

Fall/Winter 2003

***"We are reminded that Jesus came to bring the Good News: My peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. He came not to give the peace of the world which is only that we do not harm each other. He came to give the peace of the heart which comes from loving – from doing good to others."***  
– Blessed Mother Teresa –

### PMM SUPPORTS FOLPMI'S FEEDING CENTERS

The Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission, Inc., FOLPMI ([www.folpmi.org.ph](http://www.folpmi.org.ph)) maintains six feeding centers, five of them supported through grants and donations received from various sources. PMM's support of FOLPMI's feeding centers is on its second year funded by grants from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Civic Community Relations.

In May 2002, FOLPMI received its first grant from the IMF's Civic Community Relations to fund a feeding center in two poor urban communities in Manila. This feeding program benefited malnourished pre-school children (infant to five years old). Sixty children were fed one nutritious meal a day from Monday to Friday. Parents/caretakers of the children were also educated on the importance of preparing a balanced diet, healthy lifestyle practices, and effective parenting. In addition to the feeding program, a livelihood project (peanut butter making) was also implemented in order to provide additional income for the family.

The program started in June 2002 and ended a year later. Overall, the feeding program was successful as the children showed marked improvement in weight. Initially, there were 20 children that were classified as severely malnourished but after a year there were only seven that are still severely malnourished. Thirty-six children attained normal weight at the end of the program.

Four-year old Jericho and his three-year old brother Ponkana Lezardo are two beneficiaries of the program. Their father is in jail and their mother has no income but she is thankful that her children benefit from the program. She helps in food preparation and when there are left over food from the feeding, she sets it aside for her family.

The success of the project brought about a second grant from the IMF in May 2003. This grant will fund a feeding center and a livelihood project for the Aetas living in the Aetas Resettlement Area. The Aetas is an indigenous tribe in the province of Zambales. They were displaced in 1991 when Mt. Pinatubo erupted. They fled the mountains and settled near coastal towns. Under this program, 30 malnourished pre-school children (infant to five years old) are beneficiaries of the Supplementary Feeding program. Their mothers are also provided livelihood skills like cotton-dye making, farming (mango tree planting), and raising poultry.

We believe that health care is a basic human right and are dedicated to supporting programs in the Philippines that provide access to health care for the poorest of the poor. PMM was established in order to promote the inherent right of the underprivileged communities in the Philippines to receive basic and adequate health care by supporting existing non-government organizations (NGO) that provide such services and to empower them, through education, to become responsible and productive members of society.

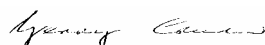
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### A MESSAGE FROM FR. GERRY CREEDON

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Philippine Medical Mission (PMM),

"My heart is moved with pity for the crowd for they have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry for fear they may collapse on the way." This quotation from Matthew is the foundational inspiration for the PMM which begins its fourth year of service to children in the Philippines - street children, malnourished children, and at-risk children. PMM promotes a family-centered approach that seeks to educate and empower men, women, and the families they support who are struggling to survive below the poverty level in the Philippines. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of a child born in a lowly manger, I will keep PMM in my prayers, asking for continued blessings and grace for this extraordinary committed family of volunteers. I hope all in the St. Charles community and beyond will join me in these prayers of gratitude and best wishes for continued success.

Salamat po (thank you),



Gerry Creedon, Pastor, St. Charles

### FOLPMI OPENS A SHELTER FOR STREET GIRLS

In April 2003, FOLPMI opened Angels' Home, a temporary shelter for street girls who are either orphans or abandoned by their families and are victims of sexual, physical, and emotional abuse. There are 9 children at the shelter whose ages range from 9 to 15 years. A number of them have been counseled by Child Hope Asia Philippines (CHAP, [www.childhope.org.ph](http://www.childhope.org.ph)), another PMM partner.

Gilda Ordoñez, PMM core member, recounts her visit to Angels' Home. *During my visit I met some of the girls called Little Angels and was able to talk to their house mother and the social worker who lives with them. The girls attend regular classes in nearby public schools. They are also provided food and clothing. At Angels' Home, they are given religious education and provided tutorials, counseling, and psychotherapy to aid them in their rehabilitation. In addition, they get regular medical and dental check-ups. The girls who were at the house during my visit related to me how they enjoyed learning how to cook and make crafts. They were happiest during their social activities when they played games, danced, and sang. Some of them aspired to become a doctor, teacher, nun, engineer, and singer.*

*While looking at them, it occurred to me that these Little Angels, in their simple surroundings, were experiencing such joy and delight for the first time in their young lives. From the cold, dark, and dangerous corners of the streets of Manila, these angels now sleep in a decent and clean house with a comfortable bed.*



Little Angels

## SURE FOUNDATION TO HELP FUND CHAP SHELTER

We are delighted to announce that The Sure Foundation ([www.the-sure-foundation.org](http://www.the-sure-foundation.org)) has approved the \$8,400 proposal submitted by PMM. The funding will cover one year of rental, utilities, and maintenance expenses for the Tahanan Sta. Luisa Drop-In/Crisis Intervention Center for street children operated by CHAP. The center assists girls who are victims of physical/sexual abuse and exploitation living on the streets in Manila. The Center provides a safe living environment, clinical/therapeutic psychosocial services, basic life skills development, and positive values enhancement through group living and non-formal education. In 2001 and 2002, 152 girls were assisted by the Center. Due to the generosity of the foundation and its donors, the Tahanan Sta. Luisa Drop-In/Crisis Intervention Center will continue to help sexually abused street girls in 2004. The foundation has helped children across the globe by meeting their urgent and holistic needs in terms of health, material needs, emotional well-being, education, and vocational training.

## UPDATE ON RNDM

### Not One but Two Nursing Scholarships for Kulaman

Because of the generosity of a parishioner at St. Charles, who gave a generous gift so that RNDM would be able to send another young woman to nursing school, we will soon have two scholars. The first scholar is Corazon Ondong, featured in our Spring/Summer Newsletter.

### RNDM to Build a Bigger Water Well

Because of another generous gift, RNDM, together with the Kulaman community, will be able to build a water well that will benefit ten *barangays* (villages). Last year, through your donation, RNDM built a small water well that provided safe water for one *barangay*.

The Religious of Notre Dame of the Missions (RNDM, [www.rndm.org](http://www.rndm.org)) Sisters have been working in the Philippines since 1987. In a new health care initiative, the Sisters are attempting to address the basic health care needs of the indigenous Dulangan Manobo (DM) people.



Their program targets 10 villages and will provide a simple, effective, and low-cost approach to health care and education by training tribe members in basic

health care procedures and providing them with tools to maintain basic standards of sanitation and hygiene.

Health care and health education are key issues for the DM people. The long-term goal is to empower the people to manage their own health care needs through training, education, and access to needed resources. Sister Kathleen Prendergast (New Zealander), RNDM Projects Director, thanks PMM for supporting their Health Program.

## CHAP PRESIDENT VISITS WASHINGTON, DC

Ms. Teresita Silva, President of Child Hope Asia Philippines (CHAP), a PMM partner, will be in our area during the first week of December to make a presentation at the World Bank Development Marketplace competition. She will be meeting other donor organizations and individuals who have been supporting CHAP's programs through PMM to further discuss the various needs of sustaining the Street Educators and Junior Health Workers programs as well as setting up the multi-purpose shelter and training center in Manila.

## PMM ANNUAL RAFFLE ANOTHER SUCCESS!

PMM raised \$5,371 and would like to thank donors and friends who made the annual raffle a huge success.

## CHRISTMAS LETTER CAMPAIGN

The campaign is in full swing and PMM would like to thank in advance the many generous individuals who make our mission a reality.

### How Your Donations Help

- \$5 can purchase 100 doses of aspirin or acetaminophin
- \$12 feeds 60 malnourished pre-school children for a day
- \$25 can buy a first-aid kit to be used by a Street Educator to provide basic first aid to street children
- \$40 can buy garden implements and seeds for a village
- \$250 can pay the monthly stipend of a Street Educator
- \$500 can pay for developing a spring to provide clean water to the residents of a village

Upon receipt of your gift, we will send you a letter expressing our gratitude and document your gift for tax purposes. St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

We respect the wishes of our donors who choose to remain anonymous. Be assured that information about your donation is handled with respect and confidentiality to the extent provided by law. We do not sell or exchange information regarding our mailing list.

## OUR VERY SPECIAL THANKS

El Pollo Rico; Common Grounds; I-HOP; Silver Diner; Philippine Oriental Market; Manila Oriental Market; St. Rose of Lima Parish; St. Philips Parish; Manila Forwarders Corp.; St. Charles Social Justice Ministry; CrossLink International, Inc.; St. Vincent de Paul Society; Little Quiapo Restaurant; Forex Cargo, Inc.; Fil-Am Association of Manassas; Virgin of the Barangay, Inc.; IMF Civic & Community Relations Office; IMF/World Bank Filipino Association; Feed the Hungry, Inc.; Philippine American Foundation for Charities; and The Sure Foundation.

**Fiesta Oriental Store: Open Daily**  
4815 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Arlington, VA 22202 (703-516-9160)

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