



Angeles City, Philippines, Christmas 2012

Dear Supporters,  
Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year!

It has been a while since RENEW's last update and we apologise for this. We have been inundated with new responsibilities and changes including **transferring both the residential shelter and office to better and separate locations** in Angeles. In addition to this we are sad to report that we have lost **one of our long term staff - Sonita - who has had to retire early due to illness**. We do ask for your prayers and thoughts for her and her family as they journey together with this major challenge.

We hope this newsletter finds you in good health and we would like to remind all our supporters that for up to date news/info you can always visit our website [www.renew-foundation.org](http://www.renew-foundation.org). **Thank you for all your support!**

### Shelter and Office

A few months ago we moved our shelter to a more central location in Angeles **nearer the schools, universities and amenities of the city**. This has proved very popular with our clients as they are able to feel more part of a community and develop friendships outside of the shelter. Our office was also moved to the main road in the city to provide **better access for our clients and visitors**. The two new 'spaces' are within 10 minutes walk of each other.

The shelter has seen short and long term clients come and go over the last few months. **A total of 12 women have accessed our emergency shelter provision**, and 2 new long term clients have joined. Furthermore, **two of our long-term clients recently graduated from their respective universities** and RENEW helped them to return to their communities, employed, housed, and linked with local churches. Both are doing well. The shelter



is run by a team comprising of social workers, counselors and house parents who work together to provide a holistic program ranging from spiritual and psychological counseling through to conflict resolution and childcare support. **This program is essential for those women who have no stable, safe or secure home to return to**. The shelter works with adult woman (aged 18 and above) who have been trafficked and or prostituted.

### Outreach

Outreach continues to bars using **peer based outreach workers** (women who have left prostitution) coordinated by Mercy, one of our long term staff members. Outreach involves the befriending of woman in the red light district and providing them with access to our programs including maternal and sexual health care, legal support and advice, psychosocial support and others. Outreach provides not only these direct services, but also acts **as a bridge between the sex bars and the residential centre**. Outreach workers provide the mechanism to develop trusting relationships and to encourage woman to enter either our residential or day program/s.

### Visitors

We have had various teams and individuals visiting us, including members from the International Christian Alliance on Prostitution (ICAP), and overseas visitors from the US and Thailand keen to learn from our

approaches. We also had a team of nurses from Darwin University (Australia) who came for a three day outreach and exposure trip. 23 students and their four teachers were provided with extensive orientations on the history and current situation with prostitution and trafficking in Angeles, and visits were provided to the social hygiene's clinics and red light districts. **Two of our clients also gave voluntary accounts of their life experiences which were emotionally received and highly appreciated.**

Our relationship with two language schools in Angeles also continues with Korean and Japanese students visiting the Philippines for English language classes who are able to spend Saturdays volunteering at the foundation. This includes cooking, cultural interchange, language and music classes with our residential clients.

## Livelihood - Cards

**RENEW's residential and day clients continue to work with Sanctuary Spring Cards** - a US Christian based organization who sells handmade and fair-trade cards online throughout the world (samples below).

"**Sanctuary Spring** exclusively employs women who are escaping prostitution in the Philippines. Some were physically forced, some were tricked, some were forced into prostitution by the relentness of poverty. All of them want a new beginning, and your purchase of Sanctuary Spring cards sustains programs that assist them in their restoration process while also enabling them to provide food and education for their families. "



([http://www.sanctuaryspring.com/about\\_us.php?osCsid=i7cdgq70bca3c8t0lccj5m31q1](http://www.sanctuaryspring.com/about_us.php?osCsid=i7cdgq70bca3c8t0lccj5m31q1))

If you would like to purchase these cards (for all occasions, Easter, Christmas, Birthdays etc) please visit their website or you can order directly from us [http://www.sanctuaryspring.com/contact\\_us.php](http://www.sanctuaryspring.com/contact_us.php). This livelihood program has provided our clients with a monthly income that has helped to subsidize their allowances providing them with a monthly income above the national average.

## Arts Aftercare (AAC) Initiative

AAC is a hub that brings the arts community in the US - including musicians, painters, dancers, photographers, poets - together to use their unique resources as artists with at-risk youth and survivors of trauma. We are partnering with AAC and implementing their 'The Healing Arts Toolkit' which contains **therapeutic exercises utilizing music, visual arts and movement** that our aftercare staff use with clients to aid in their recovery process.



**Lacie Morrison** (pictured middle) is the Arts Aftercare's Healing Arts Toolkit Coordinator and former RENEW volunteer. Lacie recently returned to the Philippines to train our staff on using the tool kit. After its implementation at RENEW's residential centre, we have been immensely pleased with its effectiveness both as an individual tool and as part of a combined therapy - individual talk therapy or CBT + the Healing Arts Toolkit. It has had a direct impact on decreasing the levels of depression and anxiety among our clients.

## Program for at risk girls

This program is our primary prevention initiative where we **identify teenage girls who are at risk for entering prostitution and/or being trafficked**. We currently have 12 regular members of this program aged between 12 and 17 years old. Ten are in high school and two are in their first year of university life. This program was initiated and run by Sonita who is dearly missed by the young women and their families. **The girls in this program meet every Saturday for a time of sharing, support, prayer and Bible study**. Each at risk girl is sponsored by individuals/organizations and we would like to thank you again for your wonderful support! **Without you their schooling and Saturday club could not exist**. Once again, **thank you for all your support during 2012. Please keep in partnership with us during 2013!**

**Paulo and Mhay Fuller**, Directors, on behalf of **all the staff and clients** of RENEW