



BAMBANG SUNSHINE PROJECT

bringing help to Philippine children with disabilities

Newsletter

Issue No 21
Winter 2012/13

UK Contact: Florencia C Kingscote, Secretary Bambang Sunshine Project Tel 07875 867 739
email flora_k78@yahoo.co.uk www.bambang sunshineproject.org.uk

DESPITE THE FLOODING A BUSY YEAR IN BAMBANG

A warm welcome to this our winter newsletter in which we let our supporters know about the Project's achievements during the past twelve months. Over the years we have been able to directly help children with physical difficulties such as providing prosthetic limbs but we also ensure that Project's children have an education that they would otherwise be denied. This year the Project was presented with a plaque by the new Special Needs School to recognise its contribution. The devastating floods suffered by the Philippines this year, unfortunately curtailed some of the social events organised to ensure the children enjoy some of the special events of the year but we hope that you will be encouraged by the news and photos of the children who are assisted by

AN ENJOYABLE CHRISTMAS PARTY TO START THE YEAR

Our first report is of the Christmas party which was a happy event for the children but their parents all joined in the activities which were planned for the whole day. The children played games with prizes, sang songs, made drawings and the older children read books to the younger ones. The parents danced and led the children in singing carols. Christmas lunch was enjoyed by everyone and in the afternoon the highlight was in receiving the Christmas food basket which also included toys, apples and chocolates, ... a real treat for every child.



CELEBRATING VALENTINE'S DAY

The day began with the singing of the national anthem and opening prayers which included prayers for the children who had passed away, in particular Clarence Mendoza who was Mr Valentine 2008. This was followed by songs and dances by elementary and high school children. After some acoustic games followed by mimic dance, came the exchange of hearts and selection of the next Mr and Mrs Valentine.

Then the highlight of the day, the giving of sashes by the board and the coronation of the chosen Valentine girl was followed by more singing. The event finished with a light Merienda meal before it was time for everyone to say adieu.



The young children celebrate Christmas

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

The work of the Project has only been made possible by the kindness and generosity of our donors and supporters. Special mention to Headmaster Morgan Williams, staff and pupils of St Anne's Primary School for their loyal support with a collection each year at their summer fete. Much has been done to improve the lives of the children that we are helping but we appeal for continued support so that we may carry on with this valuable service. If you would like to support our work in bringing help to Philippine children with disabilities, please send a donation to our Treasurer.

Jonathan Lipscomb, 153 Bartholomew Close
East Hill, London SW18 1JG

HELP FOR FAMILY IN BEREAVEMENT

Our Partner committee in Bambang was sad to report that Clarence Mendoza passed away in January at just 10 years old. He had speech and hearing impairment and needed special attention due to a weak bladder. The Project was able to help Clarence's family with the funeral expenses. This sad occurrence paved the way for another child on the waiting list to be included in the Project.

NEW VOLUNTEERS RECRUITED

The Bambang Committee has been pleased to welcome new volunteers, who started helping out at the Valentine's party. They have proved to be actively committed to the work of helping the children of the Project. The new volunteers are; Tita Talingdan, Lorena Apongol and Noel and his wife Gina.



BAMBANG SUNSHINE PROJECT

There's lots more at.... www.bambangsunshineproject.org.uk

TYPHOONS AND FLOODING TOOK ITS TOLL

The rainy season started early in the Philippines. Torrential rains and flooding continued from March to June when the children should have been enjoying their summer holiday from school. This prevented the committee from organising two annual events, to which the children look forward. Due to the health risks in travelling to the Provincial Capital, the children were unable to go the May summer festival and the usual Easter celebration programme was cancelled for the same reason. However members of the committee visited and assisted the families whose homes were flooded taking food packs that helped them in their time of need.

HELP FOR HOUSEBOUND CHILDREN

We make sure that those children whose severe disabilities prevent them from being able to go outside the confines of their own homes, are not overlooked. The members of the committee support the children and their parents with regular visits. Their basic rations of food and medicines for the children are distributed, while their parents are given emotional support and training on health and hygiene. These visits remind them that they are not alone in their difficulties and hardships in caring for a disabled child.

A PLAQUE PRESENTED AT NEW SCHOOL OPENING

In July, a new school for Special Needs Education was inaugurated. Unfortunately the ground in front of the SPED building was in a very bad and muddy state. However, our partner committee donated a lorry load of sand and gravel to make the ground better for the children to walk on before the inauguration, which was attended by all 50 pupils and their families, out of which 15 are children from the Project. A plaque was presented to our Chairperson Mrs Soriano in recognition of what the Project has done for the education of disabled children in Bambang.

UPDATE: CHILDREN AIDED BY THE PROJECT

Since the Project's inception in 1999, there have been 9 children who completed their high school education and in their place, other children on the waiting list have joined the Project. At present the children we are helping are; 15 children with hearing or speech impairments are enrolled in Special Needs Education School. There are 33 children with physical disabilities, who are enrolled in main stream schools in their own communities. There are 4 children suffering from cerebral palsy and 8 children who are housebound

THE ANNUAL FUNDRAISING 8 LONDON BRIDGES

walkers show the flag in front of Westminster Cathedral



This annual fundraising event took place last March and this was the fifth year since it was initiated by our member Eric Considine. A big thank you to the 10 walkers who made up Eric's walking team and who had difficulty in keeping up with his walking pace. Our appreciation to Eric for his continuing support to the children of the Project and his infectious enthusiasm, energy and his dynamic leadership which is a source of inspiration. We were moved by the generous support of many individual donors and establishments that generously sponsored the 10 participants. You have made it possible for the children to have a happy Christmas this year. Our great appreciation also to Wagamama Restaurant in Cardinal Place, Victoria, for providing a hearty meal for the walkers. This is the second year running they have sponsored our Project. Our special thanks to Scott de Blasio, Manager Richard and for the warm hospitality of all the staff who served us.

WELCOME TO A SPECIAL GUEST FROM DOWN UNDER

In August the committee hosted a welcome for Mrs Rufella Newenhouse from Australia who has been a generous sponsor for many years. She was originally from Bambang but has lived in Australia for over 30 years. Both the children and the parents entertained her with songs and dances. Rufella's message to the children and their parents was touching and inspiring. She said she was pleased to see the children and to learn about the help they had received from the Project. She promised to encourage others from Australia to support it. The memorable day gave the opportunity for the committee to distribute school uniforms, bags, pens and other essential school items required by those children who attend school.



Kuffella Newenhouse with committee members