



August 21 Monthly News Update

SCHOOL IN MANILA IS BACK IN SEPTEMBER

Another difficult month in Manila with full lockdown AGAIN. Non-essential businesses are shut, and army checkpoints stop travel beyond the local neighbourhood, at least this time the government has given eligible families a one off payment of 4,000 pesos (less than £50), so only enough for the most basic food. Some restrictions will begin to lift in a few days. 14 million vaccine jabs have been given in the Philippines, but this is only 13% of the population. It is excellent that 7 of our teaching staff are already vaccinated and everyone remains well.

There is hope. The new school year in the Philippines will start with online schooling on September 13th. Cashew Early Years will run as last year for the 4-6 year old children who will receive their weekly school packs prepared and delivered by the local Children of the Dump staff in Manila supported by phone calls and Zoom. The older children will continue their online schooling. Most already have access to a cheap old tablet or phone to help them, so as long as the weak signal for phone coverage in the slums holds up, they can get by.

Citio Pintor an isolated community

This year the charity visited a new barrio close by the San Isidro rubbish dump that has quickly grown to be the biggest dump in Manila. Citio Pintor is an isolated community of shacks that has sprung from nowhere in the last few years for scavenging worker families. It is a sad place as there are no established school, medical or water drainage systems here, no viable transport and no other charities work here.



Mobile phone coverage here is weak, so online schooling is impossible. The wonderful motivated staff in Manila have found a way to overcome some difficulties of this. Open air schooling is allowed for small numbers of young children who can be socially distanced. Citio Pintor has a small shelter structure with a roof. This means that small classes can be held outside, but away from the unbearable heat of the sun and the torrential downpours of the Monsoon. From next month 4 classes of 6 young pupils will each run for an hour a week to give these isolated children their first hope of a start in education. It is a beginning for Citio Pintor that has no other option right now. The photos show the community meeting where local mums were delighted to hear that their calls for local education for their children had been answered. They know that this is their best, maybe only, option for the family to break the cycle of poverty in which they are trapped. The teaching staff can't wait to get going with this new challenge!



IN OTHER NEWS.....

WELCOME to the Charity to the new sponsors who have kindly agreed to sponsor children through Cashew Early Years School after reading their stories on our new website feature . See the latest 2 children looking for sponsors <https://childrenofthedump.org.uk/how-you-can-help/sponsor-a-child-today/>

THANK YOU The monthly online Quiz raised another £172 with The Seagulls victorious. It was an excellent evening that was a success even though some of our regulars were on holiday and a couple of players couldn't make the Wednesday rather than the normal Thursday evening time.

Next Quiz is **Thursday September 2nd** at 7.15 for a 7.30 start.
Email johnbusby@childrenofthedump.org.uk for more details

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our UK Office Manager, John, for creating a **Facebook Birthday Fundraiser** and for his wonderful friends and family for supporting it. Anyone with a birthday coming up in the next couple of weeks can set a Birthday Fundraiser campaign up, it couldn't be easier to do and it's a nice way to get interested friends and family involved without having to directly ask them which some people find uncomfortable to do.

Use this link to set your own Fundraiser up
<https://www.facebook.com/fund/childrenofthedumpmanila/>

NEXT MONTH we hope to share with you news about a competition that we have run for our Grapevine students in Manila to tell us about their experience with the Charity