



*Bringing help to
Philippine Children with disabilities*

NEWS

Issue No 8 - August 2004

Keeping you in touch with the work of the Project

MORE HELP FOR CHILDREN

...with launch of Outreach Medical Programme

In this issue Florencia, the Secretary of the Bambang Sunshine Project, reports on the hectic three weeks she spent in the Philippines just before Christmas. While she was there she shared in the start of the Outreach Medical Programme. Although previously, children in the Project were seen by a doctor and their illnesses diagnosed, little practical help was possible. Under the Outreach Medical Programme, the Project has been able to take children to specialist doctors in the neighbouring province of Isabella and to the Makati Medical Centre in Manila. Now for example, the children who are suffering from epilepsy and similar illnesses, are seen regularly and are getting medication that helps control their fits.

Florencia praises the active and committed Partner Committee members and volunteers in the Philippines who make sure the activities of the Project are carried out. One of their breakthroughs, is slowly but surely discovering from government officials what help may be obtained for the children and their families.

REPORT FROM THE PARTNER COMMITTEE

The UK committee raises funds for use by the Partner Committee in the Philippines.

We have been conducting regular

Help from Filipino Women's Association

Florencia and UK Committee Member John Stacey represented the Project at the Filipino Women's Association's 16th Philippine National Day celebration Dinner and Dance at the Millennium Hotel, Mayfair in June. A lively, happy occasion was graced by the presence of the Ambassador, His Excellency Eduardo Espititu and the Right Honourable Ann Widdecombe MP. Florencia and John took the opportunity to spread the word about the important work of our Project. To round the evening off, John won first prize in the raffle - £500. He immediately donated £200 of his unexpected win to the Bambang Project. The Filipino Women's Association supports many educational projects in different parts of the Philippines and generously sponsor music training for one of our children, Jake Fontanilla who is blind.

Fundraising with the Flora Women's Challenge



The annual Flora Women's Challenge, a three mile fun run, or walk if you prefer, is on Sunday 5th September. This is our main yearly fund raising event. Thank you to all those who have already agreed to participate and have submitted entry forms to the organisers. We are still inviting ladies to join our group and enjoy the fun and atmosphere of the day and we are still looking for more sponsors for those already committed to run. For more information e-mail Florencia on florencia@bambangsunshineproject.org.uk or phone her on 07790 478 216.

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• Families supported by the Project.

Florencia's Visit to the Philippines

Week One -A seminar/workshop

Florencia attended a seminar/workshop about the vision for the future of the Project, which was held for Partner Committee members and volunteers. This was a follow-up on the report by the Project's UK Chairman and Sue Beavis, our website designer, when they explored the Project's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats on their visit last year. Everyone actively participated and agreed that the seminar had given them a better understanding of their roles and a clearer view of what then project could do for the children in the future.

Week Two - Early Christmas Party

Christmas was celebrated early with a party for the children and their carers. There was a well organised programme by the Partner Committee and they were helped by the volunteers with the activities for the children. There were games, dancing, singing and face painting, which the children and their carers enjoyed. Town officials and community leaders were also invited and they promised full support to the Project. The Chairman of the Parents/Carers committee expressed their appreciation of the Project, which made them feel supported and valued. The visiting UK Committee Members distributed Christmas parcels to the excited children before everyone shared and enjoyed Christmas lunch. The party culminated in the children and their carers giving a touching rendition of a Filipino Thank You song, which they dedicated to the UK Committee, all donors and supporters of the Project.

Week Three - Outreach Medical Programme Started

Our Outreach Medical Programme was started when Florencia and two other committee members travelled 50 miles to the clinic of a doctor who checked four of the children suffering from cerebral palsy and epilepsy. These children are now being helped by the medication that the doctor prescribed. Also during the week, Florencia had a meeting with the parents and carers committee to find out what their thoughts, aspirations and expectations were from the project.

OUTREACH MEDICAL PROGRAMME IN ACTION

As well as taking children with cerebral palsy and epilepsy to a clinic fifty miles away where they were examined, and prescribed treatment, the Outreach Medical Programme was able to arrange for two children with cleft palates to be operated on. The operations were carried out at the provincial hospital of Nueva Vizcaya. This was



under a government programme offered to families who are unable to pay for the operations. We would like to thank the Mayor for providing the municipal ambulance to transport the children to the clinic or hospital.

We are now slowly discovering ways of helping the children and their families, by building up contacts with local government officials and community workers, who have the knowledge of new government programmes, that charge minimal fees or even give free treatment, to people with disabilities who cannot afford to pay.



Officers elected at Annual General Meeting

The 6th Annual General Meeting of the Project took place at the Union Jack Club in June.

The following officers were elected.

Chairman - Dave Mowbray
Secretary - Florencia Kingscote
Treasurer - Alan Beavis.

Join us for £1

Annual membership of the Bambang Sunshine Project cost a minimum subscription of £1. Completing an application form will enable the Project to keep in touch with its supporters. In order that our work can continue and expand, we need additional volunteers to take on some of the committee work. The Secretary would be pleased to hear from anyone who can spare a couple of hours in promoting our work.

In particular we need volunteers to initiate and organise local fund raising events to support our work. Members of the Scout Fellowship who support our work might like to organise one event a year to raise funds.

Promotional items

Don't forget to visit our website for all the latest news and promotional items like calendar and year planners available as free downloads. Get copies printed and distributed to create more awareness of what we are doing and attract support from the Business Community.

Printed copies are available from the Treasurer together with Publicity Pens, just email us from the website and wait for the goodies to arrive in the post.



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

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