

## KidsView 2008

**6 weeks. 4 cities.  
 37 presentations.**

KidsView 2008, Bahay Tuluyan's annual advocacy event in Australia was once again a whirlwind tour with the goal of promoting deeper understanding of the issues facing children in the Philippines.

The tour which took place around the South-East of Australia (*Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra and Hobart*) involved 3 representatives from Bahay Tuluyan. Mary Caspillo and Pasencia Holon, 18 and 17 years old respectively, were chosen to represent the children of Bahay Tuluyan because of their strong leadership skills and desire to uphold children's rights. They were accompanied by Catherine Scerri, Development Manager of Bahay Tuluyan.

Mary and Pasencia created a 15 minute multi media performance featuring dance, drama, singing and story telling. This performance told the story of children in the Philippines seeking a home they could call their own. It was extremely warmly re-

ceived by all who viewed the performance, with some people moved to tears by the girls' presentation.



Mary & Pasencia presenting to a class of students in Melbourne

Entirely organised and funded by volunteers from Bahay Tuluyan Philippines Australia, KidsView 2008 was an opportunity for Bahay Tuluyan to extend its 'child-to-child' approach of education across borders. A highlight of the tour was a series of 6 conferences for school students.

These 1 day events brought together students from different schools and colleges to learn about poverty, share ideas and seek to become part of the solution. The energy and enthusiasm bubbling from students after these conferences was inspir-

ing for all involved. More importantly, the students' creative projects to 'get involved' in their communities after the conferences evidence the importance of such global education.

KidsView 2008 also incorporated various well attended fundraising events in various cities including the annual fundraising dinner and art

show in Melbourne, a drinks night in Hobart, cruise in Sydney and trivia night and concert in Canberra.

The three delegates from Bahay Tuluyan returned to the Philippines at the end of May, exhausted, but revitalised by the spirit of compassion shown by so many people throughout Australia. Children can change the world!



Mary & Pasencia on SBS radio in Sydney

*Greetings from the Philippines!*

*It has been a very busy few months since our last newsletter. Summer is over and the typhoons have set in. School has started again and with this new beginning comes new rhythms, new routines.*

*The challenge of finding 'A Home of Our Own' is an important one for Bahay Tuluyan at the moment as the organization ironically faces the prospect of 'homelessness'. However the support and generosity shown during the recent KidsView tour in Australia assures us that together we will overcome!*

*The rapidly rising costs of fuel and rice in the Philippines is having a very strong impact on the people with whom we work as well as our own staff and operations. Our research teams' testimonies of the situation of children on the street providing a further reminder of the very fine line between subsistence and devastation.*

*We thank you for your ongoing support to ensure our children stay above that line.*

Catherine Scerri



Bahay Tuluyan was born in the aftermath of the martial law regime of Marcos and the peaceful Edsa revolution. In this period, 1986 – 87, children and adults started to become more and more visible on the streets. No longer afraid of arbitrary arrest or curfew, the extent and impact of poverty became more and more evident. A small group of people, led by an Irish Columban priest, Fr John Gallagher, sought to respond to the growing issue of street children. In the basement of a building in Malate, Manila, they established a drop in center for children to bathe, rest and eat.

One of that group, Nicanor Arriola (who later became the first Executive Director of Bahay Tuluyan), made contact with the children by standing on a street corner playing his flute while the children gathered around and played 'name the tune'. This pied piper of Manila could not have known where his simple actions would lead. Soon the numbers of children taking refuge in the basement in Malate grew to more than 80 and the space turned into a home.

Children from all around the tourist area of Manila came to know Bahay Tuluyan as a place where they could take refuge, seek solace and care. Many of the first children to benefit from this home now have their own children. Some of them continue to reach out to other children, as staff or sponsors of Bahay Tuluyan.

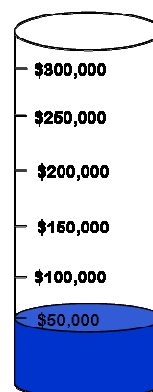
In the 21 years since Bahay Tuluyan was founded it has provided a home to thousands of children in need of special protection. Ironically it is now Bahay Tuluyan that faces homelessness.

After spending its first 12 years in the basement of the Malate Parish Center, Bahay Tuluyan moved into a house in Sta Mesa in 1999. This house, previously the nurses' quarters at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, was generously loaned to Bahay Tuluyan by the Congregation of the Sister Servants of the Holy

Spirit. However now that house is set to become part of hospital expansion and Bahay Tuluyan is once again looking for a place to stay.

Recognising the importance of having a secure place to stay, Bahay Tuluyan launched its 'A Home of Our Own' campaign in April 2008. Through this campaign the organization aims to raise enough money to build a home of its own in Manila. This will ensure that it can continue to provide programs and services to children a long long time into the future.

The 'A Home of Our Own Campaign', which aims to raise \$300,000 over the next 3 years, is off to a good start. **In the first three months of the campaign nearly \$50,000 has been collected from generous friends and supporters of Bahay Tuluyan!!** Much of this money was raised during the recent KidsView 2008, held in Australia. Bahay Tuluyan is blown away by this outpouring of support and generosity and is inspired to continue the work of the pied piper, calling children home.



All donations of \$100 or more will be acknowledged on an honour wall in the new home. Donations of \$1000 or more will receive a plaque of appreciation. To make a donation please see details on back page of newsletter.

## CHILDREN'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY

***Every child has the right to express his/her views freely in all matters affecting him/her (Article 12, UNCRC).***

Accordingly, all the children of Bahay Tuluyan came together for their annual children's general assembly in April 2008. This assembly was a chance for the children to provide feedback, share stories and dream for the future. An election for the new officers of Bahay Tuluyan's Children's Councils was an important part of the assembly.



Children sharing their messages and dreams during the annual General Assembly of Bahay Tuluyan

# Back to School!

June marks the beginning of the school year in the Philippines and this year 63 children enrolled in school through the assistance of Bahay Tuluyan.

With only 56 out of every 100 Filipino children finishing elementary school, support to students is critical, particularly in the early years. Moreover with some classes taking more than three times their capacity of students, it can be a fight just to find a seat, let alone graduate with honours!

Bahay Tuluyan seeks to meet the needs of its students through tutorial programs (provided by local volunteers), close monitoring and guidance as well as incentives.

Once a month all of those children who have attended class without any unauthorised absences are invited to a special celebration. This recognition, dubbed the 'perfect club' by the children, has proved to be a powerful incentive against the temptation of cutting class. In 2007 the numbers of children achieving 'perfect attendance' quadrupled in the first four months of implementation of the 'perfect club'. We hope for even better results this year!



A classroom of students in San Antonio, Quezon

# 'RESCUE' RESEARCH

The alarming results of the research conducted by Australian volunteer researchers earlier this year into the child "rescue" programs practiced in the city of Manila (reported in our February newsletter) have not yet resulted in a moratorium on rescue operations in the city of Manila, but they have raised the interest of other organisations seeking to protect the rights of children. UNICEF is one such organisation and, after reading the research report, offered funding to Bahay Tuluyan to further explore rescue operations in the broader Metro Manila area.

This broader study is now underway and is being conducted by a team of young volunteers from Australian Volunteers International Youth Program together with some Junior Researchers from PILAK ('Pinag Isang Lakas ng Kabataan' or 'United Strength of Youth'), a group of youth advocates from Bahay Tuluyan. Although the research is

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# Summer Olympics

30 children from Bahay Tuluyan's street based 'mobile unit' areas recently participated in the street children's Summer Olympics. This event, organised by Sun for All Children (a local NGO), was a wonderful celebration of the children's skills. Two of Bahay Tuluyan's children came home with gold medals and 14 with silver and all with a great sense of pride in their achievements.



Ready, set, go! Enthusiastic participation in the Summer Olympics



# SCIENCE DAY



Captivated students

Teaching a class of 67 students for 8 hours a day can't be easy by anyone's standards. But to expect one teacher to be able to provide 'hands-on' learning to a class this size, with almost no resources, is almost impossible.

It was therefore with both enthusiasm and relief that the Grade 4 teacher at Masapang Elementary School recently welcomed Australian teacher Karen O'Gorman into her classroom. Mrs O'Gorman, a volunteer with Bahay Tuluyan, offered her services to the school for a 'Science Day'.



Mrs O'Gorman & her 'class'

With a team of 4 volunteer assistants, Mrs O'Gorman led the children through a series of experiments aimed at highlighting the properties of water using food dye, pepper, detergent, eye droppers, water, oil and milk. The children participated enthusiastically in the activities, a gauge of success being one child's proclamation that science was now her favourite subject.

Bahay Tuluyan hopes to be able to continue working closely with local public schools on similar initiatives in the future.

'Rescue' Research—cont'd from page 3

still in its early stages, it is clear that the issues and concerns that were identified during the research with respect to the city of Manila are also prevalent in other areas of Metro Manila—in the experience of the street children interviewed, "rescue" has been a violent, indiscriminate, disruptive, ineffective and recurring event in their communities. One 13 year old child the research team spoke with had been rescued 59 times over the last six years!

The results of this new study will be released towards the end of 2008. Stay tuned!



## 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](http://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!

Change the world.  
Love children.

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**bahay**  
TULUYAN

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](http://www.bahaytuluyan.org)