



NEWSLETTER

Autumn Edition 2025

Issue 75

50th Anniversary

A MESSAGE FROM CHARITY CHAIR KAY MACKAY

Dear supporters and friends of Children of the Dump (Asian Students Christian Trust)

It is lovely to be able to share with you all the news and exciting developments that are happening both here in the UK and in the Philippines.

50th Anniversary

As you already know, 2025 marks the 50th year of operation of the charity – quite an achievement and testimony to the loyalty and generosity of people like you who have made it possible to transform so many lives of children in Manila. To mark this, a number of activities are taking place.



Over the summer, Thanksgiving Services were held at **St Pauls Camberley and Ascension Church in Peacehaven.**



Thank you to everyone who made this possible and especially to the

children and staff team in our partner Asian Students Christian Foundation in Manila who wrote the prayers, sang the worship songs and chose the bible readings which depicted their feelings about being part of the ASCF family.

If you would like to retrospectively take part in the service, it is available on YouTube on: <https://bit.ly/ThanksGiving25>

A MESSAGE FROM CHARITY CHAIR KAY MACKAY

Friendship Bracelets

We're excited to announce our *Friendship Bracelet* project, taking place both here in the UK and in Manila. Each bracelet will feature a special **50-bead design** and will be part of a bracelet swap. This means that if a child or supporter in the UK makes a bracelet, they'll receive one made by a child in the Philippines—complete with a heartfelt message from their new friend.

We already have wonderful volunteers from schools, churches, Guides, and Brownies helping to create bracelets. If you know of any groups who might like to join in, please contact **John** for more information.

Later this year, we also hope to have a surplus of bracelets available for purchase—perfect as a thoughtful gift for someone special.



ASCF are planning numerous events and fundraising activities to celebrate our joint birthday including innovative schemes such as 50 wishes for 50 years where local folk in Manila can help children achieve their wish with a donation in kind or through cash. An event is planned in October in Quezon City where children will showcase their amazing talents through music, dance and interpretive performances celebrating the 50 year journey. Look out for updates on social media and future newsletters. **See Page 10** of this addition for UK events being held.

We are also thrilled to welcome the new Executive Director Ms Mary Ann Nerval who brings a wealth of professional expertise in Social Work, Child Welfare and leadership. Please read her message later in this newsletter. As well as Mary Ann, we're pleased to introduce the new ASCF Board in Manila, made up of talented local Filipinos with strong NGO experience. My own role will be short term, focused on supporting strategy development with the UK. Also, you can read about Vernard who I first met in 2022 at ASCF as a very young man newly out of college and filled with enthusiasm and desire to learn.

You can learn more about both the team here in the UK and in Manila on our website : <https://bit.ly/CotDMeettheteam>

A MESSAGE FROM CHARITY CHAIR KAY MACKAY

Service Updates: We have 312 children in our services, each one is important to us and joins with us to thank you for your continued support.

The Department of Education personnel conducted a monitoring visit for the official opening of Cashew Tree School classes for Year 2025–2026. The visit aimed to assess the school's readiness and provide technical assistance for a smooth and organised opening. Cashew school was successfully monitored and marked compliant with all DepEd regulations. Congratulations teachers.

In August in collaboration with *Dentists of Community Services (DOCS)*, ASCF conducted a Dental Mission that served 163 beneficiaries across its three core programs. Services included dental check-ups, fluoride application, and tooth extractions.

In the face of rising incidence of crime in the neighborhood 24 CCTV cameras have been installed throughout the building to help ensure the continued safety of children and staff.

Special Thank you's

The Berkshire Filipino, British Association, under the chairmanship of our dear friend Clarissa Dyson held an amazing Gatsby and Glitter Ball in June. The costumes were magnificent, the entertainment superb with brilliant auction and raffle prizes. £3375 was raised, some of which has been pledged for our own Christmas Challenge and can therefore double in value. Thank you to everyone who attended and for the team who organized it.

Samphire Café and Bar in Saltdean run a weekly meat raffle which Fred and I attend when possible. The proceeds are shared between various charities, CotD being one. They have raised a magnificent £1,812.56 and special thanks to Dell, Terry and Andy for organizing this and everyone who contributes.

Kay Mackay

Chair Children of the Dump (ASCT)

ASCF INTERIM DIRECTOR MARY ANN NERVAL



MARY ANN A. NERVAL, RSW, MPA

I grew up in Tondo, Manila, where life's difficulties instilled in me a strong determination to rise above challenges and help others do the same. My father, an Overseas Filipino Worker, passed away when I was in high school, leaving my mother and aunt to support our family. To ease their burden, I worked part-time while completing my studies. Through the support of a Chinese foundation, I became a full scholar and eventually earned my **Bachelor of Science in Social Work**.

My career began in a non-government organization (NGO) serving blind and deaf students, where I learned basic American Sign Language to connect with beneficiaries. Though project-based, the work deepened my passion for community service. I then moved to another NGO as a community-based program coordinator, implementing feeding, scholarship, and livelihood programs.

After passing the **Licensure Examination for Social Work**, I joined a residential care facility serving children in need of special protection, including survivors of abuse, neglect, and abandonment. In this role, I saw the profound effects of trauma on young lives. To better respond, I attended trainings and seminars focused on trauma care, case management, and child protection.

In 2017, I began handling cases of **online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC)**. This role demanded strong assessment skills, coordinated interventions, and collaboration with a

ASCF INTERIM DIRECTOR MARY ANN NERVAL

multi-disciplinary team. At the same time, I also worked as an **adoption social worker**, successfully processing both local and intercountry adoptions.

Alongside practice, I pursued a **Master's degree in Public Administration** to strengthen my leadership capacity. I also engaged in speaking opportunities on **Trauma-Informed Care (TIC)**, equipping care providers with knowledge on the psychological effects of trauma and effective strategies for supporting survivors.

My dedication to service led to my promotion as **Assistant Director**, where I guided the organization toward compliance with Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) standards and accreditation requirements. During my tenure, the NGO was nominated as one of the **best-performing organizations in Region IV-A**, a recognition of its impact on the community.

In June 2025, I joined the **Asian Student Christian Foundation, Inc. (ASCF)**. Here, I aim to help strengthen programs and services, secure renewed accreditation and licenses, and build sustainable partnerships with stakeholders and benefactors. My vision is to ensure ASCF continues to transform lives through quality education while rising as one of the most trusted NGOs in Region IV-A.

With extensive experience in social work, program management, child protection, and organizational leadership, I remain committed to serving vulnerable children and families while advancing professional standards in the field of social welfare.

Mary Ann Nerval RSW, MPA.

ASCF INTERIM DIRECTOR

New ASCF Board of Trustees



Mr. Chrisler Go,
President

A social work and nonprofit leader with 19 years of experience, he is the 2022 ASWC Outstanding Social Worker in the Philippines, Executive Director of Concordia Children's Services, Interim Executive Director of ASCF, and Founder of GoNonprofit. He strengthens NGO impact as a strategist, professor, and sector evaluator.

An experienced nonprofit and government leader, General Manager of The Ruth Foundation, with past roles at LTFRB and SOS Children's Villages, and active service in sectoral networks including NCR Regional ABSNet.



Ms. B-Etta Ayon,
Vice President



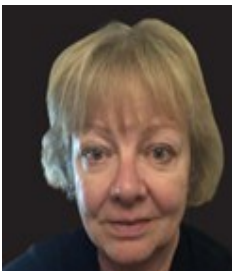
Mr. Reginald
Delos Santos,
Secretary

An experienced sales and account management professional with 25+ years in the industry, including 10 years as a Life Planning Partner at Paramount Life, and a UPLB Agricultural Economics graduate active in community service.

Caridad brings 46 years of experience in finance and organizational leadership across government, private, educational, and nonprofit sectors, including roles at CRIBS Foundation and RCManila Foundation, and continues mentoring NGOs on governance and financial sustainability.



Ms. Caridad Basila,
Treasurer



Kay Mackay

Kay has been a dedicated supporter of ASCF for 22 years, including 15 UK Board Chair, following a 40-year career in the UK NHS in clinical and executive roles. Her expertise spans governance, safeguarding, program management, and fundraising.

Meet Nathalie!

With your generous support of just **£30 a month**, Nathalie Kira can continue focusing on her education—something her whole family believes is the key to a brighter future. Your sponsorship not only covers school costs, but also gives the family peace of mind that Nathalie will not have to miss out on vital opportunities.



Nathalie Kira is the youngest child of Althea and Adrian. Her father works as a skilled labourer, earning £50 a week, while her mother cares full-time for their children and Nathalie's younger sister, Angela Elizabeth, who has Down syndrome and is bedridden. The family lives in Kasiglahan Village with only the basics, but they provide a loving and supportive home despite very limited resources. Life is not easy, but they remain hopeful and determined.

A top-performing graduate of Cashew Tree 2, Nathalie Kira is known for being respectful, obedient, and hardworking. She completes her assignments on time, participates actively in class, and takes responsibility both at school and at home. Teachers praise her dedication and her willingness to help classmates who struggle.

Her dream is to become a teacher—helping children, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to learn and grow. She believes education can transform lives, just as it is transforming hers. With your help, she can stay on the path toward that dream and inspire others along the way.

If you would like to sponsor Nathalie Kira and be part of her journey, please contact **John** at office@childrenofthedump.org.uk

“History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children.” — Nelson Mandela.

SPECIAL THANKS TO SPONSORS , DONORS AND HELPERS

A heartfelt thank you from the children in Manila to everyone who has donated this year, especially to our **faithful sponsors and regular givers**.

We have been truly blessed by the extraordinary generosity of our sponsors and supporters, whose gifts provide a lifeline to our students and their families.

We would like to give special thanks to the churches and congregations of **St Paul's Church, High Cross Church, St Peter's Church, Ascension Church, Leytonstone UFC, Banstead URC**, and many others who have so kindly contributed.



A big thank you also to **Samphire Café/Bar Saltdean**, who have raised an incredible £1,812.56 in support of the charity.

And a special acknowledgement to Rachael and Andy of KingdomPrint, who have nominated Children of the Dump as their chosen Charity for 2025. Their generosity in covering all printing costs and promoting the charity through their new **Online Christian Marketplace** is deeply appreciated. www.kingdommarketplace.org.uk

KINGDOM
MARKETPLACE

Thank you to everyone who stepped up when Tropical Storm Wipha struck northern Manila, forcing families from their flooded homes into emergency shelters. Because of your generosity, we were able to deliver food, clean water, and dry clothing to 300 families—more than 1,000 people—within just a few days.

Your support brought comfort, hope, and relief during a time of crisis.

See the impact you made: <https://bit.ly/FloodreliefASCF>

Congratulations to Mike and Pam

Congratulations to Mike and Pam on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary



We are thrilled to congratulate **Mike and Pam** on their 60th Wedding Anniversary—a truly remarkable milestone made even more special by a personal letter from **His Majesty the King**.

For over three decades, Mike and Pam have been devoted supporters of **Children of the Dump (ASCT)**. Their generosity has enabled countless young people to continue their

education, pursue successful careers, and build brighter futures. Beyond financial support, their dedication has inspired hope and confidence in the lives of many.

On behalf of **Children of the Dump in the UK, ASCF in the Philippines**, and all the students whose lives they have touched, we extend our deepest gratitude. Mike and Pam's commitment has created a lasting legacy of positive change.

We wish them every joy and happiness as they celebrate this extraordinary milestone and thank them for the profound difference they have made in so many lives.

With heartfelt appreciation,
The Trustees of Children of the Dump



Children of the Dump – Upcoming Events & Opportunities

Coffee Morning – Connect and Catch Up!

- **Date:** Friday 15th November | **Time:** 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- **Location:** The Heatherside Community Centre, Martindale Avenue, Camberley, GU15 1BB

Come along to hear the latest updates on our work, ask questions, and share ideas. It's a wonderful opportunity to see the impact your support is making.

Join Our 50/50 Lottery & Celebrate 50 Years!

To mark our **50th Anniversary**, we have launched a special **50/50 Charity Lottery!** Your support helps fund **Cashew Tree School, Mango Tree House, and the Grapevine Scholarship Program**, providing education and care for vulnerable children in Manila – plus, you could win a cash prize!

For further details and How to Enter:

Email 50-50lottery@childrenofthedump.org.uk to request your ticket.



Lets Quiz for a Cause!

Join us for fun, interactive Zoom quiz nights to support **Children of the Dump!**

Thursday 6th November | 7:15 pm – Online Quiz

Thursday 4th December | 7:15 pm – BG 25 Online Christmas Quiz

Stay Connected!

Visit our website <https://childrenofthedump.org.uk/events/>

for Quiz joining instructions and to see future events.

Or Email office@childrenofthedump.org.uk

Christmas Challenge 2025

CotD —A Christmas Gift That Changes a Life

Meet **Ana*. She's 9 years old, bright-eyed, and full of curiosity—but her world is very different from yours. Every day, Ana's family search through Manila's rubbish dumps just to find scraps they can sell for a simple meal. School feels like a distant dream.



This Christmas, **you can help make that dream real.**

With your support of **Children of the Dump**, Ana can go to school, enjoy a daily meal, and discover hope through education and the love of Jesus. Small gifts create life-changing opportunities: classes, meals, and a future she might never have imagined.

Thanks to generous supporters, over **300 children** are already experiencing brighter days—but many more children like Ana are still waiting.



Double Your Impact

During the CotD **Christmas Challenge** campaign, every donation is **matched**, so your generosity goes twice as far.

For example, a **£20 gift** will provide 10 weeks of classes and meals instead of just 5.



Mark Your Calendar (*Only between these dates will your donation be doubled*)

Sunday 30th November (midday) – Sunday, December 7th (midday)

Give online here: <https://bit.ly/CotDXmaschallenge>

This Christmas, your kindness can rewrite a child's story—from hunger and hardship to hope and opportunity. Thank you for giving the gift that truly matters.

** Ana—Name changed for privacy*

Trustees Wanted

Do you have the drive to make a real difference?

We are looking for passionate individuals who want to improve the lives of children. If you bring enthusiasm, commitment, and integrity—and either understand Filipino culture or are eager to learn—you could be the right fit for our Board of Trustees.

As a Trustee, you will collaborate with fellow trustees to shape the charity's strategy, develop fundraising plans in partnership with the scavenger community and ASCF, and ensure strong governance of both the charity and its funds.



Currently, our Board comprises 8 trustees, and we will be saying goodbye to one long-serving member this year. This is a unique opportunity to help guide the charity's future by setting clear priorities, establishing annual plans, and ensuring their successful delivery. Trustees hold overall responsibility for the charity's operations, compliance with legal and governance standards, and achievement of its charitable objectives. Your skills, experience, and motivation will help the Board make informed and effective decisions.

Time Commitment:

- Attend 4 Board meetings per year: three online (evenings, 3 hours) and one in Surrey (Saturday in October, half-day).
- Participate in subgroups and activities based on your availability and interests.

This role is highly rewarding, offering the chance to make a lasting impact. If you're interested in learning more, please contact:

Kay Mackay

Chair, Children of the Dump

kay@childrenofthedump.org.uk

Support Children of the Dump for FREE While You Shop Online



You can raise money for **Children of the Dump** at **no extra cost!** Shop online through [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and thousands of retailers will donate a percentage of your purchase to Children of the Dump — completely free.

How It Works

- Easyfundraising partners with over **7,000 brands** who donate part of what you spend to support Children of the Dump.
- You pay **nothing extra** — the prices, products, and loyalty points remain the same.
- Start your shop via the **easyfundraising website or app**, and brands will make a donation from their commission.

Shops That Can Raise Donations

- **Groceries:** Tesco, Sainsbury's, ASDA, Morrisons, Waitrose, Ocado
- **Travel & Accommodation:** Booking.com, The Trainline, TUI, Hotels.com
- **Fashion & Retail:** ASOS, eBay, Etsy, Marks & Spencer, Pets at Home
- **Comparison & Services:** MoneySavingExpert, Uswitch

Every click counts — turn your everyday shopping into support for children in need.

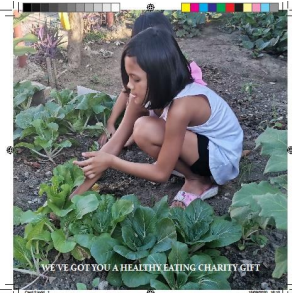
GIVE A MEANINGFUL GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS

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 at <https://bit.ly/CotDMeaningfulCards> phone John (details on the back page) or write with a cheque and order form. Please get your order to us **NO LATER THAN Thursday December 11th**

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.....

Posting Dates For The Philippines



This holiday season, more and more communications with Manila are going digital—and many sponsors are sharing **heartwarming video greetings** with their children. You can join in the fun anytime by emailing your video to office@childrenofthedump.org.uk

If you'd like to send a **Christmas card**, we'll deliver them in bulk to make sure every child feels the festive spirit. Please send your cards or letters to **Highcross (Address on P16)** by **DECEMBER 1ST**, so they reach Manila before the school holidays begin.

A friendly reminder:

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'd like to give a special gift, a **£10 donation** is a wonderful way to spread joy. Send it through PayPal to <https://bit.ly/CotDStudentGifts>, as a separate payment or cheque to **Children of the Dump** (address page 16) Please include the child's name. The donation gift will be converted into pesos so the child can choose a local gift that truly makes them happy.

For any questions or festive ideas, John is happy to help—just email him at office@childrenofthedump.org.uk.

Let's make this Christmas magical for every child!

Vernard Dapitan – A Journey of Service and Growth



At just 26, Vernard Dapitan has already made significant strides in social work. A proud University of Rizal System graduate, he earned his Bachelor of Science in Social Work in July 2022 and immediately joined ASCF, where he became a regular staff member by September as a Grapevine Social Worker.

Though his first professional role, ASCF quickly became more than a job—it was a place to grow, adapt to challenges, and strengthen the values central to his calling. In 2023, Vernard passed the Social Work Licensure Examination, officially becoming a licensed social worker, an achievement that fuelled his passion for compassionate and responsible service.

Vernard’s greatest impact lies in the lives of those he serves. From educational support to activities fostering values, personal growth, and community involvement, he helps young people build character, confidence, and responsibility. For him, education is a pathway to a brighter future, and he works tirelessly to help others achieve it.

Today, Vernard sees ASCF as a home that shaped him into the resilient, committed social worker he is—ready to make a lasting difference in many lives.

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)

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