



REACHING OUT 2007

Our Mission

Outreach Asia was founded in 2000 by Mike and Gina Peck. Our mission is to improve the lives of the least fortunate in developing countries in Southeast Asia.

In order to make the biggest difference in the region, we have focused our efforts on programs that build capacity, such as child and educational sponsorships, classrooms, housing, water systems, livelihood programs and medical assistance.

Outreach Asia is an entirely volunteer organization whose administration costs represent less than 5% of its total yearly budget. As a result, 95% of all grants and donations go directly toward helping those who need it most – the poor and least advantaged of some of the world's most under-developed countries.

Contact information

Main office:

Outreach Asia, Inc.

5608 Benton Ave.

Edina, MN. 55436

Phone: (952) 922-8536

Fax: (952) 920-2377

E-mail: outreachasia@msn.com

Visit our website at:

www.outreachasia.org

Founders:

Mike Peck, President

Gina Peck, Vice-President

501 (C) 3 Non-Profit

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Above, children in the Philippines celebrate the arrival of a new water system.

Building a foundation for the future

In this year's edition of Reaching Out, you'll read about a variety of new projects Outreach Asia became involved in during 2006.

You also might notice that there's always a common theme to the projects we take on, and that is that they all focus on building capacity. Building capacity is not about providing a quick fix. It's about helping people develop the capacity to become self-sufficient.

We believe it's the only way to break the cycle of poverty and hopelessness



The Urmeneta family in the Philippines is being helped by GEMS, one of our new partners.

in the world's impoverished nations.

If you happen to be touched by any of our projects, you'll find plenty of opportunities to help. Read on to learn how.



Recognition

We were pleased to receive an award in 2006 from the Division Superintendent of Southern Leyte, the Philippines for our continuing support of school water systems and home economics projects. Our volunteer staff in the area, Mr. and Mrs. Teofilo Capalaran, accepted the award on our behalf.

Bringing hope and health to Cavite

When a hungry and out-of-school seven-year-old boy begged her for a piece of bread to eat, Corazon Buenasflores knew she had to do something. That's what prompted Corazon, a social worker and former employee of the Christian Children's Fund in the Philippines, to start a non-profit agency dedicated to helping some of her country's poorest children and families.

Outreach Asia is supporting GEMS's efforts to create sustainable programs that build capacity rather than simply provide one-time handouts. One such project is the Children's Dream Center, which will provide dozens of poor children and families a safe and nurturing place to gain the skills and education they need to end the cycle of poverty and hopelessness.

The center, a water system and perimeter fence are now under construction. An international child sponsorship program has also been initiated.

In 2007, the plans include communal toilets and the repair and reinforcement of the canal bordering the center.

Near GEMS' offices in Cavite, about 2,000 families live in a filthy, unsanitary 18-hectare area. Their shacks are built from recycled GI sheets, lumber and worn-out plywood, and often have dirt floors. There is no sewage system, drainage, clean water or garbage disposal; diseases are common and easily spread. Most children are sickly and malnourished and many don't attend school. Fathers struggle to earn what they can as drivers and construction workers (if they are lucky) or else vendors or garbage collectors/scavengers.

One typical family is the Azurs, who are in our sponsorship program. Their home is a small, bare one-room house made of light materials. They share a common toilet with their neighbors, use a kerosene lamp for lighting and firewood for cooking. The father drives a rented tricycle, and his irregular income of P180 (about \$3.60) a day doesn't



The Azur family - available for sponsorship.



Above: construction of the Dream Center, and Outreach Asia's Mike Peck and GEMS' Cora Buenasflores.

provide for the basic needs of six household members. The mother accepts laundry jobs when she can.

Giovanie, the eldest Azur child, is a primary grade pupil who wants to be a policeman. An industrious child, he does his homework promptly and spends his free time scavenging for saleable items and food for the family. He enjoys playing basketball and loves to dance.

Two ways to help

1. Take advantage of the volunteer opportunities we offer each April and May at GEMS.
2. Sign up to be an international child sponsor for \$180 per year - only \$15 per month.

Please see the front of the newsletter for contact information.

EAST TIMOR

Planting the seeds for a better future

In 2006, Outreach Asia began supporting an agricultural development project in Suailoro, a rural village in East Timor.

Suailoro was evacuated from 1999 to 2002 due to civil war. When villagers returned, they found the farmland overtaken by thatch, an aggressive weed that chokes out legitimate crops. The poverty-stricken villagers now eke out whatever crop they can among the thatch using rudimentary tools. The children suffer malnutrition and at least one infant has tragically died.

Outreach Asia has joined forces with Father Peter Truong Van Phuc, a Jesuit missionary who works with the villagers, to help raise funds for a tractor, farming tools and training to help the villagers create a source of food and income, and help re-frame their focus from survival to a better future.



27 HOUSE PROJECT

New homes built for 27 displaced families

Generous individual sponsors have helped make a difference in the life of 27 fishermen's families in Malitbog, Southern Leyte in the Philippines.

For these 27 families, home is a makeshift shack on land they don't own. Soon, the shacks will be removed to make way for a new road to be constructed through the area. As impoverished squatters, the families had no recourse and few options.

This potentially grim situation has changed, through the efforts of Outreach Asia and the generosity of sponsors. Construction of 27 homes for the families is now underway on land provided by the city government.

The families are contributing 'sweat equity' to help construct the houses with materials funded by donations. The houses are safe 9' x 12' two-room dwellings with a concrete foundation, metal roof and indoor plumbing and water. As modest as they are by North American standards, these homes will be a significant improvement



Thanks to individual sponsors, 27 displaced families will now experience the joy and security of owning their own home.

from the ramshackle huts these families currently inhabit.

Outreach Asia's Mike and Gina Peck were on hand when the community held a ground-breaking ceremony on November 6, 2006. The first of the 27 homes has already been completed, and the remainder are nearing completion.

LOVE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Educational opportunities

Outreach Asia continues to partner with Love Children International Club, a small mission started by a caring and generous Thai lady named Phiengphorn Van Vliet.

Love Children's mission is to provide underprivileged children in northern Thailand with educational opportunities with the intent of raising them out of the cycle of poverty. One of its programs is a 1 Baht (about 3 cents) computer class that teaches the children programs such as Word and Excel.

In 2006, Outreach Asia supported Love Children with a new water system and classroom, and Mike and Gina Peck visited the mission in January 2007.

The mission is located 30 minutes outside of Chiang Mai in northern Thailand, and volunteers are welcome at any time of the year and for any length of time. For costs and an on-line application form, visit our website: www.outreachasia.org.



We funded a water system and new classroom in 2006 for the Love Children International Club.



MEDICAL SUPPORT

A transplant for Yam

"Our family's deepest gratitude to you, for your concern and support. Thank you very much for your prayers and generosity. I will be OK soon. Take care always and God bless."

This is what 10-year-old Eunice Joy "Yam" Bayogan wrote to Outreach Asia after we supported a bone-marrow transplant for her in October 2006. Yam, an honor student, had leukemia and required a transplant from a matched donor (her older brother) after several courses of chemotherapy.

The most recent reports indicate Yam has responded favorably to the surgery.



OTHER PROJECTS

Here are some of the other projects we have taken on:

- **Education:** We are now sponsoring 36 students at two colleges in the Philippines (10 will graduate in March 2007). Our work also includes building classrooms and shipping books, shoes and glasses to needy schools.
- **Leprosy Livelihood:** We help support programs that allow leprosy patients and their families be healthy, productive and get an education. Our latest project will help the families grow vegetables.
- **Water for Life:** A critical need in developing nations is safe, clean drinking water. We work with communities to install deep wells, pumps and storage tanks.
- **Building Repair:** In Southern Leyte, Philippine, we helped rebuild a pre-WWII home economics building, including closing cracks where snakes would enter and replacing smoky wood-burning stoves with gas stoves.

FUNDRAISING

A little goes a long way

Here's how your donation can help:
\$180 sponsors a child in the Philippines for one year.
\$21 buys a 100-lb. sack of rice for a family.
\$165 sponsors a student at Southern Leyte State University in the Philippines for one year.
\$530 will sponsor a house in Southeast Asia.
\$1,450 will buy a complete school water system in the Philippines.

Latest projects and needs

- Compact tractor for an agriculture development project in East Timor (\$8,000 raised so far, still need \$20,000)
- Five primary school water systems in Leyte, Philippines (\$1,450 ea.: \$7,250 total)
- Canal repair and reinforcement for GEMS' Children's Dream Center (\$2,630)
- Desperately need international child sponsors for GEMS mission (\$180/year)
- Build a school classroom and water system in Muang Sing District, Laos (\$5,500)
- Charity golf event is Aug. 13, 2007 at Le Sueur Country Club in Minnesota (volunteers, corporate sponsors needed: \$300-\$2,500). Our 2006 event raised \$1,800 for a school water system in the Philippines.

Your support makes a difference

When we hear about the desperation and poverty in the Third World, the notion of helping in some way may seem futile. "Too many people need help," you may think. "What can I do?"

Outreach Asia directs your donations to where they have the greatest impact. We focus on projects that provide a long-term legacy, such as community water systems, education and livelihood programs. Many of our projects focus on children, who represent the hope and future for developing regions such as Southeast Asia.

It's often easy to forget that there are billions of people in the world who don't have the advantages we do in North America. But we are all citizens of the world, and we all have the power to lend a helping hand to those in need.



Your donations helped us distribute more than 2,000 eyeglasses donated from the Lions Club to our missions in the Philippines.



You're never too young to help. Sri and Ian Peck (Mike and Gina's kids) raised \$8 for Outreach Asia with their lemonade and Kool-Aid stand.

Want to help? Here's how:

No donation is too big or small – all are appreciated! Make your 100% tax-deductible donation by mail to: Outreach Asia, Inc.

5608 Benton Ave., Edina, MN 55436

Or donate by credit card, PayPal, Just Give! or Network for Good via our website, www.outreachasia.org. We promptly mail all donors a receipt for tax purposes.

For other donor information, contact us at (952) 922-8536 or outreachasia@msn.com

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