

Spring/Summer 2004

*"Like Jesus, we belong to the whole world,  
living not for ourselves but for others."  
– Blessed Mother Teresa –*

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE & PMM SUPPORT SHELTER PROJECT FOR STREETCHILDREN**

The Shelter Project for Street Children 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](http://www.childhope.org.ph)) received the support of St. Charles Social Justice Committee (SJC). PMM and CHAP extend its profound thanks to St. Charles Parish for its overwhelming support and encouragement for the project.

The goal is to construct a home for the Tahanan Sta. Luisa (TSL) Crisis Intervention Center in Manila. The center provides comprehensive counseling, therapy and training to girls under 18 years of age who have suffered sexual and physical abuse. The housing and short-term support services enable the girls to "hope and strive for a new life with dignity and purpose" says Fr. Gerry Creedon.

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. The shelter will be constructed on a donated land to the Missionaries of Charity who have agreed to legally allow TSL to use it for the shelter center. It is envisioned to be a multi-use, three story building that would include an income generating facility. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor would be leased out as conference, seminar, and meeting centers to non-governmental agencies while the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor could be rented as rooms to students and young professionals on a monthly basis. The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor will be the residence of the street children.

PMM's goal is to raise \$200,000 by 2006 to cover the construction of the center. So far, PMM has secured funds of \$33,000 through donations from generous individuals and fundraising efforts. One such fund raising event was the Songs for Street Children Benefit Concert held on May 23, 2004 at Clarendon Grill in Arlington, VA. Spearheaded by Gail Goodridge, Chair of the SJC and Monica Perz-Waddington, the concert was well-attended. Performers included Fr. Gerry Creedon, Monica Perz-Waddington, Rick Their, Stan Stepnowski, Tom Bodine, Jandi Arboleda and the Onion Patch Boys. The SJC and PMM would like to thank everyone who assisted and participated in the concert. We also thank local businesses and parishioners for their donations of raffle prizes.

We continue to need your support in whatever help you could give. For more information, please contact Cathy Buntua (703-338-5047).

### **A MESSAGE FROM FR. GERRY CREEDON [From the Songs for Street Children Benefit Concert Souvenir Program]**

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

I ask and beg of you to please support our new campaign – the Philippine Medical Mission Shelter Project. This special project will build a shelter, in Manila for young girls that have been abandoned and abused.

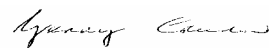
Our church and our world are wracked by stories of abuse and violence. Some bemoan the situation. Others deny it. Others find someone or an institution to condemn.

Then comes along a rare group of people, like those of the Philippine Medical Mission, that respond through positive action. The only real answer to violence and abuse is active love.

The Shelter Project will reach out to our sisters across the oceans. It will tell them we are their family. It will tell them that we suffer with them. It will assure them, "with the Spirit, there is always a second chance."

One transformed life is worth a great sacrifice. Let us be generous and be willing to pay the price.

Salamat po (thank you),



Gerry Creedon, Pastor, St. Charles

### **A MESSAGE FROM TESSIE SILVA**

Dear Father Creedon:

Greetings from Childhope Asia!

On behalf of Tahanan Sta. Luisa Crisis Intervention Center/Shelter for Exploited Street Girls, I wish to express my deepest gratitude and thank the Lord Jesus for the generosity, commitment, and support of the parishioners for our recovery and rehabilitation program.

Through this program, we hope to open the minds, hearts, and spirits of our girls to the loving care and mercy of Jesus and Blessed Mother Mary, and inspire them to hope and strive for a new life with dignity and purpose.

The girls of Tahanan Sta. Luisa continue to offer prayers for you and the parishioners of St. Charles Borromeo, that you may continue to answer Jesus' call "Let the children come to me".

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Teresita L. Silva, MSW  
Vice-Chairperson, Board of Directors  
Tahanan Sta. Luisa Foundation, Inc.



The girls having fun

## UPDATE: PMM-SUPPORTED FOLPM PROJECTS

PMM continues to support 6 feeding centers in the Metro Manila area. Approximately 180 malnourished children are provided with meals on a daily basis. Mothers of these children are given training on livelihood projects to supplement the meager income of the households. These livelihood activities include peanut butter making, cloth dyeing, organic vegetable farming, and soap making. The Fil-Am Association of Manassas continues to provide financial support for the needs of the emergency ward in the Our Lady of Peace Hospital, the hospital for the poor.

## INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF) SUPPORTS PMM PARTNERS

In May 2004, the Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission, Inc. (FOLPMI, [www.folpmi.org](http://www.folpmi.org)), for the third consecutive year, received a grant from the IMF through its Civic and Community Relations program.

This year, the IMF is supporting the rehabilitation of ten former street girls through formal education, skills training, counseling, tutorials, and other activities in a residential shelter called "Angel's Home".

In addition, last October 2003, PMM participated in the IMF Helping Hand Campaign and was able to receive donations from IMF staff members through payroll deductions or check donations.

## UPDATE: RNDM

Sister Kathleen, project coordinator of RNDM working with the Manobo tribes in Cotabato, met with Vanette Lagera, PMM's new Project Liaison during her visit to the Philippines. She was briefed on the health care projects provided to the community and other specific concerns such as educating the people on good sanitation practices.

## LOCAL STUDENTS HELP SUPPORT PMM

This year Corpus Christi 7<sup>th</sup> graders chose as their annual service project beneficiary the sisters of the Religious of Notre Dame of the Missions (RNDM, [www.rndm.org](http://www.rndm.org)). The students collected soaps, shampoos, lotions, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and vitamins to send to the Dulangan Manobo tribe in Kulaman, Cotabato in the southern part of the Philippines. Here are the items they collected.



## BUKAS PALAD 2004 TOUR BENEFITS PMM

Bukas Palad (Open Palm), a Filipino singing group, performed on April 18, 2004 at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall at NoVA Community College to benefit PMM, St. Anthony Charity Programs, and the Filipino Ministry of Northern Virginia.

## C'YA WINE AND CHEESE

The C'YA Fundraiser for PMM last April 3, 2004 was a smashing success with close to a hundred young people attending the event. Guests were asked to either bring a bottle of wine plus a \$5 donation to PMM or put in \$20 with \$5 going to PMM.

The event generated \$1,134 for PMM and new volunteers as well. Attendees had a great time socializing, sampling wines and delicious food, and learning about the work of PMM. Fr. Gerry Creedon's talk strengthened our call for support of PMM projects.

Special thanks to the C'YA leaders, especially Ted Zogakis and Lisa Solomon for spearheading the effort.

## PMM ANNUAL RAFFLE

PMM marks its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the annual raffle. Winning tickets will be drawn on Saturday, August 28. Proceeds from the raffle will support the feedings centers of FOLPM, the education program of the Junior Health Workers of CHAP and the PMM nursing scholar under RNDM. Tickets are on sale at \$2 each and prizes include gift certificates from electronic stores, restaurants, and many more. Tickets will be sold after the weekend masses of July 31 and August 1 or contact Nick Tongson (703-561-1144). We thank our sponsors and donors, Fiesta Oriental Store and Forex Cargo, Inc. for their continuing support. Please help us make this effort a success.

## HAPPY HOUR FUNDRAISER: 20 AUGUST 2004

PMM will co-sponsor with Feed the Hungry (FtH) a happy hour on Friday, August 20, 2004 at the IMF Headquarters in Washington, DC. FtH is another Filipino charity organization based in the DC area.

A live band will provide the music and food and drinks will be sold. Proceeds will go to PMM and FtH projects in the Philippines. For more information, email Gilda Ordoñez at [gordonez@imf.org](mailto:gordonez@imf.org)

## 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.

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

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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