

ASCT

Caring for children in the Philippines since 1975

Patrons: The Right Honourable Michael Gove MP, *Member of Parliament for Surrey Heath*
The Right Revd Christopher Hill, *The Bishop of Guildford*

Annual Report & Summary of Accounts 2008-2009



Trustees

David S Cox MBE *Hon Chairman* Judith Scammell *Hon Treasurer*

Moyra Glover Sue Hitchins *Deputy Chair*

Brian Higgs Lydia Langford

Administrator Alison Morey

Bankers

HSBC Bank plc

CAF Bank Ltd

Danestrete

25 Kings Hill Ave

Stevenage

West Malling

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Independent Examiner *William A Morris ACIB*

Chairman's report 2008/09

Introduction

As Chairman it seems such a long time ago that the year in question ended in March 2009, and with it, such a momentous time of development for ASCT and the world, during global financial turmoil.

All these factors affected the decisions we took as a Trustee board. During the upbeat times in mid 2008 we were all set to press the start button on our largest and most ambitious project in our 37 year history. I am of course referring to the decision to proceed with the building of our purpose built new children's Home, keeping the well known name of Mango Tree House.

More on this later but in my opening remarks I want to pay tribute to the work of our hard pressed team in Manila who do the work we seek to fund. They do it day in and day out with some challenging young people as well as those who have a real desire to learn and better themselves.

None of what we do would be possible without the generosity of our supporters and sponsors across the UK and beyond, as individual, groups, churches, schools and charitable foundations.

Our work encompasses three major projects, Mango Tree House, Cashew Tree school and Grapevine students. We ended the year with 242 young people in these programmes in the care of 21 staff in Manila. All this on an annual expenditure of £138k including a UK spend of just £16.7k for our office and administration costs.

Work with our children

We have many positive stories to relate in the year 2008/09 which continue to demonstrate the effectiveness in changing for good the lives of the young people for whom, if we were not there, they would be in dire circumstances.

Such examples include sisters Cathlyn and Leni Rose whose Father is serving life in prison and whose Mother and older brother have turned to drugs. The girls are now part of the ASCT family and doing well at school.

During the year we celebrated the 10th birthday of Cashew Tree School. The school continued to provide excellent



*Cashew Tree School celebrates
it's 10th Birthday*

teaching standards to children from the most deprived areas.

Financial turmoil

For us all at ASCT and in personal circumstances, at work and within the world of finance this period has been one of unprecedented uncertainty in income, returns and exchange rates. It is therefore quite remarkable that we have been blessed with continued support and income, especially in loans, for the building of the new home, to be repaid on the sale of the old Mango Tree House.

Budgets for the year were held at a level where we could support the commitment to ASCF whilst having a record breaking amount raised locally in Manila of £12,000 for the year.

Visits and Volunteers

During this year one trustee visited the Philippines and there were valuable contributions from two volunteers, Annet Bluschke and Kirsty Costello, who lived with the children at Mango Tree House. Several sponsors visited their ASCT children



including Michael and Lisa Lawson who said, 'I felt so honoured to be able to see for myself some of the results of the fantastic work done by ASCT – without doubt, one of the most memorable and special parts of our trip.'

Publicity and Fundraising

Our re-designed and updated literature has helped to make our publicity clearer and unified in its message. We have continued with our newsletter, website and a small but increasing amount of contact by email with sponsors.

One major source of income was from Cross Pollinate, a group of philanthropists who meet twice a year to hear from five finalists who have made applications to present their charity and cause. We were fortunate to reach the final shortlist and duly made our presentation to



The New Mango Tree House February 2008

be rewarded with £15,000. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our supporters in both offering gifts and interest free loans, many on a long term basis, to assist the rebuild project. We are truly indebted and wish to thank everyone who has assisted us in this way. Almost £46,400 has been offered and taken in loans and a further £78,300

in gifts for our new building work during this period.

Governance

Special projects during this year have seen a major contribution from Trustee Brian Higgs, who has overseen the construction of our new home which is no easy task from the other side of the world. Also our treasurer Judith Scammell has had a vital role to play in managing the complications of wildly varying exchange rates, falling property values, generous loans and gifts in support of the building of Mango Tree house. All this in addition to the normal monthly accounts and financial reporting.

This has been a year that has needed courage and dedication – the contribution made by Alison Morey in administering our work and all the Trustees has been invaluable.

During this year Moyra Glover decided that after over thirty years of service that it is time to retire and this will be effective from November 2009. We all owe Moyra real thanks for her most valuable contribution in this and many previous years in her role as Trustee, Treasurer and Vice Chair. Sue Hitchins replaced Moyra as Vice Chair with effect from October 2008.

We have a team of advisers who attend Board meetings and offer advice across a range of areas which is most beneficial. These are John Wenger, June Cobbett and Kay Mackay

New Patrons

During this year we approached two eminent members of the community

to become Patrons for ASCT, and I delighted that both of them accepted . We are therefore honoured that the Bishop of Guildford, Rt Reverend Christopher Hill and MP for Surrey Heath, Michael Gove are now Patrons of our charity and we thank them for their real interest and look forward to their ongoing support

The coming year

2009/10 will see a period of settling down in the new Mango Tree house as staff and children come to terms with a new building, location and all that moving house entails. We need to work hard to maintain the level of income from supporters and track down new areas of giving. We must sell the old children's home to repay the bridging loans made by supporters during the build of the new home. It is hoped to recruit new Trustees with corporate experience to complement the current team. We will introduce Volunteer contracts and clarify the role and give specific assignments to long term volunteers. A new management and organisation structure in Manila will be implemented. We will also examine the way we work and make streamlined changes focusing on our strategic direction and expanding in a planned manner.

David Cox MBE, Hon Chairman



Saturday Tutorial for Grapevine Students.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As for last year, this year has been a challenging one financially due to the extra fundraising needed to build the new Mango Tree House, and of course the impact of the global economic downturn.

We are also vulnerable to changes in the exchange rate for the GB pound to the Philippine peso, but we took a cautious view this year based on the declining rate experienced last year. Consequently, funds transferred to the Philippines for operational costs were slightly under budget at £121,200. However, the less favourable rates experienced over the last 12 months has meant that although in pesos terms, operational costs for the Philippines have been kept at similar levels for the last three years, in GB pounds it has cost an additional £10,000 this year.

Operational costs for the UK were slightly over budget at £16,800 due to purchase of IT equipment.

Total income for the year for unrestricted funds was £126,900, a little under budget but it was quite an ambitious target bearing in mind we were also asking for donations or loans for our new Home.

Donations for this building project were £78,300 and £46,400 in loans. We also received a further £5,000 for child gifts. We have been overwhelmed by the generous support we continue to receive.

Our unrestricted cash reserves at the end of the year were £13,300, which is relatively low, but the Trustees will seek to build these reserves over the next year.

Finally, as always our sincere thanks to Bill Morris, our Independent Examiner and generous supporter.

Judith Scammell, Hon Treasurer



		Unrestricted funds	Restricted Income funds	Total 08/09	Total 07/08
		£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
Voluntary income		122,710	83,399	206,109	156,911
Investment income		4,155		4,155	3,907
Total incoming resources	A	126,865	83,399	210,264	160,818
Expenditure					
Costs of generating voluntary income		16,762		16,762	13,633
Charitable activities (Restricted = Seedling project + child gifts)		121,169	105,236	226,405	160,657
Governance costs		0	0	0	139
Total expenditure	B	137,931	105,236	243,167	174,429
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources (A – B)	C	(11,066)	(21,837)	(32,903)	(13,611)
Fund balances brought forward	D	24,361	53,741	78,102	91,712
Fund balances carried forward (C + D)		13,294	31,904	45,198	78,101

Verified as a true and fair representation by W A Morris ACIB

Balance Sheet

		Total 08/09	Total 07/08
		£	£
Fixed Assets	A	0	0
Current Assets			
Debtors		6,391	7,944
Short term investments and deposits		62,792	68,655
Cash at bank and in hand		44,915	23,502
Total current assets	B	114,098	100,101
Short term creditors (includes Seedling loans)	C	68,900	22,000
Net current assets/(liabilities) (B – C)	D	45,198	78,101
Total assets less current liabilities (A + D)	E	45,198	78,101
Long term creditors	F	0	0
Provisions for liabilities	G	0	0
Net assets (E – F – G)		45,198	78,101
Restricted income funds	I	31,904	53,741
Unrestricted income funds	J	13,294	24,360
Total funds (I + J)		45,198	78,101

Verified as a true and fair representation by W A Morris ACIB

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