

## How Far We've Come



DEAR FRIENDS,

More than ever, when I reflect on 2011 I am overcome by what the John D.V. Salvador Foundation (JDVSF) has been able to accomplish with your help over the last six years. When I started this foundation, my chief goal was to stop the cycle of poverty and abuse faced by at-risk children – young squatters on the streets of Manila, in this case. But today I am extremely proud that our 93 children are not only experiencing a warm, happy and safe home life at the St. Martin de Porres (SMDP) Children's Village, but that they will also have more opportunities for a chance at a successful life as adults.

2011 has seen the realization of many years of our collective work. Highlights include the construction of a halfway house in Tondo, Manila to support graduates of SMDP who are pursuing education and work opportunities in the city. Carmelita Salvador and Rhoneil Fajardo, Board members of the JDVSF Manila, signed the first checks covering the invoices from Reynaldo L. Faminial who was awarded the drilling and piling contract. I am happy to report that construction has already begun.

Another highlight is the growth of the educational network for our children. In 2011, we created a partnership with Angelicum College in the Philippines to allow SMDP children to complete their formal education. The children are now participating in Angelicum College's home-study based Re-entry Education Alternatives for the Poor (REAP) Program. While older students are provided with printed study materials, younger students are instructed by a teacher whose salary is funded by JDVSF. I am happy to report that two students passed their entrance exams, one is already in his second year of accounting at college and the other is working on his English language skills to pass the entrance exam in spring 2012. We have several student volunteers from the Netherlands and Australia who are helping the students while completing their practical field work at SMDP. They are living in our on-site cottages, the last of which were completed in 2011.

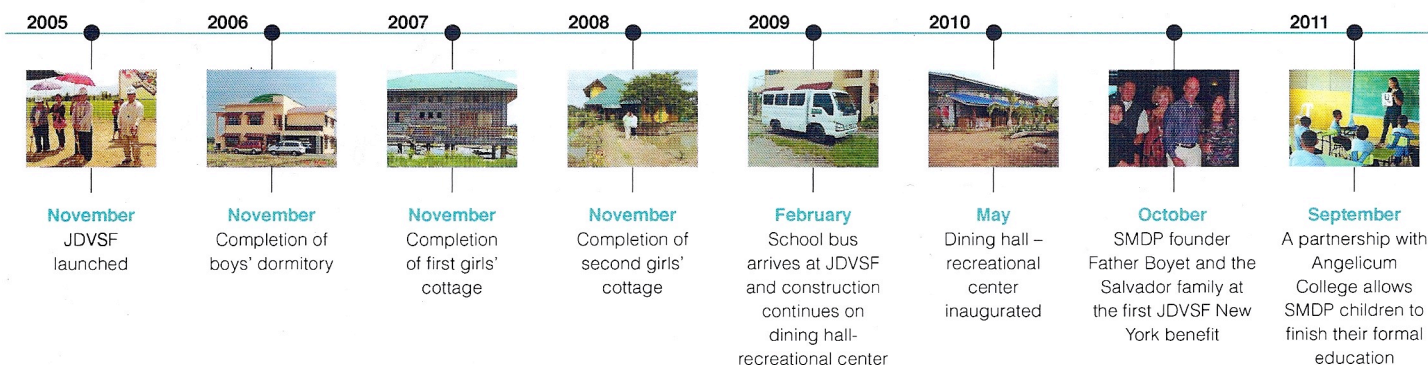
We have also improved the sustainable nutrition of the children in 2011, with the gift of two piglets. Of the 40 young piglets born to these pigs in 2011, SMDP kept 10 females and the litter of one of them. For no additional cost, they are raised on leftovers and home grown food and provide a strong source of protein for the children's diets.

Our children's success would not be possible without our generous supporters and volunteers. The JDVSF Board of Directors expresses its immense gratitude to our supporters for their generous contributions, our volunteers for their time and effort, and our corporate donors for their unwavering support. We are grateful that the fundraising event held this year in London provided us with funds that will enable us to continue our important mission in 2012. As always, we remain dedicated to providing a meaningful and sustainable improvement in the lives of these at-risk children, and committed to maximizing the impact of your support.

With my best wishes,

M. Lizelle Salvador, *Chairman*

## Milestones: A Changing Landscape and Healing Hearts





## Providing Hope and Solutions

DEAR FRIENDS OF ST. MARTIN DE PORRES,

Warm greetings to the John D.V. Salvador Foundation! We are now six years into our missionary partnership and have more clearly focused on improving the lives of children who have been taken for granted and forsaken. The challenges may have seemed formidably bold, but we dared to commit and have served as catalysts of change in the lives of the very poor.

My heart is warmed by the beginning of another collaborative undertaking – the construction of the halfway home in Tondo supporting graduates of St. Martin de Porres Children's Village who are pursuing opportunities in the city. You cannot imagine how much this project will help the impoverished city. Here it is common to see families living on the side of roads, and dirty children roaming the streets and searching mountains of garbage for scraps they could sell for their next meal. I recently met a 21-year old boy who was fresh out of a five-year confinement in a rehab

center and a year in jail. His mom and dad were both convicted for drug offenses. Feeling so lost, he cried out to me for help. He is just one of hordes of vagrants in the area who are wandering like lost sheep. I also visited a 'house' made of cardboard and sewn sacks pitched against the wall. It was only a few square feet but provided shelter for a family of nine.

JDVSF's arrival to this area is a daring crusade. It will provide hope and compassion to people who are trying to survive this dreaded urban jungle. The halfway home is an answered prayer, a long-hoped for benediction.

I'd like to thank you for longing to do something beautiful for God. As Gandhi once said, "He who serves the poor, serves God." We will not fail as we continue to give hope to those in need.

Father Boyet



## A Note From the Treasurer

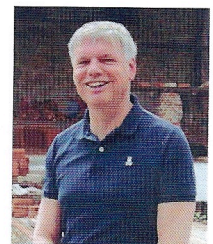
WITH THE JOHN D.V. SALVADOR FOUNDATION (JDVSF) completing six years in 2011, I am pleased to report that despite the sovereign debt crisis in Europe, revenues of the JDVSF in 2010-2011 totalled USD 183,513. Although we renounced on fundraising events in the US during the past year, and despite a further decline in corporate donations, revenues have only decreased by 8.5 percent.

Thanks to the reduction of our expenses from USD 50,769 to USD 34,401, our net income totalled USD 149,112 which represents a decrease of 0.4 percent compared to the previous year. Unfortunately, we were not able to maintain our efficiency ratio which peaked at 8.99 percent because we had to rent a temporary office for nine months in New York. These expenses will not occur again in the year 2012. Thus, we leave our target level at 3 percent.

In the past fiscal year, the JDVSF contributed USD 74,439 to the construction of a halfway house in Manila. In May, we purchased a lot in Tondo which will be transformed into a residence and support center for St. Martin de Porres graduates during their vocational training.

The primary focus of our 2011-2012 spending will thus be in the realization of this halfway house. The Tondo project will cost around USD 0.5m. As in previous years, the annual fund raising budget for 2011 - 2012 will be left unchanged at USD 200,000.

Hugo Banziger, Treasurer



2012



**October**  
London fundraiser supports upcoming projects



**December**  
Check signing advances the construction of the Tondo residence for SMDP grads



Five new children join, the first time that the orphanage has accommodated more than 100 girls and boys

**THE JOHN D.V. SALVADOR FOUNDATION** A commitment to give at risk children the opportunity to thrive.

**The Mission:** As children grow, they enrich the lives of those around them, and once they mature they have the chance to make a difference. But in order to fully develop this potential, children need and deserve a healthy, secure, and supportive environment. The John D.V. Salvador Foundation (JDVSF) works to establish, fund, and support programs to benefit children who, without the consistent care of loving parents, might fall victim to the poverty, disability, and abuse that could thwart development of their innate, unique gifts.

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## Transforming Lives



I STARTED WORKING IN SMDP ON JULY 1, 2009. As a neophyte, dealing with the children is a continuous and fulfilling experience. Not all of them have families to return to after undertaking the residential care program. And that's the sad and challenging part. I remember asking one foundling child under our care about how he feels whenever he sees some of his friends' family around to pay a visit. Expectedly, he said he feels lonely and envious. For these cases, my initial task as a social worker is to exhaust effort in locating their families or closest relatives. In some cases, relatives intentionally refuse to take custody of them because they are financially incapable, so we move on. Coordination with the media and other allied practitioners

is needed, but once done and still there is no progress, the finest thing to do is to empower them to strive for their aspirations through the center's developmental activities and eventually allow them to become self-sufficient individuals. More importantly, you let them feel important, cared for and loved. These intangible things are what they need.

For some time, I have seen improvements in these children. Their physical transformation is evident. Saved from the street, they arrived thin and dirty, unmindful about how others see them. After some weeks, I see them becoming hygiene-conscious individuals. Through the home life training, bit by bit they learn to observe cleanliness. But one aspect of their personhood takes time to be restored. Indeed, emotional healing does not happen overnight. It takes patience and understanding. Each child has different coping and defense mechanisms. Their sense of belonging manifests when these children starts to be more open about their feelings. They seem to be happier and more affectionate. Priceless gestures of hugs and kisses from the little ones are always available. Some older kids considered reserved and shy can now start a good conversation. They express their opinions and take lead whenever the situation calls for it. All of them have become more spiritually enriched.

I consider St. Martin as a little heaven here on earth, a home...a family. Each cottage has a houseparent to supervise the children. Just like a typical family, they eat together and spend quality time with each other. Of course, misunderstandings cannot be evaded in a parent-child relationship but sincere talks, apology and hugs buffer the situation.

The halfway house will become an avenue for learning and preparation. These children have once experienced the bitter side of life. They all came from dysfunctional families and it is through holistic program and services that they recognize the value of respect and responsibility. The goal is to educate and nurture them so that they can be productive members of a society. Love is there and everyone has the task to cultivate it.

Marian I. Turiano, *Social Worker*

## Sustaining Children



I WAS HIRED AS A COOK ON JUNE 1, 2010. Part of my job is to make a weekly menu for the children. I need to make sure that every meal is balanced, nutritious and appetizing. Although the children like to eat pork, I see to it that there are vegetables complementing the dish. Each day, I have to include vegetables in every meal. This is one way of teaching them how to eat healthy.

Over the last few months, there have been two bigger boys helping me out in the kitchen. During weekends, they chop onions and garlic. They help me in setting the tables whenever there are visitors and assist in cleaning the kitchen area.

I feel happy once I learn that children enjoyed eating their meals. After cooking, even if I feel tired, when I see the big casserole completely finished, it refreshes me. I feel like I am the greatest cook in town!

Arnold Ramos, *Head Cook*



*Priceless gestures of hugs and kisses from the little ones are always available.*

