her friends in Australia sent children's clothing, blankets, toys and books and EOL Cargo Services in Australia kindly provided free door to door delivery for these gifts. Ella is a sister of Norma, one of the Committee members in Bambang. In the Philippines we have also received donations from Vice Governor Jing Gambito, Board Member Merlie Talingdan, Dr Alias and Mr Santos for which we are very grateful.

Committee Outing

A fellowship day was held to strengthen the bond of friendship amongst the group, with an outing to a resort on the foothills of Dupax about 10 kilometres from Bambang. Whilst they were there the committee completed their workshop by formulating a list of activities planned for the coming year. From the resort they headed to the extensive farm of our Patron, The Honourable Congressman of Nueva Vizcaya, Carlos Padilla, where he has animals in their natural surroundings and exotic plants from around the world. Teachers of Biology and Environmental Studies bring their students on educational field trips to this wonderful farm. The Congressman made a substantial donation to the Project after hearing a progress report and pledged his continual support which we greatly value.



• The Congressman and Florencia.

VISIT TO VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTRE

In March the committee visited the Area Vocational Rehabilitation Centre which provides vocational training for people with disabilities. The aim was to find out how the Project can access the services available for our own children. They learnt what the centre has to offer and the costs involved. The upkeep of the Centre is met by Government funds. The Board hopes to visit more of these centres during the course of the coming year.

Recent help for the children

The committee were able to advise Florencia of some medical and financial assistance they had been able to provide for children of the Project. As well as a walking/guiding cane for Elsa Mahor, they provided medicines and paid the consultation fee at the Municipal Health Centre for Jane Agcaoile and a second operation for Jomar Maguslog at the Provincial Hospital. Imelda Ampat has been provided with a wheelchair. 36 children were sent to school for which school materials such as bags, notebooks, paper etc, were provided and also transport allowance for 6 children who attended the special school for children without speech and with severe hearing impairments.