

I want to use this newsletter to share with you an exciting development in the Cashew School project. Historically, our students came from Payatas, the old dumpsite slum area. Then when we built the new school in the grounds of Mango Tree House, admissions were split between Payatas and the local resettlement town of Kasiglahan. When Payatas dumpsite was closed about 4 years ago, all the rubbish started going to San Isidro, the Montalban dumpsite in the locality of Mango Tree House. I visited there on my last two trips to Manila and was saddened by the rapidly growing community of scavengers and their living conditions around the dumpsite. There is no electricity, no clean water and no toilet facilities. None of the children were going to school, there were just none accessible.

In preparation for the new school year starting this September, our Cashew teachers visited the community to work out if there was a way of offering places at Cashew for the children. There were massive challenges to overcome:

- Due to Covid-19, face to face teaching is still prevented so learning is heavily supported by parents.
- Parents here are mainly illiterate and have never been to school themselves so unable to provide that support.
- Most children are unregistered with no birth certificate and as such would not be allowed to enter the public education system after leaving Cashew.
- Virtual online teaching requires internet access and devices, both unavailable in this community.



Kay MacKay, Chair of the Charity

- The entire family has to focus their energy on gathering enough money in the day to put rice on the table that night.

Parents were inspired by the Cashew offering and the opportunity for their children to receive free, high quality early years education.

A powerful partnership has developed between the parents, teachers and social workers to make this happen. Just last week, for Brigada Eskwela, (a festival of preparation for opening of the new school year) parents came together to clean and fence a make-shift classroom using bamboo (growing wild).

The facility will be used by Cashew teachers to hold small socially distanced tutorials (allowed under the regulations) which will assist parents to learn to support their child's curriculum. Social workers are facilitating parents to register their children and everyone is committed to maximising the opportunities that this new project offers.



Our teacher said “ It is a beautiful and inspiring sight to see these families who barely have the basic essentials but work together so that their children can go to school. They have big dreams for their children, and this is a massive leap towards better opportunities and the life their children deserve”

For our students in Cashew, Grapevine and Mango Tree House, we pray that the new school year will be filled with positive energy, health and happiness.

Kay Mackay—Chair of Children of the Dump (ASCT)

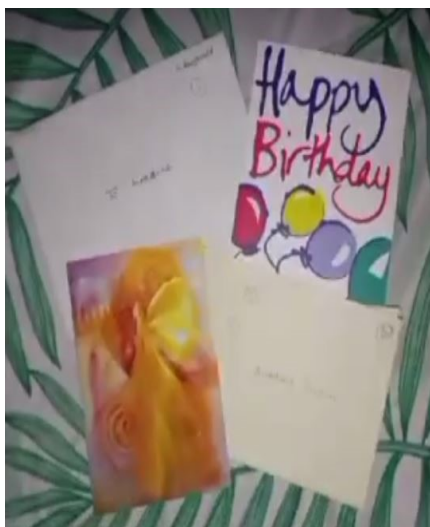
“Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another”
G.K. Chesterton

Ariadine's journey as a Grapevine student

Ariadine has been a sponsored Grapevine student for nearly 8 years. This means that she lives at home with her family of 5 but because her parents are poor they receive a small allowance from Children of the Dump so long as she continues to study hard.



This summer she created and edited a video herself on an old tablet which highlighted the benefits of Grapevine. She talks about the importance of the friends she has made as well as the education and personal development support she has received. Today, she is an amazingly confident young lady proud of her hard work and ready to use the skills she now has and make a success for herself and her family. She highlights the motivation she gets from having a sponsor, who she will probably never meet, and who has stuck by her for all this time. She has kept all the birthday cards that her sponsor has sent over the years that gave her such a thrill when she received them. So, for the 8 years of supporting me, 'thank you so much'



Well done to everyone!

Have a look at Ariadine's video here <https://bit.ly/2XmwRWZ> or follow the QR code below



Xian—Cashew Early Years Student

Meet Xian, one of the children who has completed his first year as a Cashew Early Years student studying at home and online.

For now, 4-year-old Xian lives happily at home with his mum, dad and 2 older brothers. Both parents work hard, but their jobs pay below minimum wage, and they face extra costs for regular medical checks for Xian.



This is what our Cashew teacher: Irish said about Xian's education -

Xian grew up with low self-esteem, so his mother decided to let him enroll in Nursery. Even though he is still young to start school, his parents want Xian to cope with the learning environment and mingle with other people. He is not used to socializing or even playing with other children .

As a teacher, I could see how Xian's personality affects his behaviour toward others because of his condition. There was a time that he entered our first online class, he smiled at me and greeted me happily. Suddenly, when his other classmates entered class, he felt embarrassed when he spoke because we could not understand what he was saying. Unfortunately, because of what happened, he just bowed his head and hid his face just to make sure no one else could see his condition. But as time went by, he has adjusted and enjoyed our classes. See how happy he is to get his year-end certificate. Next school year he is still enrolled as a Nursery student. We are happy to know that Xian will continue his studies and will face new challenges bravely.

To sponsor a Cashew Early Years School student, it costs just £16 per month, please go to this link <https://childrenofthedump.org.uk/how-you-can-help/sponsor-a-child-form/>



Alpha Mae writes from Manila

On September 13, 2021, classes from pre-Kinder to university level will resume remotely as campuses across the country remain closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Millions of Filipino students will once again study via a distance learning system. This means that lessons will be delivered in various ways, including modular learning, online learning, blended learning, and TV and radio broadcast.

Remote learning continues to be difficult for the children at ASCF. Mango students are enrolled in a hybrid of online and modular learning. Although we can say that we have adjusted to the dynamics of distance learning, there are still challenges, such as a poor internet connection, a lack of gadgets and peripherals, and a fast-paced discussion during class hours. In effect, the Mango staff must supplement and ensure that their students understand and remember their lessons at home.

Our Grapevine students face even more significant difficulties. The majority of them are using the printed modular system, where they are only given self-learning materials. Either their internet signal is poor at home, or a high-speed internet connection is too expensive for their families. They will receive no guidance from their teachers on most days of the year if they self-learn.

This distance learning system is riddled with problems and controversies. Apart from class differences, cheating and manipulation are common in this mode of instruction. Many people believe that this learning system does not accurately reflect a child's knowledge and understanding.

These are difficult times for us all. We are grateful for all the extra effort that our staff have put into continuing to protect the children. We do what we can to support them and make sure that they get at least some education. We are very frustrated that we still can't do more after over a year of problems. We are tired and we pray for an end of the crisis but we are so proud of how the children have responded and stay cheerful despite all the setbacks.

Fundraising for Children of the Dump

If YOU have a birthday coming up.....

Please consider donating your birthday to Children of the Dump with a Facebook Birthday Fundraiser. It is a great way to celebrate a birthday and do good at the same time. It is such an easy way to introduce friends and family to the charity who are on Facebook without any embarrassment from you asking for donations directly. Simply go to this link and share to your Facebook page. Your friends, wherever they are, can contribute with a credit card (anonymously or not)



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

If YOU KNOW SOMEONE ELSE with a birthday coming up....

Please remember that you can send a birthday (or other occasion) card or e-card sent directly to a friend or family member and make a donation (which can be anonymous if you like) to Children of the Dump. A popular option is to upload a favourite photo and convert that into a greeting card for no extra cost. You can book the posting date up to a year in advance as well so no need to forget someone's birthday ever again. What a great way to commemorate an occasion!

<https://makingadifference.cards/supporting/childrenofthedump>

help support children of the dump (ascf) all year round on making a difference cards



CHILDREN OF THE DUMP
TRANSFORMING LIVES IN MANILA
THROUGH EDUCATION

Send out the perfect feel good, do good Birthday Card!
Make someone smile with a personalised card that supports a good cause. Available at the online charity card shop
making a difference

cards
£2.50
+ donation
+ p&p

e-cards
£2.00
send to 25 people

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LEWIS
CHEERS!
HAVE A GOOD ONE



Scan the QR Code to be taken to the card site or go on line by clicking on the link above for Making a Difference cards for Children of the Dump.

<https://makingadifference.cards/supporting/childrenofthedump>

Christmas Post

IF YOU SPONSOR a child in the Philippines....

Many sponsors like to send Christmas cards to their children. Read the article about Airadine (Page 3) to see how much they are appreciated. We would like to suggest that they are posted to High Cross Church no later than the **10th of December**.

Unfortunately we can't send gifts to the Philippines because of postage costs and customs duties but it would be brilliant if you would send £10 and we can transfer the money to Manila. Depending on the age of the child they can then choose their own present and you can be sure that they have something that they love. Please do this by the **30th November**.

Brighton Marathon 2021



Run like the wind; 2 years after agreeing, supporter Nicky Regan completed the Brighton Marathon in September and raised over £700 for the children. Thank you for all that training and running.

Thanks also to those who donated.

VirginGiving Closure Nov 21

VirginGiving is closing on the 30th of November 2021, therefore the Charity will be changing to PayPal for donations. For those of you who have not used PayPal previously it's a very simple process, just click on the link provided below (or type in your browser) which will take you to the Children of the Dump (ASCT) Charity PayPal account and will enable you to pay either by your PayPal account or a Card payment.

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=UK3UK8MXCUEEN

Alternatively, if you already have a Pay Pal account you can search for The Asian Students Christian Trust and authorise PayPal to make payments authorised from your account or scan the QR Code to be taken to PayPal.



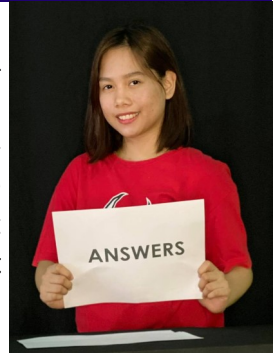
Thank You's

Lets get Quizzical.

Over the 'long hot summer' (fat chance!) Quizmaster Mark kept up with the monthly fun online quiz. Thank you. Teams of up to 6 play every first Thursday of the month (log on to Zoom at 7.15pm). The quiz takes about 90 minutes. Now the nights get longer perhaps you can join in- a change from TV. It is a fun way to catch up with family/ friends as time is allocated to chat with your team members in online rooms. Usually a different team wins each month, so never feel that you have to be super brainy to take part. Come just once, and if you like it, become a regular.

A suggested minimum £3 donation per person.

Email John at office@childrenofthedump.org.uk if you would like to set up a team, or go on the monthly email list to get updates.



Welcome to new sponsors; Our website has changed. Now you can see 2 specific children who need sponsors at this time. New supporters have already read stories and given children hope of a better future. The photo is of Amber, the first to get her own sponsor. See who is there today.

<https://childrenofthedump.org.uk/how-you-can-help/sponsor-a-child-today/>

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

Registered Charity Number: 272328