



Giving Filipino children a hope for the future

## REHOBOTH CHILDREN'S HOMES TRUST

Registered Charity No. 1005152

### SPRING NEWSLETTER 2011

#### LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF TRUSTEES : Philip Thompson

In November 2010 Rehoboth Children's Home celebrated God's faithful provision over the last twenty nine years with a special anniversary programme. More details of this are given on page 2.

We are grateful for your support and the interest you have shown in the home over the years. Unfortunately we are now at a critical point in the history of the home and I want to bring this matter to your attention.

Our financial viability is under serious threat. The sterling -peso exchange rate has fallen from about P95--100/£ in January 2007 to about P65-70/£ currently. This has had a marked impact on our funds as most of our money is given in the UK and used in the Philippines. In addition prices in the Philippines have risen. Putting these two factors together means that while in 2007 £100 could buy 10.2 sacks of rice, in 2011 £100 will buy only 5.6 sacks of rice. It now costs an average of £100/month for each child in the home, including the share of the staff and facility costs. Costs for the REAP students (who still live at home with their families while Rehoboth pay the educational fees) are lower. These vary depending on the stage of schooling the child is at, from about £10/month for an elementary school child, up to £45/month for a college student.



Donations in the UK have also fallen and in April the amount of tax that we are able to claim under Gift Aid will reduce from 28-25%. As a result our expenditure exceeds our income and we are using up our reserves. For us to maintain the same level of provision to the children we serve, we need to increase our income. We are raising awareness of this serious matter with our existing supporters and seeking new sources of funding. If you would like more detailed information, please contact us in one of the ways indicated at the end of this newsletter.



#### GOD'S FAITHFULNESS OVER 29 YEARS

"To celebrate 29 years of God's faithful provision, the home held a special programme in November 2010 with an open house and alumni homecoming." The theme of our 29th Anniversary was 'Great is thy faithfulness' (Lamentations 3v23). Our programme included dance, songs, photos, film clips, testimonies from former residents and an inspirational message from Connie Andrews, Rehoboth's UK Representative and co-founder of the Home in 1981. Visitors were also invited to have a tour of Rehoboth's Eco-Learning Farm and see the amazing transformation from the rough jungle-like plot to a beautiful and productive garden.

Leah Ferrebee, our U.S. Peace Corps volunteer has been instrumental in this transformation alongside the hard work of our staff and residents. As part of the anniversary weekend we invited former residents to join us and share about their lives since they left Rehoboth. One resident, Mylene, was unable to join us but later in an email to Connie Andrews she expressed some of her thoughts and how she was applying what she had learnt at the Home in her daily life today: "I'm so thankful for everything you have done for the benefits of Rehoboth I am so proud to be one of the fruit of your patience and hardworking but most of all your heavenly love. I'm one of those kids that came from nothing and became something. Rehoboth made a very significant part in my life especially spiritual. It develops my personality, nurtures me spiritually and created me beautifully. I thank God for all the ups and downs and until now I'm still emotional but experience teaches me very well to be stable in deciding what is God's will and best for my family. I really do appreciate all your efforts as well as all RCHI or RCHT staff. Now we are not in the training ground (RCHI), I am facing the reality but applying what I have learned and acquired at Rehoboth. Life is not easy without Jesus Christ as my captain. Thanks for everything and God bless you..."

## SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL: WASHINGTON D.C.

As part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the U.S. Peace Corps a group of cultural dancers from Rehoboth have been invited to participate in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington D.C. A group of eight residents with two staff will accompany Leah & her husband, Peace Corps volunteers, with the task of representing the Philippines. At the festival they will demonstrate Filipino crafts and cooking and twice a day the dance group will present the National Dance of the Philippines, the Tinikling on the Mall. There will be opportunities for the group to talk to visitors about the Philippines and about Rehoboth. The group will be leaving on June 27<sup>th</sup> and returning on July 13<sup>th</sup> with all expenses paid by the Smithsonian Institute. This is an amazing opportunity for us and everyone is busy preparing for the event. Kathryn Thompson, one of our trustees who lives and volunteers at the Home in the Philippines, plans to join the group independently and use the opportunity to spread the good news about Rehoboth abroad! For more information please look at our website. ([www.rehobothchildrenshomes.org](http://www.rehobothchildrenshomes.org))



### MEET LARAINE, OUR NEWLY APPOINTED SOCIAL WORKER

Hi I'm Laraine de Leon-Serna, 28 years old and presently residing in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, Philippines. I graduated from Wesleyan University with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work in April, 2003 and with God's grace I passed the licensure examination for Social Work in June, 2003. I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour on February 5, 2005 and since then my life became meaningful. I finished my study through the effort of Christian Children's Fund with a sponsor for my studies from Grade 3 to college and at the same time I was a working student to help provide my personal needs because I came from an indigent family. That's the reason why I thought to myself that when I finish my studies I want to serve continually to our God and indigent families and that's my mission now. This is my

short life journey. I hope it will serve as inspiration and challenge for helping the needy families in our society. Thank you very much and God bless you! **By Laraine de Leon-Serna**

## LITERACY PROJECT – 'TEACHING MINDS, TOUCHING LIVES'

This year some of our younger residents have had the opportunity to be involved in the RCH/ TCA Joint Literacy Project. This was initiated by Tom Ferree, the U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer at Tarlac College of Agriculture in an attempt to raise the reading comprehension levels of our children as well as providing one-on-one tutoring opportunities for the teacher training students at the college. On a regular basis our children have had individual reading lessons with their own student teacher, some of them were held at Rehoboth and more recently the lessons have been conducted at one of the libraries at the college. The student teachers have planned lessons and conducted assessments which have all contributed to raising reading levels among our residents.



## LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS

The youngsters and staff at Rehoboth have been working hard recently to find ways to generate some more local income. They have begun a number of small income generating projects which as well as bringing in much needed funds also provide the residents with the opportunity to develop new skills. One such project is making accessories, mainly earrings and another is making eco-friendly cloth bags and aprons out of recycled flour sacks and printing with our new Rehoboth logo. Handmade cards and

## MESSAGE FROM CONNIE

Over the years, we have had the immense blessing of committed prayer supporters and a succession of wonderful people who have given themselves to helping Rehoboth in major and minor ways. All are important and appreciated.

I am very grateful to God for the many people who help me personally. As a way of saying thank you, I have arranged to have a ceillidh to celebrate my birthday on 21st May at 7.30 pm at the Commemoration Hall in Huntingdon. Please do let me know if you would like to join us as we need to have the numbers for the buffet meal. The following day we have the Rehoboth AGM at 4.30pm at Godmanchester Baptist Church, followed by tea and the Rehoboth Evening Service at 7.00pm. All of you are warmly invited.

Because of the present financial situation, much focus has to be placed on money. While preaching recently in Leicestershire I was gripped by the truth that our God shall supply ALL our needs according to HIS RICHES in GLORY by CHRIST JESUS! The speaking trip to Aberdeen and Shetland in May/June promises to be very busy with 18 bookings and 3 others possible. I plan to be at a conference in Devon with a stall for Rehoboth in August and I hope to be in Lincolnshire in the Autumn. Please tell me if you have any contacts, in these areas, who would like to hear about Rehoboth.



## CURRENT SITUATION

To help you further understand the situation, for a child living at the home it now costs on average £45/month for the educational fees, clothing, food and other matters directly associated with the child. When we add in the child's share of the staff costs and the buildings etc, the total amount is about £100/month. When you sponsor a child though you can give whatever amount, large or small! We do still have 3 elementary REAP students needing a sponsor (£10 monthly). If you are interested please contact us.



## HOW CAN YOU HELP REHOBOTH?

- Sponsor a child either in the Home or within REAP.
- Support the general running costs of the Home by setting up a regular gift.
- Give a one-off donation.
- Sponsor an activity or event at the Home.
- Sponsor the salary of a member of staff.
- Remember Rehoboth in your will.
- Gift aid your donation where possible to enable us to benefit from the reclaimed tax.

- Pray about the present situation at Rehoboth and that God's will be done.
- Share with your family, friends, church and home groups about Rehoboth We have a short DVD about the children's home and another one about REAP. If you are interested in using this please contact us.
- If you would like someone to come and speak about Rehoboth at your church or small group please let us know and we will try and arrange this.

**REHOBOTH CHILDREN'S HOME**  
PROVIDING A CHRISTIAN HOME  
AND EDUCATION WHERE CHILDREN  
CAN PROSPER BOTH PHYSICALLY  
AND SPIRITUALLY IN THEIR LAND

**REHOBOTH EDUCATIONAL  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME  
R.E.A.P**  
PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL  
ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT  
TO STUDENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES



For more information please visit our website: [www.rehobothchildrenshomes.org](http://www.rehobothchildrenshomes.org)  
Or email us: [enquiries@rehobothchildrenshomes.org](mailto:enquiries@rehobothchildrenshomes.org).  
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