



REACHING OUT 2008

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 4% of our total yearly budget.

As a result, 96% 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.

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Children at our GEMS project in the Philippines show off the certificates they received after completing several days of classes at the new Children's Activity Center we helped build. With them are two of our volunteers from Japan.

What we do, and why we do it

There's a very simple reason that Outreach Asia dedicates itself to projects that support families in Southeast Asia.

It's all about the children.

We believe it's the children that represent the hope for the developing nations of the world.

It's the children who will shape the futures of those countries, and – with the right tools and support – can help lead them out of the current cycle of poverty and hopelessness.

That long-term perspective is how we approach all of our projects.

When we work with communities to help meet basic needs such as drinking water or shelter, for example, we make sure they acquire the capacity to provide

these necessities for themselves.

Our projects also empower children and families with the knowledge and tools they need to gain independence and make a better life for themselves. Examples include our scholarship and livelihood programs.

In this year's edition of Reaching Out, you'll read about the Outreach Asia projects in 2007 that provided hope to hundreds of people who desperately needed a helping hand.

Our work relies on the support and generosity of our donors.

With your help, we will continue to help create a better future for some of our world's most impoverished nations – starting with the children.

GEMS project offers hope for the future

GEMS Heart Outreach Development – a project we support in the Philippines – realized its goal in 2007 to reach out to 400 children and families in the impoverished Nazareth neighborhood of Cavite through a new Children's Activity Center.

Built in 2007 with support from the community and Outreach Asia sponsors, the center supports the area's children and families with sessions on leadership, family life, health and nutrition, early childhood care and values/culture education.

The center has become a second home for the neighbourhood's children, youth, mothers and fathers, and it has continued to grow.

Support from the Catholic Education Association of the Philippines helped set up a community library at the center to teach reading, writing and arithmetic. The association donated an encyclopedia set and children's books on science, math, Filipino and English reading. Outreach Asia contributed four new computers, now being used for a mother's program, office use, and training children and youth in basic

Dear Outreach Asia,

I am May Ttudud, one of the GEMS Children. How are you? With your project of putting up the Children's Activity Center, you make our lives beautiful and progress.

The mini library in the center is very relevant to me and to other children. I develop my good learning habits aside from doing research work. My grades are improving because I'm doing my assignments in the library, unlike before when we have no access in any learning center. We, the children themselves, will take care of this GEMS CAC for our own good. My leadership potential was also developed through various activities conducted at the center. Thanks and God bless to Outreach Asia.



Outreach Asia visited one of the families helped by GEMS.



computer literacy. The children use the units for letters, drawing, educational games and listening to stories on CD.

The center is a safe haven for children when they're not at school or home. Small children read books, play with toys, draw and color.

Before heading to school, students can have a bowl of soup or a light snack. After school, they relax or do homework using the reference materials. The children love the warm ambience and staff's caring attitudes.

To support GEMS' new feeding program for malnourished children, Outreach Asia ships food each quarter from Feed The Starving Foundation in Minnesota. When parents lose their jobs and can't afford food, their children grow sick and weak and stop attending school. GEMS staff target these children with a three-month feeding program, including weight monitoring.

In October, Outreach Asia volunteer Andy Sandilands funded an all-day field trip. Children and parent volunteers visited the Manila Zoo and Children's Museum, and enjoyed snacks at MacDonald's and lunch at Jolibee's. It was the first time these 32 children had ventured out from their poor home environments to see something interesting and educational.

At Christmas, sponsors of GEMS' children donated \$30 to provide two kilos of pork, a 55-pound sack of rice, a whole lechon chicken, large bottles of

A new communal toilet was built.



Families were thrilled with surprise gifts at Christmas.

cooking oil and soy sauce, and bags of sugar, coffee, coconut and candy.

It was a huge surprise to the families when they received the gifts at GEMS' Christmas party. One mother announced: "Halleluiaah!"

THREE WAYS TO HELP

1. Help fund an extension for the center: \$7,300 is needed.
2. Become a child sponsor for \$180 per year. Please see front of newsletter for contact information or visit www.outreachasia.org.
3. Help fund a foot bridge across a canal for safe access to the center: \$5,500 is needed.

Dormitory project helps poor students

New dormitories in East Timor, Indonesia will provide free room and board to about 100 high school students from poor farming villages in the mountains, so they can continue studying to become teachers in their communities. The main building was completed in January 2008, and 10 small houses will be constructed by May 2008.



New tractor for farming village

Outreach Asia shipped a new tractor and other farm implements in September, 2007 to Suailoro village, where farmers were fighting a losing battle against aggressive thatch with hand tools.

Our contact in Suailoro, Father Peter Phuc, reported that 100 families have already been helped and 105 more are on the waiting list. Donations are helping the poorest families with the fuel costs.



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Outreach Asia is proud to have established a college sponsorship program in 2003 for students attending Southern Leyte State University in the Philippines. After a government subsidy, we help cover the remaining tuition of \$210 per year per student.

We only accept high school graduates with marks of 85% or better who have no other family assistance to help them. All prospective students are screened by Outreach Asia staff Tayo Capalaran, a retired principal.

We have a waiting list of bright young individuals who need support on their quest for higher education and a better life.



In March, 18 of our scholars graduated. All successfully took the teachers's board exam and will become teachers in their communities.

SAFE HAVEN ORPHANAGE



Fifteen years ago, Tasanee Keerepraneed received a frantic message from a villager in Tha Song Yang, Thailand that a little girl had lost her mother during birth. In the Karen culture this is a bad omen, and the child is often killed. Having lost her own father at a young age, Tasanee decided to help the infant girl.

One by one, children with nowhere to go were given to Tasanee to raise. With her own funds and donations, Safe Haven Orphanage was born. Now home to about 30 children, it's like a large family whose members love and respect each other like brothers and sisters.

Donations have helped Safe Haven purchase five acres of land and begin construction of a new orphanage to accommodate 150 children.

The pressing need now is transportation. The orphanage wants to buy a used four-door pick-up truck to transport sick children to Mae Sot, three hours away. Tanasee currently transports the children on a motorcycle, and has already had one bad accident.

Outreach Asia volunteers Don and Somporn Watson and Andy Sandilands recently visited the orphanage, and we are now accepting donations for this important project.

WATER FOR LIFE

Outreach Asia began our Water for Life program in 2003. Since then, we have worked with schools and communities in Vietnam and the Philippines to install 15 water systems that provide much-needed drinking water. In 2008, we plan to help provide water systems at Tomas Oppus High School, Maslog Primary School and Pasil Community, all in Southern Leyte, the Philippines.

Teacher Imelda Luna at Central School in Leyte – one of our water system recipients – writes: "The need to provide a safe and potable water supply to the school children is a big problem. But suddenly somebody brought good news to the school that Outreach Asia of Edina, Minnesota will give a water system to our school. A feeling of surprise to everyone! Who could be the charitable persons kind enough to think of donating a water system. Eureka, we know who you are! Long live Outreach Asia."





Dave Welch, an Outreach Asia volunteer, helps to hand out towels at our new housing project in South Leyte, Philippines. Volunteering is another way to support our efforts in Southeast Asia.

Dear Outreach Asia,

I am Karen de Mesa. I am 12 years old. Thank you very much for Outreach Asia because of the reading eyeglasses.



This is a great help to me, my fellow children, parents and other members of the community. You also helped to resolve our family problems. To our Lord, thank you because He heard our prayers through Outreach Asia.

Latest projects and needs

- Child sponsorships for GEMS children in Cavite, Philippines (\$180/yr).
- Sponsors for poor college students at Southern Leyte State University (\$210/yr), beginning in March, 2008 or November, 2008.
- Connect water at our housing project in Leyte (22 house connections, \$2,800)
- Build an addition onto the GEMS Children's Activity Center (\$7,300).
- Purchase a used truck for Safe Haven Orphanage in Thailand for medical transport of children (\$8,000 - \$9,000).
- Foot bridge over canal for GEMS in Cavite, Philippines (\$5,500).
- Fund the medical emergency fund at GEMS Heart (\$1,000/yr).
- Dormitory and classrooms project in East Timor (\$15,000 raised, \$5,000 needed).
- Charity golf event is August 11, 2008 at Le Sueur Country Club in Minnesota (volunteers, corporate sponsors needed; \$300-\$2,500). Our 2007 event raised \$2,300 in support of an agriculture project in East Timor.

A little goes a long way: how your donation helps

- \$70 ships 1,296 nutritious meals for malnourished children at GEMS Heart Mission.
- \$32 buys a 110 lb. sack of rice for a family.
- \$180 sponsors a child in the Philippines for one year.
- \$150 buys diesel fuel allowing five families to have their fields plowed in East Timor.
- \$45 buys a single burner stove and propane tank.
- \$210 sponsors a college student in Southern Leyte for one year.
- \$80 will repair a roof or walls of a poor family's house in Philippines.

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

You can also donate to Outreach Asia 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.

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