





Agenda
 Highlights
 Key figures
 A Bamboo story
 Living in Cebu
 Did you know?
 Meet our staff
 Thank you !


Welcome to our new quarterly newsletter!

We are very happy to present you our first issue of our brand new quarterly newsletter!
 We aim at quarterly sharing with you our action. We will introduce you some of our little bamboos and tell you their story, as well as the news and happenings in our city Cebu !
 We hope this newsletter will make you feel you are in Cebu with us!
 We wish you a good reading, and thank you gratefully for your support.
 Little Bamboo Foundation Team

Highlights of the quarter

 In March, more than 600 families lost their houses in a dramatic fire in the slum of Makro. 50 of our beneficiary families lost their home and all they had. Hopefully enough no one died in the fire, but the families were left with nothing. At Little Bamboo we collected among the staff, the board members and friends clothes and bed covers. We need your help to do more ! And will report on this matter shortly

 We had the visit of Claire, French volunteer, who stayed for two months. She mostly worked with our Family Development Team and helped us re-framing the program. We will now offer our 350 families new trainings, notably on health concerns and hygiene. We will also better help our families on economic issues, through trainings on family budget, savings and livelihood projects, through a resource center providing information on job search and skills trainings and through referrals of our families to micro-credit organizations.

 13 High School and 48 Pre-School kids graduated this year. 15% of our students won awards or honours, we are so proud of them!
 It is now time for our 2 months summer break, when teachers prepare for the next school year.



Key figures of the quarter

LBF programs	48 graduated children in Pre-school	14 graduated children in elementary (10% with grades >85)	13 graduated children in High School (10% with grades >85)	53 supported families through our FDP	9000 snacks served to our pre-school students!
Current staff	6 teachers	2 Social Workers		2 Social workers	5 Admin staff
Quarterly Budget	6 000 €	5 500 €		500 €	3 000 €



A Bamboo story

Agnes, Justine's mother irrupted in our office at 12am with stains of blood all over her clothes. It was 11am when Bien her husband came back home drunk after his night shift, as she was preparing her daughter for school. He requested to have sex with her but she refused because the children were still around and she needed to fetch them to school. Bien go wild and punched her wife. Defensively she hit him back with a hammer and ran to Little Bamboo with her daughter to ask for help. An emergency case.

After the local government's social worker ironically refused the responsibility to refer her to the Department of Social Welfare, we brought them to a temporary shelter because she did not want to go back home. It was not the first incidence of domestic violence in the family, though it was not a daily issue.

In fact knowing them for a long time, we knew they were responsible parents and that there was some hope to save the family, for Justine's sake. We decided then not to file a case against Bien not to send him to jail.

We managed to talk to Bien in the afternoon when he was in his sensible mind after having slept. He explained his side. The following days we could have intensive individual counselling with both of them. They were not only open to talk but also very cooperative and eager to learn.

We could give them an intensive course on gender sensitivity and reproductive health. They were also able to recall their happy days and the love that brought them together to build a family.

Through home visits, both tried to heal the wounds. Through seminars, both realized and accepted each other's strengths and weaknesses. They are now doing a lot better, still quarrelling as normally couple do, but with no battering anymore. And Justine does not look sad at pre-school anymore.

From this experience we learnt a lot. Facing a difficult and emergency situation, we realized we should not be close-minded and hasty in making interventions, such as call the police.

We learnt to stay focus on the very core of our action: the family. There are individual rights to protect, but shutting battering husbands to jail is not always the right solution. Education and counselling can prove to be far more productive solutions!





Living in Cebu

This year was the 30th annual festival of Cebu City: it is a nine-day fiesta in honor of Santo Nino (Children Jesus, icona of the city). After nine days of masses and prayers (« novena ») attended by thousands of people every day at the Basilicoa del Santo Nino), the celebration entails a whole weekend

The religious fluvial and street processions gather millions of people from all Visayas on Saturday, praying santo Nino for protection. On Sunday, an estimate 8 million people took part to the grand street parade and the dance show! Sinluog is the top tourist event in the Philippines! The fiesta ends with a colourful fireworks, beloved by Philipinos. at pre-school a full month of activities was prepared by the



Fluvial and street processions



Viva Pit Senior !

At our Pre-school, children prepare Sinluog for several weeks, through many activities. This year we brought them visiting Santo Nino museum.! We also all made our own carnaval hat to parade on the streets!



Did you know..?



Small, dirty, unhealthy, dangerous and uncertain slum

What does living in a slum in Cebu really mean? We know it is small, dirty, unhealthy, dangerous, uncertain... But what does that mean in real life?

Small means a single 12-15 sq m room for up to 10 people. It means everybody sleeps on the (wooden) floor with a certain sense of corpse geometry to all lie in such a small place! There is no bed nor marital intimacy. There is no shower nor WC, only a very small kitchen area, a single tired ceiling fan and one bulb. Small also means extreme promiscuity with the neighbours, as families are often separated by cartoon walls.

Dirty means it stinks. There is no running water nor evacuation system, no latrine (fields across or streets are used for it). Some parents let their children be naked all day and pee on their (unique) floor. The "streets" are dusty, flooded as soon as it rains, full of garbage, dark as shacks are too packed to let the sun in. One has to take care when walking as everything is thrown out on the streets! houses, including urine.

Unhealthy also means scabies, lenses, rats, putrefied air. It means taking a shower in the street, therefore with clothes.

Dangerous means a slum is a place where children can easily hurt themselves with nails, splinters or scrap metal. Drowning accidents happen quickly. It is not a safe place for children to play.

Dangerous also means people are drunk, play gambling games all day, sell and consume drugs. Sell and consume sex with children too. It is not a safe place for them to live in.

And uncertain means the family house can disappear in an hour: destroyed by fire (50 of our beneficiaries lost their homes on Mar h 12th 2010) or by the authorities. Slums are built on privately or government – owned lands: the landlord can send the police at anytime to retrieve his property. In Cebu all slum areas of our families were or are to be destroyed in the next two years.

Sometimes the government relocate the families, however in remote mountainous areas with no water nor any job opportunities close by. It is very difficult for our families to adapt these remote areas. Some of our relocated beneficiaries from Pier 6 prefer to live on the streets now.

At Little Bamboo, it is also part of our responsibility to educate our families on their urban development and housing rights, and to support them fighting the authorities to obtain better relocation allowances and areas.



Relocation site in the mountains

Meet our staff — Ravelyn

I am a happy mother of two (girl 17 and boy 3 year old), being Little Bamboo Director for more than 5 years.

I have been engaged into in social works in NGOs since my graduation, and I earned my teacher license in 2008! Fan of developmental works (development of societies or poor people communities), I developed a real passion for early childhood here in Little Bamboo.

Working in LBF is very inspiring and motivating: I am proud to coordinate a team of 14 great people serving the children and their families!

In my freetime, I love writing children stories: my dream is to publish the first children story book in cebuano!!



Thank you for your support

BUDGET for the school year 2009-2010:
57 000 Euros

100% of donations are used on-site

Here are a few examples how your donation can be used

- ◆ 570 € for one year of school supplies in the pre-school
- ◆ 1600 € to send 10 children to school for one year
- ◆ 3300 € to feed 140 children once a day for a year

DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE (France & UK)

French HSBC Account : FR76 3005 6006 0506 0510 4403 159

Code BIC : CCFRFRPP, HSBC FR COMPIEGNE, ASSOCIATION LITTLE BAMBOO

UK HSBC Account IBAN: GB11MIDL40062931669974, Swift: MIDLGB22, sort code: 40-06-29, account number: 31669974

Your contact : **Anne de Vésian von Bredow (President)**
avesian@hotmail.com