

# BAMBANG SUNSHINE PROJECT



Newsletter

Issue No 23 Spring 2014

## HOME SWEET HOME AFTER THREE YEARS

**In this issue** we report on Florencia's visit to Bambang. A hectic time for her but more importantly a rewarding time for the Project. As well as a happy period for the children we are helping and their families, it was also an important, special and re-bonding time for Florencia with her sisters, Filomena from Florida and Franceslina from London and with her Bambang based family members. During our Founder and Secretary's long interlude away from her family and friends, Florencia has been very occupied, retiring from work, moving home – a very stressful experience but she has been able with modern technology, to keep abreast of the activities and development of the Project, which continues to be robust.

### GET TOGETHER PROGRAMME

Florencia, Filomena and Franceslina were pleased to meet the children, their parents, carers and volunteers together with the three teachers of the Special Education pupils at a get together at the Bambang Central School gym on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2013. The three sisters were touched by the warm reception they received. The parents and children sang songs, the children with speech and hearing difficulties danced delightfully and the other children presented their drawings. It was an emotional time for Florencia, watching and talking to the children and their parents and she was touched by the stories of the parents of their daily struggles in bringing up children with special needs. It was reassuring to see the Project as a comfortable welcoming entity within the local community, growing in confidence in its daily experience of assisting children with disabilities and their families.



### MRS SORIANO RETIRES AS CHAIRPERSON

At the first Committee meeting during Florencia's visit, the Chairperson, Mrs Soriano expressed her intention of standing down. Her advancing years as well as health issues of her beloved husband, Pastor Soriano, had prompted her decision. Florencia accepted her resignation and thanked her for her leadership of the project over the years. Both Pastor and Mrs Soriano had diligently supported the Project .

### JOHN (JACK) KEEN 2/07/1930 – 16/03/2014

It is with great sadness that we report the passing away peacefully on 16<sup>th</sup> March of our long standing and committed London committee member, John Keen. Jack, as he was fondly known, served the Project since its inception and always carried out his responsibility for the safe remittance of monies to the bank account of the Project in Bambang in a dependable and cheerful manner. The Project was enriched by his great love and support for the children and the London and Bambang committees. The members of the Bambang Sunshine Project thank God for the life of this wonderful, patient caring and generous man. May you rest in peace.



# BAMBANG SUNSHINE PROJECT

bringing help to Philippine children with disabilities



## 'OLD' COMMITTEE HANDS OVER THE REINS

For the past 15 years, the committee has served the Project's mission and in its valuable help for the children in need, it has grown in strength and expectations. It now considered that it was time to transfer its responsibilities and work to a newly constituted committee, who could carry on from the sound foundations to advance the valuable work of the Project. The good endeavours of Mrs Soriano and her committee were gratefully acknowledged and warmly appreciated.

## WARM WELCOME TO THE NEW COMMITTEE

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2014, the Hon Ruth Padilla, Governor of Nueva Vizcaya Province, guest speaker, inducted the new committee members together with the Bambang Sunshine Project's Parents Forum. Honourable Merlie Talingdan and Honourable Bambang Mayor Flaviano Balgos were also present as the event coincided with celebrations of Valentines Day. A full report in our next newsletter. Damiana Pangilinan, formerly Secretary is the new Chairperson. Trece Ukol is Vice Chairperson Sergio Miranda retains his role as Treasurer, Enrique Cayaban is the new Secretary and the new committee members are, Rudolfo and Mercy Daguio, Dolly Ricardo and Ben Cayaban. We are confident that the Project's future is in competent and safe hands

## NEW LONDON CHAIRMAN

The London committee also has a new Chairperson, Jonathan Lipscomb who has been our Treasurer for the past seven years. His financial expertise will continue to benefit the Project as he will (for the time being) combine the two roles. The committee are happy with this new arrangement and express its gratitude to Tom Preddle, the outgoing Chairman for all his work on behalf of the Project over the past seven years.

## SUCCESSFUL EIGHT BRIDGES WALK

Our annual fund raising 8 Thames Bridges Walk was very successful with a record 43 'walkers' taking part. Full report in our next newsletter.



## A NEW LOOK...

Our supporters will have noticed that we are displaying a new logo. This was designed in Bambang by one of the children's parents, Chona with the help of Dionel. Our thanks to both designers .



## DONATIONS ALWAYS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

Since our last newsletter we have received several donations for which we are always grateful and delighted. All donations are promptly acknowledged with an official receipt and a letter (unless anonymously). We are indebted to the goodness and generous kindness which accompanies all donations

## The Parents Forum...



**THANKS TO BERKSHIRE SCOUT ENTERPRISES** Our thanks are due to Berkshire Scout Enterprises for our former logo and their help in producing and print our newsletters and support over the past 15 years.

