

Fall/Winter 2004

**"God sees only our Love."
– Blessed Mother Teresa –**

UPDATE ON THE TAHANAN SANTA LUISA SHELTER PROJECT FOR STREET GIRLS

The Shelter Project was launched at St. Charles during the Sunday Masses of May 9, Mothers Day. The Shelter Project under the auspices of PMM's partner, Child Hope Asia Philippines (CHAP, www.childhope.org.ph) received the support of St. Charles Social Justice Committee (SJC).

The goal is to construct a home for the Tahanan Sta. Luisa (TSL) Crisis Intervention Center in Manila. Established in 1997, the Center has provided a safe and healthy home environment for sexually abused and/or prostituted street girls to heal and rebuild their lives. The Center offers comprehensive counseling, clinical services, and life skills development to the girls in regular sessions, with the ultimate goal of reintegrating them as responsible, productive members of society.

TSL has relocated a few times over the last four years and has determined that building a permanent residence is the best way to ensure the sustainable security and healing that the girls need. In order to provide this more stable environment for the Center, PMM, in partnership with CHAP, is aiming to purchase a property for a permanent shelter center. A non-government organization in Spain called ANESVAD has pledged a donation to purchase and renovate the shelter. However, we are still far from reaching our goal of \$300,000.

Currently, there is now a site location that is under negotiation. The majority of the funds will come from ANESVAD and they will provide the down payment to secure the site. PMM will help by raising the remaining amount to reach the goal (about 23% of the total).



A Christmas card designed by a street child

A MESSAGE FROM FR. GERRY CREEDON

Dear Friends and Supporters of PMM,

As Christmas 2004 approaches, our hearts turn to the Prince of Peace. It is easy to let our minds be diverted by the commercialization of the season and to allow the hope of Peace to be obscured by the pain and the hurt of war.

In our lives we need real signs of light.

In my firmament few stars shine more brightly than our Philippine Medical Mission. Ever since I was a teenager, when I studied with the Redemptorists in Limerick and heard the stories of returning missionaries from Manila, I have always been called to do something for the Philippines. PMM provides that opportunity.

All of us know that the path to peace is development. The efforts to provide shelter, medical attention and life skills support to Filipina teenagers gives all of us a practical way to prepare the way of the Lord.

Join this exceptional Team and be an active supporter of PMM. I want to be in that number. And you?

With Advent Hope!



Gerry Creedon, Pastor, St. Charles

NARRATIVES FROM JUNIOR HEALTH WORKERS

The other project that PMM supports through CHAP is the Junior Health Workers (JHWs) program. In their own words....

"It was really a very enriching experience for me to help out in the health center as a volunteer. I learned that working in a health center is no easy feat. One needs to possess patience and a big heart in helping others. My short stint in Esperanza Health Center taught me self-discipline and to become more responsible. I felt happy knowing that I can make a significant contribution in helping other people access medical assistance. I plan to go back and help again in the health center when I am no longer busy with school."

— Michael Bung, Barangay (Community) 844

"I felt at home in the company of the health center staff. They taught me a lot of things. At first, I was so nervous and felt like I could not carry out the tasks expected of me. I was wrong. I found out that young as I am, I could fully carry out the tasks assigned to me. It was hard work, but very fulfilling. I wish I can go back and continue helping the people, especially the children, in BASIC compound."

"I admire the staff of the center. Despite poor ventilation, dirty surroundings, and overcrowding of demanding patients, they were able to do their work well and still find time to laugh and smile."

— Roland Ante, Barangay 823

UPDATE ON THE FOUNDATION OF OUR LADY OF PEACE MISSION, INC. (FOLPMI) PROJECTS

This year, FOLPMI has been fortunate with the support PMM has been providing through fundraising, seeking grants, or linking FOLPMI with various agencies.

Supplemental Feeding Program

For 2004, there are 150 children (1-5 years old) in the feeding program composed of five outreach areas: Sitio Puting Bato and Sitio Sto. Nino in Navotas; Sitio Wawa in Bacoor, Cavite; Under the Bridge in Paco, Manila; and Sitio Gala in Subic, Zambales. The mothers of the participating kids are in charge of food preparation, cooking and assisting the children during the feeding sessions.

Angels' Home for Street Children Program

Angels' Home provides temporary shelter and helps former street children with their rehabilitation until they reunite with their families or foster parents.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Civic Programs awarded a grant to fund ten former street girls for their rehabilitation program. Currently, the "angels" are enrolled in public schools and are doing well. The funds received were used to buy school uniforms and supplies, daily transportation and food allowances, and educational trips. Every Saturday afternoon they attend a catechism session with Sr. Agnes, SPC. The "angels" are also doing beadwork projects and possibly rug-making in the future. There are plans to buy them musical instruments.

In attendance during a recently-concluded Case Study Conference were the children's Social Worker; Housemother; teachers in their school; Fr. Kit Bautista, Angels Home Spiritual Director; and FOLPMI representatives. In addition, regular therapy sessions are also being conducted with the help of the Philippine General Hospital – Child Protection Unit. A mass was held as part of the National Children's Month celebration where the children's relatives or mothers participated.

Livelihood Programs

In Sitio Gala, Zambales, a couple of shawls and table cloths were placed on display/sale during the International Ministries day in October. The cloths were dyed by four Aeta women who were interested in cloth dyeing (the Aetas are an indigenous tribe). This activity as well as the establishment of a sari-sari store (small convenience store), vegetable growing, and other handicraft projects are among the livelihood programs supported by the IMF Civic Programs. The families of the participating children in the supplemental feeding program are involved in these activities.

In Sitio Wawa, Bacoor, Cavite, there are three mothers and two fathers of the participating children in the Feeding/Daycare Programs. They are all involved in the Dagdag Puhunan Scheme of livelihood such as fish vending, barbeque stands, and sari-sari stores.

In Sitio Puting Bato and Sitio Sto. Niño of Navotas, six mothers are involved in peanut-butter production. They produce about 30 medium-sized bottles once a month.

In the soap-making livelihood project, there are four women involved. These are the daycare workers who are living in these outreach areas. The plan is for them to be the trainers for a select number of women interested in detergent (powdered) production. This particular livelihood project has progressed to the point where they are now planning to go into full production. The project hopes to produce detergent that is placed in a 25kg sack and sold to a hospital for their laundry needs.

Overall, there are 22 beneficiaries involved in the livelihood projects.

Our Lady of Peace Hospital (Hospital for the Poor)

This is the only hospital in the Philippines that provides the poor with affordable access to quality medical services and facilities. FOLPMI (www.folpmi.org) is truly grateful for all the support that they have been receiving to continue their mission.



A former street child recuperating at Our Lady of Peace Hospital with Sr. Eva and visitors.

OUR VERY SPECIAL THANKS

Crystal Barbers; Café Asia; Ballston Commons; Philippine Oriental Market and Deli; Mexicali Blues; Manila Oriental Market; Manila Forwarders Corp.; St. Charles Social Justice Ministry; CrossLink International, Inc.; 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.; St. Charles Young Adults (C'YA); Arlington Catholic Herald; Clarendon Grill; Aegean Taverna; Common Grounds; Costa Verde; IHOP; Ireland's Four Corners; Rock Bottom; Kinko's; and The Sure Foundation.

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