

A MESSAGE FROM CHARITY CHAIR KAY MACKAY

The new school year is well underway in Manila with the timing now more aligned to that in the UK. There are 180 little students aged 4 -6 enrolled in Cashew Tree School, split over the three sites in Payatas, Kasiglahan and Sitio Pintor. Over the summer break, work has been going on at the Sitio site to improve the solar powered lighting and ventilation to make the environment more comfortable for students and teachers. There is still no running water or sanitation at the school or in the area.



Whenever I sit in on the Cashew lessons, I am reminded of the blessings that this school brings for its students; an opportunity to become a pupil in demand in the public sector instead of labelled as an automatic failure. The joy of learning is evident in every child and through the dedication and skills of our wonderful teachers.

Many of last year's Cashew graduates have succeeded in enrolling in our scholarship Grapevine programme taking the total number of

participants up to 140. These students range from Grade 1 to final year of university with the selection targeting those with the most academic potential who, might otherwise drop out of school to earn money for the family. Saturday school for Grapevine and Mango students has also restarted where our social workers run activities which aid child development, physically, mentally and spiritually. I have been privileged to participate in a few Saturday schools and never fail to be impressed by the talents and skills of our students.

Efforts to transform the lives of children living around the rubbish dumps extends further than the individual child. Lifting whole families out of poverty by learning new skills and earning opportunities has always been one of our aims. With help from local supporters in Manila, a livelihood project has just commenced where 6 mothers of Grapevine students have attended lessons in crocheting. Each has been provided with a starter kit and supplies of wool with the intention of making items for sale, raising funds for both them and the charity. As Manila has just commenced their 'ber' months signifying the lead up to Christmas, decorations will be the initial products. We wish them all the very best success and as they proceed, we will have a think about how we could support the group.



Mango Tree House remains a loving home for 18 children of various ages. The whole philosophy of long-term residential childcare is changing in the Philippines with registering authorities making it mandatory that reintegration with family should be the primary aim and either foster care or adoption being secondary goals for those that cannot ever safely live with their family. This presents quite a shift in thinking for Mango and will form part of the strategic review that is planned for later this year.

The new year brought with it a major change for our partner in Manila. Peter Emata and his wife Neria have worked for ASCF for 34 years, Peter in a leadership role and Neria as the resident teacher. They have taken joint retirement and are building a new home on Luzon to enjoy a well-earned rest. I tried to calculate how many children's lives they have influenced over all those years and it's well into the thousands. I am sure you will all want to join with us to thank Peter and Neria for all their years of service and wish them the happiest and healthiest retirement.



I would also like to introduce you to our new Interim Executive Director Chrisler Go. Chrisler is an MSc in Social Work and has a five-star CV in leadership of NGOs; we are thrilled that he has agreed to lead us through this period of change and work with staff and stakeholders to determine the future shape and range of services for beneficiaries.

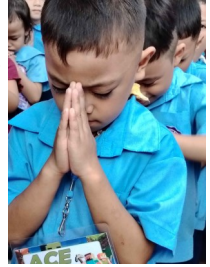
None of this would be possible without the people like you who have given generously to support the amazing work that our colleagues in Manila deliver so diligently. On behalf of the children we serve, thank you.

We have several Save the Date events (see page 10) which includes the Christmas BigGive championed by the Coles-Medlock Foundation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kay Mac'. The signature is fluid and cursive, ending with a long horizontal stroke.

SPONSORSHIP AMOUNTS

The start of the new school year is an exciting time. The sponsorship and support that you have given, often for some years, ensures that the children receive the education that they deserve. The children are so inspired by the trust that is placed in them by sponsors from the other side of the world. Thank you so much.



This year, for the first time in many years, the charity needs to adjust the recommended amount we ask for the Grapevine and Cashew School sponsorship. This needs to happen to ensure that the children's needs can still be met as costs rise. Our request to you is that, if possible, Grapevine student sponsors increase their monthly payments from £25 to £30 and that Cashew sponsors increase from £16 to £20. This still represents a tiny investment to transform a child's life. It is less than £1 per day for a Grapevine student and 67p for a Cashew child. If you are a regular donor without a sponsored child, then please consider whether you could make a small increase in your monthly amount as your contributions are crucial to cover the costs of unsponsored children in our care.



Of course, we understand that not everyone may be in the position of being able to increase their contribution, even if they would like to, as the cost of living has risen for everyone. The last thing we want is to drive away existing loyal and generous donors from our wonderful family of supporters. If this is you, please continue to contribute as currently. No child will suffer or be treated differently as the costs will be covered from other fundraising and your donations are always truly valued.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to transforming children's lives. The children and the Charity colleagues in Manila and the UK are really grateful for what you can give.

BECOME A FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEER



To continue being successful in the future, Children of the Dump always welcomes new supporters. Perhaps you can help championing the children through your existing contacts such as congregations, social networks or clubs, or from totally new contacts. If you have a little bit of spare time, maybe a couple of hours a month, and like meeting people, then you could help share the story of Children of the Dump.

We are totally open to hearing your own ideas but believe that Volunteers who could help unlock new supporters in these areas would be valuable:

- ◆ Sports participants or those who know people who do charity walks, runs and marathons or play sports such as golf or bridge.
- Those who own/ work in small businesses and could help unlock the opportunities of charitable giving such as through payroll deductions, or sponsorship.
- People with links to the Filipino community in the UK; Many colleges, universities, towns and counties and, of course, hospitals (over 25,000 Filipinos work in the NHS) already have successful social communities that are unaware of the charity.

If you are interested, we can induct you into the charity and arrange a trustee as an ongoing 'buddy'. We provide support materials and can find speakers about the charity who have visited Manila. Find out more on our new webpage.



<https://childrenofthedump.org.uk/2024/04/23/filipino-relationship-volunteer/>

CATHERINE IS ON THE MOVE



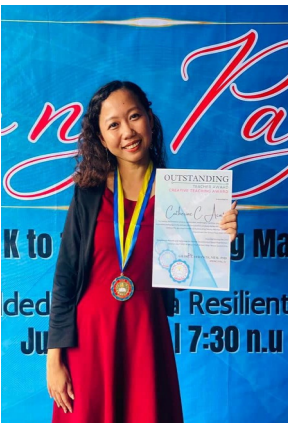
We have previously shared the story of Catherine, who as a shy 9-year-old girl came to live at Mango House along with her 2 sisters. They couldn't stay at home as father had died and mother was sick. Catherine worked hard and saw how education was a route to her better future. She describes the love and care that she had experienced as part of the Mango House family and the inspiring generosity of her British sponsor as 'The wind beneath her wings'.

Her dream was to become a teacher and once qualified she soon became the respected Head Teacher at Cashew School. Now she could give the same chances that she had to a new generation of children.



To broaden her teaching experience, she took another role in Manila but kept links by becoming a valuable Trustee at ASCF, our local partner charity.

Now it is all change again. Catherine's now has an amazing new teaching role overseas. She has just gone to the Mariana Islands in Micronesia. Everyone is so proud of what she is achieving.



This tremendous story illustrates the power of sponsorship and how Children of the Dump has helped unlock the promise of that young girl who started in a very difficult place with few prospects. Catherine's sisters are also doing well with careers in public service. They are so happy that their own success means that they can ensure that their mum can afford the medications that she needs.

Enjoy the adventure Catherine, stay in touch and keep being amazing!

HELP AIKEN STAY IN SCHOOL AND ACHIEVE HIS CHRISTIAN DREAM



Aiken's story represents a wonderful opportunity to make a lasting difference in the life of a bright and dedicated young boy. He is only 10 years old but already exhibits strong discipline in both his academics and his Christian faith, reflecting the values of his family. Coming from a lineage deeply involved in ministry, Aiken's potential to continue this legacy is clear, but his family's financial situation limits their ability to provide every- thing he needs to achieve his dreams.

Aiken's grandmother set up a Church in her home and continues to be a pastor in Payatas. Both Aiken's parents, who met at Church, have dedicated their lives to the ministry and as a result take out a minimal income to support their own family.

Opportunity

By sponsoring Aiken with just £30 a month, you can directly support his education and spiritual development. Your contribution will not only ensure he remains in school, where he excels, but also keep him active in the church's Young Christian Ministry, where he can continue to hone his musical talents and leadership skills. With the backing of a sponsorship, Aiken could grow to become a third-generation leader in his family's ministry, continuing the work of his parents and grandmother in their Payatas community. Sponsorship offers a unique chance to invest in a young person's future, helping him remain focused on his studies and Christian growth despite financial obstacles.



To sponsor Aiken please visit

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

where you can learn more about Aiken and his family.

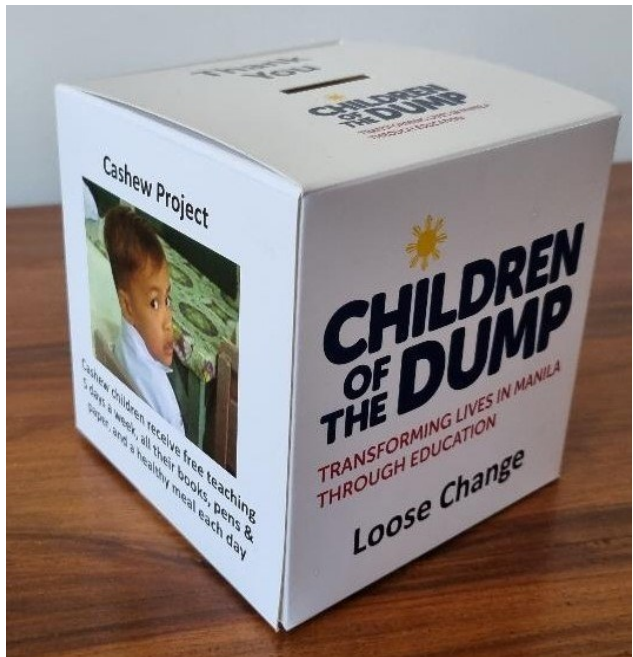
CREATE CHANGE FROM CHANGE

Do you keep control of spending by using cash or do you rely on your phone/cards to pay for things? You can now collect small change for Children of the Dump. Don't hide away coins in a drawer or lose them down the back of a sofa. Put them to good use and create 'Change from Change' for the children.

Use one of our new 'Change from Change' card boxes and drop coins into it as you go.

Volunteer Michael said 'My box on the kitchen windowsill filled up fast. Clearing out the sideboard helped! Visitors saw the box which was a great way to introduce them to the charity. Some kindly put a contribution in, there and then!'

When I got my box there were details on how to easily and quickly pay-in coins at the local Post Office.



I keep the details in the box to remind me. It's a simple way to raise money for minimal effort.'

If you would like a 'Change from Change' box posted, phone John on 0300 102 4509 or email office@childrenofthedump.org.uk. Get a spare box for friends to join in.

These boxes aren't suitable for leaving in a public place. To do that request one of our secure plastic Collecting Pots.

THANKS TO EVENT SUPPORTERS.

It has been a busy summer meeting new supporters and old friends like the Rushmoor Odd Fellows Male Voice Choir, with their summer concert series in Camberley.



Volunteer Clarissa, the Chair of long-term charity supporter Berkshire Filipino- British Association reached out to the Filipino congregation led by Father Jimmy, at Christ The King Church, Reading. In September the charity met more supporters at the annual Kasayang Pinoy festival

Thanks also to everyone at Samphire Café and Bar in Saltdean in Sussex who raise money with a regular meat raffle and a collection box. You've raised enough to keep a Grapevine student at school for 2 years!



The congregation at the Ascension Church Peacehaven, especially their group the Tuesday Friendship Group, support the charity. A coffee morning and tea party generated enough to keep a Grapevine student at school for 2 years.

SAVE THE DATE

Could you arrange a one-off event like these for the charity?

Do come along and support any of these events. Proceeds raised will be doubled by match funding during the Big Give.

November 2nd; Sponsored Zumbathon in Reading.



November 16th; Sponsored Saturday coffee morning (9-12) at Heatherside Community Hall, Martindale Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 1BB.

December 4th: Thursday evening online Family Fun General Knowledge Quiz (7.30-9pm). Create an online team and come along as Quizmaster Mark puts us all through his paces. Email or ask John for joining details.



theBigGive.org.uk
helping your donations go further

All these events can be found on the Charity webpage

<https://childrenofthedump.org.uk/events/>

THE CHRISTMAS BIG GIVE; Midday Tuesday December 2nd until midday Tuesday December 9th.

Every online donation is doubled by match funding just in this week.

<https://childrenofthedump.org.uk/how-you-can-help/the-big-give/>

EXCITING UPDATE FOR OUR SUPPORTERS!

We are thrilled to announce that Children of the Dump has partnered with Core Telecom Ltd Charity Support, who have generously provided us with a free 0300 telephone number. This new number eliminates all incoming call charges, saving the charity over £120 a year on telecommunications!



We have a new telephone number



0300 102 4509

What Does This Mean?

This significant saving will directly benefit our projects in Manila. Specifically, it will enable us to provide a Cashew student with 6 months of free teaching from a professionally qualified teacher, five days a week. Additionally, we will supply all necessary materials, including books, pens, and paper, as well as a healthy meal each day.

Important Contact Information

Our new 0300 number is 0300 102 4509, replacing the old number (01276 942030). *Remember, calling an 0300 number within the UK is charged at the same rate as calling a standard landline.*

Our charity office hours are Monday to Thursday, from 9 AM to 5 PM. We look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of children in need!

CHRISTMAS POST TO MANILA



More and more communications with Manila are digital and lots of sponsors now send video greetings to their children. You can do this at any time by emailing videos to office@childrenofthedump.org.uk

If you prefer to post a Christmas card we will bulk send these. Please post cards or letters to arrive at Highcross Church no later than DECEMBER 1ST so that they get to Manila before school finishes for Christmas.



Don't seal any letters or cards and please don't send gifts as these are expensive to post and create problems at customs.



If you want to send a gift we suggest sending £10 as a separate payment by Bank transfer or cheque to Children of the Dump in the UK (Address at the bottom of this page) but please make sure we know the child's name. Your gift will be sent and converted into pesos so the child gets to choose and buy something locally that they really want.

For Charity Bank details please email office@childrenofthedump.org.uk

CONTACT US AT CHILDREN OF THE DUMP

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

Tel: 0300 102 4509

'Calling an 0300 number is charged at the same rate as calling a standard landline'

Website: www.childrenofthedump.org.uk

E-mail: office@childrenofthedump.org.uk

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

Registered Charity CIO No 1198301