

Fall/Winter 2002

***"Do we look at the poor with compassion? They are hungry not only for food, they are hungry to be recognized as human beings. They are hungry for dignity and to be treated as we are treated. They are hungry for our love."***

**– Mother Teresa –**

### PMM SUPPORTS CHILD HOPE ASIA PHILIPPINES

PMM agreed to support the projects of Child Hope Asia Philippines (CHAP) during its meeting in July 2002. CHAP is a non-profit, non-governmental organization founded in 1989 to address the plight of streetchildren. CHAP has geared its efforts to protect the rights of streetchildren, to provide them access to basic services, and to uphold their dignity. As such, CHAP conducts virtual classes to educate the streetchildren in value formation, primary health care, AIDS, and drug abuse prevention. The first project to be supported by PMM is the Junior Health Workers (JHW) Program. This program is expected to provide training to 60 streetchildren from 11-15 years of age. The training will include topics in primary health care, basic first aid, and sexually transmissible infections. The JHW are expected to assist other streetchildren who have health problems/concerns in two *barangays* (communities) in Paco, a district of Manila.

Ms. Tessie Silva, an internationally renowned Filipino social worker, heads CHAP. Ms. Silva has been invited to several international forums as a speaker. She attended recently the 2002 United Nations General Assembly where she presented a paper on the rights of streetchildren.

With the alarmingly increasing streetchildren in Metro Manila (estimated at 75,000), PMM is committed to assist CHAP in furthering the education of streetchildren in health care through funding of specific projects and through referrals of streetchildren to the Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission's (FOLPM) Hospital for the Poor. [Editor's Note: For more on CHAP, please visit [www.childhope.org.ph](http://www.childhope.org.ph)]

### STREET CHILDREN WORLDWIDE: AN OVERVIEW

- UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) estimates 100 million street children live and work in the streets of the cities of the world. The majority are in the developing countries: 40 M in Latin America, 10 M in Africa, 25 M in Asia (with **1.6 M in the Philippines**). Street children are mainly boys, but the number of girls is increasing.
- War, poverty, natural disasters, family disintegration, AIDS and violence are the major reasons why children live and work on the streets. They are often victims of sexual abuse, exploitation, lack access to adequate health care, nutrition, hygiene and have very little opportunity to claim their rights. For more information, please visit **Human Rights Watch**: [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org).

### A MESSAGE FROM FR. GERRY CREEDON

To all PMM volunteers and friends,

I call on all the members and friends of St. Charles Borromeo Philippine Medical Mission (PMM) to renew their support to the streetchildren of the Philippines. The commitment to human dignity and to human life is an essential element of our faith commitment. This project puts flesh on those values. I especially commend PMM because you bring to this effort not only great heart but clear intelligence and organizational ability. You have my enthusiastic encouragement as we prepare to celebrate the season of the Lord of Life.

*Gerry Creedon*

Gerry Creedon, Pastor, St. Charles



Street educators conducting a class for streetchildren.

### AFTER THE STREET: CHAP SUCCESS STORIES OF FORMER STREETCHILDREN

Richard, 18 years old, is a former street-based child. He came from the province of Bicol. His parents separated when he was a baby. His mother went overseas to find a job while his father remarried. Richard's father died when he was 8 years old and eventually his stepmother abandoned him.

Nowhere to go, Richard went to Manila and chanced upon the streets of Luneta where he stayed and spent his first few days. In 1996, a street educator met Richard. After a series of counseling sessions, the street educator encouraged Richard to go to a residential center. Richard's improvements were remarkable and he showed great interest to study. Through the street educator of Childhope, he was transferred to Center for Migrant Youth so he could go to school. Father Ben J. Villote, the center director, facilitated his enrollment in high school despite not having graduated from grade school.

Richard acknowledges and greatly appreciates the help that the street educator extended to him. Presently, he is on his 2<sup>nd</sup> year in college as a scholar at Far Eastern University-East Asia, taking up Computer Engineering. [Editor's Note: For more CHAP success stories, please visit our web site at <http://pmm.stcharleschurch.org>]

## RNDM SISTERS PURCHASE NEW VEHICLE!

This November, due to the generosity of our donors, the Philippine Medical Mission was able to send \$8,000 to the Religious of Notre Dame of the Mission (RNDM) Sisters working in Kulaman with the people of the Dulangan Manobo tribe. With this money, together with contributions from two other church-funded organizations, the sisters were able to buy a new, reliable four-wheel drive vehicle, enabling them to continue to serve people in hard-to-reach, outlying areas.

Sr. Kathleen Prendergast of RNDM writes "Thank you all for your support. Words cannot express just how much your prayer, concern, and financial support mean to the Dulangan Manobo people and to us. I guess one word comes to mind – LOVE. We see your partnership as a loving one." [Editor's Note: For more information about RNDM, please visit their web site at [www.rndm.org](http://www.rndm.org)]



The new RNDM vehicle getting its baptism of fire.

## CROSSLINK INTERNATIONAL TO ADOPT KULAMAN

CrossLink International, a humanitarian organization that sends medical supplies and equipment worldwide, agreed to provide the much-needed medicines for Kulaman. Last year, CrossLink, together with the St. Vincent de Paul Society, sent three 40-foot containers of equipment, beds, and supplies to FOLPMI's Hospital for the Poor. For more on CrossLink, please visit [www.crosslinkinternational.net](http://www.crosslinkinternational.net).

## IMF CIVIC PROGRAM AWARDS GRANT TO FOLPMI FEEDING CENTER FOR MALNOURISHED CHILDREN

Through a grant received in May 2002 from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Civic Program, the Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission, Inc. (FOLPMI) opened a new feeding center in Barangay Wawa and Puting Bato in Navotas, Manila. Sixty children are served one full meal daily for one year. Their caretakers are provided livelihood training, nutrition education, parenting, and basic health care classes.

On September 30, PMM submitted another grant proposal to the IMF Civic Program for funds to open a similar program in the Aeta Resettlement area in Zambales, Luzon.

## PMM ANNIVERSARY, RAFFLE, AND RETREAT

Last August 15 PMM celebrated three years of reaching out to the poorest among the poor. This third year of existence has not only been a year of fundraising but of soul-searching as well.

In conjunction with PMM's third year anniversary was the annual raffle. Thanks to our dedicated sponsors, especially Mr. Fred Sunga of Fiesta Oriental Store, this year's raffle was a resounding success. PMM was able to raise \$5,096 towards the purchase of a vehicle for RNDM (see article above). The vehicle will serve as a mobile clinic and will help access remote areas in Kulaman, Cotabato.

Early this fall, the core members of PMM held a retreat to assess the current state of the organization. It was also an appropriate time to conduct some strategic planning in order to move forward and grow as an organization. Consequently, PMM's vision, mission, and goals were drafted and currently being refined to ensure that those with an interest in the organization's success and the constituents that PMM serves all have a say in its future direction. [If you wish to volunteer, call Nick Tongson at 703-561-1144.]

## PMM UNVEILS ITS NEW WEB SITE

The past month has been exciting for PMM's web team. After a year of redesigning our web site and improving its content, PMM has finally deployed its new site as part of St. Charles Church's web site. The new site contains information geared towards current members, prospective volunteers, and potential donors including descriptions of current projects, upcoming events, and opportunities to get involved. Over the next year, we will continue to focus on improving our site. Our goal is for our web site to effectively communicate to others the impact that a group of caring individuals can have on making lives a little brighter for the poorest of the poor in the Philippines. To visit our web site, go to <http://pmm.stcharleschurch.org>.

## PMM SPONSORS AND FRIENDS

Last November 1<sup>st</sup>, the Simbang Gabi Group sponsored a "retro night" where close to 300 guests, headed by Fr. Creedon and Sr. Benedict, danced the night away to 70's music. Proceeds went to the St. Charles Parish Hall fund.

From 16-24 December at 5:00 a.m. each day, the Misa de Gallo will be celebrated at St. Charles. The Simbang Gabi Group is organizing a choir and is seeking volunteers and sponsors for these dawn masses. For more information, contact Fred Sunga at 703-516-9160.

## OUR VERY SPECIAL THANKS

CrossLink International, Inc.; St. Vincent de Paul Society; Café Asia; Little Quiapo Restaurant; Forex Cargo, Inc.; Mr. Manny Tagle, Fairfax Realty, Inc.; Philippine Embassy; Fil-Am Association of Manassas; Virgin of the Barangay, Inc.; IMF Civic & Community Relations Office; IMF/World Bank Filipino Association; Manila Café; St. Rose of Lima Parish; and  
**Fiesta Oriental Store: Open Daily**  
4815 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Arlington, VA 22202 (703-516-9160)