

Bringing help to
Philippine Children with disabilities

NEWS

Issue No 7 - December 2003

Keeping you in touch with the work of the Project

New Name PDCP becomes BAMBANG

From its instigation in the late 1990s we have been known as the Philippine Disabled Children's Project. However, when we started discussions with the Charity Commission to become a Registered Charity they advised that as we were only helping disabled children in one location our name was inappropriate. Thus the Committee agreed that we would be known as the Bambang Sunshine Project - bringing help to Philippine children with disabilities. We are, therefore, introducing this new logo and name change for our Bank Account with effect from 1 January 2004.



• The team September 2003.



FLORA Women's Challenge

This year Florencia, the Bambang Sunshine Project's Secretary, took part for her 6th year. She thanks all the ladies who have joined her in the annual run since 1998. This year seven ladies ran their legs off and raised the marvellous sum of £852 between them. Sue Beavis, the Project's web designer, participated in a similar fun run held in Bristol in June and also raised a good sum. Well done to the women of our group for all their brilliant efforts in raising funds for the benefit of the children that we are helping.

Anniversary "Good Turns" Project.

Dave Mowbray and Alan Beavis - Chair Person and Treasurer, respectively, of the UK Adult Scout Alliance proposed to Members in the UK that they acknowledge the International Scout and Guide Fellowship's 50th Anniversary Celebration "Good Turn" by UK Members supporting the Bambang Sunshine Project. They were asked to raise funds to pay for the shipment of 1,000 Publicity Pens for the Philippine Disabled Children's Inc - our Partner Committee, Flip Chart and Stand, Display Boards and a Computer System. This will enable our Partnership Committee to expand its work and we hope that the goods will be on their way to the Philippines soon.

Where the money goes

We have an obligation and duty to our generous sponsors to make sure that their kind donations are deposited appropriately and properly. We are pleased to report on the progress made regarding some of our work in the past year.

Jake - a blind boy with interest in music is doing well with his piano lessons.

Aiza - a 14 year old girl is doing well in the School for the Blind. We are helping towards the cost of school fees.

Jomar - a boy and another girl with cleft palate conditions were operated on. We paid for the operations.

Carl Donado - a boy with a hole in his heart had his third operation in three years. We have helped to pay towards the cost of these operations.

A Feeding and Reading Programme for 3 to 5 year olds started in late August and is proving to be successful. The Project provided cooking equipment and supplies food for all this once a week assignment. Volunteers organise the service but the project will soon pay for a professionally trained teacher to instruct the class of 14 children.

Valuable help

We are grateful for the help of:

Revd. Father Michael O'Halloran, Parish Priest, and parishioners of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Mayfair, London.

The Filipino Women's Association who very kindly agreed to sponsor one of our children. At their Annual General Meeting in August the Treasurer handed over a cheque of £110 to help pay for the cost of piano lessons for Jake - a blind lad with interest in music.

Forex Cargo-Forwarders owned by Tino Salumbitez, kindly agreed to a special discount of 15% on boxes sent by sea to the Philippines. These boxes contain used clothes, toys and books for the children that we are helping.

Mario and Kathy Malata, Proprietors of the Filipino Restaurant in Earls Court, are kindly continuing to help us by giving a 10% reduction on meals taken at their restaurant by supporters of our project.

We also record our thanks to that small number of people who so kindly regularly contact the Project.

On behalf of the children and their Carers in Bambang we give our appreciation for the financial help of all those generous supporters, friends and families, who unfailingly support our work which is essential for its continuance for the future.

On-going Appeal

The Partners' Partner Committee in Bambang continues to hold a quarterly meeting and get-together party for the children and their Carers. Home visiting on a regular plan basis continues. There are many more children who wish to be included in our list of those needing help, but at present we cannot accommodate them all.

Please help us to make it possible for more children to be included, and deliver a positive impact on the lives of so many who are disadvantaged.

The Project pays for a hall to hold meetings and it is our dream that one day we can build our own Day Care Centre for the Project in order to have meetings more frequently and respond to the growing daily demands of the children that we are seeking to help. With your financial help and support we hope to make this dream into a reality in the years ahead. Please make cheques payable to: PHILIPPINE DISABLED CHILDREN PROJECT

Please send donations to:
Alan Beavis - BSP Treasurer
Berkshire Scout Enterprises,
Gravelly Court,
Gravelly Bridge Farm
Grazeley Green Road
Grazeley, Reading RG7 1LG.
Tel 0118 988 6448.

Plans for the future

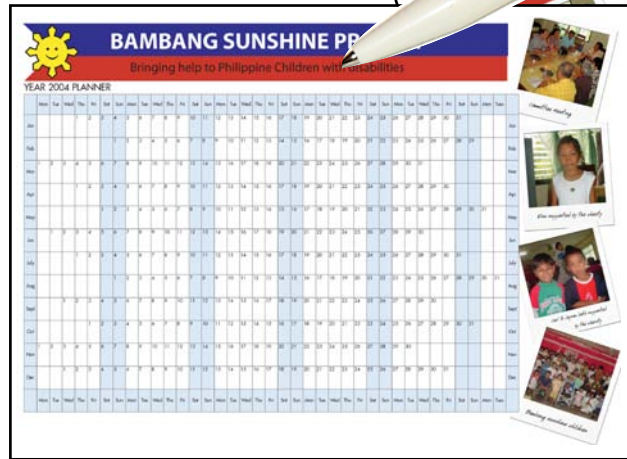
Florencia Kingscote, our Secretary, returned to her home in Bambang in December and met and ran a seminar for two days with the Partner Committee Members. Florencia was also able to meet the children and we look forward to her full return in the New Year.

Charity status

Philippine Disabled Children's Foundation, Inc. was registered in the Republic of the Philippines - Securities and Exchange Commission on 13 June 2002. Company Registration No. A200209568. We, therefore, welcome the news that our Partnership Committee has now been set up as a Registered Company and enjoys a status, we understand, similar to those other Charities in the United Kingdom.

Promotional items

With thanks to Sue Beavis, the Projects Web Designer, we have a calendar available as a free download on our website. Get copies printed and distributed to create more awareness of what we are doing. There is also a Year Planner for business use. Again, this can be downloaded from the website and we hope it will attract support from the Business Community. Printed copies are available from the Treasurer together with Publicity Pens.



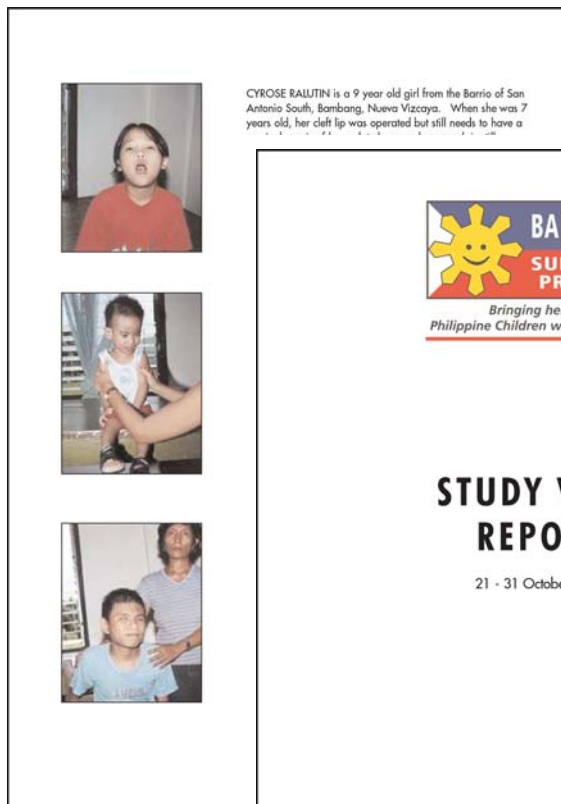
Bambang Report - abridged version

A Study Trip to the Philippines has taken place consisting of three members of the UK Committee, Florencia Kingscote, Founder of the Charity, Dave Mowbray, Chairman and Sue Beavis, Committee Member. The main objectives of the visit were to meet and build relationships with our Partner Committee, acquaint ourselves with the problems encountered by the Bambang Committee and assess what facilities and care are available for the various degrees of child disability.

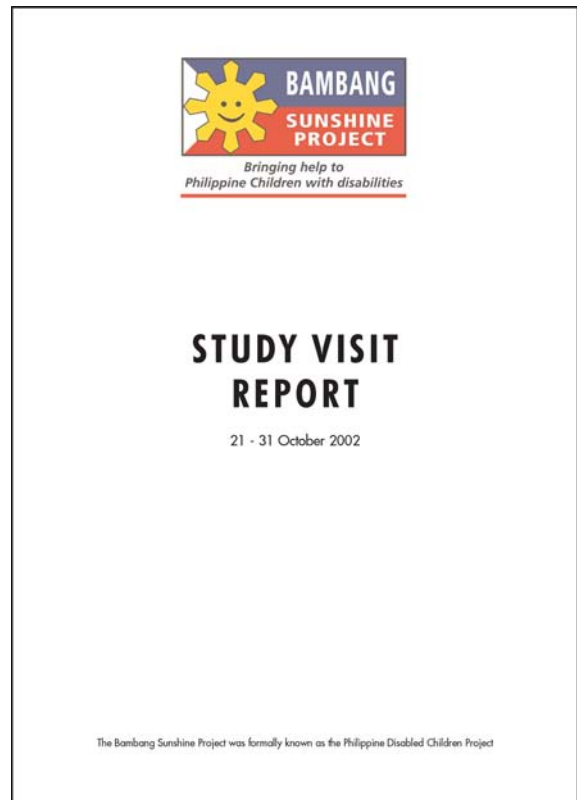
The trip also gave us the opportunity to encourage the development of the Project by linking up with other bodies and agencies and assessing how we can progress the long-term ambitions of the Charity of providing a Disabled Centre if there is a need for one. That the Study Visit was a tremendous success is not in doubt. We found a committed and efficient committee that were prudent in the dispersal of funds but equally as generous as they possibly could be. Sixty or so parents were invited to bring their children to meet us and not only did they turn up but also a further thirty who had heard of our visit. There is no doubt that the cultural barrier of having a disabled child is being broken down by the mere fact that our sister committee are showing a compassionate and sympathetic approach to the problem.

Several contacts were made and offers of practical help came from Nueva Vizcaya State Polytechnic College and St Mary's University at Bayonbong. Promises of cooperation came from the Mayor of Bambang. Perhaps one of the most satisfying aspects of our visit was the involvement of the Scout Movement with our Project. Charity need not always be financial but also can be of giving your time and effort. After discussions it was agreed that when our committee identify a child who would benefit from a visit, a wheel chair walk, sharing a meal etc., they contact the Scout Leader who will provide a scout. If that scout satisfies the Scout Leader and the Chairman of the committee that he has done his best to carry out his duties to the best of his abilities for a period of time then he will be awarded a Proficiency Badge which we, the Bambang Sunshine Project, will sponsor.

We were encouraged by all we saw, enthused by the dedication of our sister committee and satisfied that our efforts were being justified. Those efforts to earn money must continue and indeed be intensified to make sure those unfortunate children get all the help we can give.



CYROSE RALUTIN is a 9 year old girl from the Barrio of San Antonio South, Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya. When she was 7 years old, her cleft lip was operated but still needs to have a



Find out more by visiting
www.bambang sunshineproject.org.uk