

Angeles Relief Inc

2019 Annual Report

ANGELES RELIEF INC

Angeles Relief Inc is a not for profit association incorporated in the state of Victoria, Australia. It was established in 2018 to provide services for the relief of poverty, sickness, distress, misfortune, and/or helplessness to children abandoned by their fathers in the Philippines.

PURPOSES OF THE ASSOCIATION

To provide relief from poverty, sickness, distress, misfortune, and/or helplessness to children abandoned by their fathers in the Philippines, by undertaking activities such as:

- (a) providing money for education, shelter, health needs, legal help and other material and financial assistance;
- (b) recruiting, training and retaining a staff, both paid and volunteer, dedicated to delivering the assistance; and
- (c) advocating for the Australian Government to accept applications for child support direct from the mothers in the Philippines.

PRINCIPLES

The agency provides a service that is:

Free

Confidential

Impartial

Independent

Respectful of the clients' rights to make their own decisions.

CONTACT DETAILS

1/8 Brassey Ave, Rosanna VIC 3084 Australia

angelesrelief@gmail.com

www.angelesrelief.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Angeles Relief Inc (ARI) has had a productive 15 months of operation since we incorporated. While progress is never straightforward in an environment as chaotic and impoverished as Hadrian's Extension, we have made a real difference in a number of children's lives.

Dave Tacon and I visited the area again in May 2019, and caught up with most of the families we are supporting. Our trip coincided with the Philippines mid-term elections, which gave us some opportunities to do more journalism. One of the pieces we did – the first of the links below - involved following the progress of the election in Hadrian's Extension, the neighbourhood in which our families live. I think that piece gives a good idea of the nature of the community and the environment, although it does not directly concern the children and their families.

<https://insidestory.org.au/in-angeles-city-all-politics-is-local/>

Meanwhile, in March our article written last year about the children of British sex tourists was published in The Guardian magazine in the UK, and garnered a huge response – it was the best read article in The Guardian that week.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/mar/02/children-sex-tourists-leave-behind-fathers-visited-philippines>

As a result all the children mentioned in that piece are now receiving support from sponsors. The Guardian has said it will publish an update towards Christmas on the families we wrote about.

Otherwise, we were largely encouraged by the results of our work. In an environment like the one we are working in, there is no fairy dust. Life in the slums is chaotic, parents are under constant stress and are not always well equipped to care for their children. Nevertheless we are confident we are making a real difference in the lives of the children who are receiving support. Sometimes this means as little as saving them from starvation. Sometimes it means giving them a chance for a better life, including education and employment.

Other developments during the year include:

- We have partnered with a local small charity – the Children's Better Life Program Inc – to provide our "woman on the ground", the wonderful Marivic, with the legitimacy she needs in the eyes of local authorities to pursue her work for us. We recently signed an MOU which will be ratified in the Philippines. This will also allow us to establish a bank account under the CBLP Inc banner, which will help with our financial arrangements and international money transfers.
- We have recently adopted some guidelines, available on our website, about our priorities in spending where donors have not specified how funds are to be spent. Our priorities are:
 - (a) food
 - (b) health
 - (c) accommodation and utilities
 - (d) health insurance
 - (e) being issued with a birth certificate – for children who officially do not exist - this is essential for them to attend school
 - (f) clothing

- (g) education
- (h) social worker to intervene with children particularly at risk
- (i) training for mothers to assist them to become more self-sufficient
- (j) occasional entertainment

Funds will also be used to pay for the cost of any necessary transport and refreshments for the kids/families and staff in obtaining any of the above needs.

- I continue to engage with experienced aid workers and philanthropists about how to put this little enterprise on a more sustainable basis, and hope to have some more to report on this soon.
- In the last few months, we have paid for a social worker to be employed to assist in a case where children were in dire need due to a parent's drug addiction. We have also funded training for one of the mothers to assist her to become more self-sufficient.

The wider context, of course, is that in many cases there simply is not sufficient employment for our mothers, outside the sex industry. The other big employer in town is the call centre industry, but for that you generally need an education and good English. Many of our mothers are themselves the children of poverty, and did not complete school.

In this kind of environment, our intervention can never fix everything. Life is chaotic and precarious in the slums. Many of the parents are damaged people themselves, although most do their best for their kids. But I can say with confidence after our last visit that we are making a real difference in the lives of a number of children. They are healthier, better fed, getting a better education and have more prospects than they would if we were not intervening.

Almost all of the money contributed by donors supporting families goes directly to the families. I and our board member Chris Sherrell and another donor pay a small allowance to Marivic Panilawan, to assist in managing the Angeles City end of things. We do this so that we can say to donors that their contributions go direct to the families in need. The exception is a small amount spent on currency transfer costs, which we always seek to minimise.

In the period from incorporation to 30 June 2019, we received A\$18,500 from donors supporting families. Out of this, we transferred A\$15,200 to the Philippines from which 500,000 pesos (approx. A\$13,000) was spent on our families. The remaining amounts are deposited in our Australian bank account and in a Philippines bank account – but of course will be spent on our families. We also received another A\$2,000 from a donor keen to help us with our effort to move towards 'deductible gift recipient' (DGR) status (to allow Australians to obtain a tax deduction on their contributions), and our resulting need for some professional advice.

Overall, we now have 39 donors – some regular, others contributing episodically or one-offs. We are supporting nine families, as well as brokering direct relationships between some donors and families, and responding to particular needs and emergencies in the community as they arise.

We are also continuing to explore means to obtaining tax deductive gift status for your donations (from Australian residents). This is a long road, made more difficult by the fact that our operations are entirely overseas. Please be patient with us as we move from a very case by case response, to trying to build our little charity into something sustainable in the long term.

Margaret Simons

President

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Income/Expenses for the period 4 April 2018 to 30 June 2019

	\$
Income	
Donations received	25,248
Interest	15
Total income	25,263
Expenses	
Emergency relief	15,231
Volunteer costs	4,670
Total expenses	19,901
Surplus/(deficit)	5,362

Balances as at 30 June 2019

	\$
ASSETS	
Current assets	
Cash at bank - Bendigo Bank	5,362
Total current assets	5,362
Non-current assets	0
Total assets	5,362
LIABILITIES	
Current liabilities	0
Non-current liabilities	0
Total liabilities	0
Net assets	5,362
EQUITY	
Retained surplus	5,362
Total equity	5,362

Notes

1. Angeles Relief Inc was incorporated on 4 April 2018
2. These financial statements cover the period 4 April 2018 to 30 June 2019.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

As at 2 October 2019

President	Margaret Simons
Secretary	Chris Sherrell
Ordinary Members	Peter Gribbin Gillian Wright