

# Insuring a Healthy Future for Manila's Street Kids



**L-R >** Catherine Scerri, Arnold Bautista, Diana Escobal and Anthony Watson  
**Photo >** Bree Manley

» **A** VI Youth Program partner organisation Bahay Tuluyan continues to grow from strength to strength. Bahay Tuluyan, which provides shelter, alternative education and a nutrition program for street children in the Philippines, organised an advocacy tour of Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney and Hobart in April.

Diana Escobal and Arnold Bautista, two former street children, accompanied Bahay Tuluyan's development manager Catherine Scerri on the tour. Diana now works on an outreach program for children living on the streets, while Arnold is involved in peer education and health programs.

Diana, Arnold and Catherine ran workshops at several schools and conferences, and held fundraising dinners and other events. The tour was supported entirely by Bahay Tuluyan Philippines Australia, a group formed by returned AVI youth volunteers to raise funds for the organisation in the Philippines.

Bahay Tuluyan also submitted a proposal to the World Bank to provide private health insurance for 350 street children. The proposal was selected as one of 104 finalists in the bank's Development Marketplace Competition, which received over 3000 entrants from around the world. If successful, Bahay Tuluyan will receive up to \$120,000 in funding to develop an insurance scheme that enables children to access vital health services and health education programs.

To find out more visit [www.bahaytuluyan.org](http://www.bahaytuluyan.org) or get involved in fundraising through [Bahay Tuluyan Philippines Australia at www.bahaytuluyan.org/au](http://Bahay Tuluyan Philippines Australia at www.bahaytuluyan.org/au).