

Welcome to Children of the Dump (ASCT) Spring 2018 newsletter which is packed with updates on our work in Manila and fundraising activities. I hope you find it useful and contains the sort of information that you want to read. If there is anything you would like included in future editions, please do let us know.

Fred and I spent time with the staff and children during February this year. We were delighted to welcome a sponsor, Nathalie Richard from Australia who visited at the same time. You can read about her experience in this issue but suffice to say, it made a lasting impact on her and created a desire to become more involved.

Our visit this year was one focussed on development which is thanks to all our supporters and donors who responded so generously to our appeal. Plans are proceeding well for Cashew Tree School to reopen in temporary accommodation in June. We can take 60 students until the new building is ready and registered and then we can build up to 200 students. Find out more about new Cashew on page 10.

A lot has changed in Manila over the past year. Payatas rubbish dump has been closed to dump trucks due to fears of contamination of the water table. With 6000 dump trucks a day still coming out of the city and apparently no alternative plan for discharging their load. A little nearby dumpsite called San Isidro has taken on a new significance. This has become the main destination and a community of some 5000 people have set up their shacks to scavenge the dump. This highlights a new community very much in need of our services. Three recent admissions to Mango Tree House, brothers Carlo and Paulo and their neighbour Lexta were new boys

Picture of Carlo and Paulo with their Mum and siblings



as we visited. They have never been to school but with the tuition being provided at Mango and their enthusiasm to learn, I was astonished how they improved during our stay with even a little English being shared. Payatas residents have been shaken by this decision and it is bad news for many as their meagre livelihood has disappeared. Some have negotiated with dump truck drivers to offload in the street by their home which leaves the most unbelievable mess, others are looking for new ways of making a living. Women are particularly resourceful, and we visited one lady who took advantage of the rug making course held at Mango Tree House and she now weaves these from scavenged clothing and sells for 20 peso, (About 30p) As always, spending time with the Mango and Grapevine students was wonderful. We were able to offer some special treats such as a swimming day and movie nights which everyone enjoyed. The children were focused on their end of year exams and grades and we are now receiving their school reports which make me feel so proud of their accomplishments.

This year, we are placing even more importance and emphasis on our digital communications and publicity. The backbone of this is our new-look website, [www.childrenofthedump.org.uk](http://www.childrenofthedump.org.uk). Our thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to launch this modern and professional site. Read more about our social media plans on page 11.

This Issue also contains important information about the new data protection laws that come into force this May. Please let us know how you want to be kept up to date with the work of Children of the Dump. I do hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, maybe when you have finished it, you could pass it on to a friend. Also, please note our new email address is: [office@childrenofthedump.org.uk](mailto:office@childrenofthedump.org.uk)

## ***VOLUNTEER WITH CHILDREN OF THE DUMP***

The roles of the volunteer have changed somewhat since the charity moved to a virtual office from a fixed office at the Ian Goodchild Centre in Camberley.

We are now looking for volunteers to help with our charity events and social media distribution.

The events side of the charity require people to attend and help set up our stand with literature, and to be available to talk to potential new and existing sponsors about the projects in the Philippines. Most of our events are held in the Camberley area and training would be required to allow the volunteer to feel comfortable when speaking about our work and future plans.

If you are interested the above, please feel free to contact John on 01276 942030 or email [office @childrenofthedump.org.uk](mailto:office@childrenofthedump.org.uk)

## ***SARAH MCLEOD NEWS FROM ASCF***

As we come to the end of the long Summer Holidays for the students here in Manila we are pleased that many have been able to go home, visit family or spend down time at Mango with the staff who in turn have been able to take their extended vacations and have time to not be so "time bound" for school etc.

The students who graduated are so proud, as are we, those who move up a year are preparing for their next adventure and of course the added learning coming their way. Summer is always a time to relax in Manila, the heat this year has been pretty hot, hot and then hotter, throw in a mix of humidity and some heavy rain showers and it is nice to not have to be up at 4am or studying late into the evening.

Those children and staff who have been here have been able to enjoy some of the Manila events like the Royal wedding party and the Handlebar Anniversary. Thanks to Leanne who always invites them to enjoy an evening outside. The Wedding Party was held in a private Home and over 50 guests together enjoyed the pre-bride coverage and the full ceremony. We all enjoyed the brilliant pageantry and of course proud to be British!

That being said, behind the scenes we have been preparing for the next wave of fundraising. The Grand Garage Sale will be on June 16th, plans for the Dinner theatre are a foot and the Christmas Pantomime always in our thoughts! Rehearsals generally start in late August/September and this year for the fund raising we intend to once again raise the bar. On top of that we will be launching our Buy a brick campaign, which will support the UK's brilliant efforts to ensure that the new Cashew is built on time.

As we wave goodbye to our summer, you in the UK welcome yours, hope it is a good one and look forward to hearing all the news!

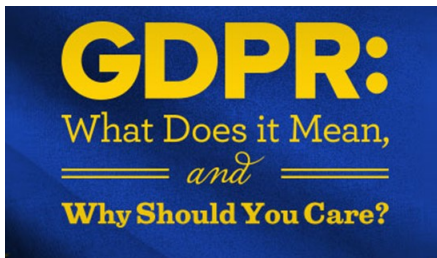
Sarah



The General Data Protection Regulation came into effect in May and has had a huge impact on regulating how your data is collected and how you are contacted

The main GDPR-related rights for citizens to keep in mind are Breach Notification, Right to Access, Right to be Forgotten, Data Portability and Privacy by Design. It can be argued that the Right to Access and the Right to be Forgotten are the strongest

changes to the current landscape. The Right to Access states that the EU citizen can receive personal information free of charge when such personal information is stored. This must include the purpose and usage of the data. This point seeks to enforce private data efficiency and avoid the storing of data that is not needed.



You are currently signed up to receive newsletters and updates from Children of the Dump, however the new Government regulations (**GDPR**) state you must opt-in for us to be able to continue to contact you.

To receive future correspondence from us please email [office@childrenofthedump.org.uk](mailto:office@childrenofthedump.org.uk) or write to Children of the Dump, High Cross Church, Knoll Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3SY giving your preferred means of contact. For further details please visit our website [www.childrenofthedump.org.uk](http://www.childrenofthedump.org.uk) or contact John on 01276 942030

### **MEET A TRUSTEE - JOHN WENGER OUR TREASURER**

For over 30 years I have been involved with charities mainly in the areas of health and education. My interest in the charity sector started when I was invited to join the board of the British School of Brussels. Subsequent posts included being Chair of the Royal Association for Deaf people (RAD), Vice-Chair of Tree Aid (a development charity working in West Africa), Treasurer of the Refugee Council and the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. When the Fundraising Standards Board was established I was one of the original directors. After hearing a talk about ASCT now known as Children of the Dump at a local church, I wanted to find out more about the charity and was invited to attend Board meetings as an observer and became a trustee in October 2010. From the start I was impressed by the number of children ASCT helped in the Philippines for a relatively small amount of money. A few years ago I had an opportunity to visit the Philippines and saw the range and quality of the work being done by the local staff. In particular I remember a lesson at Cashew Tree School taken by Catherine Acosta. The pupils were full of energy and completed a test paper in English that many children of a similar age in the UK would find challenging.

My wife Judith and I live in Camberley, we have two daughters and four grandchildren.

My interests include leading walks for the local Ramblers Group, helping at West Green House opera, being a Rotarian and trying to keep the garden under control.



## ***NEWS FROM THE PHILIPPINES***

### **September 17**

The combination of Mango and Grapevine Children had an amazing activity with the TransUnion group. The children were put into four groups with five members in each group to do all the prepared activity. The four groups creatively competed with "Candle Making" and played "the Boat is sinking" and "Lego Assembling". The team of James, Melody, Amor, Christine, and Gielyn was the overall champion. We are also thankful for the generosity of TransUnion for giving us sacks of rice.



### **October 17**

After finalizing the script for Sleeping Beauty Pantomime, the regular rehearsal of Mango and some of the Grapevine children officially started this month. We are amused by the commitment of Uncle Ham to help the children to give life to their respective characters by helping them to deliver their lines one on one.

While other children are busy doing the rehearsal some of the Grapevine children learned about the importance of respect to other's perspective and how others see and understand things that surround them and also the importance of obedience as Sherryl discussed it in their group work.



### **November 17**

Another Garage Sale and Early Mini Christmas Bazaar was done at Union Church, Makati City was very successfully. We were thankful that we had raised 34,000 php and so thankful for all the supporters and buyers.



## February 18

Part of growing up is discovering one's inner self, through the Group Work and Group Dynamic activities, the children discovered more about themselves. The activities done helped the children developed characteristics such as being concerned to others, loving and caring for one another and being responsible for their actions. They also learned the importance of group effort and unity. Truly, teamwork makes the dream works.



## March 18

The Saturday Activities are continuously empowering the children of Mango and Grapevine projects. This month, the children had the sports activities, they played the volleyball and basketball game.



## Kay Mackay's Journey to Manila

Cathay Pacific took us via Hong Kong on our trip to Manila.

We were glad to see Peters welcoming face in arrivals as despite our frequent visits, we still haven't tackled the 25km journey out to Mango alone.

The traffic is horrendous, and the trip takes nearly 4 hours before we get to see the children and staff at Mango.

Children gather round us, taking our hand and placing it against their forehead - this is a sign of respect and an important gesture of 'Blessing' here in the Philippines. I am ashamed to say that I still struggle to recall every child's name and I promise myself to try harder. They have changed so much in the year since our previous visit – some growing beyond recognition and turning into adolescents. We just had time for a catch up with Peter in the office while more children arrive home from school and come in to welcome us. Dinner with the children was delicious as always – rice by the bucketful, I am always surprised by how much rice a tiny person can pack away.

To read the rest of Kay's blog please visit <https://childrenofthedump.org.uk/2018/04/11/our-chairperson-kay-mackay-visits-the-children/>

## MEET THE STUDENTS

Hi my name is Danny Boy Lisondra also known as Danny Monterde.

And this is my story...

I was 6 years old when I entered ASCF in 2003. I was very small, timid, and demure. I was also the youngest until I reached first grade.

I used to cry every time I went to school. I hide myself behind our classroom door because I was afraid of my teachers. It actually felt like they were going to eat me alive. No joke. Because of this, I failed to get good grades. As the years passed by, I got used to it and opened myself for other people and started making friends. In the end, I graduated as top 7 in our elementary class.

I entered high school in 2009. It was frightening at first because of the new environment, new set of classmates, teachers and the new school. You heard of what people say about high school life being the best part of a student's life? They were wrong. It was not the case for me.

I experienced bullying when I was in high school. My classmates made fun of me and my mum. They would push me to the floor and laugh at me or tease me because I had acne at that time. Hello, puberty? They also called me names like orphan because I was living in an orphanage. I never bothered myself to fight back or explain myself because I know that my defence and explanations will just fall on deaf ears. You know how mean high school kids can get, right? I just accepted it and learned to embrace myself. Because at the end of the day ASCF was always there for me, a house that I can call my home and my family. I graduated high school last 2013.

Everything changed when I entered college in 2013. I studied at ICCT colleges located in Rizal province where I took up Diploma in Hotel and Restaurant management. To say that I enjoyed college is an understatement. I loved every bit of it. I had my own circle of friends, I understood all the lessons because I liked what I was doing and I knew exactly what I wanted to be when I graduated.

I love cooking and baking and I think that I'm a people's person because I love serving people. I graduated college last December 22, 2015.

Although I consider myself as a wallflower at Mango. Some of you may not remember me but I think what made me survive and



finish my studies was my determination and eagerness to finish college, to achieve my dreams and have a better future.

ASCF had taught me a lot of things, from how I can better myself up to the things I needed to know. My entire 13-year stay in ASCF was my life's highlight. It was the most amazing experience I have ever had. I was not only provided with my basic needs like food on the table, clothes to keep me warm and shelter over my head. They instilled in me the importance of my dreams and my capacity to realize them and make them happen. They paved the way towards a bright future ahead of me. I can say that I have lived my childhood life to fullest and ASCF made this possible. My ASCF family and our sponsors were channels of blessings for me. They made sure that my dreams were not just realized but also attained. The best thing about ASCF is that there is a room for everyone. A table is never too small for everyone. It is always inviting. We can eat together, pray and worship together, play together and study together. For a child like me, Mango's space never seemed too little for all my 23 brothers and 23 sisters living in one roof.

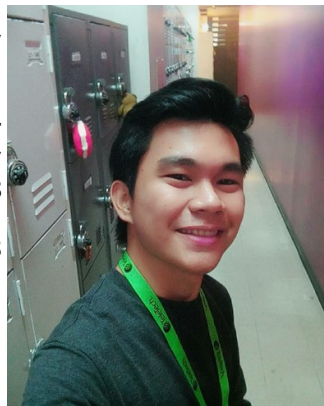
ASCF did not just equip me academically but my second family taught me practical skills and how I can survive life outside the home. By the time that I graduated, I was not very worried because I know I can fend after myself especially in doing household chores.

To say that I am fortunate to be chosen to be sponsored by ASCF is an understatement. I am beyond blessed and lucky to be called and chosen to the ASCF family. I am happy with the life I am living today and it is all because of the help and support of the ASCF and ASCT charities. I am now living back with my family in our house and happily employed as a Customer Service Representative for Verizon East Sales supporting the USA. I am slowly achieving my dreams and I am still on track to achieving my ultimate dream at the moment and that is to finish a bachelor's degree.

Life inside Mango is like a game of survival. Anyone can join but only those who make sacrifices, those who have the courage, determination and eagerness can reach the finish line. I did it! I joined the game, ran the race and finished the sprint.

I never really had the chance to personally thank each of you. So before I wrap this up, I would like to say thank you for everything. Although my thanks will never be enough for all the good things I am reaping now, solely because of your indefatigable and endless support for the charity, may God bless you a thousand fold and all the tens of supporters of ASCF and ASCT.

I hope you never stop supporting ASCF and continue changing the lives of the many.  
THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart.



## ***A SPONSOR VISITS MANILA - HERE IS HER STORY.***

After two years of exchanging letters with Joy, our sponsored child, it was time for me to leave our affluent Sydney suburb and make the trip to Manila. I knew it would be different and I thought I was prepared as a seasoned traveler. Little did I know!

The sensory overload jostled me out of my comfortable existence within minutes. Confronting questions flooded my mind. How? Why? How many? For how long? Where and how do these people living in such squalid homes find their dignity? What is the solution? Is there a solution? Can we be the solution? I knew I would not find strong enough floodgates to regain my cosy state of mind. These children deserve help, they deserve a chance to escape the utter poverty they come from and that surrounds them.

Meeting Joy was like hugging a long lost relative. My visit was a total surprise to her: her smile, followed by a huge hug, when she realised I was there especially for her said it all, although I could not tell who was more overwhelmed! Joy's gratitude for our role in her life is humbling. I cannot recall the number of times our lovely 12 year old girl told me that she works hard at school for us to be proud of her, that she wants to be good at volleyball to make us proud, that she tries to always be good because she does not want to embarrass us... Her name could not be more perfect: she is a joy!

And so are all the other Mango children. They all follow the same philosophy that is to make the most of the incredible opportunity provided by the sponsors. It is impossible not to feel the love all these children and staff share and spread.

Leaving Mango was hard, particularly because I had to turn down a beautiful offer: Drexter (9 years old) offered to sponsor me so I could stay in Mango too!! These kids are plainly gorgeous!

I will go back, there is no doubt.

I can no longer close my eyes on what can be done. Even though visiting their families in Payatas was a harrowing experience, knowing that our efforts go directly towards helping these families is the best reward all of us, sponsors can hope for. We play an important part in an organisation that is worthy of the highest praise, especially all the staff in Manila who are true gems. Let's spread the word: whether he/she be a Cashew, Mango or Grapevine student your sponsored child will be loved and nurtured. Through education he/she will be helped out of poverty to become a powerful contributor to tomorrow's world.

Nathalie Richards



## ***NEW CASHEW TREE SCHOOL. 60 SPONSORS NEEDED.***

Cashew Tree School will reopen in its temporary accommodation in June with places for 60 students. We are going to be using space in Mango Tree House for this temporary facility. I was privileged to meet our two teachers who have been recruited to run this service. It is a testament to the successful history of the school that both these ladies taught at Cashew for many years and are delighted to return and carry on this valued service.

Our headmistress Catherine Acosta who has been part of our services since childhood has made the difficult decision to take a teaching role in a state senior school. We will miss her dreadfully as her energy and drive to deliver the highest quality education was second to none. We wish her every success in her new role and please watch her video describing what Cashew Tree School does: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1&v=J30-1zijCgw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=J30-1zijCgw)



Just how valued the school is was brought home to me when I reviewed the huge pile of applications. We were oversubscribed within 3 days of opening and these are now being assessed by our social workers and teachers. I was struck by the effort that parents had taken to complete the paperwork, especially remembering that most are barely literate. We will be taking students from

three areas; the dumpsite communities of Payatas and San Isidro and the settlement of Kasiglahan.

**All 60 children need sponsors to support their education - it is such a rewarding thing to do that sets the child on the road to success. For just £4 a week you could fund this early education for a scavenger child. If this inspires you to make a difference please email [office@childrenofthedump.org.uk](mailto:office@childrenofthedump.org.uk) or ring John on 01276 942030**

We will only deliver the full range and capacity of service we aspire to when we have the new building and can register as a Kinder school. We are being ambitious and aiming to achieve that by June 2019. We know that will be tough but the school plays such a vital part in the journey of transforming children's lives through education that we believe it is the right thing to do.


Our original building plans have been adapted to make them more affordable and we will now be utilising some existing space in the Mango building as well as creating additional classrooms. We have had agreement from the Department of Education who register schools and the Department of Social Work who register Mango Tree House that our plans are acceptable so we have now progressed to structural engineer and contractors for detailed design and costing. We have achieved 60% of our target for capital and with other pipeline funding and campaigns in Manila, we are optimistic that the funds will be available.


A lot more effort will be required to achieve sustainable levels of income to support the running costs of a school for 200 students. We will need at least an additional £30,000 a year to expand from 60 to 200 so please consider how you can help us with our campaign.

## NEW WEBSITE

We have been working on a new simplified website which we have just launched online. We hope that you like it but let us know any feedback. At the same time we are taking the opportunity to update the web address to [www.childrenofthedump.org.uk](http://www.childrenofthedump.org.uk) and the main email address to [office@childrenofthedump.org.uk](mailto:office@childrenofthedump.org.uk). please update your records. The old email address and website addresses will remain in use with input being automatically redirected to the new site and email.

The charity will also focus on using just 1 Facebook page which gives us some technical advantages of which the most obvious is that we can operate a donate button should anyone wish to offer financial support.


Home Our work How you can help News & Events [Donate](#)



### Monthly Donation

You can make a Regular Monthly Donation of an amount that suits you which can be set up by standing order via PayPal or BT MyDonate.


[Monthly Donations](#)



### Sponsor a Child

You can sponsor a child Monthly through Cashew Early Years, Grapevine Outreach or the Mango Tree House.

[Sponsor a Child](#)



### One off Donation

You can make a One off Single Payment donation if a Regular Monthly Donation is not right for you.

[Donate Now](#)

## ***BULLET NEWS***

- We have been shortlisted for a special grant from the **Austin Bailey Foundation** over three years. Please **pray** for a positive outcome.
- A **gift in your will** is a simple and incredibly positive contribution you can make to the ongoing work for the children in Manila. Kay and Fred have recently updated their wills and included a gift for Children of the Dump as we want our support to continue after we die. You can also make a simple codicil to attach to an existing will. More information is available at : <https://childrenofthedump.org.uk/how-you-can-help/leave-a-legacy/>
- **Swansea Beach Clean** supporting Children of the Dump will take place on 15th July. Swansea Football Team and many other partners are helping. Contact [office@childrenofthedump.org.uk](mailto:office@childrenofthedump.org.uk)

## ***FUTURE EVENTS***

The Charity holds events each year with the aim of increasing our funds to support the students at ASCF, and a large part of the income generated at these events are through auction or raffle prizes. In the past two years we have raised over £4000 pounds from donated prizes, such as meals at restaurants, football match experiences, golf related prizes, special occasion cakes, etc.

We appreciate that not everyone can attend our events, but if any supporter or Friend of Children of the Dump is able to donate an auction or raffle prize, they would be gratefully received.

For further information please contact John on 01276 942030 or email at [office@childrenofthedump.org.uk](mailto:office@childrenofthedump.org.uk).

Details of the above events and all future events can be found on the Children of the Dump web site [www.childrenofthedump.org](http://www.childrenofthedump.org) or by contacting John on 01276 942030

**Patron: The Right Honourable Michael Gove MP for Surrey Heath**

**Patron: Nathan Dyer, Swansea City FC**

**High Cross Church  
Knoll Road**

**Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3SY**

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**Registered Charity Number: 272328**