

IMPORTANT NEWS

New member of staff and change of address.

Mandy Nash has joined our small team here in the UK on a part time basis as the Admin assistant, Mandy has taken Alison Morey's place after Alison left to work full time with Voluntary Support North Surrey. As part of our drive to reduce costs, our Board has agreed to relinquish our office space. John and Mandy are happy to work from home and we are grateful to High Cross Church who have agreed to become our registered office. In future, please send any post to :

**Children of the Dump
High Cross Church
Knoll Road,
Camberley
GU15 3SY**

For the time being our telephone number will remain the same with all calls being diverted to John.
We will notify all supporters and friends of our new telephone number once it is changed.

FUTURE EVENTS

**Children of the Dump
Charity Golf Pro Am
30th May 2017
Southwood Golf Club**

**For further details please contact John in the office on
01276 707633 or email office@asct.org.uk**

Patron: The Right Honourable Michael Gove MP for Surrey Heath

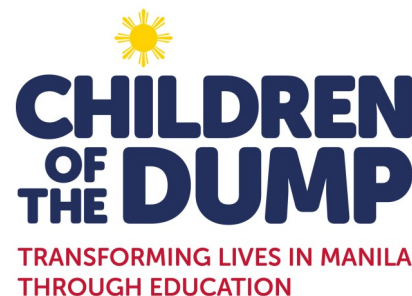
Patron: Nathan Dyer Premiership Footballer, Swansea City FC

**High Cross Church, Knoll Road
Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3SY
Tel: 01276-707633**

Website: www.childrenofthedump.org.uk

E-mail: office@asct.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 272328



NEWSLETTER

**May 2017
Spring Edition
Issue 58**

Hello Friends of Children of the Dump

***God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace:
You have indeed blessed us and we praise You.***

As well as praising God for the blessings He has provided, we give a massive thank you to all of our supporters; but oh my goodness, what a few months it has been. As we have been highlighting in the news and annual report this year, our finances are seriously challenged and the fall in the value of the pound has meant we had to face unthinkable decisions with our colleagues in Manila.

Before I went to Manila in January, our board of Trustees felt that despite all our attempts to get more income, we would have to reduce the budget by 25%. By the time we had to reach decisions in Manila, our income position became even worse. With Peter, Sarah and the staff, we debated the options and what could be achieved with the reduced funding. In the end we had little choice: a temporary closure of Cashew Tree School and a reduction in the number of children we could accommodate in Mango Tree House. When I returned we had to validate those decisions at our board in the UK. We all felt totally despondent but then the additional bombshell of the HSBC error in closing our bank account caused us to lose even more income. Quite honestly, I just felt things couldn't get any worse and was struggling to see a way out.

Then, Fred's daughter Natasha said to me – "God does not want this for the children, Jesus loves the children and would want them to be cared for". What are you doing about it? You must shout loud and strong to turn this around. She was right. We launched the appeal and you have all been magnificent. We don't yet have final figures for the impact of the appeal but had been anticipating ending the financial year with a deficit exceed-

A MESSAGE FROM KAY MACKAY

ing £40,000. This would have virtually wiped out all our unrestricted reserves. We actually finished with a deficit of £8,694 thus retaining precious reserves for this current year. We have felt confident enough to agree to retain all the children in Mango Tree House even though we have had to temporarily close Cashew Tree School.

I do not have space to properly acknowledge all those that have given so generously but I do want to make a special mention of the congregation and leaders of St Paul's church who have gone above and beyond all expectations in their support for us.

In this spring edition of our newsletter, we have news about our future plans to reopen Cashew Tree School both in the short and long term. Please take a moment to read the testimonial from Peter Bolos who I met earlier this year. He is a teacher at Papaya Academy and was a Grapevine student – a life transformed.

*Kay Mackay
Chairman*



CASHEW TREE SCHOOL UPDATE

A cloud of uncertainty has hung over Cashew Tree Learning Centre for the last two years due to issues with the land, registration and financial pressures but we are now preparing a new beginning following the difficult decision to temporarily close the school for a year.

With our colleagues in Manila, we are preparing plans to open a smaller fully registered Cashew Tree School in temporary accommodation hopefully in June 2018.

We are developing plans to buy new land and build our own new Cashew Tree School to provide early years education for about 200 children.

We are seeking new sources of financial support both to help build the new school and to cover its operating costs but if you would like to help us do this then please contact us.

By email to office@asct.org.uk or by phone 01276 707633



FROM RAG TO RICHES

Who can say that one child from a very less-fortunate area in this world is now a professional teacher? But now he already reaches his dreams. Is it possible that poor children can be a successful one? Yes, it is possible. Do you want to know how?

Hi! My name is Jewel Peter A. Bolos, who has a dream to become a teacher. I live in Manila, Philippines; I am living with my family at Payatas, Quezon City. To be honest, Payatas is the place that you will never want to be, simply because Payatas is a place full of garbage and a place which has many unfortunate people. We are living near dump sites and have so many flies nearby.

I can proudly say to you people that I am one of the products of "Cashew Tree House Learning Center", they are the ones who gave me hope and knowledge that not only rich people can go to school. When I was studying there, they sponsored our studies, not only me, but all the children who can't afford to go to school. They helped mold us to have a better future and insisted that we could achieve our goals and can move our family from poverty into a better life.

We are so thankful to have ASCF because now I am a certified licensed professional teacher, working at Papaya Academy., a school that gives free education for the Payatas children. I really love to teach them because I know the feeling of being them and the situations they have. I am really thankful to God also because he used different people to help us and to all people that can't afford to go to school to have knowledge. They taught us that poverty is neither a hindrance nor obstacle to reach our dreams and to have a better future.



We are so lucky and blessed to have people like you, who are willing to help poor people even we are not in a same country and nationality. I wish that you can help more people in the Philippines and to the whole world.

Again, thank you very much.
Jewel Peter A. Bolos

A MESSAGE FROM SARAH MCLEOD

For this, my first Manila Missive, I am sitting at my desk at work, looking out over a very busy Makati City ... a modern, upmarket first world feeling place. It is hard to imagine, or even begin to understand, the life of those that live not more than 5 kilometers away in extreme poverty close to the outskirts of the city in which I have lived for nearly 20 years. I have always felt that I am blessed to work here with great people but also a desire to help those who I would never see in my office.

My clients are multinational companies, from retail, to manufacturing, to the BPO industry and finance (and, believe me, they all do their part to help as well) and the candidates we help find work come from varied and different life styles and family set-ups. As a company, we believe that people are our best assets and finding the right jobs and support career paths is one way to help the community we live in. Working with ASCF has shown me that education and the welfare of a child is the starting point to ensuring that they can then get a good job, support their families and move themselves up the value chain and out of poverty. Sustainable activities make for long term change. That said, in times of typhoon, fire or flood the mere basics like food and shelter are a must so we never forget that either.



Just to give you a brief background, I have been working with and supporting ASCF in the Philippines since about 2000. I met the class at Cashew at that time, the children in Mango and some of the Grapevine students. I was hooked. A few years later I was asked to join the board and become a permanent member of the team. A pleasure and privilege! As a board, we are small, hard-working and independent - yet interact and come together with other charities to support each other.

There is so much 'need' in this city, in this country. No one charity can help all the children in need but it is important to realise that by helping one, step by step, you actually help more than just that one person, you help the family. The family support dynamics are ingrained in this culture : here the elderly help the young, youngsters help the old and the young working-age family members support their younger siblings to finish school and thus achieve more

in life. Intertwined together and rarely apart.

Over the coming months, I'm looking forward to sharing the work the team does on the ground ; the volunteers here who help ; the activities we do to support, not just in cash, but in kind ; the children helping themselves ; whilst building a forum for growth, openness and showing that there is a bigger world out there which each and every one of the children in our care can aspire to.

Currently we are working towards our Annual Garage Sale. Tapping into the community at large, we encourage friends to clean house, donate (we collect if necessary) and then let all the children and staff at Mango clean, tidy and put together the items for sale. Last year we raised over 2,000 pounds! The sale takes place in Makati and we advertise as far and wide as we can to ensure that we have many buyers! The older children work at the sale, setting up and selling. A great experience which increases confidence, self-sufficiency and independence whilst learning about interpersonal communication and market-forces.

Kind regards,

Sarah McLeod - Chair ASCF



A THANK YOU TO ALISON

Congratulations to Alison Morey who has moved on to a new role with another charity after over 12 years with Children of the Dump (ASCT). We will miss her clear thinking and skills in the office but we will not be losing her passion for our work as she has agreed to become a Trustee later in the year. I am sure you will want to join with the Board in thanking her for her massive contribution and wish her well in her new role.



NEWS FROM THE PHILIPPINES



Mango senior children enjoyed a day of Art activity with Emily Olszewski. The seniors expressed their talents by drawing their desired image and Emily helped them giving life on it.

The Saturday activity is continuously giving inspiration and challenge to our children both Mango and Grapevine projects. Pastor Vincent discussed the significance of education, prayers, and courtship and how this will help the children as they go on in their lives.



A day to free ourselves from all the things that makes everyone busy and to enjoy the beauty of Noah's Park Resort