

**Changing young lives, one at a time.  
Caring and educating vulnerable children in the Philippines.**

*Kay Mackay, ASCT Chair, and her husband Fred recently visited the Philippines:*

Fred and I had a wonderful time with Mango, Cashew and Grapevine students and ASCF staff in December. We are incredibly grateful to Neria and Peter for their hospitality and time. All the staff gave us their attention with wonderful grace as they were very busy and as always the children were a total delight.

Our first day in Manila coincided with the final rehearsals for the Mango Pantomime – quite a culture shock for the local folk who had never seen anything quite like it. It was great to be there and experience the excitement with the children, Sarah MacLeod (ASCF Chair), and her family. The dedication shown by everyone was astounding. Sarah's husband, Ham was up all night to set up the lighting and technical equipment. I think there will be another performance next year, the influence is so much greater than the income generated. We see the impact in the confidence won by the children who performed, the fun had in rehearsing and performing, the sense of achievement in raising money not only to benefit their own charity but being able to give to the victims of Typhoon Haiyan as well.

While staying at Mango we spent time with the children, enjoying the evening meal together followed later by devotions. A guitar now accompanies worship songs and the older children lead the session. We thank our lovely translators for helping us keep track of the topic as the bible is read in Tagalog to help the youngest.

Being in the company of 45 children presents something of a challenge when it comes to remembering names, so my project for this



year is to memorise everyone's name in time for our next visit.

Visiting the Grapevine families on Payatas really does bring home to you how vital the support provided by ASCT is. I was totally humbled by the hospitality shown to us, the welcome afforded, when the families really do have nothing, not even a chair to sit on. The opportunity of receiving an education is cherished and truly appreciated. The funding provided to the family replaces the money the child would have earned by scavenging on the dump, it pays for their transport to school, their uniform and books. What is immeasurable, is the chance it provides these children to break out of the poverty cycle.

Cashew Tree School was having its community week so normal lessons were suspended, replaced by street cleaning events, parents' and children's sports days and community engagement sessions. Tirso, Cashew's head teacher, took us to visit many families of Cashew students and also escorted us higher up the dump where the lorries pass by to offload their rubbish.

We were struck by the development that has taken place near Cashew, a real community has developed and while most properties used to be no more than corrugated iron shelters some have now been replaced with breeze block structures. Of course, everyone is a settler and has no rights to the land. Ancient ownership rights to the surrounding land are starting to be lodged with the courts and no one knows what that may mean for those living there, or for our own Cashew Tree School.



We were privileged that Crystal, one of the girls in Mango, took us with Meane the social worker to visit the cemetery where she was born and raised for the first few years of her life. Mum, Dad and siblings still live there and we were able to meet them. It hits home so clearly when you see for yourself the origins of the child and to witness how different her life is now. Crystal has just been selected to play for the Philippines in the Street Children's World Cup in Rio, we are all so proud of her. You can view a video of her story at the following link. <http://streetchildworldcup.org/media-library/video-gallery/>

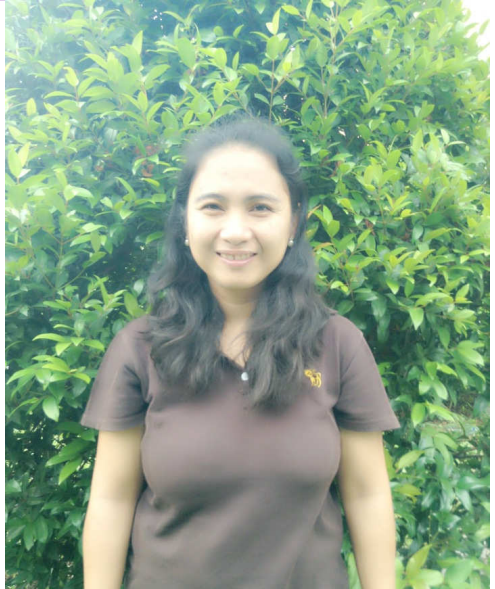
Two other highlights for us were visiting the other schools that our Mango and Grapevine students attend, we had an impromptu performance of the Christmas dance that the High school children were rehearsing and joined an English class to hear about their latest project. Last but not least we had a wonderful day swimming and barbecuing with the children at the pool in Rodriguez.

We miss them all.

## ***MEET THE STAFF - IRENE***

Welcome to our regular slot; meet the staff. In this issue we get to now Irene Orine our senior social worker in the Philippines.

I am Irene, the Senior Social Worker of ASCF, I have been working in ASCF for several years. After 7 years being with the ASCF family I decided to leave to work in the government sector for better financial opportunities. I thought that life will be the same working with new people and embracing the new experiences but I was totally wrong. I gave myself a year to fully adjust to the new world hoping that I am just used to the life I had before at ASCF. After 2 years I finally realized, money is not everything. I wanted to be with my second family ASCF. I am grateful to



Peter and Craig for accepting me back and looking forward to sharing many years with them.

As a senior social worker I supervise the Mango children, child care staff and our Grapevine students. I and Meane, our other social worker, facilitate the provision of records and reports such as Admittance Report, General Report, Graduation Report and Incident Report of Child Discipline. We also ensure that we are complying with the standard operation procedure of the Department of Social Welfare and Development Office and with our Local Government Unit. We orient the child about the rules and regulation of the ASCF in Mango Tree House and Grapevine. We verify important documents such as birth certificate and school report card. We conduct individual and group counselling if necessary. I monitor the sponsored children living with their families in Payatas and Montalban, Rizal also known as our Grapevine Project. I distribute their monthly allowance and assist them in with their gifts from sponsors gifts.

The work we do is very much fulfilling though there are disappointments there are also successes. The best of it, is the recognition of the opportunity you've given them to change their lives, nurtured them in the Christian faith, inculcate the strong values and positive character. A simple thank you coming from the children is such a big reward in this ministry.

We can't do these things without your support and we thank you for that. Because of you the lives of some of our fellow Filipino children changed as it also changed our own lives. We are praying for more successes to witness. Thank you for the unconditional support. God bless.

## KAY'S DAY AT PAYATAS



I am here on Payatas rubbish mountain in Manila, Philippines. This is home for 10,000 families who survive by scavenging whatever they can find to eat, sell or recycle. They live around the base of the rubbish mountain in abodes created from bits and pieces of rubbish. There is no running water and no sanitation. Daily, they climb, high up to where the lorries are dumping the newest loads, all the family from youngest to eldest

participate in sifting through the stinking piles to find anything they can use. Nothing is ignored, rotting food is collected to feed a pig, foam to be recycled into 'new' mattresses, bits of paper, scraps of plastic, you name it and the scavengers have a use for it. Different families specialise in different aspects of waste and collect it into sacks which they carry back down to be processed at their home. For many children, this is their daily life, and will continue to be as there is no hope and no other future.

The reason I am here is to visit some families who are benefiting from our Grapevine Project which provides funding to the family which allows one or more of their children to go to school instead of working. It pays for uniform, books, transport and any fees required by the school. In comparison to the UK, this costs less than most of our children would receive for their weekly pocket money but here on Payatas, it provides children with an opportunity to break out of the poverty cycle. The support continues for as long as the child is in full time education, which for some includes university. The programme has produced graduates in subjects such as social work and teaching and creates opportunities that most children on Payatas could never comprehend but are considered normal here in the UK.

With the ASCT social worker, I visited one such family, a mother, father and 12 children, 2 of which are sponsored by the programme. To get to their home you walk along stinking muddy paths, weaving through narrow passageways separating tin shacks, flies are everywhere, and the stench seems to burn your nostrils and cling to clothes. Mum greets us warmly, their home measures about

3sq meters, it has a concrete floor of which she is very proud, furniture is minimal and she is upset that she has no chair to offer us. She is house-proud and says she is embarrassed that she has not cleaned up for our visit. The 2 sponsored children are not at home as they have stayed late at school to do a special project, they relish every chance to study



and learn. We give mum the letters from the children's sponsors in the UK and she is delighted. She specialises in plastic sachet salvage and her daily activity involves sifting through the rubbish piles, to collect used sachets. The sachets are delicately folded and then woven into small bags. Selling these bags provides the income to feed her 12 children and I was amazed and totally humbled when she gave me two bags to take home as a sign of her immense gratitude for the opportunities that ASCT provide. The spirit and fortitude of this family will live with me forever.

## FUNDRAISING

We have had a great few months of fundraising with some fantastic events organised by supporters, here are a few of the highlights:

- ☺ Joy Hukin, who volunteered at Mango Tree House for three months last year, raised £900 by giving talks about her experiences. She asked that the money be used to buy fans for Cashew and Mango and a freezer.
- ☺ Heather Ridge School in Camberley raised over £630 during their Christmas celebrations. They achieved this by Carol singing in the community and making a collection after the Nativity Play and Carol concert.
- ☺ Members of Cove PCC were kind enough to choose ASCT as one of the recipients of funds raised during a production of 'Throw Away Children' a play about street children.
- ☺ St Paul's Church Camberley have again been very supportive and collected over £600 at their Christingle services.
- ☺ Thank you to Sandhurst Silver Band for raising almost £300 at their Christmas concert.
- ☺ Terry Llewellyn raised a considerable amount of money by getting sponsorship for an indoor sky dive. Thank you to Rye Masonic Lodge for supporting his efforts.



*Pupils of Heather Ridge School*



*The cast of 'Throwaway Children'*



*Sandhurst Silver Band*

*This is not an exclusive list and we would like to thank everyone who has helped raise funds for ASCT.*

## PANTOMIME COMES TO MANILA

*A report from the Philippines about their latest fundraising event:*

On November 23rd ASCF performed their very first pantomime at the Dusit Thani Hotel in Manila. The event was not only a great fundraising opportunity but also gave the students a platform to showcase their



talents and theatrical skills. Cinderella, with a Filipino twist, was a great success and was made possible through the help of ASCF Chairlady Sarah McLeod with her husband Ham and friend Peter Stapleton as Directors.

This Pantomime was a new experience for all of the ASCF Family, a lot of hard work, encouragement and motivation was needed to make the event happen. The students learned to believe in themselves, gaining in confidence, unlocking hidden talents and discovering their potentials. All their efforts were rewarded by the warm recognition and giving of a round of applause. The pantomime raised about 200,000 Filipino peso (approximately £2780). All the children, staff and volunteers involved in the pantomime felt very strongly that half of the proceeds were donated to the victim of Typhoon Haiyan, because ASCF together with the children believes in essence of giving and sharing blessings with others.



money giving

Thinking about doing a sponsored event for ASCT?

Setting up a sponsorship page is one of the easiest ways to let your friends and family know you're fundraising, and to

get those all important donations coming in. We recommend using Virgin Money Giving. Not only is their fundraising website **100% not-for-profit**, but all Gift Aid is passed onto us in full.

**Set up your page today at [www.virginmoneygiving.com](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com) and watch your fundraising take off.**

Once you've set up your page, you can share it in seconds and tap into your social network using Facebook or Twitter. What's more, Virgin Money Giving will be there to support you all the way with their online tools. See their 'Raise more' section at **[virginmoneygiving.com](http://virginmoneygiving.com)** to get started, and if you like them on Facebook and follow them on Twitter, you'll receive lots more top tips which should see your fundraising target soar. Thanks for all your support. And good luck with your fundraising.

We are offering ASCT supporters the opportunity to purchase Katie Higson's fantastic photographs recently displayed at Guildford Cathedral. If you would like to help us raise funds by buying one of these pictures please contact Alison in the ASCT office.



Thank you to everyone that took part in our Alternative Christmas Scheme. We had the best year to date and raised a fantastic £2,570. The presents bought have benefitted 100s of the children supported by ASCT buying numerous sets of clothes, books, bedding and food. Thank you all.



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ASCT will be exhibiting at the hugely successful Christian Resource International Exhibition at Sandown Park, Esher between 13th and 16th May. As well as the exhibitors visitors can benefit from top class seminars, workshops, presentations and performances. We aim to use the exhibition to spread the word about the great work that we do, hoping to increase our supporter base which is imperative to the future success of ASCT. If you are going to the exhibition please come and say hello.

[www.creonline.co.uk](http://www.creonline.co.uk)



## ASCT GOLF DAY

Friday 3rd October at 8:00am  
Blue Mountain Golf Centre, Binfield  
£45 for breakfast, 18 holes and lunch.



HIGH CROSS CHURCH  
FOR GOD | FOR WORSHIP | FOR YOU

During the months of June, July and August, High Cross Church Camberley will be hosting a series of lunch time organ recitals on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday's of each month from 12.45 until 1.30 pm. There is no charge for admission, but a retiring collection will be taken, some of which will be allocated to ASCT.

## BARN DANCE WITH SAXON DRAIN

High Cross Church Camberley

Saturday 8th March Dancing starts at 7:00pm

£10 per person which includes a hot meal.

TICKETS MUST BE BOUGHT IN ADVANCE FOR CATERING

PURPOSES SO DO NOT DELAY CALL ALISON TODAY ON 01276 707633

### LET THEM EAT CAKE

*Staff and children of St Gilgen International School in Austria sponsor two ASCT children. Bachwirt and Traube are two of the four 'houses' at the boarding and day school. Recently they have been raising additional funds to buy equipment in Manila, here is how they did it:*

The Bachwirt Babes love to bake and were thrilled to raise 350 Euros at the beginning of November with one of their amazing Bake Sales. The Bachwirt was filled with amazing baking smells the day before the sale, not only from the Girls' kitchen but also from Mr and Mrs Raabe-Marjot's apartment and from Miss Neiman's flat. As always, everyone enjoyed it; those who baked, those who sold, those who ate! (especially those who got there in time to buy Miss Neiman's legendary chocolate brownies - truly to die for!) The money will go to buy school and play equipment for the Mango Tree House School in the Philippines. The Bachwirt and Traube already sponsor Ailyn and Adam at the school and we are delighted that we can do something for all the children with this money. In fact we are able to send off 700 Euros altogether because the Café here at school has "change" tins which seem to fill up very rapidly and the school community wants the money to go to Mango Tree House. When we all work together we can have fun and enjoy doing something for others. It's a win win!



**Patron: The Right Honourable Michael Gove MP,  
Secretary of State for Education and MP for Surrey Heath  
Life President: David Cox MBE**

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Registered Charity Number: 272328**