

NEWS

Issue No 24 - Winter 2014 - 2015

Bringing hope and help to children with disabilities



A very warm welcome to the winter issue of our newsletter

In this issue, we are pleased to report news of the various activities of the children of the Bambang Sunshine Project in the last 10 months. We hope that all our many supporters and friends as well as readers of this newsletter, will be pleased and encouraged by the news and photos of the children who are assisted by the Project.

Valentine's Day Celebration 2014

The children, with their parents celebrated this day of love with a programme held in the Senior Citizen's Hall. Mr. Valentine this year was Darwin Sotto whose birthday coincidentally falls on February 14. He was so happy to be chosen Mr. Valentine. Cloudeth Ofrancia was thrilled to be crowned Miss Valentine. The whole day event was full of laughter, activities and shared fun for all the children. Their parents also participated in the parlour games and enjoyed line dancing.



Mr and Miss Valentine - Joined by Dr. Enrique Cayaban and his wife Dolores.

Recognition Day Celebrations 2014

The month of March marks the end of the school year. The Bambang Partner Committee organised a programme to formally congratulate and acknowledge the children of the Project who finished school 2013-2014. The children and their parents presented to the Committee Members their school certificates and achievement result cards. This was also an opportunity for the Committee to assess the children who are to be given help in the next school year. The children made drawings and thank you notes to their teachers and parents and also to the Management Committee in Bambang.

April Town Fiesta 2014

April is a happy occasion for Bambang as it celebrates it's popular annual Town Fiesta.



Bambang is bustling with festivities during this month. Parades, town fares, school fates, and contests of all descriptions are enjoyed. The children supported by the Project happily joined in the town parade and participated in the public dances and shows. They were given pocket money to spend on the rides and in the sweet shops. They had great fun going around the different stalls and shows in the town plaza.

Special Education School (SPED)

In April 2014, Bambang Sunshine Project gave a donation of 5 computers to SPED for the use by the children without speech and hearing. The three SPED teachers were as excited and grateful as the children were when the computers were delivered to the school. The new "toys" for the children made delivering learning easier for the

teachers as the children were kept occupied in learning and developing a new skill rather than just mainly playing and drawing.



The teachers said they would appreciate more computers for the children in their special school. On their behalf, the London Committee would therefore wish to kindly ask for help from generous donors in order to buy additional computers. Do please contact Florencia if you can help.

Golden Moments to celebrate in May 2014

May is a month of festivals and celebrations. On Saturday, May 10, the children of the Project were participants in the Annual Nueva Vizcaya "Ammungan" or "Gathering" Festival in the Provincial Capital, Bayombong. The Partner Committee hired transport to take our group to take part in the programme and parade around the town.



Karen Samilen was the chosen candidate for the Bambang Sunshine Project to participate in the beauty contest for children with disabilities in Nueva Vizcaya. Karen is 15 years old. She is without speech and is attending the SPECIAL EDUCATION School in Bambang. It was a special moment when Karen was declared the winner of Miss Ammungan 2014. Karen's escort, Ronald Ordonia who has speech and hearing impairment was very honoured to go round the stage with Karen while they were applauded. It was a proud moment for the Project and an unforgettable and memorable occasion for the children and their parents. A particular mention of thanks to our Patron, Madam Ruth Padilla, Governor of Nueva Vizcaya, who gave special permission for the members of the Project to have a stall on display for the day.

Regular Visits to the Housebound



Melissa is one of the housebound children who recieved a new mattress.

The London Committee is pleased to learn from the Bambang Committee that the children who are housebound are regularly visited and are helped with their basic needs of food, clothing, beddings and medication. The members of the Parents Committee also take turns to visit the children and give support to the parents who are caring for the children.

Main Fundraising Events held in London 2014

The Thames Bridges Walk held on Saturday, 8 March was a bumper year for the Project. There were 43 very energetic walkers including children. A big thank you to the late Eric Considine's family members who came to this fun walk across 8 Bridges. Many friends and members of the Filipino Club at Westminster Cathedral as well as Cathedral Parishioners made up the group of walkers who raised a marvellous sum of £ 3,165.63.



On behalf of the Committee members of both London and Bambang including the children and their families, we thank "Eric's walking team" for their kind participation. We also thank their very generous sponsors who have supported the walkers over the years.

The 2015 walk will be on Saturday 21 March. We hope that our number last year will be matched by the number of participating walkers this year, if not more. If you wish to participate in the 8 Thames Bridges Walk, please phone Florencia on 0787 5867 739 for more details.



On Saturday April 4, 2014, the younger members of the London Committee namely, Franceslina,

Anna and Dulce organised a Disco evening to raise funds for the Project.



The event was held in Umi Hotel and Restaurant in Bayswater, London. The event was attended by friends and supporters who enjoyed the disco and karaoke. This fund raising initiative made a net income of £244.06.

Special appreciation to all those who kindly supported these two events with their presence and for donations and sponsorships. Additionally, grateful thanks to all those who subscribe to the Project's funds on a regular basis.

Newly appointed Remittance Officer.

Following the death of our dedicated Remittance Officer, John Keen who devotedly fulfilled the task of remitting the much needed money donations to the Project in Bambang, for 12 years, we have a newly appointed Remittance Officer in the person of committee member, John Stacey. We thank John for taking on this very important role.

Bereavement

It is with sadness that we report the death of three children that the Project supports. We remember Krysa Recites who died in August 2014, four months after her father's tragic death from a road accident. Aubrey Banejo, and Fe Olagon, died in September. The families of the three children were helped by the Project. Please remember them and their parents, and family members in your prayers.

Thanks and Appreciation

Despite the challenges of the severe economic times, we are extremely grateful for the continuing financial donations from our supporters. 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 confidently carry on our existing help. As we start the year 2015, the Project is heading towards its 15 years anniversary of its inauguration. We sincerely express our deep gratitude to all our loyal supporters for their commitment and generosity which had made possible all that has been achieved. If you would like to support our work in bringing help to Filipino Children with disabilities, please send your donations to our Treasurer: All donors will receive an official receipt.

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Some parents expressing their thanks to donors and supporters of the project with a song - During the Valentines Programme.

New Year 2015 Greetings:

Sincere greetings and best wishes for the New Year. May the peace and joy of the recent feast of Christmas renew and sustain the love, care and affection that we have for the children of the project. May the New Year bring you and your families fresh hope for a prosperous 2015. As we start the New Year we renew our ambition to work for the continuing viability and

success of the Project. Your on-going support will be a beacon of light and hope to the children of the Project. They will enjoy another Christmas and New Year with the knowledge of the love that you have given through the generosity of their Christmas parcels that they received. They will no doubt, also enjoy their Christmas lunch prepared by the hard working Partner Committee, who tirelessly work to assist the children, their parents and carers.

New Committee 2014



The new Bambang Committee members and the newly formed Parents Committee have made a sound start in the management of the Project. Their obvious dedication and commitment are much appreciated. The London and Bambang Committees pledge their full support to the Parents Committee and wish them every success in their future activities and plans for the children of the Project.



Parents and children singing at the monthly programme.



Parents Committee preparing Christmas parcels for the children.



Children from the Special Education School with their Principal and teachers.



Aisha, visually impaired, winner of the song contest at the Ammungan Festival.



Photo taken during monthly social gathering.



Nena Schwartz and Franceslina Batten, sisters of Florencia, speaking to the children during their visit in 2013.



Easter 2015

The Project takes this early opportunity to wish all of it's supporters, children, their parents and the committee members a joyful and Holy Easter,