

Bringing help to
Philippine Children with disabilities

NEWS

Issue No 17 - August 2009

Keeping you in touch with the work of the Project

BAMBANG IN THE LIMELIGHT

We welcome our supporters and readers to this summer edition of our newsletter. In it, we highlight the activities organised this spring by the Bambang Committee for the children with disabilities who are the reason for our Project. Mention too of one special event, the PEDIA summer camp, attended by many of our children, that was held in Bambang for the first time ever. We also give details of our latest fundraising endeavours and show how the money raised is put to good use.

FUNDRAISING THAMES WALK OVER EIGHT BRIDGES

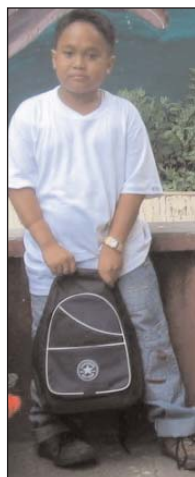
Fifteen happy walkers, a higher number than last year, assembled on the Westminster Cathedral Piazza for our second Thames Bridges Walk. Once again our renowned member, Eric Considine, ably assisted by John Rudge, ensured that all went smoothly and that we all walked in the same direction. Four hours later, the walkers were still smiling and looking fit and healthier with the satisfaction that we had increased the help we can give to the children with disabilities in Bambang. The sponsorship money collected was a magnificent £680. The participants then enjoyed a free meal, kindly donated again by Ben Boeteng, Manager of McDonald's restaurant, a very generous gesture that was greatly appreciated. Our thanks to all who participated and to those who sponsored the walk, which has now become an annual event. We plan to hold our third sponsored walk probably on a Saturday morning in March next year. We hope to welcome many new participants and Florencia will be pleased to let you have details at the beginning of the new year.



• Our walkers (left to right): Pacita Eugens, Gramney Reyes, Shirley Reyes, Tom Reyes hidden!, Florencia, John Stacey, Josie Ramos, Elizabeth Stacey, Eleanor Dayawon, Tom Stacey, Sharon Adams, Eric Considine and Randy Jackson in front of Westminster Cathedral and the walkers in McDonalds including John Rudge and Patrick Flood with member of McDonald's staff Patel.

JOIN US AT THE ADIDAS WOMEN'S CHALLENGE 2009

We invite ladies to come and join our Bambang Sunshine Project team for a fantastic experience in Hyde Park, London, on Sunday 6th September. Participants in Britain's largest women's running event, all receive a goody bag and a medal at the finishing line after running, jogging or walking three miles. We have never known anyone not to finish the challenge. It really is a fun-run and a fun-day. What's more, after the run, the runners and their supporters all get together for a lovely picnic in the park. For more information please contact Florencia on 07875 867 739



Two Beneficiaries of the Project

Jamie Navro (left) and Ben Casro (right) who have received prosthetic legs, courtesy of the Project. Jamie's is fine but Ben has new aluminium crutches whilst his is being adjusted.



MESSAGE FROM JOHN STACEY, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

We continue to be encouraged by our members' and regular supporters' continuing loyal support despite the current economic recession. Our heartfelt thanks for assisting us to deliver our charitable help to so many deserving children. May we respectfully ask readers of this newsletter to consider enrolling as official members. The annual minimum subscription is £3.50. If you are interested we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact me on johnstacey89@yahoo.co.uk

A BIG THANK YOU

We would like to give a special mention to the following establishments and individuals for their valuable financial support which serves as a good example and inspiration to us all.
* The children and staff of St Anne's Roman Catholic Primary School who generously gave a cheque for £200 from the proceeds of their school fete.
* John Lewis plc, for their ongoing interest in ensuring that the Project makes a difference to the quality of life of the children we are committed to helping and a cheque for £100.
Our good member Eric Considine is our helpful link with both St Anne's School and John Lewis.
* Mrs Suzy Vincent, a long standing member who had an 'open house' party for her friends who are antique toy enthusiasts, with a collection to raise money for the purchase of Christmas toys for the children in Bambang. We thank Suzy and her friends for the donation of £80 which will surely buy some quality toys for the forthcoming Christmas celebration.

What is this young boy so proud to show? See overleaf



CELEBRATIONS FOR THE CHILDREN IN BAMBANG

DAY OF HEARTS CHILDREN ENJOY VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

Valentines Day was celebrated by the children at a party held at the Bambang Senior Citizen's Hall., Vice-Chairman, Mrs Timbol, praised the children for looking lovely in their red dresses in her welcoming address, which was followed by singing and dancing. The co-ordinator, Daisy, distributed heart shaped greeting cards with many sayings about LOVE, which the children (or their parents) read out. Next was the crowning of Miss and Mr Valentine. The lucky Miss Valentine 2009 was Joy Gamatero and her Valentine was Raymart Pascua who was so moved by being chosen that he was tearful throughout the ceremony. However, the occasion was otherwise a joyful experience for everyone. After the crowning ceremony, Mr Miranda, the Treasurer, who initiated the food and nutrition programme a few years ago, informed parents of a new programme introduced by the government, which allocates free seeds. These are available to anyone who cultivated farms or even small backyard gardens, so for parents this could help their children with their food supplements. This led to the committee announcing this year's winner of the best and most productive backyard garden in the project.

Camera Shy

Sadly, there is no photographic record of this year's events as the camera, kindly donated by long serving London committee member, John Keen had become broken. If anyone could kindly consider donating a camera to our Bambang Committee, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Florencia on 07875 867 739 if you can help.

EASTER CELEBRATION GAMES AND EGG HUNTING

This annual event started with a Mass celebrated by Fr Lubert which was followed by a lunch fellowship. The afternoon was a programme of fun and games for the children. First they drew with coloured pencils their interpretation of Easter and hen explained what their drawings meant. Prizes were given for the drawings and the parlour games that followed. The highlight for the children was the hunting for Easter eggs. In the second part of the programme, the children who had achieved honours at school in 2008 were given a recognition gift of a woven basket to organise their notebooks, pencils etc. These were Elsa Mahor, Angelica Bergador, Aubrey Banejo, Ben J Castro, Jane Asuncion, Hazel Sagun, Brake Pacheco, Nathan, Neon and Angela Nebrida. The Chairman also encouraged all those who did not achieve honours to do their best for the ensuing school year.



• Honours winning children receive recognition gift from committee members.

SCHOOL YEAR 2009-10

At the beginning of June, 36 of our children were enrolled in community schools. Eight children with speech and hearing impairments were re-enrolled in the Special Educational Unit in Bambang Central School. The Bambang Committee distributed school uniforms and supplies to the happy children and grateful parents. Mrs Soriano, the Chairperson, reminded them that this opportunity to go to school was made possible by the generosity of supporters in England and elsewhere. The children who are unable to go to school because of severe disabilities will continue to receive financial support for medication and food as well as clothing.



• SPED teacher with 7 of the 8 children with speech and hearing impairments who the project help.

BAMBANG HOSTS THE PEDIA SUMMER CAMP

In May, a national non-government Organisation, God's Special Children, brought their PEDIA summer camp for children with disabilities, to the province of Nueva Vizcaya for the first time. The Bambang Central School hosted the event which lasted for five days and nearly 500 children participated including seventeen of the Bambang Sunshine Project children whose ages ranged from 4 to 10 years old. It was colourful and unforgettable event with fun activities for the children and the people of the town, including a parade to celebrate the May Flower Festival. Hundreds came to show their support along with local government officials of Bambang and Provincial Officials. It was an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of PEDIA as well as the organisations within the province. It also enabled the Project to engage effective community building as well as trying to generate funds for future projects.



• Three of the children who went to PEDIA with their mothers and SPED teacher, Violy Padawan.

Other recipients from the Project



• Mother and children in front of the pig pen, where they raise two piglets given by the Project.

Find out more by visiting
www.bambangsunshineproject.org.uk

This newsletter is sponsored by Berkshire Scout Enterprises Ltd

