



*Bringing help to
Philippine Children with disabilities*

NEWS

Issue No 18 - Spring 2010

Keeping you in touch with the work of the Project

BRINGING SUNSHINE INTO CHILDREN'S LIVES

One of the great problems of having a disability is that you can be withdrawn from every day life and miss out on the fun that able people enjoy. This is why, as well as attending to physical requirements, the Bambang Sunshine Project places great emphasis on meeting the social and spiritual needs of the children of the Project. Overleaf we have a review of the activities that the committee in Bambang has organised during the last year for the children, which has brought great joy and we hope a little sunshine into their lives.

Florencia, Secretary and founder of the Project, will be visiting the Philippines this April and will be meeting with the Bambang committee and the parents. She will be seeking to find out what concerns they have for the children and how the Project can help further to meet these concerns.

LOVE IN ACTION- FUNDRAISING BY THE COMMITTEE IN ENGLAND

ADIDAS WOMEN'S CHALLENGE 2009

Once again our biggest annual fundraising event took place in London's Hyde Park when thousands of energetic women took part to raise funds for the charity of their choice. We graciously thank the 14 women who formed the Bambang Sunshine Project team to jointly raise the marvellous sum of £1,076 for the children with special needs in the Philippines. Mabuhay and well done to the team.



...at Westminster Cathedral VALENTINE CONCERT

Thanks to Kevin Greenan for giving us an opportunity to raise funds for the Project from the proceeds of raffle tickets. Two very talented Filipino singers, Lester Calucag and Nicole Villarin, performed at the concert and we predict they will be on X Factor one day. We raised £110.

We acknowledge with thanks the donors of the raffle prizes; Luigi Boito of L'Arco restaurant,

Chicoy Inerio and Miss Chit Afuang from the Philippine tourist Office, Ana Dunn, Franceslina Batten, John Stacey and Tom Preddle.

AUTUMN FAIR

We were pleased to have been given a pitch in the Autumn Fair held at the Cathedral Hall not only to raise funds for the children but also to promote the work of our Project.

Our sincere thanks to friends and supporters who donated bric-a-brac, which raised £100 for the Project.

INCREASED NUMBERS FOR 8 BRIDGES WALK

Our fundraising Thames walk over 8 bridges in March, initiated by our very energetic member Eric Considine, is in its third year and we are pleased to see that the number of walkers increased to 16 this year. Once again, McDonalds provided lunch at a discount... Mabuhay to 'Eric's Team'. Shall we 'walk the walk' again next year?

WELCOME TO THE TEAM

Through the volunteering Scheme of the Westminster Volunteer Centre in Paddington, three young fundraising volunteers have offered their help. We are pleased to welcome Harry Achillini and Patricia Reiner. Harry and Patricia helped at the Valentine Concert and we look forward to them helping at fundraising events in the future.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We very much appreciate the donation of £100 from the Walter Hines Page Chapter, NDSR, towards the education of the 8 children who are hard of hearing and without speech. Thanks to our member Susie Vincent who recommended us to NDSR.

Our thanks go to David Herrera Manager of Wagamama in Victoria for donating 6 restaurant vouchers for our raffle at our next event.

We thank the very kind and long standing members and supporters whose valuable help in many ways enables us to continue to give help to the children with special needs.

A big thank you to Berkshire Scout Enterprises for their support over the years with the printing of our newsletters and flyers.

SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM held on Wednesday 24th March at the Notre Dame de France, 16 Leicester Square, was a successful and well attended event. Our thanks to Father Paul Walsh who gave permission for us to use the Maison Pierre Chanel building.

Help for Philippine Flood Victims

The devastating effects of typhoon Ondoy, seen on our TV screens in September prompted our London Committee to send £500 to the Jesuit Centre in Manila to help those who were flooded in Manila. Thankfully, the children and families of the Project in Nueva Vizaya province were not affected. The Jesuit Centre has since written telling us how our donation was helping to rehabilitate the families affected by the floods.

THANKS FROM BAMBANG

We send warm greetings to all the very kind and generous supporters of the Bambang Sunshine Project. Your valuable support means we can continue to help the 60 children with special needs. It gives us the strength, courage and inspiration to carry on with this difficult task as well as being a source of joy and hope for the children and their parents.

Without your financial support we could not meet the demands of our challenging but equally satisfying work. You are all a blessing to the children and please be reassured that your kind donations are benefiting the 60 children we are helping. I hope that you will be encouraged by these reports of the different activities of the Project. Thank you all very much.

Mrs Erlenita Soriano, Chairperson, Bambang.

A special and exciting Christmas 2009

Christmas this year was very special and exciting with a marvellous treat for the children kept secret until the last minute. Santa came to town with a big sack containing a special gift for each of the children. The boys were given toy cars and the girls received dolls. These surprise gifts came from a generous donor, Mrs Susie Vincent and her friends. The afternoon was devoted to writing thank you letters and drawing Christmas scenes which were later posted to supporters an England and elsewhere.



It was a joy to watch the children enjoying themselves, singing carols, playing games, dancing, laughing and getting on well with one another. The parents entertained the children with a song for the 'angles' who help their children.

Sweets and apples were kindly donated by the Mayor of Bambang, Honourable Jamie Cuaresma, and we are grateful for the support the Bambang committee receive from the local town hall officials. We hope to get a positive response to a request for a small office in one of the government buildings



Pre-School get together

The pre-school get together, organised by the Bambang committee in May, prepared the children who were due to go to school in June. They were given school bags, uniforms, shoes and school supplies. Encouragement was given to the children to do well at school and to the parents to support them in their school work. Those children who did well in the last school year were given their awards on Recognition Day in March.

Distribution of vegetable seeds

During June, Mr Miranda, the Treasurer, distributed vegetable seeds to the children's families. These encourage them to continue with their backyard gardening, which not only provides healthy food for the family but helps to supplement their income.

Home visits to the housebound

Home visits to the children who are housebound continue throughout the year. The committee members offer emotional support and encouragement to the children and their parents as well as helping financially with the needs in caring for the children.

Productive Garden Winners

Winners of the most productive garden this year were Mr and Mrs Castro of Abian village. They were presented with a set of gardening tools and a bag of seed at the Valentine Celebrations.

Colourful Valentine Celebrations

The Day of Hearts was a colourful and joyous day for the children. The hall was decorated with a big red heart in the middle of the stage with the words 'We love Bambang Sunshine Project'. The children, parents and guests came in red dresses and a white heart was pinned on the children's tops with names of supporters from England.

A very shy but happy Aubrey Banejo and equally shy Wilson Antonio were chosen Miss and Mr Valentine and they were full of smiles as Mrs Tubyan and Mrs Urban pinned on their sashes. Aubrey is aged 14 years but looks like a three old due to retarded growth and Wilson is a 12 year old boy without hearing or speech.

FUTURE EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2010

The committee in Bambang met to plan their activities for the children during 2010.

- March** Recognition Day – The children who attend school are given recognition for the school year 2009-2010.
- April** Easter Sunday – Celebrations and Easter egg hunting, games, songs and dancing.
- May** The annual day trip to the Provincial Capitol for children and parents. School supplies will be issued at this event. Children enjoy the rides and playground apparatus in the park.
- June** The school year 2010-2011 begins. The Management committee monitor the progress of the children during school term.
- November** Halloween get together – A day set aside for parents to make Halloween costumes. At the party the children enjoy story telling, parlour games, singing and dancing. The Project pays for materials used during the workshops as well as the cost of the hall hires, food and other expenditure.

The Management committee holds meetings and discussions that concern individual children throughout the year. Home visits are made with reporting on the children who are housebound. Visiting the children takes time as they do not live in one area. Travelling costs and other miscellaneous expenses of two paid volunteers are paid for by the Project.

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

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