

September 10, 1968–February 20, 1983

The John D.V. Salvador Foundation

# Growing, Stronger 2009

# A Shared Commitment to Change Lives



### DEAR FRIENDS,

The year 2009 was one of recovery for both the John D.V. Salvador Foundation (JDVSF) and the St. Martin de Porres Home for Children (SMDP). In the wake of 2008's global market turbulence, we at the JDVSF took great care to ensure the precious funds our friends donated at a time of hardship for many were put to maximal use. Thanks to your continuing generosity we were able to ensure that the SMDP children, those who might suffer the most during an economic downturn, were blissfully unaware of the global recession that has rocked many a household around the world.

That is not to say that they didn't still have their fair share of adversity to confront. The typhoons that ripped through most of the Philippines this past fall, depositing a month's worth of rain in just one week, displaced nearly a half-million people. Happily, I can report that the 72 residents of SMDP were not among them. Although the worst of the storms just missed SMDP, the still considerable flooding and high winds were no match for the sturdy living quarters and dining facility being built with the help of JDVSF donors. Just as important, the children of St. Martin showed remarkable resilience in the face of the damage the surging waters did wreak—to the existing kitchen and the fishponds, which flooded, jeopardizing an important SMDP food source. Hearing how they rallied to move belongings to higher (dryer) ground and quickly gather up the kitchen utensils and cookware before they were swept away by the rising tide, I was filled with pride for how fiercely the children worked to safeguard the only happy home they have come to know.

As the providers of that home, you all have their heartfelt thanks along with our appreciation for just how precious such generosity is at a time when most everyone has less to give. In acknowledgement of the difficult economic times, the JDVSF scaled back its annual appeal, deciding to forego its traditional London auction in favor of a modest evening geared more toward demonstrating the significant gains already made with JDVSF friends' donations. It was a satisfying evening for all: Board Members told of their recent visits to SMDP and we all felt a shared sense of accomplishment. The USD\$80,000.00 raised, which far surpassed our expectations, ensures that we can proceed with the new construction already planned for 2010 and that the SMDP children's basic needs will continue to be met.

While some of those are quite obvious—a portion of funds raised were used to purchase a small bus to shuttle the children to their school in the nearby village—others may be harder to detect. To attend to the psychological wounds they've suffered, the JDVSF has begun funding the salaries of two resident social workers, who now provide the children with the clinical support they need to continue to heal. Already, the social workers' feedback is proving invaluable as the SMDP house parents work to help the children healthily deploy the survival skills that kept them alive on the streets. Resisting the lure of familiar yet self-destructive patterns will be a lifelong challenge for many. That is why our most pressing goal is shaping an environment in which they learn how to seek out the positive connections that will one day allow them to provide for themselves.

With your help, they are already making this important transition and, more importantly, setting their sites on a future they once never dreamed possible. I am joined by all the members of the JDVSF Board of Directors in thanking you, all of our volunteers, and such corporate donors as Deutsche Bank Asia Foundation and KPMG for your steadfast, generous support. We feel blessed to have earned your trust in our ability to help do what's best for the children who need it most.

With my best wishes and respect,

M.h.

M. Lizelle Salvador, Chairman

## The John D.V. Salvador Foundation

A commitment to give atrisk 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.





# Doing What's Best for Those Who Need it Most

DEAR FRIENDS OF ST. MARTIN DE PORRES,

May peace and all that is good be yours in 2010!

2009 with its torrential rains proved challenging for our nation and our community here at St. Martin de Porres. But as ever, the Filipino people refused to let the extensive flooding that left so many homeless put a damper on their faith in God or their indomitable spirit. As St. Teresa of Avila wrote, "Do not allow anything in this world cause you any trouble. God alone suffices."

Here at the St. Martin de Porres Children's Village, we give thanks for the divine force that brought us and the 72 children who live here today together with the John D.V. Salvador Foundation and its many friends and supporters. We have so much to be grateful for. Construction continues, with the dining, kitchen, and recreational hall nearly complete. We look forward to being able to break bread and gather together under one roof as well as add food preparation and cleanup to the life skills the children get to hone. For children who formerly made their meals out of what they found in the trash, learning to cook healthy food—much of it they've cultivated themselves—gives them another essential building block for healthy self-sufficiency. Our special thanks go to JDVSF Switzerland for equipping the kitchen and financing the SMDP greenhouse.

Just as the children's physical surroundings continue to improve so do their internal lives. JDVSF funding has allowed us to hire two social workers who now live among the children and keep close track of their continued healing. Further, the Department of Social Welfare and Development's accreditation status awarded in September signals we are in full compliance with state-of-the-art case management requirements.

I am proud that every day of the children's lives is filled with new achievements. But I must say that the communion we all felt as we reached out this past year to help others in greater need was a true developmental leap. To assist residents of the depressed community of Del Pan, Manila, we *continued on next page* 



fundraising

continue

# A Note From the Treasurer

DESPITE THE FISCAL CHALLENGES OF 2008-2009, revenues of the JDVSF totaled USD190,505.26, about 76 percent of the target set for last year. About half of this revenue was raised at a benefit held in October in London. The Deutsche Bank Asia Foundation generously contributed the other half.

Due to legal fees associated with the Foundation's compliance with UK and US child protection regulations, administrative costs rose 65 percent to USD7,347.40, put-



ting our administrative overhead at 3.8 percent of total revenue, slightly short of our 3 percent efficiency target. Without these costs, the JDVSF would have comfortably met its target.

In the past fiscal year, the JDVSF contributed USD65,203.88 to Saint Martin de Porres. Funds were used for the construction of a dining hall, the hire of two live-in social workers, and the purchase a mini van that now transports the children to school. *continued on next page* 

## Milestones: What a Difference Five Years Makes



and construction

continues on

dining hall– recreational center **IDVSF** board

members visit

cottage

## Doing What's Best ... continued

implemented a number of programs to help safeguard children living there. Since September, two children in need of shelter have come to live at St. Martin. Although we wish we could do more, their presence here and the welcome they've received underscores two things: how far our own community has come and how well our children have learned the importance of giving back. Your generous help has taught them an invaluable lesson. 2010 will no doubt offer them many more. Together we can ensure that the lessons they draw from their daily lives only make them stronger, happier, and more compassionate citizens of the world.

For God's greater glory, FATHER BOYET

## A Note From the Treasurer continued

The JDVSF's sponsorship has also helped secure local donations, which will fund the next three cottages.

USD200,000 is the budget for 2009–2010, during which we'll see completion of the dining hall, the construction of another cottage, and the furnishing of the existing cottages as well as the kitchen-dining facilities. We are also seeking partnerships with existing organisations to help provide college and vocational



SMDP Founder Father Boyet (left) and JDVSF's Hugo Banziger

training, scholarships, and internships to SMDP teens, 16 years and older. Looking ahead, we are also investigating forming an investment fund to ensure that the JDVSF can cover the longterm costs of social workers, scholarships, and any other programs to which we've committed. -HUGO BANZIGER, *Treasurer* 

## 2010: New challenges for a new decade

ONE MEASURE of how far the children of St. Martin have come is that over this past year the JDVSF has increasingly looked toward easing their transition back into society. Learning how to live in the world in a healthy way can be challenging for children whose survival instincts were formed in response to crushing poverty, neglect, and abuse.

The purchase this past year of a mini van that now shuttles the children to a local school is a lynchpin of the broader plan to

safely expose the children to society. "The bus takes the children to school, medical check-ups, and their various activities," says Eunice Cheng Chua, freely admitting that it also ensures they won't arrive at their desks "sweaty after running and playing along the 2 kilometer walk to school."

More valuable, she adds, is the exposure attending school gives them to children and adults in the broader community: "It is important that they make new friends who accept them for who they are." For, one day they will have to transition back into life "on the outside," and re-engage with the fast-paced city. "Independence means



more responsibility," says Cheng Chua. "They'll have to fend for themselves and take care of their own needs. They do that at St. Martin, but having nobody to prod them will be different."

To help the first two residents make that segue—two 12th graders will begin studying at St. Mary's College in Baliauag come fall—the SMDP staff will stay in close touch. The students, who will study accountancy and computer technology, will also meet with social workers once a month when they return home to SMDP. The

JDVSF is also looking into opening up a halfway house in Manila, where graduates can live while pursuing their studies.

Noting that the rigors of university life will also take some getting used to, Cheng Chua is confident that all the good training the SMDP alum have received will see them through. That and the outlook they both have on their bright futures. "For kids who've been through so much they have an amazingly positive outook on life," she observes. "All the good that's come to them via the strong support of organizations like the JDVSF and SMDP's many friends and volunteers has shown them that the world can be a good place."

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