

The logo for Angeles Relief Inc is located in the top left corner. It consists of a solid red square. Inside the square, the text "Angeles Relief Inc" is written in white. The text is enclosed within two overlapping white rectangular outlines, one slightly offset from the other, creating a layered effect.

Angeles Relief Inc

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2021 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

149 Underbank Bvd, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340 Australia

angelesrelief@gmail.com

www.angelesrelief.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As with 2020, ARI activities in the last financial year have been dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This has prevented me from making my usual annual visits to the Philippines, making us more than ever dependent on our woman-on-the-ground, Marivic Panilawan, to both distribute aid, and also give us reports on our families. Repeated lockdowns have in turn made her work harder, and sadly she has also lost family members in the Covid pandemic, which has impacted her in multiple ways.

At the same time, the sex tourism industry is still in a state of near collapse in Angeles City, with only western expats still using the services.

Most of our families and the surrounding community are dependent on this industry, either directly or indirectly. Even those who don't work in the bars usually have jobs in construction or hospitality that are directly connected to the tourism industry. So all at once, just about every source of income into the Hadrian's Extension suburb was cut back in 2020 when the pandemic began.

In August last year the City Government announced "livelihood programs" including establishing basket weaving and eco-bag making as sources of employment, but these appear to be targeted mainly at drug addicts who "self-surrender" under the Duterte regime's continuing war on drugs.

More generally, as of 25 October 2,756,923 cases of Covid have been reported nationwide in the Philippines, with this likely to be a considerable underestimate due to low level of testing. There have been 41,793 deaths. This is out of a population of around 100 million. This is the second-highest death count in south east Asia, behind Indonesia. As of October 23, 2021, about 55,506,176 total vaccine doses have been administered throughout the country, with 25,614,366 being fully vaccinated. Priority, in the context of limited supply last year, was given to essential workers, but stories of "queue-jumping" abound in this notoriously corrupt country. President Duterte has threatened to jail those who refuse to be vaccinated, but this does not seem to have lifted uptake.

Meanwhile, treatment costs for those who contract Covid are prohibitive for our families – ranging up to 1 million pesos, or \$26,000 AUD. Health insurance is available, but its scope is limited, and it is expensive.

In the midst of all this difficulty, we have been able, thanks to the generosity of our donors, to not only maintain levels of support to our families, but also to pay a "Covid supplement" to provide extra food relief. We were running low on funds for this, but a special appeal in May 2021 resulted in an extra \$4,800 being received from 14 donors. We are now in a position to continue this special relief until February 2022, at which point we can assess whether the same level of support remains necessary, in which case we will have to mount another appeal. Alternatively, as international borders open up, we may be able to peg back.

The challenges of delivering relief remain considerable for Marivic, and we are incurring some extra expenditure to allow her to travel safely.

Meanwhile, we have continued to work with the international charity, Hear Their Cries, on DNA testing of some of "our" children with a view to tracking their fathers.

Hear Their Cries (<http://www.heartheircries.org/>) is a charity founded by Australian lawyer Andrew Macleod, who is Non-Executive Chairman of British based Griffin Law, Non-Executive Director at New York based Cornerstone Capital, a Visiting Professor at Kings College London and an Advisory Board member of International Lawyers for Africa, amongst other activities. The charity's principal focus is the children born to paedophiles working in the aid community, including the United Nations.

As reported last year, Andrew contacted me and Dave Tacon following our article in The Guardian international magazine last year, proposing that we run a pilot project employing DNA testing and tracking technology to trace the fathers of some of “our” children. The widespread adoption of genealogy databases now holding DNA data on millions of people has been used to track criminals, such as in the Golden State Killer case in the USA.

Andrew proposed that we invite some of the children we support to take DNA tests, and this would then be used to attempt to track their fathers, with a view to obtaining child support and family contact.

After some due diligence, we introduced Andrew to our families, and six children were DNA tested. Follow up work has identified four of the fathers.

As reported last year, In one case this has been an unqualified happy experience, with the father delighted to discover his son, and undertaking to support him from now on. This has been a wonderful outcome.

In another two cases the fathers have been identified but have resisted taking any responsibility for their children. Pro bono lawyers are following up in Canada and Australia, and a court case is in progress in Canada. In another case, the father has been identified and while the wider family has indicated a willingness to be involved, we have yet to speak to the father himself, who remains in Angeles City as an Australian expat. This has complicated our efforts to communicate with him.

One other child, whose mother was underage at the time he was conceived, has agreed to be DNA tested but due to the COVID disruption, the tracking and tracing on this has not yet been done.

The DNA testing project was funded by Griffin Law’s charitable trust, and the monies were channelled through ARI’s accounts.

Having proved the concept, Hear Their Cries now intends to apply the methodology to children born to under-age mothers in other countries.

Progress on establishing an entity in the Philippines has not been great, but we will turn our attention to this as a matter of priority in the next few months.

Despite the challenging circumstances, we have managed to maintain and increase our support to our target families, and due to the HTC partnership over the DNA project, one of our children is now receiving adequate support from his father, and another three may eventually achieve that aim.

Our impact is, as ever, modest on the scale of the need – but I think we can be proud that we have made a profound difference in the lives of the families we support, including by standing by them in this time of international crisis.

With borders now opening up, I hope to be able to visit the Philippines in 2022.

Margaret Simons
President
26 October 2021

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Income and expenditure statement for the year ended 30 June

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Income | | |
| Donations received | 31,273 | 27,780 |
| Interest | 3 | 10 |
| Total income | 31,276 | 27,790 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Grant for aid project | 35,329 | 25,139 |
| Total expenditure | 35,329 | 25,139 |
| Surplus/(deficit) | (4,054) | 2,651 |

Assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Assets | | |
| Cash at bank - Bendigo Bank | 3,959 | 8,013 |
| Total assets | 3,959 | 8,013 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Total liabilities | 0 | 0 |
| Net assets | 3,959 | 8,013 |

Movements in equity as at 30 June

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Retained earnings | | |
| Opening balance | 8,013 | 5,362 |
| Surplus/(deficit) for the year | (4,054) | 2,651 |
| Total retained earnings | 3,959 | 8,013 |

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

As at 26 October 2021

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