



Change the world.
Love children.

Bahay Tuluyan Newsletter

March 2010

Rescue Research Study Launched

Greetings from the Philippines!

It has been a long time since our last newsletter. Just as we should have been producing one at the end of 2009, the Philippines was hit by a series of devastating typhoons and tropical storms. These caused many deaths and widespread damage.

Fortunate to escape any serious damage, Bahay Tuluyan did what it could to assist those affected, particularly in our town of Victoria, Laguna. Almost six months on, many people are still homeless as the nation struggles to relocate people living in danger areas.

What emerges as a theme of this newsletter is the people who give Bahay Tuluyan life—our Executive Director, Lily Flordelis, marking her 10th year with the organization, our many volunteers, partners and supporters. These people give Bahay Tuluyan life, stability and focus. It is appropriate to tribute this newsletter to them.

Catherine Scerri

13 years old and 'rescued' by government agencies 59 times, so far.

This was just one of the alarming stories that emerged from Bahay Tuluyan's recently published study 'Sagip or Huli?: Rescue of Street Children in Caloocan, Manila Pasay and Quezon Cities'.

Documenting stories gathered from 599 children and 114 'rescuers', this book was launched at the Heritage Hotel in Manila on 17th November 2009.

The practice of rescue is 'the act of a government agency physically removing a child from the streets for the stated purpose of removing the child from danger'.

The event was marked by a keynote speech from the Philippine Commissioner on Human Rights who noted that in many cases of rescue of street

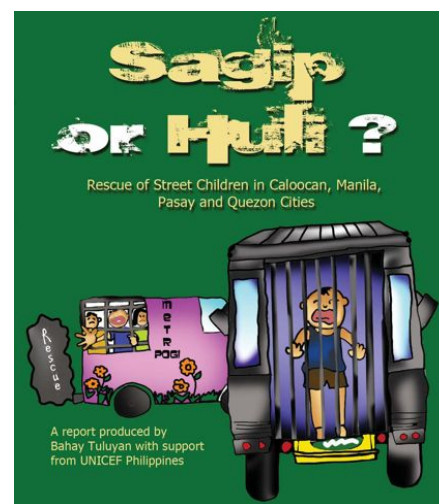
children '...beautification... was prioritized over what should have been a primary concern, namely the best interests of the child' and that 'instead of being viewed as persons [children] became mere numbers who needed to be processed to meet quotas'. The Australian Ambassador to the Philippines drew parallels between the rescue of street children and the 'stolen generations', a term used to describe indigenous Australian children who were removed from their families under government welfare policies, with devastating outcomes.

The launch of this study, coming after several years of research, dialogue and campaigning, brought together government agencies from all over Metro Manila and was an opportunity to start talking about solutions. As a result of this campaign, led by Bahay Tuluyan, the national

government has introduced new minimum standards for programs addressing street children, aimed at ensuring their safety and best interests.

There is still a long way to go. For, as long as a child says 'I wish they wouldn't rescue us anymore so that I could study', the system is failing.

Copies of the study available at www.bahaytuluyan.org



Children's Congress

What do you think about Health? School? Family? Freedom of speech? Child trafficking? How can your community be more child friendly?

These were some of the questions which young people from the towns of Victoria (Laguna) and San Antonio (Quezon) considered in two Children's Congresses recently hosted by Bahay Tuluyan.

Organised in cooperation with volunteers from Macquarie University (Sydney, Australia), the congresses brought together young people from

different barangays (villages) to learn about children's rights and reflect on the situation for children in their own areas. The children then 'mapped' their communities, highlighting what they saw as good practice, areas for improvement and rights violations.



Youth leaders presenting their findings

Young leaders from each town will present their findings to the local councils during March, with the goal of incorporating children's voices into local development planning and programs.

Tropical Storm Ondoy (Ketsana)

On 26 September 2009 the Philippines was hit by Tropical Storm Ondoy, a storm which caused a months' worth of rain to fall in 9 hours, creating record floods. More than 460 people died as a result of the storm.

In Victoria, Laguna, where one of Bahay Tuluyan's centers is located, more than 1000 families were affected by the storm, their houses flooded or washed away. Located on the shoreline of Laguna de Bay, the second biggest lake in South East Asia, Victoria was one of many towns of which parts remained flooded for several months after the storm.

One million people live along the shore of this lake and unchecked development combined with pollution and poor waste management meant that the flood ways were unable to drain after the lake flooded. Instead, the waters continued to rise for several weeks, causing great hardship for thousands of families who found refuge in schools and halls which had been converted into makeshift evacuation centers.

Bahay Tuluyan became involved in the relief effort in the days and months after the storm, as people tried to overcome the damage wreaked on their lives. Through the support of various



Above—
house
destroyed by
storm

Left—a child
receiving food
package

Below—
gathering data
from affected
families



individuals and communities Bahay Tuluyan provided emergency food packages for several hundred families. In addition it created a mobile educa-

tion unit to address the particular needs of children staying in evacuation centers. Though this unit staff and young people from Bahay Tuluyan provided psychosocial support, through games and activities, to children dislocated by the storm. In partnership with UNICEF, these activities were aimed at relieving the psychological stress caused by the disaster as well as mitigating the risks posed to children as a result of living in evacuation centers.

Now, nearly 6 months after the storm, life has returned to normal for most but a considerable number of people continue to live in makeshift housing or evacuation centers. In Victoria 29 families remain living in tents as their houses have been washed away and it is no longer safe for them to rebuild in the same areas. The government has begun looking into providing relocation options but with such a large number of people affected across many provinces, progress is slow. Let us hope that this disaster will serve as a much needed wake up call to mitigate the potential damage which future calamities may cause.

A Decade as Executive Director

In March 2000 Lily Flordelis was working as a dentist in a hospital in Manila when one of the Trustees of Bahay Tuluyan asked her to help manage the organization for a couple of months. Little did she imagine that ten years later she would still be working, as Executive Director, for Bahay Tuluyan.

A far cry from dentistry, Lily found herself thrown in the deep end, learning about development, management, children's rights and social work in a very 'hands-on' way. Showing her aptitude for adapting to new challenges, Lily has led Bahay Tuluyan through some significant growth and development, tripling in size during her service.

The Bahay Tuluyan family honoured Lily's commitment with a celebration on 28 February 2010. As the words on the plaque which she was awarded acknowledged, Lily's patience, strength and leadership have changed the lives of thousands of children. We pay tribute to her dedication and honor her commitment to Bahay Tuluyan's dream of building a world where every child's rights are respected, protected and fulfilled.



Only 4000 more bricks!



Nearly two years since the campaign began, our dream of having a Home of Our Own in Manila is only 4000 bricks away.

In August 2009, Bahay Tuluyan left its premises in Sta Mesa, Manila to move to the new piece of land donated by Planet Wheeler, in Malate, Manila.

A temporary office has been set up on this site and focus has moved to raising P30 million (\$750,000

AUD) for the building, which will include a crisis center, drop in center and training center. It is estimated that the building will directly benefit 50,000 children over the next 10 years.

Through the efforts of Bahay Tuluyan Philippines Australia and a large number of schools, organisations, companies and individuals (While it is not possible to mention here all the groups and individuals who have contributed to this goal so far, our gratitude to you is boundless), a phenomenal P5.2m (\$130,000) was raised in 2009. This was matched, through an extremely generous donation of P4m (\$100,000) from Planet Wheeler. Combined with amounts raised in 2008, this brings the current total to close to P13.2m

(\$330,000).

Almost half way to our goal, we are more determined than ever to bring this dream to fruition. Our aim this year is to sell just 4000 more bricks so that we can build our home.

Each brick costs P4000 (\$100 AUD) and everyone who purchases a brick will be acknowledged on an honor wall to be erected in the new home.

We encourage you to buy a brick and become part of Bahay Tuluyan's history!

Visit www.bahaytuluyan.org for more information.

Construction of the new building will hopefully start in May. We will keep you updated.

Volunteering at BT

An article by Phoebe Hardefeldt

I have spent the last twelve months with Bahay Tuluyan as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development, based at our new site in Malate, Manila. For me, this year was more than just a 12 month placement though— it was a very exciting page in my long-standing connection with BT – first as a participant in AVI's youth program in 2003, then via involvement with BT Australia, and then another short visit in 2005.

It has been so exciting to see the changes and progress made by Bahay Tuluyan since I first came in 2003. And the change has only continued during my 12 months here, with our move to our new site in Manila, preparations for building 'A Home of Our Own' here, new group homes and computer rooms set up in the Laguna and Quezon centres, and much more.



Phoebe demonstrating one of her many skills!

I've focused on two main areas during my time here. Firstly, on Bahay Tuluyan's alternative education programs – in particular developing the Junior Health Workers Program. And secondly, on BT's self-reliance programs, including helping to strengthen management systems for BT's fantastic Junk 2 Funk recycled jewellery program and the Child at Venture Café.

That said, if I listed all the different activities I've been involved in here at

BT it would quickly become a novel! It's such a dynamic organisation with a very full schedule, so I've helped out with youth theatre advocacy tours, fundraising and advocacy events, computer lessons, training youth staff for the café, typhoon recovery activities, outreach in Manila, and much more. I've learned a lot during my time in the Philippines through sharing skills and experiences with those around me, and am sure I will take away as much as I've brought here – not to mention some karaoke skills!

If I had to single out one highlight of the year, it would have to be the inspiring and warm people I have come to know, both within and outside of BT. Armed with a fantastic sense of humour, the BT community has been endlessly supportive of my ideas, patient with my vegetarianism and scratchy Tagalog, and generous with their time and friendship. I look forward to keeping in touch via text-text, and of course to a return trip!

Kangan & Kids in the Café

Bahay Tuluyan has worked in partnership with the Australian institutions Kangan Batman TAFE and the Rotary Club of Essendon for 6 years on a number of different projects. Most recently the partners have worked together to develop a goat and vegetable agribusiness and to train youth environmental stewards to protect the environment.

In December 2010 several faculty members from Kangan Batman TAFE, including CEO Ray Griffiths, visited Bahay Tuluyan as part of a study tour with Rotary Club of Essendon. During their time with the organization they worked with a number of young girls involved in Bahay Tuluyan's Independent Living Skills Program through the 'Child @ Venture Cafe'. The team from Kangan conducted an assessment of the young people from Bahay Tuluyan for their skills according to the standards for Certificate I in Retail Services.

We are extremely proud to announce that 10 girls received Statements of Attainment for completing 2 requirements in partial completion of that certificate. Such accreditation will prove extremely valuable for the young people as they seek employment and independence. It is hoped that this project can expand to include other young people involved with Bahay Tuluyan.



Three of BT's young entrepreneurs

make a Difference '09

In November—December 2009 five young people from Australia participated in the first 'MAD' project organised by the Rotary Club of Essendon (Australia) with Bahay Tuluyan.

The aim of this project was to give young Australians the chance to contribute positively to community development in the Philippines and to learn about issues facing people living in the developing world. Over a period of two weeks the group participated in a wide variety of activities from painting window frames to engaging in discussions about children's rights and issues. The project was a great success, with all participants going home with new knowledge, friendships and experiences.

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—Harrison Plaza (494)
 - Account Name—Bahay Tuluyan
 - Account Number—004943049276 (Savings)
 - SWIFT CODE : BOIIPHMM
- By check to 'Bahay Tuluyan', 2218 Leveriza St, Malate, Manila 1004, 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.

NEW ADDRESS!

2218 Leveriza St
Malate, Manila 1004
Philippines

Phone/Fax: +63 2 353 2350
E-mail: info@bahaytuluyan.org

www.bahaytuluyan.org

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