



TRANSFORMING LIVES IN MANILA
THROUGH EDUCATION

NEWSLETTER

Winter Edition 2020

Issue 66

We are delighted to announce that we have been chosen to take part in the **Big Give Christmas Challenge** again this year. The campaign provides a unique opportunity to double the value of any online donations made from midday on Tuesday 1 December until midday on Tuesday 8 December 2020.

ONE DONATION TWICE THE IMPACT.



We have been incredibly blessed to receive promises of £7,000 from supporters which has been doubled by The Cole Medlock Foundation to create a £14,000 matching pot. In order to access this money, we need YOU to donate online during the week midday 1st December to midday 8th December. A whopping £28,000 is at stake here and it is our most ambitious campaign ever but so critical in this difficult year when our services in Manila have been under such huge pressure and fundraising in the UK is constrained.

All donations must be made online to the Big Give link below. If you can't do that then please ask a friend or relative to make the payment on your behalf. You can hold COVID safe fundraising events in aid of Children of the Dump and pay the proceeds online to the Big Give website and double the benefit. Every pound will count and if you are joining our Quiz that week then you will have a chance to make your donation as part of the quiz.



**The link to donate from mid day on Tuesday
December 1st for just 1 week is:**

<http://bit.ly/CotDBigGive20>

Poraj Family support Big Give Christmas Challenge

The Poraj family from Essex supported Children of the Dump Big Give Challenge in 2019. Here they explain why



We have been supporters of Children of the Dump for a few years now because we believe in what they are aiming to achieve.

We were privileged to meet Peter Emata (the Manila Director) on one of his trips to the UK and were so impressed by the total dedication to transforming scavenger children's lives through education.

The chance to double our giving as part of the Big Give Christmas Challenge was a wonderful opportunity so last year as part their Christmas present we gave our children some money to donate to a charity of their choice. Joel, our eleven year old chose to give his money to Children of the Dump. He said " I chose to give to Children of the Dump as I enjoy going to school and it made me feel good that I was able to help another child go to school.

Natasha, Bo, Joel and Benji.

NEWS FROM MANILA

It has been seven months since our government put the entire country under various levels of community quarantine. Recently, communities and the economy have started easing up. We now see more public transport on the streets and businesses opening again, more people are outside after the gradual expansion of the age groups allowed to go out. The charity is coping well with the times. We are thankful that despite the difficulties and adjustments, everybody remains healthy and safe. We have adapted to the new modality of classes. We have some tablets and smartphones we were given, which are extremely useful to our students. The primary adjustment is self-paced learning because teachers are only available online at set times. To cope, our students in Mango and those visiting from Grapevine spend almost the entire day online to watch tutorials and read. The small team here at Mango can only do so much as dozens of them need assistance and if any of you have home schooled children in the UK then imagine doing that with 50 children.



At Cashew, teachers, staff, and parents are all busy preparing for the Department of Education's assessment as part of its accreditation procedure. We are making changes to comply with the bureau's new demands, given the limited time they gave us—barely a week! But we are thankful that the application is now moving, and they will inspect using a video presentation. We hope to confirm the Department's approval as soon as possible! At Cashew, we are committed to making education available to everyone. We deliver lessons using

paper-based modules and additional activities, which are distributed weekly. We carry out assessments using Facebook Messenger as the most available and familiar application to parents run on old smartphones which have been loaned to them. The teachers have filmed supplemental videos to assist the children and daily assessments are scheduled where lessons are updated and help them cope. Teachers also meet with some students personally for a one-on-one tutorial for those that need it.

We are thankful for your support in ensuring that learning does not end for each child we support, even during this pandemic.

Alpha Mae Emata—ASCF

GIVE A MEANINGFUL GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS

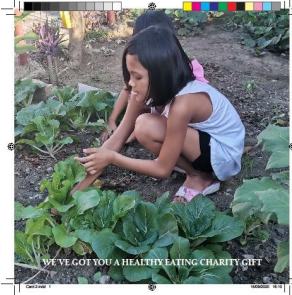
We have smartened up what we used to call our Alternative Christmas present

Send one of 3 special cards. Write your greetings inside and send. You and the person receiving know that you are helping to transform a child's life. Surely a better gift than another scented candle!!



Gift A

£30 could pay for a trained teacher, who every week, for a week. teaches 100 children



Gift B

£20 could buy a vital fresh, healthy and tasty lunch for a whole class of young students



Gift C

£10 Enough paper, pens and materials for a child for a whole school term.

To get these cards you can send an email , buy online ,<https://bit.ly/3jEtGzB> phone up John (details on the back page) or write with a cheque and order form. Please get your order to us **NO LATER THAN Wednesday December 15th**

| Suggested Amount/card | Number required | £ Amount |
|---------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Gift A £30 | _____ | _____ |
| Gift B £20 | _____ | _____ |
| Gift C £10 | _____ | _____ |

I would like to donate, but I do not want a card ☐
Please tick the box if you are a UK taxpayer and we can claim gift aid ☐
Address for us to send the cards to - (Please print)

Name

Address

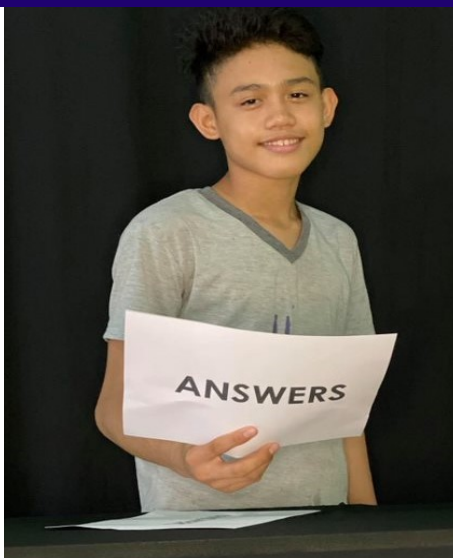
Post Code.....

ONLINE QUIZ CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Our monthly Quizzes have been a real success this year and continue on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30.

Thanks to Quizmaster Mark Fryer over £3,000 has been raised from friends and supporters across the UK. We think our Quizzes are better than the rest!

Teams of up to 6 people in up to 5 different locations compete in these fun sessions that last about 90 minutes on Zoom. You don't need to download any software, just click on the link. We have both regular and one off teams



We use breakout rooms so team members can video chat to each other at half time and for as long as they want after the quiz.

Suggested minimum donation of £3 per player.

We need a SPECIAL EFFORT FOR OUR DECEMBER 5th QUIZ as this is in the Big Give week so donations made will be doubled.

ONE DONATION TWICE THE IMPACT!

Create a team and email office@childrenofthedump.org.uk to get the details



PLEASE SPONSOR A PLACE FOR A NEW CLASSMATE FOR ME!



Cashew Early Years School gives children aged 4- 5 a chance. Each was born into a life of poverty and hunger. Even at the moment while face to face teaching is banned – our teachers are working hard to help each and every student receive an education.

Cashew provides vital Early Years education plus a uniform, lifts to school and a daily meal to enable concentration. After 2 years the children are happy, laughing and ready to succeed at elementary school.

Parents of these children earn little scavenging on the rubbish dumps and this year has been more difficult than ever. Most parents had limited schooling themselves and are scavenging to care for their family as best they can. It is difficult to adjust. Trained social workers ensure that the children don't drop back out of school into a hopeless situation

At the start of a **Cashew** sponsorship you get a picture and background on the child you are helping plus a year end report. When that child goes on to elementary school you will meet a different youngster starting their journey to a better life .

**£4 a week from someone like you will save an extra child.
We have places for another 70 children**

Phone John on 01276 942030 or email office@childrenofthedump.org.uk.

THESE CHILDREN NEED SPONSORS FOR SCHOOL PLACE

'Marco' is a sweet and shy little boy. His favourite colour is blue, while his favourite food are sardines and vegetables.

His family lives in a small patchwork wood house owned by their relatives. His father works as a garbage collector while his mother is a housewife taking care of them. Both his parents only finished 2nd grade in elementary. His parents struggle in reading and writing.



His father's income is not sufficient to their daily needs, so his father collects plastic bottles, paper and burnt brass to have another source of income.

Marco is currently studying as a nursery student in Cashew. He is one of our students learning through modules and instructional videos provided by the Cashew teachers.



'Zaiyah' is a cute little girl that loves to dance and play with her siblings. She is the youngest in the family. She likes colour pink, loves to eat fried chicken and vegetables. She wants to be a doctor someday.

Her father and mother are street vendors selling cigarettes and candies. It is their daily source of income to survive the day with an average income of 400 PHP (£6.40) a day. Three years ago, they lived on the streets asking for food and money from passersby.

With their diligence, they were able to save money and found a house for rent in Rodriguez, Rizal. Her father started to sell cigarettes on the street for their food and rent. Their lives became difficult to the point that their neighbour gives them food when they do not have any income.

To meet the needs of the family, her mother sought a sideline as a laundrywoman with an income of 300 PHP (£4.80) a day. The combined income of her parents became a great help to the family to provide their children with food and shelter.

SARAH MCLEOD —CHAIRPERSON FOR ASCF IN MANILA

Quality education. Great, loving care in a family environment along with rules you expect at home. Staff that are incredible and selfless. Children who are just amazing, talented, living the life they deserve.

When I first met the children they were in the old Mango house; small, cramped, untidy, noisy and full of joy, song, homework, dressing up, shared cooking, cleaning up, arguing, hugging, loving, talking, reading. I instantly fell in love. Since that first meeting 20 years ago I was invested and involved.



I have met and introduced as many people as I can to the Asian Students Christian Foundation, (the name of the charity in the Philippines). I have helped out to the best of my abilities and not just with cash. Donations of items to sell play a large part in my world now. My home is never free from boxes of toys, books, clothes and brick a brac since we introduced the garage sales as a way to raise funds locally. Luckily I have a very loving and understanding other half, Ham, known on social media as The Silver Fox.

When I became chairman in Manila, I took the role seriously to ensure that the care of the children and staff welfare come first. I ensure that my communication about them would be positive and highlight the successes and the joys. Am I perfect? Of course not. I brought up 4 sons, and I work full time. I am a member of the British Chamber of Commerce, business groups and I have commitments to the British ladies in Manila who support the charity each month. But I will always do what I can to support the charity.

There are so many children to help and families to support as half the population live below the poverty line. There are so many other charities here that also do great work. We are one of many and sometimes I feel alone in the city trying to make sure that people remember us and join in the events we organise.

We have had challenges this year as we cannot do those activities that we usually do, but as soon as we can, we will!

SARAH MCLEOD —CHAIRPERSON FOR ASCF

I cannot imagine my life without the charity. I am connected and still in love. Over the years I have become 'lola' (godmother) to many of the children who have left and now have become wives, husbands, mothers and fathers and now live their own life. I have been to weddings and been a sponsor (part of the wedding party). Each time I am asked to do this I accept. I do this with joy knowing it is a lifelong commitment.

Education is the key to ensuring each child can change their own future and carry on their life having broken the poverty spell. If I can be there to help in any way I will. Those first children I met back in the 90's are now nearly 40!

Whilst I never expected to be part of the charity for all these years, I would not have it any other way. The team, the children. what can I say... The time spent has meant more to me than anything. Fulfilling, at times demanding, but worth it.

Sarah McLeod



GOT A BIRTHDAY COMING UP?

Birthdays are normally a fun time to get together and celebrate with friends and family. If you can't meet up with as many people as usual then why not set up a **Facebook Birthday Fundraiser** instead?

It is a great way to celebrate and keep in touch with friends, no matter how far away. At the same time you are giving them an easy no pressure option to donate to Children of the Dump.



This year over 80 people have set up Fundraisers and over 300 people have donated

What's more, for Children of the Dump, Facebook take no charges at all so 100% of donations go to the charity.

It is incredibly easy and fast to set up. Use this link or this QR code and follow the prompts

<https://www.facebook.com/fund/childrenofthedumpmanila/>

You can choose to set a target amount (or just accept the defaults) and date for it to finish (a week after your birthday is suggested) and follow the prompts which will automatically add something about the charity and even provide a picture for the post so that the post goes onto your timeline and your friends can see it.

And that's it!

***Happy Birthday from us all at
Children of the Dump***



SPECIAL THANKS TO SPONSORS , DONORS AND HELPERS

As the Coronavirus pandemic started to spread around the globe, devastating lives and communities, we asked for vital donations to provide a safety net for children in our care.

We stepped out in faith and asked for help and God has responded through our wonderful supporters.

A huge, big thank you from the children in Manila to everyone who has donated this year and especially those ongoing sponsors of children and regular givers.

During this difficult and uncertain time, we have been blessed to receive extraordinary donations from our sponsors and supporters which were a lifeline to our students, and their families A special thank you to the churches and congregations at **St Paul's Church, High Cross Church, St Peters Church, Leytonstone UFC, Banstead URC, St Mary's Market Drayton**, and others who have donated.

Thank you to **John Marjot** who raised over £1,700 by completing 4 Pyrenean mountain climbs in two weeks followed by 2 weeks isolation. John has completed a number of challenges including riding the Wild Atlantic Way Ireland in 2019 to raise money in aid of Children of the Dump.



Thank you for the recent wonderful grants from **Souter Charitable Trust, Paget Charitable Trust, Paradigm Norton** and the **Fitton Trust**.

Since the launch of **ESSENTIALS** in August we welcome **6 new sponsors** whose monthly donations are used across the charity.

Facebook followers have so far raised £5,984 this year alone in Birthday Fundraisers with donations from 12 different countries

Our new charity video was created by one of our trustees **Benet Fryer**, and her friends in the UK and Manila; **Glen De Guzman, Kristine Abad, Joshua Marquez** and **Betina Bondoc**. See it on You Tube <http://bit.ly/CotDVideo2020>

Your generosity enables children to continue to transform their lives through education even through these most difficult of times

CHAIRMAN KAY MACKAY'S REPORT 2019-20

The Constitution states the mission of Children of the Dump (registered as Asian Students Christian Trust) is the relief of poverty amongst Asian students and children by providing accommodation in hostels and other places; providing education in schools colleges universities and other places; and providing financial support and making grants towards to provision of accommodation and education and the necessities of life. Since 1975 the supporters of Children of the Dump and our Filipino partner Asian Students Christian Foundation, have been giving young lives the chance to escape the cycle of poverty through education.



To deliver our mission, Children of the Dump provides education, family support and loving care to deprived children living in extreme poverty in the Payatas and San Isidro rubbish dump communities in Manila. During 2019–2020 there were 212 children in our care; supported in different ways; some of whom have been neglected, abused, or even abandoned.

Our children were supported through: a residential children's home (Mango Tree House); a scholarship programme (Grapevine) and the early years school (Cashew Tree) which was in temporary accommodation during 2018-2019 and has now been rebuilt and is capable of taking 200 students.

The key priority for the charity this year has been delivering the strategy to replace Cashew Tree School and managing the building of the new permanent school on the site of Mango Tree House. Being able to raise the necessary capital was a significant achievement for the charity and seeing the new building operating with 4 bright and colourful classrooms, capable of taking 200 students was hugely satisfying.

The benefit to the local community is immeasurable. A child who attends Cashew Tree school is given a stepping stone to success in the crowded public school system, making them pupils in demand and more likely to remain in education as they proceed through their school years.

The building is capable of supporting a second storey for future use when



CHAIRMAN KAY MACKAY'S REPORT 2019-20 (CONT)

necessary and subject to funds being available. The charity is incredibly grateful to all those that have helped to make this possible.

Although full capacity is 200 students, Trustees were cautious of income levels in the first year of operation and agreed to keep expenditure more manageable at 100 students who moved into their new classrooms in November 2019. This coincided with the UK Trustee visit who were delighted to see the new building in use.



Services in Manila continued to operate under the jurisdiction of local regulatory agencies and the board members of Asian Students Christian Foundation (ASCF). The local environment continues to change as the closure of Payatas dumpsite drives populations to move to San Isidro, the new scavenging site, where living conditions are atrocious. Scavenger communities continue to reside in Payatas as the recycling businesses are well established in the vicinity. Fortunately, our facilities are conveniently situated equi-distant between Payatas and San Isidro and can serve both communities as well as the nearby resettlement town of Kasiglahan which houses people who have been evicted from their squatter shelters.

Mango Tree House has provided a loving residential home for over 40 children from four years of age. The increased national emphasis on re-integration with family has led to a significant policy change in operational practice for ASCF which has been jointly adopted with the UK. In 2019-2020, children's relatives were systematically reassessed to identify which students could be safely moved to a family environment. The charity will continue to support their education where necessary through the Grapevine scheme. In the year covered by this report, places vacated at Mango have been filled with new children who need a safe and loving environment. In future years, it is envisaged that fewer children will be accommodated in Mango and more supported in the community through Grapevine.

Grapevine has supported 69 children to go to school while living with their family. This avoids the need for the children to work scavenging to assist the

CHAIRMAN KAY MACKAY'S REPORT 2019-20 (CONT)

family income and provides them with optimal opportunities to complete their education. Children who succeed in education, will utilise their new earning power to support their siblings and family to also step up from poverty. One child's life transformed thus impacts on many others.



In the UK, fundraising has had to adapt to changing trends in giving. Child sponsorship remains a key tenant for our charity and improvements have been made to communications with sponsors and other regular donors to ensure that the difference they are making is understood. However the proportion of our income from this source is dropping and we have placed much greater emphasis on raising

awareness and funds through social media, grants, and national campaigns. Social media coverage on Facebook and Instagram has increased thanks to the efforts of dedicated volunteers which has generated more followers and we hope will turn into supporters.

One of our biggest efforts was focused on the Big Give Christmas Campaign where donations are doubled. This played a large part in being able to extend the numbers of students at Cashew Tree School.

Through the appointment of two new Trustees, the charity has expanded the skills and knowledge of the Board in the UK. One of the appointees was born and raised in Manila which brings an important dimension to discussions. The strengthening of the UK board is mirrored in ASCF with new active members also being appointed there.

The end of the year was of course blighted by COVID-19. Manila experienced the most draconian lock-down which for our community proved devastating. Emergency processes were implemented to keep families fed and appeals for special funds enabled this to happen. The implications of the pandemic continue to unfold, and the charity will do its utmost to deliver its beneficiaries the best possible help and support.

Kay Mackay
Chair of Trustees

TREASURER REPORT 2019-20

Total income in the year was £197,000 which was £33,000 lower than 2018/19. Unrestricted income was down £7,000 and restricted income was £26,000 lower at £4,000 as result of fewer successful grant applications.

Unrestricted expenditure grew by £17,000 to £201,000 and Restricted expenditure grew by £18,000 to £36,000 as a result of expenditure on the construction of the new school.

The Unrestricted Deficit for the year was £8,000 and Restricted Funds fell by £32,000 to £28,000

Summary Accounts

| Movement of Funds during the year | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Balance at 1 April 2019 | Income | Expenditure | | Net Movement | Balance at 31 March 2020 |
| | £'000 | | Charitable Activities | Fundraising | | £'000 |
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Unrestricted Funds | 115 | 193 | 181 | 20 | -8 | 107 |
| Restricted Funds | 60 | 4 | 36 | | -32 | 28 |
| Total Funds | 175 | 197 | 217 | 20 | -40 | 135 |

Total Reserves at 31 March 2020 were £135,00,000. Restricted Reserves were £28,000, leaving £107,000 in the General Reserve.

Each year the Charity has to set a "Target" for the General Reserve. On 1 April 2020 the Target General Reserve was £70,000. The actual reserve was £37,000 higher than the target but the excess is likely to be used to subsidise the running costs of the new school for the next 2/3 years and compensate for a potential fall in the value of the Pound following Brexit.

John Wenger
Treasurer

CHRISTMAS LOVE AND GRATITUDE

This card was designed by the little children in Manila and is sent to each and every one of you with love and gratitude this Christmas.

The pandemic is going to make this year challenging for all. The team in Manila have had to adapt to unprecedented circumstances, children are confined to houses and no face to face teaching is allowed. We pay tribute to their fortitude and resilience in continuing to make sure the children in our care can access the best possible education and learning. We pray that they will all find some joy and peace this Christmas.



Here in the UK, our team have been creative in how we can raise enough money to keep services going in Manila when there are so many restrictions in place. You, our wonderful supporters have risen to the challenge and continue to make such a big difference for the children.

From myself and all the Trustees here in the UK, we send you our very best wishes and prayers for a healthy and happy Christmas.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. ROM 15:13

Kay Mackay Chair of Trustees.

CONTACT US AT CHILDREN OF THE DUMP

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Tel: 01276-942030

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For regular updates follow us on Facebook: [childrenofthedumpmanila](https://www.facebook.com/childrenofthedumpmanila)

Registered Charity Number: 272328