



## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024

### EDITORIAL

We are grateful that over the years God has provided for Rehoboth in so many different ways. This has included the right members of staff at the right time, a large number and variety of committed and praying supporters both individuals and churches, regular finance for the ongoing day to day needs of both the residential and community programmes, and so much more.

We have also been blessed on occasions by substantial one-off gifts for particular needs, most recently a generous gift to enable the now completed Eco-Workshop Centre to be finished.

In this newsletter, amongst other items of news, you will read about the need to replace the Rehoboth vehicle, which was originally bought using a specific gift many years ago. Please get in touch if this is something you might be able to help with. Thank you for your part in giving these youngsters a hope for the future.

**Philip Thompson (Chair of RCHT)**



### MOVING ON

Last month we said goodbye to one of our longer-term residents who recently completed her studies and is ready for the world of work! Aiza has been with us for 11 years, having come to Rehoboth when she was 8 years old and started in Grade 1. She completed both elementary and junior high school and then enrolled on a vocational course run by a Swiss bakery, La Rose Noire. They offer all-expenses paid training for 6 months giving Filipino students the opportunity to complete a pastry and bread-making course including barista training. She had the experience of living away from home in a boarding house in Clark and had a wonderful time finishing her course with a few days working in a coffee shop. After a second training in massage she has now left us to work alongside her mother in a local canteen.

### EQUIPPING FOR THE FUTURE

Rehoboth has partnered for many years with the US Peace Corps and we have benefitted from, and enjoyed having, different volunteers work with us over that time.

Two of our residents were able to take part last year in a youth leadership training programme run by the Peace Corps Volunteer Service. The aim was to empower youth, develop talent, teach leadership skills and develop confidence in public speaking and in the ability to participate in and even facilitate their own training of others. They were able to share what they had learned with everyone at Rehoboth and there was a visible improvement in their self-confidence and leadership skills.



The two girls had the opportunity to go to Baguio and stay in a hotel with the other participants and leaders, alongside two of our staff. They were very excited to be chosen to take part. One of them writes: *"When we were in training we were with many different young people and we made many friends. That's why we are grateful because we are one of those trained as a facilitator. Afterwards we were required to conduct and facilitate training in our community. With this experience we learned a lot and also we conquered our stage fright and also it helped us to boost our confidence, and we are thankful that we were chosen to attend this training because all the learning that we learned we can use in school to be a leader."*

### FAMILY REUNION

Some of the past and present residents at Rehoboth have come to us from another home for children who used to live on the streets. Many have lost contact with their families and yearn to find them again. One resident who joined us last year had that dream come true.

Our REAP social worker Sherwin talked with Danilo regarding his place of origin and he recalled and described a location. Sherwin then attempted to pinpoint the location of his home by exploring the surrounding area in the hope that Danilo would recognise it. He recalled being close to a river and an Aeta community. As

they visited the area they walked around and spoke to local people until they met someone who remembered the family. They had actually moved to another place but they were able to find them and be reunited.

Both sides were happy and emotional to see each other again after over 6 years apart. Currently he is still with us as there is a proper process to evaluate and assess whether the family is able to support him and whether it is the right place for him now. He is also partway through the school year so it is better for him to complete this year's studies before deciding on the next course of action and possibly moving to another school.



### NEW VEHICLE

We desperately need to replace our ageing and very unreliable vehicle at Rehoboth. The XLT, as it is known, was bought in 2006 and has had constant heavy use over the last 18 years. We use it regularly for taking the children to school, trips to the doctor and dentist, shopping needs and other trips out such as youth camps, sports fests and local church events. We are setting up a special fund to raise money for this and have already been blessed by a couple of generous donations but we have some

way to go! We are also looking for financial support through grants as well. If you would like to make a specific gift towards this need then please get in contact with us.

### NEWLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS

Three of our recently graduated REAP students, Ana Marie, Jerome & Timothy, after finishing their college degree, have now successfully passed the Licensure Examination for Teachers which they took in December. They are now all working and able to support themselves and help their families. Congratulations!



### REHOBOTH RENDEZVOUS

On 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023 we held another very successful Christmas Craft Café at Godmanchester Baptist Church. There were crafts for all ages, refreshments, quizzes and handmade crafts to buy made both in the Philippines at the Home and by people locally. Godmanchester Town Mayor, Cllr Alan Hooker, attended the event and he particularly enjoyed sampling a Filipino party food favourite of an ice-cream roll!! Over 60 people came and we raised over £800 towards the work of Rehoboth.



Kathryn, Rehoboth's Liaison Trustee, was also out and about during January and February speaking about the work of Rehoboth in the Birmingham area, Aberdeen & Peterhead, and Brabourne in Kent. She was very encouraged by the interest shown in Rehoboth and the very generous support given as well as donations for the craft items. If you are interested in a visit please get in

touch. Kathryn is at Rehoboth until the end of May and then back in the UK for the summer, returning again to the Philippines in September.



Please let us know if you would like to have our newsletter via email rather than the printed version and we can update our records for you. Thanks.

UK Charity No. 1005152

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