

Beating COVID in Manila

The best news is that, all our children, families and staff in Manila remain safe and healthy. Manila has had one of the World's longest lockdowns and with the situation still fluid, a further enhanced lockdown was reintroduced in August. Access to the rubbish dumps for scavengers stopped and other workplaces shut. Public transport ceased. The Army stopped travel without a warrant and there was a 'shoot to kill' policy for curfew breakers. All schooling ended and Mango Tree House was in quarantine.

Lockdown meant no opportunity for families to earn pay and provide food for that evening. Within days hunger loomed.



Read on page 4 how Sarah McLeod and Peter Emata of ASCF (our sister charity in Manila) led the local response.

At Mango Tree House, in lockdown, staff stayed to look after all the children, when restrictions initially eased, some children were fortunate to be able to visit family, but are now being returned as stricter constraints are being imposed. Meanwhile, UK Supporters raised an incredible £7000 to provide FAMILY FOOD PARCELS for those outside Mango. We think that over 800 people were kept fed.

Thank you to everyone who donated , your actions may have saved lives.

New School Year, New Schooling

Life is now very different in Manila. The new school year will begin on August 25th.

The government says there will be no classroom schooling until there is a vaccine. Their guidelines focus on online teaching and at home paper-based teaching with back up phone calls.

Online teaching is tricky for our community; few people have computers and internet signal is often weak. Our School consulted with parents and is creating paper-based teaching materials for Cashew Early Years students at home. Everyone will learn and adapt to find out what is successful. The alternative was to close the school down and take away the opportunity of helping this generation of children begin their climb out of poverty through education.

The schools that the older Mango and Grapevine Outreach children go to are making their own plans for schooling. Mango House has a good internet link and a small number of reconditioned computers. Some children, lockdown permitting, who live outside will come here to use these.



Good news for Mango Students

The professional staff in Manila constantly review the background of the children at Mango to see if reintegration with family members is safe and possible. The good news is that for a small number of them the fortunes of their families have improved so that there is now the happy possibility of them returning to live with their relatives.

Any child leaving Mango would need the continued support of the charity through our Grapevine programme. This means that they can live with their loving family and still benefit from the amazing opportunity for education that their sponsors, through Children of the Dump, make possible. Of course, any changes can only happen with the approval of the government authorities and the charity has trained social workers to follow up and ensure that the child's reintegration is a success.

Final decisions have now been made and If you are a sponsor and your sponsored child has had this opportunity, then the charity will have contacted you in August to explain the changes and answer any questions you may have had.

KAY MACKAY—COTD CHAIRPERSON

The world feels very strange now. The challenges of lockdown and fear of illness are common experiences that bind us together no matter where in the world we live. We are so thankful to the dedicated staff in Manila who have worked above and beyond to keep everyone safe and well. The emergency food distribution programme was unprecedented, and we are grateful to everyone who donated to make that possible.



Here in the UK, the Children of the Dump team have been concentrating on how to raise the necessary funds to maintain our projects in Manila. Regardless of COVID, we have to bring in about £200,000 to make sure all our children can receive the education, love and support that they need to escape the grinding poverty in which they were born. For a small charity like us, every penny really counts, and we scrutinise how each is spent to best effect. Being unable to hold face to face fundraising events brings not only challenges but opportunities to think 'out of the box' and I urge you to look at the ideas in this newsletter or dream up your own and share them with us.



A date for your diary – Once again Children of the Dump Manila is participating in the Big Give Christmas Challenge where money donated on-line during 1st – 8th December 2020 will be doubled. So please make a note on your calendar if you think you could support us during that week – it is such a critical part of our income plan this year.

If you were considering making a donation before Christmas, please do it that week to the Big Give and make it go twice as far.

As well as personal donations, you can hold fundraising activities and pay the money into Big Give to double its impact for Children of the Dump. More information will be shared with you through our Winter newsletter, Mailchimp and Facebook.

Meanwhile, our prayers continue for your safety and that of your family and loved ones.

Kay.

SARAH AND PETER'S NEWS FROM MANILA

Following a long lockdown, the children of ASCF are still safely inside their homes. Teachers and staff have done an amazing job schooling and inventing great ways to provide structure and entertainment during the holidays.

Lockdown has been tough and with areas having different security levels travelling anywhere is difficult. We have been so

blessed with the local donations we received from friends who have supported efforts to feed the families in our care and provide games for the children confined to Mango. Regular food distributions of 170 food packs have been undertaken using the UK appeal funds, marvellous local donations and rice from the local government. After the initial relaxation of lockdown there was a surge in COVID-19 cases our own region, Rizal, was again put under Quarantine in August. Nobody can go out unless it is for essential work. There is a regular dump collection, but scavengers cannot work on the dumpsites.

Our journey is far from over, schooling will be online, but is difficult as most have no Wi-Fi access. We will work through the restrictions and give the best care, education, and safety to the children.

The monsoon rain has also started. There has been no flooding yet, and we clear stagnant water to limit mosquitos and the risk of dengue fever

Despite the problems everyone is healthy and doing well.

Sarah McLeod ASCF Chairperson and Peter Emata ASCF Administrator



'CHILDREN OF THE DUMP ESSENTIALS'

Introducing a new and easy way to regularly help all our children in Manila.

ESSENTIALS gives you the opportunity to help all the children at the same time with one monthly donation because your support will be used where it is most needed at any one time. This might be helping to pay the salary for a teacher at Cashew Early Years School or, especially this year, providing facemasks to keep everyone safe.

You decide how much you would like to give monthly. We are suggesting £2 per week, less than a cup of coffee in a café, collected automatically every 4 weeks as £8. If you are a UK taxpayer then we can claim an extra 25% through Gift Aid at no extra cost or effort to you so that £8 cost to you would be worth £10 to the charity. Of course, you can choose to donate any other amount.

One advantage of **ESSENTIALS** is that in these uncertain times it is easy to start and stop or change the amount you give as well as change the date of the month on which the payment is made.

Maybe you have been a previous child sponsor who did not want to start the whole journey again, fulfilling as it is, but would still like to regularly support the charity in a more flexible way. Perhaps you have been a long-time supporter of the charity but now want to take that first small step of making a regular donation. **ESSENTIALS** is a great new way to help.

In return you know that you are helping build a future for all the children in Manila. We plan on sending **ESSENTIALS** supporters email updates to show the difference that their money makes.

START TODAY- this QR code will take you directly through to sign up*



It would be amazing if you decided to sign up for **ESSENTIALS**.

Sign up now at <https://bit.ly/CotDEssentials> (Case sensitive)

Let us know what you think of this new initiative or contact us with any questions.

* If you would rather do things the traditional way that is fine. Contact John in the office by phone or email to set your CotD **ESSENTIALS** up by standing order.

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO SPONSOR A CHILD?

It is impossible for an individual to help every child in Manila who deserves an education and the opportunity to step out of poverty, but you can make a real difference to one child and their family by becoming a sponsor.

On the next page read about RA at Mango Tree House who needs a sponsor.



Through sponsorship RA gets the certainty of a full education at school as well as a loving home environment where she is safe and her overall wellbeing can be protected. There is food to stop her from being hungry, clothing and the support and help of a Social Worker to ensure that she can develop as a well rounded child. She will learn how to socialise and to help others including taking responsibility at Mango as she will probably help in activities such as cleaning or tending vegetables in the small garden. If she chooses, she will also receive guidance and teaching in her relationship with God. As she grows older, she will probably also help the younger children at Mango in the same way that an older sister might.

RA will also benefit from knowing that someone, the other side of the world, cares enough to provide that support. Sponsors like you can choose to write letters or cards- and you can do that as often as you like. These are highly valued and often take pride of place displayed on their personal locker doors. In return you will get hand written cards (often with a drawing) at Christmas and Easter and an annual progress report. Having a sponsor will motivate RA to do well and her grades will often reflect that. Sponsors often tell us of their joy at getting letters back from Manila and, over time, how delighted they are to see their sponsored child grow in skills and confidence; it really is a special feeling to see for yourself how your support has transformed one valuable young girl's life.

By sponsoring a child, you are doing something special ... thank you.

“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself”

John Dewey.

'MANGO HOUSE STUDENT RA NEEDS A SPONSOR'

The following has been translated from Tagalog to English from the ASCF Social Worker.

RA came from a broken family. Her parents separated after her father deserted them. Her mother, despite her devastation, decided to focus her energy in supporting and raising them. But because of her low educational attainment, she only gets menial jobs. Their mother stood as the breadwinner of their family working as a laundry woman. This does not suffice to support the whole family so the mother does any kind of work to support her children aside from her laundry job.



Their house was built through the help of a religious group after it was ruined by super Typhoon Ondoy on the year 2008. Though it was made of cement materials, the wall and flooring were roughly made. The window and door were also made of very light materials and can be easily ransacked by anyone. Their house has no division and served as multifunction room such as bedroom, receiving, dining, kitchen and they also have improvised comfort room for their toilet that was just covered by an old sack. They have no appliance since they do not have electricity connection except at night when they tap to their neighbour for a single bulb that illuminates their house and the only furniture they have is an old sofa bed that serves as multifunction chair, table and bed of their younger sibling.

RA is a charming girl. She likes to smile though she is a bit shy. Her height and weight are not congruent to her age as she looks smaller and younger. It was noted that despite the financial struggles and hardship they encountered she manage to have positive views and high regards to finish her education .

RECOMMENDATIONS: Based on her experiences and circumstances RA falls under the category of a neglected child and through the help of ASCF the child has high potential to succeed.

NICKY REGAN - WHY I SUPPORT COTD

How often do you get the opportunity to be blessed, to see God's work in action?

In May 2009 I was able to take a three and a half week sabbatical from the business I had only just started. To go and stay with the children at Mango House. I enjoyed being a part of their lives and to see hands on how much of a difference this amazing charity makes to the children in their care.



Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all and everyone who has donated or regularly supports Children of the Dump.

When I visited it was with the FUNKY group and whilst there we were able to put our time to good use and redecorate Cashew Tree School (old). Travelling each day to and from the school in the infamous Jeepney was quite an experience! It is so hard to write about all the feelings and experiences that I had because there is just not enough space - I would probably take up the whole newsletter!! Really I was just in awe of how much these children valued their education and how grateful they were for getting a chance in life. Most of all was their openness about God and their trust in Him even after what devastation had already been visited upon their young lives. It was so wonderful to be around and life changing.

So after many years when I heard that children of the dump were looking for people to run the Brighton Marathon on their behalf I crazily decided I would do it. Now I say crazily because at the time of deciding this I was lying next to my 4 month baby boy feeding him to sleep!

Running has always been something I've loved but I swore I would never run another half marathon let alone a FULL one. But hey I had given up the business so of course I had all the time to train. I am very lucky that I have an incredibly supportive husband and a couple of kiddies that are happy to be chucked around in the running buggy haha.

Well that was last April 2019 and I was pleased to have made it round in one piece and injury free. Thanks to my wonderful friends and family I was able to raise a whopping £762.47, more than the target I had set

Nicky Regan

PETER EMATA—ADMINISTRATOR FOR ASCF

I am one of those that have been fortunate enough to stumble upon my passion quite early in life. I believe in my heart and mind that what I currently do is what I am meant to do.

I am Simon Peter Emata, Administrator of Asian Student Christian Foundation, Inc. (ASCF) We are the charity funded by the Children of the Dump in the Philippines.

I am one of the charity's success stories. Your support led me to where I am today. I have been working in the charity for almost 30 years and leading it for seven years.

As the head of the agency, I keep the charity running effectively. My role in ASCF is complex and challenging. I oversee all three projects of the charity and manage all our local staff and volunteers. I bring in a rigorous approach to leadership and people management. I also diligently work with ASCF and Children of the Dump Board.

I also represent the foundation at public events. Apart from this, I work with the local and UK boards to set the strategic direction of the charity and translate this into an operational plan and adjusted organizational structure.

A day in the office is unpredictable—on most days, waters are calm, but sometimes crises arise. My years in the charity have taught me to be ready for anything that might happen because I have hundreds of students and staff who rely on my leadership and judgment. I am thankful that I have competent and reliable staff to depend on when I am not available or who checks and balances my decisions.

Working in a charity setting requires passion, commitment, and dedication—all the other skills for me are just secondary. I would not last this long in ASCF if I do not love the work that we do. I firmly believe that the life we change today can change the world tomorrow.



Peter Emata—ASCF Administrator

NEWS OF CHARITY EVENTS IN 2020



Due to the pandemic and the restrictions in place, all Children of the Dump face to face events for 2020 have been suspended.

The Charity will of course notify our supporters once we can safely hold these events.

If you feel you could hold a fundraising event there are still plenty of ways to fundraise during the pandemic while keeping safe.

If you decide to fundraise, you can collect donations safely online without coming into contact with cash or making any trips to the bank.

Ideas to get you inspired...

Set up a birthday fundraiser on social media



Did you know you can set up a birthday fundraiser on your Facebook page or via your Instagram story in a matter of clicks and choose our charity 'childrenofthedumpmanila'

Baking sessions at home



Fancy yourself as the next Mary Berry, Paul Hollywood or Nadiya Hussain? How about literally dusting off your rolling pin and hosting a virtual baking session with friends, family or colleagues?

Miles & Miles



Whether you're into running, jogging or walking for your daily exercise routine during this difficult time, challenge yourself to cover the distance of a marathon over the course a month to improve your wellbeing and fundraise to improve life of others at the same time!

MEET A TRUSTEE—BENET FRYER

I have heard of Children of the Dump two years ago. Not only was it local to me, it also sponsors children from the Philippines where I am from. I have been visiting various orphanages in the Philippines over the years with my sister and cousins and as much as we have loved doing this, we thought it would be better if we can do something that would give respite for more than just a day.



Finding COTD could not have come at a more opportune time as what could be better than providing children with education. It is a gift that keeps giving as you give them tools and a chance to make their lives better.



My first visit to Mango was both heart-breaking and heart-warming at the same time. I am no stranger to poverty growing up in Manila but the experience still surprised me. Since then, I have been visiting twice a year with my family bringing food and donations from friends. I have also become a sponsor to Dagul, who I share the same birthday. I am a volunteer for the charity too back in England helping with admin work and have been asked to be a trustee which I consider as a privilege.

I have also co-founded BKind with my family, an organization helping the underprivileged where COTD is the primary beneficiary.

I find the children's resilience and the charity members' generosity truly inspiring.

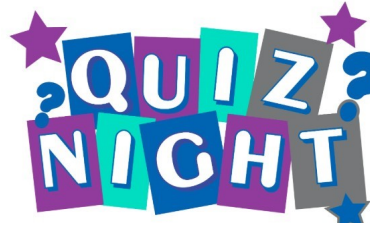
Benet Fryer—Trustee

ONLINE FUNDRAISING

Face to Face Charity Events such as the Golf Am-Am, Pop up Coffee mornings, face to face quizzes to name but a few may be on hold until further notice, but we have 'The Children of the Dump Online Zoom Quiz'

ONLINE QUIZZES ON ZOOM

Thanks to Quizmaster and Charity Trustee Mark Fryer over £2,000 has been raised from friends and supporters across the UK from fun family online quizzes on Zoom. We have also raised a significant sum from people paying **NOT TO TAKE PART**- too many long family quizzes during lockdown?



It's nice that no team has won more than once yet.

Teams of up to 5 (in up to 5 locations) are welcome to join just 1 event or every quiz. You don't need to download any software, just click on the link!. We have a suggested minimum donation of £3 per player.

Dates are confirmed for **the first Thursday of every month**. Come on line at 7.15pm so you can be matched up with your team for a 7.30 start. Contact us if you haven't seen messages online and would like to take part.

Next dates; **September 3rd, October 1st, November 5th**

CONTACT US AT CHILDREN OF THE DUMP

High Cross Church, Knoll Road, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3SY

Tel: 01276-942030

Website: www.childrenofthedump.org.uk

E-mail: office@childrenofthedump.org.uk

Facebook: [childrenofthedumpmanila](https://www.facebook.com/childrenofthedumpmanila)

Registered Charity Number: 272328

Patrons: Right Honourable Michael Gove MP for Surrey Heath

Patron: Nathan Dyer, Swansea City FC