



*Bringing help to
Philippine children with disabilities*

Keeping you in touch with the work of the project

Welcome

to this Winter issue of our newsletter

In Bambang, summer has gone and the monsoon season has now set in. The memories of a happy summer enjoyed by the children, assisted by the Project, are recorded in the reports and photos that are included in this newsletter. We do hope that you will be pleased by the following news.

A Day Out for Parents

On May 31st, 2011 the parents had their own special time together in a workshop relating to skills training, listening skills, and retreat; the workshop was conducted by members of the committee. The committee



Parents Together

and parents were accompanied by Mr. Joe Tubayan, a Board member of the Provincial Government, who showed the group the sights; the quiet of the forest, the surrounding hills, and the nearby Magat River. A talk was given by the Director of Reforestation and Conservation.



Mountain Climbing

After lunch the Reverend Pastor Soriano led the group in Bible readings. After which the parents had a valuable time of sharing; touching on the various difficult, and often stressful, experiences of a

parent bringing up a child with a disability. There was time for fun after lunch and some of the group went mountain climbing and walking along the Magat River, while others just enjoyed the peaceful environment of the forest.

Vizcaya Day Festival May 24th, 2011

The Chairperson our partner committee, Mrs. Erlenita Soriano has written to us to thank all the walkers in the March 8 Thames Bridges Walk, in London. The money raised "helped the children to enjoy a fantastic summer day out, full of joy and fun". The Chairperson also wrote in her letter:



Children and Parents at Vizcaya Festival

"The children could not stop smiling when I told them that they are going to the Vizcaya Day Festival in Bayombong (Provincial Capital of Nueva Vizcaya). This is an annual festival where all the towns in Nueva Vizcaya take part in a contest, displaying all their crops and craft goods.

The children were counting the days with much anticipation and excitement, and so on May 24, 2011, the parents with their children and the members of the committee arrived early at the capitol grounds to secure a picnic area in advance of the unavoidable congestion. The parents took their children to see the displays in front of the huge capitol building. The children were given equal amounts of 350.00 pesos (£5.00) to spend on whatever they wished. The children bought balloons, candies, cakes, and toys. Many of the children enjoyed the various rides set up in the park for the festival.

It was a fun day full of continuous laughter. The happy smiles and sense of amusement on the faces of the children were priceless gifts which no sum of money could buy. Thank you to all the friends, donors, and supporters of the Bambang Sunshine Project who made this joyous day possible. May all our kind and generous supporters be encouraged by the photos taken at the different events that were held during the previous months."

Mrs. Erlenita Soriano, Chairperson

Visits to Housebound Children

The members of the Bambang committee continue to support the children and their parents with regular visits to the homes of housebound children. Basic rations of food and medicines are distributed to the children, while their parents are given emotional support which reminds them that they are not alone in the difficulties and hardships of their individual situations.



Annual 8 Thames Bridges Walk 19th March 2011

Bearing in mind the gloomy economic circumstances we are all experiencing, we were especially moved by the generous financial support of the



Eric Considine and his Walking Team

many individual donors and business who sponsored the participants of the annual 8 Thames Bridges Walk. Our thanks go to the thirteen walkers, and a very special thank you to our very energetic Eric Considine, who has faithfully led the walkers every year since it started in March 2008 (we can't keep up!).

A huge thank you to Wagamama restaurant, Cardinal Place in Victoria, for providing lunch for the team of walkers. Great appreciation to Giovani, the manager, and the warm hospitality of all the members of staff who served us. Next year perhaps our dear Eric will make this event a major pre-Olympic games spectacle! We warmly welcome anyone who is thinking about joining in next year. Please contact Florencia for details: 07875 867739.

Annual Fund Raising: Addidas Women's 5k Challenge 11th September 2011

On Sunday 11th September, our BSP Running Team of 10 ladies joined the biggest annual UK fun run for women, in Hyde Park.

On a windy day our team ran themselves off their feet to raise money for all the children with disabilities that the project is helping. A big thank you to the generous sponsors who made this possible, and to all the helpers



BSP Running Team 2011, with their Friends and Supporters

who supported the runners. We welcomed some new found friends to the Project. We look forward to the new supporters joining us for future events.

Membership

John Stacey, our faithful Membership Secretary, of many years had decided to take a break from this role. We acknowledge John's enthusiastic work on behalf of the Project; he will continue as a committee member. Franceslina Batten will take over the administration of the Membership Scheme, and she will shortly be in touch with all registered members

If you are not a member, and would like to join the scheme, please contact Franceslina for a membership form on 07824 516307 or email battenlina@yahoo.com. The current membership fee is a minimum payment of £3.50 annually.

Back to School

In early July the Bambang committee held a 'Back to School' programme for the children, to prepare them for the 2011-2012 school year. The day was a success, with much playing games, singing songs, and dancing.

The older children helped the younger children with their reading and drawing, while others were assisted with their letter writing to the kind supporters in London (and elsewhere). The committee members also handed out school uniforms, bags, pens and other essential school items that are needed by the children.

Acknowledgements

We appreciate the kind and generous support from:

- St. Anne's Roman Catholic Primary School: Mr. Morgan Williams, staff and pupils - £380.00
- John Lewis PLC, Oxford Street: Amanda Friend - £100.00
- Knights of St. Columba: J. McCormac GK - £50.00
- West End Advise & Counselling Service: Nicole Paice - £110
- Alan Hill and Staff of Ibox Property Constructions - £90.00
- Mayfair Community Library: Katrina Blench, library staff. Donated new children's books.

We thank everyone for their continuing loyal support. Your valuable assistance enables the London and Bambang committees to help the children we care for and ensure that their lives are made better and happier.

Your kind interest in this good cause means so much to the children and their carers, who depend greatly on your kindness.

Sincere and grateful thanks, and a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year to all our kind supporters. God bless you all.