



Mercy in Action

Newsletter – June 2021

Our New Website!

We are very excited to share with you our new look, redesigned website! We've been working on this for several months, and are thrilled with the results. The new website gives a much better illustration of the broad scope of work Mercy in Action does, both in the UK and the Philippines. We hope you find it much more accessible, visually appealing and user friendly.

It is now easier than ever to make a donation or set up a regular payment for child sponsorship. You can find out all about our projects, sign up to volunteer, book a speaker or become an ambassador. If you have any questions about our shops, gift aid or what items you can donate, just take a look on the website.

WE TAKE ACTION AGAINST POVERTY, INJUSTICE & INEQUALITY.

Learn More

- Housing
- Food
- Education
- Care

OUR IMPACT

- PROVIDING 8,000 MEALS PER YEAR
- RESCUED 90+ STREET KIDS
- SUPPORTING 400+ KIDS IN SCHOOL
- REHOUSING 60+ MOMS & BABIES

GET INVOLVED

- FUNDRAISE WITH US
- SPONSOR A CHILD
- VOLUNTEER WITH US

WHERE WE WORK

- THE PHILIPPINES
- UNITED KINGDOM

The website can be found at the same address, www.mercyinaction.org.uk so please take a few moments to check it out and see what you think. We will be updating it and altering it regularly, so if you encounter anything that doesn't work or that you think could be better, please let us know by sending an email to enquiries@mercyinaction.org.uk

Schooling Programme

Monthly Recognition

Like all students, it's not been an easy year for our scholars in Cebu. However the children have all been extremely resilient and adapted to this new way of learning incredibly well. To recognise their hard work, the team in Talisay have begun holding a 'Monthly Recognition' for all the Learning Bubbles in the city.

The Monthly Recognition aims to recognise the hard work of the pupils involved in our Tutorial Programme. Each session begins with energetic games and Zumba, to encourage participation and fun among the children. Many of these games are new to the children, and easy for them to play at home with siblings and neighbours, to help alleviate some of the lockdown boredom they are still experiencing.



The team want to encourage the younger students to work hard in order to achieve the best outcome. Thankfully, we have many great roles models. The children were shown videos of previous scholars, Leah Mae and Ralph (both available on the MiA website and our YouTube Channel) who encouraged them to believe and succeed.

Schooling Programme Monthly Recognition

Two members of the MiA staff team, Remsin and Teacher Rocsan, were also former Schooling Programme students, and shared their stories about how Mercy in Action made an impact on their lives and how they strived hard to finish their studies.

The students then shared their sentiments on who they want to be when they grow up. Some mentioned that they wanted to be a Teacher, Soldier, Police Man and even an Astronaut.



Then the most anticipated part - the awards! Many parents attended in order to do the honour of giving the awards to their children. There were emotional scenes as mothers hugged their children with tears in their eyes, so proud of what they have achieved this year.

As with every good Mercy in Action event, the only way to finish off the day is with delicious snacks, prepared by our parent volunteers!

Both the staff team and the children love these Monthly Recognitions - they're quickly becoming the highlight of the monthly calendar!

Exciting Projects in Development

My Home is a new service which addresses many of the problems faced by families leaving hostels and refuges to move into a home of their own. The project has come about through our connection with families via the Action Pantry and Clothesline. Many have experienced home displacement, and have shared the challenges they've encountered. Often these individuals are miles from family and friends and face the stress of moving alone with very young or SEN children. My Home seeks to alleviate that stress and aloneness by helping with the practical aspects of the move.



Where possible, we will work alongside other agencies and take on the task of moving the family on the day, providing the necessary furniture, hanging pictures, putting together beds and sourcing household goods to ensure the new house quickly becomes a home. From this place of security and comfort, anxiety can be relieved, new routines established and family life can flourish.

As a charity with almost 30 charity shops, we often have an abundance of ordinary but essential items - cutlery, bedding, kitchenware, bedside lamps - which are perfect for this project. The kindness and generosity of supporters has also provided the furniture and finance to get our first two families set up.

There are a few avenues for applying for grants and these will always be used when possible as well as appropriate benefit applications. Due to their circumstances, some families have no recourse to public funds and in these instances we will endeavour to do more. With a thorough yet accessible application process, we hope to provide help for up to 10 families in the next 12 months.

Keep an eye out for updates of items we're on the lookout for and ways in which you can help us.

Exciting Projects in Development

Clothesline is going national...

"We know what a detrimental effect poverty can have on a child's development, confidence and self-esteem. Our aim at the Clothesline is to make sure that no child in B&NES has to go without clothing, shoes and school uniform."



Following the success of our Bath Clothesline, our free children's clothes service, we've been asked to make the same offer to families in other parts of the country. Whilst we don't have the space to put a 'shop' in anywhere else, we've devised a way to get around this.

Vouchers will be available for support workers, community groups and others, to give to families who may benefit from the chance to access good quality free clothes for their children. Each voucher can be used in a named Mercy in Action charity shop in their locality and will be valid for up to 10 items of clothing for each child.

As we are all aware, income losses associated with covid restrictions have increased the financial pressure on many families. We hope that by expanding our Clothesline project, we can alleviate some of the detrimental effects of poverty, and give families and children a brighter tomorrow.

Initially, we'll be partnering with Highworth Community Church, but we hope to roll the service out across more of our stores in the coming months.

The clothes will be given from stock already out for sale. If you'd like to donate children's clothes please bear in mind we can't guarantee your item will be given for free rather than sold, but all sales enable us to fund this and all our other projects and services.

A Welcome Return to Retail Therapy!

It has been an unprecedented year for our shops. Since March 2020, they have been closed for a total of 8 months. As our main income stream, this has put pressure on the charity, as well as the upheaval and stress it has caused to our retail managers and staff team. However, since restrictions eased on 12th April, we are happy to say our shops are open and doing better than ever.



But even when the shops were shut, our retail and warehouse teams were busy behind the scenes, with big visions for expansion. Before the end of the year, we plan to open at least 2 brand new shops, and reopen several that have been shut for extended periods. We're thrilled to be returning to our lovely little shop in Winslow, which has been shut for over a year. We're also taking on a new lease in the town of Thrapston in Northamptonshire. Our presence in Bath is also growing with a new acquisition in Union Passage. Keep an eye on our website and social media for more information and opening dates.

As the shops reopened, our staff and volunteers have done a cracking job at making the most of every opportunity. Thanks to everyone having a clear out during lockdown, we've been inundated with much needed donations, and our creative teams have made sure their shops look the very best, in order to make the most money for our projects in the UK and the Philippines.

A Welcome Return to Retail Therapy!

So if you have a Mercy in Action shop near you, why not pop down and see if anything catches your eye? We're also always in need of donations and volunteers, so there are plenty of ways you can get involved and help out!

Spotlight on ... Louise at Widcombe

Louise works at our shop in Widcombe. She started making and selling masks during the first lockdown and has carried on sewing them to be sold in the shop. Some of the fabrics she uses are recycled from the shops rags - clothing that isn't in a good enough condition to be sold on. So far, the shop has raised approximately £800 through all Louise's extra work! The masks retail for a recommended donation of £5, which customers are more than happy to pay for something handmade and unique.

We'd all like to say a huge THANK YOU to Louise for her hard work! Her efforts have not only made a huge amount of money, but they've reused unsaleable goods and provided customers with quality, handmade, sustainable items. Thank you Louise!



Christmas 2021

Unfortunately, in light of news of continued delays to containers, we have taken the difficult decision to not send a container to the Philippines in time for Christmas, for the second year in a row. We know many of our sponsors start shopping for items early on, and so we wanted to give you as much warning as possible.

We know many of you love packing and personalising your Christmas boxes, and so this news may be disappointing. The container causes such a hive of excitement, both in the UK and the Philippines, we hope to reinstate this tradition as soon as it is feasible and reliable. However, just like last year, we will make sure that no one in Cebu misses out, and we are already making plans for our Christmas 2021 Appeal, so watch this space!

Child Sponsorship

Child sponsorship is at the heart of what we do. For 60p a day, you can transform the life of a child in the Philippines through education, healthy food and the knowledge that someone is invested in them and wants them to succeed.

As a sponsor, you can be assured that your money is being spent wisely in Cebu. Children are provided with everything they need to progress at school - uniforms, textbooks, supplies and the care and knowledge of our team. All children receive a hot meal every day at school to help their growth, development and concentration.

So please, take a look at your budget. See if you have £18 a month, just 60p a day, spare to help transform the life of a child, and the future of a community. Thank you.

www.mercyinaction.org.uk

enquiries@mercyinaction.org.uk

Telephone: 01225 443600