

DREAMS DO COME TRUE.

Greetings from the Philippines!

Just before this newsletter made it to 'press', Bahay Tuluyan received the brilliant news that Planet Wheeler is willing to make our dream of 'A Home of Our Own' a very big step closer to coming true.

This is the best Christmas present that anyone could have given us. (I don't think I have ever been so happy to work to a deadline to change the cover story.)

The campaign would never have even got past the starting blocks however without the consistent, loyal and very generous support of many hundreds of children and adults around Australia and the Philippines who believe in our dream.

We are now halfway there. Our next challenge, to raise funds to build a home, will begin in the new year. For now, let's all celebrate and give thanks.

Merry Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Catherine Scerri



Through the extremely generous support of Planet Wheeler Bahay Tuluyan's dream of having a home of its own has just come one big step closer to being realised.

Planet Wheeler, a foundation set up by Tony and Maureen Wheeler, founders of Lonely Planet, has just pledged to contribute PHP 11 million (approximately AU \$350,000) to our campaign for a permanent home in Manila!

This amazing donation, combined with the incredible fundraising efforts of Bahay Tuluyan's friends and supporters, is **enough to allow us to purchase a piece of land in Manila for our new home.**

After 21 years of providing a home for children in Manila, Bahay Tuluyan was threatened with homelessness earlier this year when our

lease on our current premises expired. Ambassador to the Philippines, HE Rod Smith on 12 December 2008. Lily was moved to tears, saying that this would be 'the best Christmas ever'.

A massive campaign to raise funds for a permanent home was launched in April. This campaign has been enthusiastically embraced by people from around Australia who have thrown their support behind the children of Bahay Tuluyan.

We have been blown away by the generosity of individuals who have committed their time and energy to this effort, raising approximately \$60,000 in the first 8 months.

Planet Wheelers' pledge to step in and add to the amount already raised so that we can buy the land is really a dream come true and an expression of support greater than anything we could have imagined.

The news of this early Christmas present brought tears to the eyes of Lily Flordelis, Bahay Tuluyan's Executive Director of nearly 9 years. Planet Wheeler, represented by Trustee Mark Cubit, made the pledge in a meeting with the Australian

Ambassador Smith committed to continue supporting Bahay Tuluyan in whatever way possible as the search for funding for a house now begins.

We take this opportunity to most sincerely **thank everyone** who has contributed to this effort so far. We never could have imagined that the sacrifices and hard work would bear such wonderful fruit.

The generosity of so many is our inspiration and determination as we go forward in the next stage of the campaign; to build the children a home they can always call their own.



Celebrating Children's Day

Every day is children's day, so the saying goes, but Bahay Tuluyan nonetheless thought it important to mark Children's Day this year with a special celebration on 27 October 2008.

Attended by more than 100 children and adults, the day was a combination of games, presentations and competitions. Lots of laughing, singing and dancing made us, young and old, remember the importance of being kids.



A swim in the creek topped off a great day!

asmae

ASSOCIATION SŒUR EMMANUELLE

Partnership in focus:

ASMAE is a French NGO working for the development of children all over the world.

Bahay Tuluyan entered into partnership with ASMAE in 2006. In the three years of partnership, the two organizations have worked cooperatively on a number of projects including street education through Bahay Tuluyan's Mobile Unit, summer camps for street children and the organization of a street educator's network in Manila.

Working together, the two organizations identified the need for Bahay Tuluyan's social workers to develop their skills in counseling and play therapy.

In response to this need, ASMAE has provided a full time psychologist volunteer, Evy Berger, to work with the social workers and build their capacity to work with

the children towards healing and recovery.

Evy has worked with Bahay Tuluyan since April 2008 and has been able to assist in the creation of modules and techniques for play therapy and to develop a play therapy room. She has also provided valuable training for social workers and house parents.

The staff and children will be sad to see her leave in December 2008 but look forward to a continuing and fruitful partnership with ASMAE..



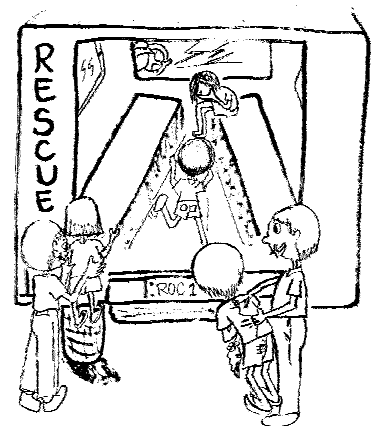
Two street children eating breakfast at a camp sponsored by ASMAE

'RESCUE' RESEARCH

Bahay Tuluyan's campaign to improve the process of government 'rescue' of street children continues.

A study into the practice of rescue in three cities of Metro Manila (Quezon, Caloocan and Pasay Cities) is nearly complete.

Sponsored by UNICEF, the study will be launched early in 2009 by the Committee on Street Children in Metrowest which is convened by Bahay Tuluyan.



The findings of the research echo the findings of a study done by volunteers of Bahay Tuluyan earlier this year which found that rescue as currently practised is indiscriminate, involuntary, harmful and ineffective.

Watch this space for what we hope to be positive and effective changes to the current system.

Illustration by Mary Caspillo

CHILDREN'S THEATRE FESTIVAL

PILAK, Bahay Tuluyan's youth advocacy group, made their debut performance of their play 'Pangarap ng mga Batang Kalye' (Dreams of Street Children) on October 26 during the PETA Children's Theater Festival.

This play was mounted through the generous sponsorship of a matching grant from Rotary Club of EsSENDON and Rotary Club of Manila Maynilad Seafront and by the PETA Children's Theater Program.

The play told the story of street children and their imagination to dream and create. While their

dreams were able to take them to places of fantasy, reality all too fre-

quently brought those dreams crashing down around them.



The energetic cast from 'Pangarap ng mga Batang Kalye'

Several months of preparation paid off when the play, full of dancing, music and colorful dialogue, was received warmly by the audience. The fifteen young people involved in the project demonstrated the benefits such a project can provide. The message delivered by the young people through their play allowed the benefit to carry much further. The play will be performed again during the 2nd Street Children's Festival to be held in January 2009.



Street Children's Festival 2009

Bahay Tuluyan is very excited to announce its new partnership with ArtVenture to run the second Street Children's Festival. ArtVenture is a philanthropic organization which seeks to harness art and culture to improve lives in meaningful ways. The festival will be held on 24 January 2009 in Manila and hopes to attract 2000 street children.

Through Bahay Tuluyan's partnership with ArtVenture 54 young leaders are currently undergoing training about how to use the arts for positive change, through facilitation and performance.

This training is being provided through the energetic leadership of a group of artist-teachers from the Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA).

The young leaders represent 12 different non government organizations working with street children and young people in Metro Manila. Using the arts of poi, rhythmic gymnastics, puppetry, storytelling and drama they hope to be able to raise children's awareness about their rights and ways to make positive changes in their

Kapantay at Kasali (equal and included)

lives.

Following on from the successful first street children's festival which was held in January 2008, this festival will also revolve around the theme of 'Kapantay at Kasali (Equal and Included

Bahay Tuluyan is looking for donations for showbags which will be given to the children attending the festival. If you are able to assist, please contact us.



Young Leaders workshop

Child Friendly Parents

Sack races, ball games, solving puzzles and dancing where all part of the fun at Bahay Tuluyan's recent children's rights workshop for parents. The 14 parents in attendance represented 11 families and more than 40 children.

For two days the parents of some of the children in Bahay Tuluyan's residential care program worked with the organization's social workers to try and understand more deeply what 'children's rights' means. More importantly, they sought to understand their role, as parents, in the protection and fulfilment of children's rights.

The children joined their parents for the last two days of the workshop and spent time working together and strengthening their relationships. Some of the insights which were developed throughout the workshop

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Barista training...

Child @ Venture Café is an internet café and coffee shop which has been established by Bahay Tuluyan at its center in Victoria, Laguna. This café was conceptualized by a 'business team' of young women (15—18 years old) from Bahay Tuluyan and has been established as an entrepreneurial training center.

Sponsored by Child @ Venture, a Dutch NGO, the café recently played host to a group of young people from Mindoro, Philippines who were also planning to set up their own café. These young people spent two days at Bahay Tuluyan to observe the café and to learn how to make coffee.



They were ably taught by one of the founders of Bahay Tuluyan Philippines Australia, a lawyer from Melbourne, Melissa Rudd. The young people went home inspired and enthused to bring good coffee to San Jose, Mindoro!

Child Friendly Parents (cont'd from p.3)

were evident in the parents' attitudes towards their children in the last days of the workshop.

A deeper sensitivity to the children's deep need for a family was an insight of one parent who is not able to care for his child due to his own homelessness and struggles with drug abuse and gambling. This workshop was the second of what Bahay Tuluyan hopes can become an ongoing service to parents of abuse children who want to improve their parenting skills. This project is currently seeking funding.

HELP CHANGE A CHILD'S LIFE!

Make a donation today and help Bahay Tuluyan to empower children to change their lives for the better. You can donate by:

- Credit card, online —www.bahaytuluyan.org
- Bank deposit:
 - Bank—Bank of the Philippine Islands
 - Branch—JRC Mandaluyong, Shaw Blvd
 - Account Name—Bahay Tuluyan
 - Account Number—3863014998 (Savings)
 - SWIFT CODE : BOIPHMM
- By check to 'Bahay Tuluyan', 3473 Leyte St, Sta Mesa, Manila 1016, Philippines
- At any of our offices

Please notify us of bank deposits so we can issue you an official receipt.

Thanks for your support!

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Love children.

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Bahay Tuluyan is a Filipino non government organization working with children in need of special protection.

Established in 1987, Bahay Tuluyan's vision is of a world where all children's rights are respected, protected and fulfilled. It bases all of its work on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Bahay Tuluyan believes in the inherent capability of children to help themselves and promotes child participation in all areas of its work.

Bahay Tuluyan's main areas of work are in providing social services for children including shelter, and in Alternative Education, using a child-to-child approach. The organization is also involved in research, training and advocacy.

For more information, please visit our website—www.bahaytuluyan.org