

WHAT'S INSIDE?

The LIFE Graduation p. 2

Baby Gym for Toddlers p. 3

The Easter Egg exhibit p. 5

Events recap and photo gallery p. 7

The Sunbeam

April-May-June 2011

Giving back the smile to street children

www.virlanie.org

PRESIDENT'S WORD



DOMINIQUE LEMAY

The past three months in Virlanie were months of growth for our children. Growth not just physically but in terms of their values, character, personality, psyche, and behavior. True enough, the months of April, May and June signifies the summer season in the Philippines—which in turn symbolizes re-birth and new life (Easter month).

In April, we proudly witnessed 70 Virlanie children graduate from elementary, high school and college. Most of our children, during the summer, also participated in different camping activities and outings which offered a lot of enjoyable, educational games but, above all, gave them more exposure to the world around them.

In June, the first batch of Virlanie young adults who are under the LIFE (Living Independently for Full Empowerment) Program had their send-off ceremony. They are now living independently but with educational support from Virlanie. Like any other

parent, I feel so sad and afraid to let my children go. I'm worried about how they would face the outside world, that they might get hurt or misled. But I find comfort in thinking that this is part of every family's life—that I have to trust my children as they live independently and decide on their own.

Also in June was Filipino-French Friendship Day. It is celebrated every June 26. The good relationship between Virlanie staff and volunteers is one proof of the solidarity between the Filipino and the French people.

Talking about growth also reminds me that this year, Virlanie turns 19--the last of our teenage years. Hence, we now face the challenge of reaching out to more street children and families with more maturity--and we fervently hope to achieve this with you by our side.

As we gain another year, we hope you will still continue to support us and promote our cause. Thank you most sincerely for helping *give back the smile to street children!*

In Focus: Mother and Child Home

virlanie's way of tending to motherly needs

In society, mothers are seen as providers of love, care and attention to their children. They not only support the needs of their children but also make sure their children are always safe and secure.

However, mothers also have needs to be met--especially those who have experienced early or unexpected pregnancy.

As a response to this, Virlanie established the Mother and Child Home. Now on its 15th year, Mother and Child Home is one of Virlanie's homes for young adults. Specifically, this home caters to young, unwed, expectant mothers and their babies. Most of the time, these mothers have undergone abuse or abandonment and are in need of protection.

The age of the mothers in the Mother and Child Home range from 14 to 24 years old. Most of them are referred by different institutions like Manila's Reception and Action Center (RAC) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), hospitals and Local Government Units (LGUs).

The mothers can stay in the home for six months to a year. While they are in the home, the social worker tries to locate their families for possible reunification. The mothers are also taught livelihood projects like basic cosmetology, jewelry-making and sewing for them to have sources of income when they leave Virlanie.

The home staff in Mother and Child Home also assist and guide the mothers in terms of parenting skills like taking care



of their babies, handling their behavior, and spending time with their young ones.

Aside from mothers and their babies, Mother and Child Home also serves as a shelter for abandoned and neglected babies.

At present, Mother and Child Home houses six mothers, two of whom are pregnant, and 17 babies without mothers. They are taken cared of by five staff composed of two caregivers, two house parents and a social worker.

(continued on page 5)

IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

"It is very important not to lose hope...

Ready to study in a university, a new chapter in the story of my life opens. I will really strive to achieve my dream to be a music teacher. I really want to help children like me who have gone through a lot of difficulties.

So here I am, a fresh high-school graduate, thanks to Virlanie Foundation. While in a public school, I also studied for several years at Virlanie's Magellan Learning Center. I took the opportunity to learn a lot of new activities from Virlanie's SIBUHI Center for Art, Sports and Music. I really love music so I'm very proud to be part of the Virlanie Children's Choir. I also play the piano and the guitar. I love doing taekwondo too because it enables me to express myself.

I'm thankful to those who taught me to have confidence in myself finish high school and plan for my future."

Princess is 21 years old. She arrived at Virlanie Foundation when she was 9 years old. She spent her first year in the Drop In Center and is now living in Gabay Buhay Home.

In the week since Princess wrote this piece, she has been accepted to study music at St. Scolastica's College, Manila which is recognized as one of the Philippines' most prestigious colleges for women especially for pursuing a degree in music.



Virlanie's 2010 Annual Report now available!

Written and designed like a magazine, Virlanie's 2010 Annual Report showcases the accounts that made 2010 worth reading and keeping.

The report presents 2010 as a milestone year for Virlanie since it is the Foundation's 18th year. It also features profiles of various Virlanie staff and volunteers who work in Virlanie's residential, outreach and support programs.

Virlanie's 2010 Annual report not only looks back at what has happened in 2010 but also looks forward to the Foundation's plans in 2011 inclusive of finding new ways and areas to reach out to street families and children.

Want a copy? Email communications@virlanie.org.

Sending off: The LIFE graduation



The LIFE graduates, namely, Alvin, JV, Jay-R, Jun-Jun, Nikki, Mark, Grace, Katherine, and Dan-Dan accompanied by Virlanie staff and volunteers who are close to them.

At some point, parents have to learn to let go of their children and let them learn on their own--for them to be strong and independent.

Last June 10, 2011, the first batch of young adults joining the LIFE (Living Independently for Full Empowerment) program had their send-off ceremony at the San Carlos Seminary in Guadalupe, Makati City.

Nine Virlanie young adults underwent a day full of remembering, empowering and looking forward. They were accompanied by several Virlanie staff--many of whom have known them for years.

"I feel close to these children. I have almost watched them grow for the past years, have been involved in helping them lead productive lives. Now that they're moving out from Virlanie, there is a certain sadness that I've felt. It was difficult to see them go, but at some point they need to learn how to start a new life. To try things on their own. That's the only way they will learn how to face life's reality," Amor Arandia, Virlanie's Manager for Psychological Services, expressed.

As part of the 'send-off rites,' the young adults were each given a 'LIFE kit'--baskets-full of basic household needs like laundry soaps, hangers, towels, and toiletries--and were also entrusted with important documents like their birth certificates and diplomas.

"I wish that they will be able to adapt to the life outside Virlanie and take responsibility of making their lives successful because I believe in their ability to become whole," Faidah Cayongcat, LIFE Coordinator, shared.

The nine young adults were accompanied to their new dorms and boarding houses after the day-long program.

The Baby Gym:
A Fun way to help
Virlanie's Toddlers
Learn and Grow



Children are naturally energetic and physically active. They are tireless, playful and very enthusiastic. That is why, parents or guardians should make sure their children's energies are put into good use.

In line with this, French volunteer Soumeya Si Merabet thought of facilitating exercise routines for toddlers living in Virlanie's Toddler Home. She named it the "Baby Gym."

The Baby Gym offers the toddlers a wide range of activities which combine exercise opportunities and structured learning. It also helps the toddlers learn how their bodies work.

The Baby Gym started late last year and is usually held every Mondays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 AM at the SIBUHI Sports Room.

The activities organized every Baby Gym include:

- Jumping, stretching and other warm-up activities to start off
- Dancing to music for exercise and coordination.

-Running away from tiles of a certain color and towards tiles of a different color (color recognition exercises)

-An activity similar to musical chairs that involves the toddlers standing in a circle and holding hands while one toddler crawls in and out of the circle until the music stops (coordination and exercise)

-Ball exercises in which balls are thrown back and forth to foster the development of hand-eye coordination and motor skills

-Wading in a rubber wading pond, a summer activity that allows the toddlers to cool off after exercise sessions. Colored balls are used as toys and also add to the toddlers' learning experience

"The children are not only taught how to do different physical activities in Baby Gym but also, they learn the value of obedience. Ever since the Baby Gym started, the toddlers have learned to obey simple instructions and have been more cooperative," Jovel Panggat, one of the caregivers in Toddlers Home, shared.

**virlanie children show off
their creativity**

Virlanie children showed off their artistic side through an art exhibit launched last June 24, 2011 at the SIBUHI (Sining, Buhay, Hilom) workshop room. It featured different artworks of the children like drawings, papercrafts, and even their own versions of the famous "Mona Lisa" painting.

The exhibit also displayed pictures of the children modeling different skirts made from recycled materials. It was entitled "Fashion in SIBUHI."

The SIBUHI art exhibit was organized by German volunteer Annick Regnault, one of the children's art teachers.

Virlanie's SIBUHI Center for Arts and Creativity Program gives children opportunities to express themselves and develop their skills and talents through arts and sports. It is one of the two main components of Virlanie's Integrated Education Support Program (IESP).



Congratulations Batch 2011!



Kevin Galvez from Gabay Buhay Home



Helen of Balik Probinsiya program with Jayson Ceralbo and her sister



Joenallyn Nayre from Tondo graduated from high school and is now taking up Education at the University of Manila

Gabay Buhay Home

Princess Lagao (high school)
Kevin Galvez (high school)
John Mark Pardillo (elementary)
Raymart Fallaria (SPED)

MPCC

Danah Cuesta (day care)
Thijay Palos (day care)
Rheinand Cardones (day care)
Katherine Dela Cruz (day care)
Maribel Niemes (day care)
Jericho Rueda (day care)

Mother and Child Home

Albert Braga (day care)
Kevin Rosagazo (day care)
Rommel Rockwell (kinder)

Caress Home

Joseph Vincent Dela Cruz (high school)
Jeffrey Basilan (high school)
Jay-R Denido (high school)

Ella Yallah Home

Marie Dela Cruz (elementary)
Filrose Bersabe (elementary)
Michael Gonzales (elementary)
Joyce Osabel (elementary)

Family Program-Payatas

Jennie Magbato (elementary)
Jonalyn Pares (elementary)
Jovelyn Tan (high school)
Antonio Gypselyn (high school)

Family Program-Estero

Jello Mae Gallego (elementary)
Ana Marie Eulin (elementary)
Nico Jan Macabare (elementary)
Niña Welmar de la Cruz (elementary)
Jerome Pasaux (high school)
Mark Anthony Tañola (high school)
Jomel Eulin (high school)
Roselyn Colis (high school)
Rizza Vacunua (college)

Raychie Pollente (vocational school)

Family Program-Balik Probinsiya

Jushua Aldea (elementary)
Jayson Ceralbo (elementary)
Sunshine Gabaya (elementary)
John Jivi Dela Cruz (high school)
Jobert Granado (high school)
Michael Arpon (high school)
Nina Aballe (high school)

Family Program-Singkamas

Lorraine Calina (elementary)
Jerick Kamid (elementary)
Shile Rellurata (high school)
Rona Rufo (high school)
Nelsie Pascua (high school)
Warien Habagat (high school)

Family Program-Tondo

Alexis Nicole Nicolas (elementary)
Lawrence Baslote (high school)
Jay-Ar Justo (high school)
Joenallyn Nayre (high school)
Annalou Torreon (high school)
Carla Santos (high school)
Dave Lucresio (high school)

Family Reunification Program

Vergelio Sitchon (elementary)
Jan Rein Paul Diocales (high school)
Efren Eyog (high school)
Mark Ladia (high school)

Mobile Unit

Emelita Serpere (elementary)
Michael Torres (elementary)
Joyce Laxamana (elementary)
Mark Anthony Garcia (elementary)
Marygene Dixon (elementary)

Open Day Center

Paolo Manabilang (elementary)
Jushua David Pestano (elementary)
Myra Versoza (elementary)
Jessa Mae Obana (elementary)
Jenairah Kamid (elementary)
Denzel Rose Elecion (elementary)
Margie Tobias (elementary)

Magellan Learning Center Recognition Day



Children from different Virlanie homes doing an intermission number.

Virlanie children and staff from Sofitel Philippine Plaza (who were also acknowledged during the program) posing for the camera.



To acknowledge and encourage the young achievers of Virlanie, the Magellan Learning Center (MLC) holds an annual Recognition Day. This year, the recognition day was held last April 1, 2011 at the Sibuhi Sports Room.

Special awards were given to the children of MLC's Built-In Class and AIME Home. The event also gave recognition to Virlanie's schooling children with outstanding academic performances.

Moreover, Virlanie's Executive Director Celine Santillan's closing remark gave recognition to everyone, especially the MLC teachers and Sofitel volunteers who have tirelessly supported and inspired the children to move forward and keep on learning.

"We hope to award more students next year!" shares Integrated Educational Support Program Manager, Ayna Jhocson.

Tim Yap and Virlanie wins Megaworld's Easter Eggxhibit!

Tim Yap with Dominique Lemay receiving the PhP150,000 cheque.



Famous host and eventologist Tim Yap has not only chosen to run for Virlanie in the past two fun runs Virlanie has been involved in but also made Virlanie Foundation the beneficiary of his Easter egg design in Megaworld Lifestyle Centers' "Easter Eggxhibit" contest.

Last May 28 at the Newport City mall, Tim's Easter egg was hailed the grand prize winner. It gathered more than 8,500 LIKES on the Facebook pages of Eastwood and Newport City, exceeding the "likes" of the nine other Easter eggs designed by other celebrities.

Along with Tim, Virlanie's Founder and President Dominique Lemay received a donation of PhP150,000 from Megaworld Corporation. Cheering them as they went on-stage were children from Masaya Home who immediately rushed towards Tim Yap after going down the stage to say thank you to him. The Virlanie Children's Choir topped off the awarding ceremony as they sang "Seasons of Love" and "Leron-Leron Sinta."

Our sincere thanks to Tim Yap and Megaworld Corporation!



Tim Yap with his Easter egg design.

(Virlanie's way of tending to motherly needs... from page 1)



Social worker Jennifer Mateo shares her insights and experiences about working in Mother and Child Home:

"I have been working in Mother and Child Home for three years now. I find the work challenging, but very fulfilling. Sometimes, it's really hard to find developments in the cases of the children especially since most of them are abandoned or they came from street families. There are also cases wherein the real parents want to take back their child even though they still do not have the capacity to provide and care for him or her. It's good that we at Virlanie are able to care for these mothers and babies."

Herminia Quiboloy, one of the house parents in Mother and Child Home, also explains her work in Virlanie and what she loves about it:

"It's really challenging to handle and communicate with the mothers since they have different backgrounds and have different histories. Some of these mothers are teenagers, while others are already "ladies", so it's hard to make them listen. Another challenge is that since they are living within the

confines of this home, we as house parents need to make them conform to some rules. As much as possible, we also try to help them forget and if possible, get over their past troubles since some of them has a history of abuse and others have had their own traumatic experiences. But even though being a house parent is a very big responsibility, I'm just glad that in some way or another, I can contribute something to make their lives better."

Visit Mother and Child Home! Call Maren at 895 3460 or email her at visiting@virlanie.org.



(above) Mother and Child Home staff with the mothers currently living in the Home.

(below) The Mother and Child Home staff.





Moonlit Run: Party at the Finish Line conquers the elements



Sofitel General Manager Goran Aleks, Editor-in-Chief of Women's Health and Virlanie volunteer Lara Parpan with Virlanie children and staff.

The first Sofitel Philippine Plaza Moonlit Run: Party at the Finish Line was held on Saturday May 7, 2011 in Pasay City. The unique night-time fun run coupled with an after-race party at Sofitel's Harbor Garden Tent was organized in favor of Virlanie Foundation.

Sofitel and Virlanie have worked together for many years for the cause of street children. The relationship has strengthened under the new Sofitel general manager Goran Aleks. Sofitel staff tutor Virlanie children on a regular basis in Virlanie's Magellan Learning Center. Most recently, the newly opened Toddler Home was sponsored by Sofitel who supplied beds, furnishings and white goods - all essential to this new home.

Five Virlanie children and four staff joined runners braving the heat of the early evening in 3, 5, 10km routes that followed little used roads around the leafy CCP area in Pasay City.

Goran Aleks was joined by Christian Gonzalez, Stephanie Kienle, Richard Gomez, Lara Parpan, Tessa Prieto-Valdez, Tim Yap, Luis Alandy, Marco Alcaraz, and Precious Lara Quigaman. Virlanie's children got to meet some of their favourite actors and even had their running singlets autographed.

Ten children and staff gathered at the finish line to cheer everyone finishing the race. Their cheers encouraged the last runners who had to battle rising winds and rain as their raced both the clock and tropical storm Bebang across the finish line!

The Party at the Finish Line carried on late into the night as runners and their supporters enjoyed a splendid Sofitel buffet and energetic live music from the Reggae Mistress and others acts.

Merci beaucoup! Thank you! salamat!

We wish to convey our gladness for having volunteers from all over the world who help Virlanie give back the smile to street children. Thank you to: **Isabelle Audouard** (Aime Home), **Anne Nutelet** (SIBUHI), **Alix Vié** (Aime Home), **Floriane Ramé** (Communications/RAC), **Sarah Bleiwas** (Young Adults Program), and **Sabine Grou**. We are filled with regret as we part ways with all of you. You will all be truly missed!

Leah's new family

On July 2, nine-year-old Lea Salazar from Virlanie's Tanglaw Home (Herrod Home for Children 1) finally got together with her adoptive parents.

A simple farewell celebration was organized in Tanglaw Home for Lea as she moves on to another chapter of her life with her new family.

Lea was the first Virlanie child to get adopted locally.

A GRAIN OF RICE GOES A LONG WAY

Rice is a staple for Filipinos. Be it breakfast lunch or dinner, rice is ideally accompanied by a viand, vegetables and fruits for a balanced healthy meal. This staple food provides over 15 vitamins and minerals to keep the body healthy. It is also the main source of carbohydrates to most Filipinos.

Virlanie serves 22,000 meals to disadvantaged children and consumes over 40 sacks of rice every month. Our house parents together with the children cook a warm meal to be shared by the family of 20 to 30, in each of the Virlanie's 12 Homes. And a healthy menu is prepared to ensure the nutrition of the savory dishes that the children would love to eat.

Apart from boxes of food, Thunderbird Resort, a luxury getaway in La Union and Rizal generously donated enough sacks of rice to Virlanie, to provide the daily meals of over 450 children.

"We believe that the future lies in the hands of the young, hence, it just rightful for us to help and share the blessings that we have to those kids who have meager resources." says Fabio Moretti, country manager of Thunderbird Resorts.

Donate rice to Virlanie! Call Tess at 895 3460 or email her at frcom2@virlanie.org.



events recap and photo Gallery



(1)



(2)



(2a)



(1a)



(3)



(3a)



(4)



(5)



(5a)



(6)



(7)

(1/a) Fifteen children from Aime Home participated in the summer camp organized by PVI Foundation at Iriga Central School, Camarines Sur from April 9-18, 2011.

(2/a) The 2011 SIBUHI Camp was held at the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) in Silang, Cavite last April 26-29, 2011. The theme of the camp was “Isip paganahin, Talento pairalin, Kalikasan pagyamanin and Buhay pasayahin (Expand your Mind, Cultivate your talent, Protect the Environment and Live Joyfully).”

(3/a) The 2011 YAP Camp also took place in IIRR from April 29 to May 2, 2011. The campers were composed of young adults from Ella Yallah, Patricia Halfway, Gabay Buhay and Elizabeth Homes.

(4) The 6th Annual Monaco Charity Film Festival was held last May 4-11, 2011. For this year, the charity event will benefit the children

of the Virlanie and the Nest Foundation. The Monaco Film Festival was founded by Vicente Zaragoza, a long-time Virlanie friend.

(5/a) Twenty-five children from Virlanie’s Mobile Unit went camping and hiking in Zambales with friends from Smart Telecom company. For most of the children, it was their first time outside of the city.

(6) COPION (Cooperation and Participation in Overseas NGOs) donated money last July 2010 to buy pieces of gym equipment for Aime Home children. The children will use them for their physical activities to improve their gross motor skills.

(7) Last April 18 to 23, 2011, Virlanie welcomed a dental team from France to conduct their yearly dental mission to Virlanie children and staff. The team was composed of 9 dentists, 2 dental assistants, 2 technicians and 2 hygienists led by Jean-Francois Michel and Marie-Grace Michel.

The SUNBEAM Newsletter is published by Virlanie Foundation Inc. through the Fundraising and Communications Department
Editorial Team: Maren Avrille Pascual, Julian Fowler and Celine Santillan **Contributors:** Sebastian Cuvelier, Christian Sanchez, Tess Garcia, Rodol Valeriano, Dana de Guzman, Princess Lagao, Shannon Rowies, Pianine Pioger, Ayna Jhocson, and JC Fonte, Olivier Neveu, Vincent Baudry

Thank you for supporting our BACK TO SCHOOL campaign!

Your generous in-kind and cash donations covered the school supplies of 200 Virlanie students!

Thank you for giving back the smile to street children!




visit us

HEAD OFFICE
 4055 Yague Street
 Brgy. Singkamas, Makati City,
 Metro Manila, Philippines
 Tel. No.: +632 895 5260
 Fax No.: +632 895 5232

Visit our website:
www.virlanie.org

For general inquiries about the foundation, call or e-mail
Maren Pascual
 +632 895 3460
communications@virlanie.org

To book the Virlanie Children's Choir, call or email
Tess Garcia
choir@virlanie.org
 +632 895 3460

SUPPORT us

For inquiries regarding corporate donations, call **Tess Garcia** +632 895 3460

To volunteer, call **Lyn Garcia**
 +632 896 2289

To sponsor a child, call
Dana de Guzman
 +632 895 3460

Please make your donations by check to the order of
Virlanie Foundation, Inc.

Through bank transfer, please deposit to account name:

Virlanie Foundation, Inc.
 Bank name: Banco De Oro
 (Vito Cruz-Taft Avenue Branch)
 Bankard Bldg., 2422 Taft Avenue
 1004 Malate, Manila, Philippines

Swift Code: BNORPHMM
 US Dollar Account No.
 4580108577

Peso Account No. 4580002426
 Euro Account No. 4580112833

Donations through credit cards are welcome.

JOIN OUR SOCIAL NETWORK!

facebook

GROUP AND FAN PAGE
 keyword search : **VIRLANIE FOUNDATION**

twitter

twitter.com/virlanie

VIRLANIE FOUNDATION, INC.

4055 Yague St., Singkamas, 1204 Makati City, Philippines

To receive an e-copy of this newsletter, e-mail us at virlanie.communication@gmail.com Subject: E-COPY SUNBEAM

Virlanie Foundation, Inc. (VFI) is a private non-sectarian child caring institution in Metro Manila, Philippines. The foundation serves children found living in the streets as well as those referred by other institutions. Virlanie works to prevent the future physical and psychological abuse of children. It aims to empower children to see a brighter future for themselves. It cares for more than four hundred fifty (450+) children in its twelve (12) residential homes and also more than eight hundred (800+) children through its outreach programs.