



FAIRPLAY FOR ALL FOUNDATION

a level playing field on and off the pitch

Newsletter

January - February 2016

One Step Closer to Completion



In May and June we have made huge strides in getting the Payatas Sports Center ready: the end is in sight.

Sports improve life satisfaction, physical well-being, and mental health. A study by the University of Sheffield Hallam found that a £1 investment in sport brought almost £2 in returns. In the slums, surrounded by negativity and a toxic environment (often literally toxic given the dumpsite and trash), a fun and constructive environment is a beacon of light and those returns are higher because of the safe and secure environment it creates.

Now we're almost ready to open Stage 1 of the Payatas Sports Center, a momentous occasion for Fairplay as we will finally have a home for Payatas FC. The kids have already begun coaching courses to handle the younger kids and divide the training sessions and they are very excited to hear about when it will be finished and they can play.

Check out the pictures of the before and after on page 3 to see the fantastic progress that has gone.

What's Next?

This year we will be hosting the Metro Manila Futsal League: Season 2. With leagues in Central and South Manila too, the best teams from the three regions will meet in a Champions League to find the Champion of Manila. This was a fun and friendly league earlier in the year and we look forward to the gradual expansion of the project and the sustainability it brings to our sports projects. Meanwhile Payatas FC are also invited to Liga GK, the youth league of Gawad Kalinga meaning weekly games for the kids for the remainder of 2016. Towards the end of the year we will also release the 2017 Payatas FC Jersey too! So look out for that and how you can grab yours.

(cont. on page 3)



HIGHLIGHTS

The sponsored kids from the Education Sponsorship Program and the fulltime kids from the Fairplay Center had a blast last May 23 during their summer outing. This was ahead of the new school year which started June 13.



Last June 10, the Fairplay Cafe was invited by William Hill PLC to cater their special event for the Independence Day holiday. The Cafe served Filipino *merienda* such as *pancit canton* (noodles), *lumpia toge* (vegetable wrap), *palitao* and *biko* (rice cakes), *banana con yelo* (banana dessert), and assorted fruit shakes.

We've had lovely volunteers the past month who either stayed with us or who came down every week. Thank you to the French girls--Sedef, Sofia, Lucie and Pauline. Thank you as well to our German volunteer, Adrian. And finally to Joie and Amie for facilitating the Sex Education class with our Youth Group.

Get in touch with us in the Philippines through Roy Moore • Tel. No. +63 2 427 4137
Mobile No. +63 947 5758077 • Email: ffaoundation@gmail.com • Website: www.fairplayforall.weebly.com
Facebook: Fairplay For All Foundation • Twitter: @fairplayforall
Registered PH Charity No. CN201120383 • PH TIN 008-166-383

Summer Cycle and Summer Festival

Summer is scorching hot in the Philippines and even more so in Payatas as children exemplified burning passion in pursuit of their unique interests during the Summer Cycle. Even if summer seemed very short, it is undeniably rich in terms of fun and learning for all. There are two main events that marked summer in the Fairplay Center this 2016—the Summer Cycle and the Summer Festival.

Summer Cycle

During the Summer Cycle, the Fairplay Center offered different clubs that kids can join in. The Clubs offered include the following: Drama and Film Club, Dance Club, D.I.Y. Club, Production Design, Drumming Circle, Drum Making, Animation and Kinder Club. The cycle ran for the whole month of May.

For 4 weeks, the club members showed engagement, effort and learning. It was not always a smooth ride for each club, but the kids did their best to rise above adversities and understand each other. It is great to note that there was team work within and outside of the clubs e.g. clubs like Drama, Kinder and Production Design all worked together to produce designs, backdrops, costumes and proper make up for their recital. Most importantly and as aimed by the Summer Cycle itself, the children showed confidence in their creativity and originality as they produced their own Drama plot, direct music and edit Film, design costumes, create animation and much more!

Summer Festival

It was rainy during the day of the Summer Festival (May 31), but it didn't dampen the kids enthusiasm and excitement. Though ironically rainy and cold that day, there was warmth among parents, guardians and other children who came to watch the show.

Most of the children were nervous as it was their first time to ever perform. Nevertheless they persisted and with the help of their teachers, they were able to experience something new positively. The Festival started with Kinder Club's Peppa Pig inspired song and dance number. It was followed by Drum Circle's thundering drum routine. Dance Club came next with grace and poise to a hip hop tune. Drama Club presented their play entitled: "Ang Tatlong Kahiling" (The Three Wishes"), and it was followed with a screening of the Film Club's short films entitled: "One Eye Blind" (drama) and "My Sister hates My friends"(Horror). The Festival concluded with the screening of cartoons created by Animation Club.●



Happy Paint: Kinder kids enjoying their face painting and impersonation of animals in their performance.



One circle, one beat: Drum Circle loud and proud during their performance



Packed and Engaged: The crowd watching the recital.



Production in Action: Production Design members create the school bus prop for the Kinder's performance.

FACES OF PAYATAS

Meet Sherly. This thirteen year old girl will make a deep impression on you: how mature she is already! You can see it in her sweet, calm and determined eyes. But let me explain where she comes from: she is the third oldest in a family composed of four brothers and six sisters including her. She's living with her parents; her father drives garbage trucks for a living and her mother is a housewife who also cleans plastic for selling. Two of her brothers and one of her sisters are scavengers; the others, like her, go to the centre. During their free time, they help the family clean plastic or scavenge through trash.

When Sherly was eight, she dropped out of school because her family could not afford it anymore, and she was needed at home to take care of her younger brothers and sisters. She also helps her mother do the chores, such as cooking and cleaning. Sherly takes the most of life; she is not asking for much, but she gives a lot in return.

In lieu of going to school, Sherly together with her siblings started going to Fairplay's drop-in center about three years ago. There she found a safe space to play and to learn. Now, she studies full time at the Fairplay Center. Even though she seems shy and quiet in class, you will soon notice her by the seriousness of her work and her dedication to school. When it's raining hard and only a few kids are attending school, you can be sure she'll be part of them. She's interested in every subject, but particularly in those concerning the sciences: matter, earth. Her mind is already rigorous and committed; her responsibilities at home have already made an adult of this little girl. Maybe she grew up too fast; still she is keeping her dreams alive. There was no hesitation in her voice when she claimed she wanted to be a doctor, to help ill people. She knows what it takes to make this dream come true; becoming a doctor means going to university, and she's surprisingly well aware of that. For the moment, what makes her love FFA is not only the education provided, but the social interactions with the teachers and the kids. At the centre, she is clearly in her element, and no one can take this away from her.●

Written by our French volunteers--Lucie, Sedef, Sofia, and Pauline.

Sherly

WAYS TO SUPPORT

Become part of the team with regular donations of P1,000 (£15) a month to support one of our projects. This stable income makes a big difference.

One off donations can be given from anywhere around the globe. Visit www.justgiving.com/FairplayForAllFoundation

Invite someone from FFA to speak about the project.

Organise a fundraising event at your school, workplace, church, community, or other group.

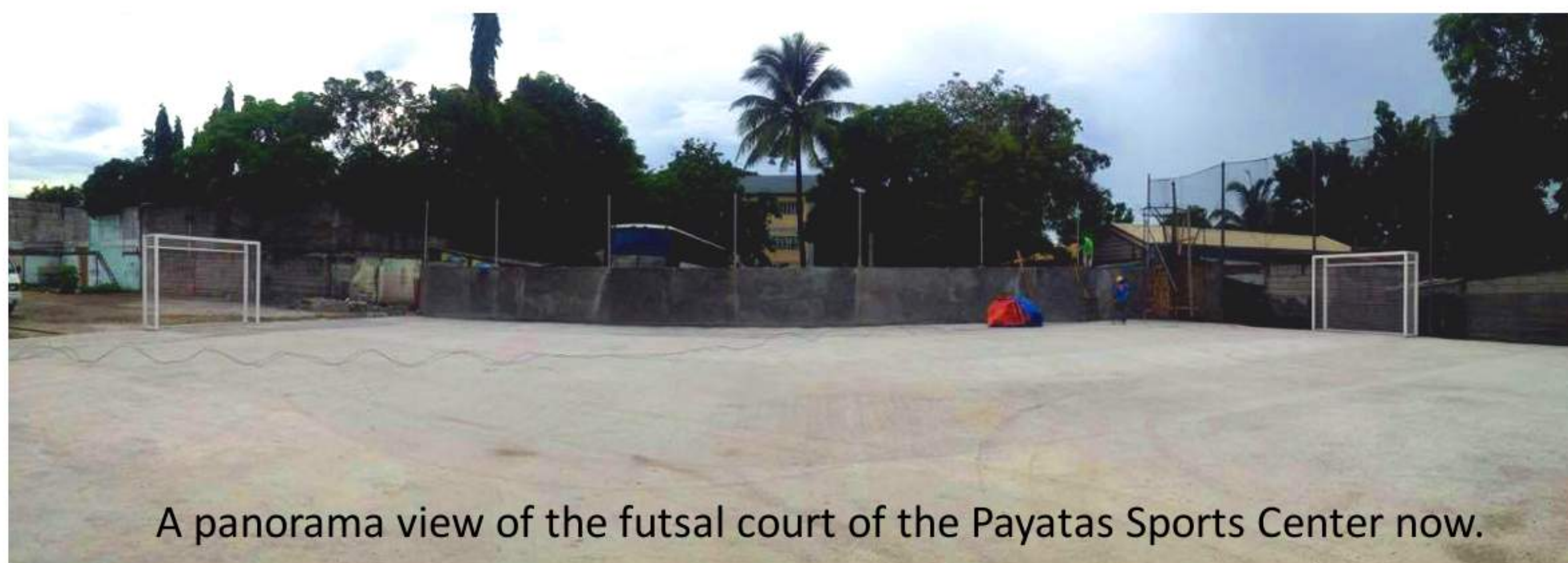
Volunteer with us.

(One Step Closer to Completion, cont'd. from page 1)

For the Payatas Sports Center itself, plans are being laid down for Stage 2 where the 2nd court for more sports and more training sessions will be built. This allows competitions, leagues, and cups to be held regularly, including Corporate Cups where local businesses can come down for team building exercises, trainings, and fun tournaments with their employees.

Stage 3 will be to construct a rooftop over the facility and floodlights to extend the opening times and to solve any problem with the weather. This will mean rain or shine, day or night, activities will be possible and the project will be running at full capacity.

The demand is huge and we expect to be at full capacity rather quickly in each stage. So all in all it's onwards and upwards for the Payatas Sports Center and the Fairplay for All Foundation. Enjoy the pictures of the official opening in the next newsletter as well as more updates on the leagues and contact us for any questions or opportunities at ffaoundation@gmail.com. ~



A panorama view of the futsal court of the Payatas Sports Center now.

Education Sponsorship Program: It's Back to School Time!

It was June 13, 2016, the first day back in school and kids from Fairplay's Education Sponsorship Program were all excited yet also nervous. Excited and happy to be reunited with their old friends and to make new ones, and to share stories of their summer vacation. But also nervous about strict teachers and challenging subjects.



Axelxan in his PE uniform and Regine in her school uniform get ready to go to school.

The first day was particularly hard. After a long summer free from school work, the kids suddenly got bombarded with a lot of projects and assignments. It seemed that easing into the new school year was not an option. When asked about their most challenging subjects, they mentioned Filipino, Math, Science, and English—the major subjects in the school curriculum. The kids do their best and hope to be able to finish their schooling.

Also back in full action are the Fairplay Café and the school service as some of the kids have their lunch together at the Café before going to school while others have their lunch together after school when picked up.

There are currently 42 kids in the Education Sponsorship Program. 18 are in elementary school, 17 in secondary and 7 in senior high. The Program spends roughly PHP 2,000-2,300 (£32) per kid in preparation for the new school year. This covers 2 sets of school uniform, 1 pair of black shoes, 1 pair of rubber shoes, 2 sets of undergarments, 1 school bag and assorted school supplies. The rest of the year, the Program spends an average of PHP 1,000 (£16) per month per sponsored kid for their meals, transportation, and school projects. Thank you to all sponsors who continue to support the education of our scholars!



High school kids arrive in the Fairplay Cafe after school to have lunch.

The Payatas Sports Center: Then and Now



Here's a quick before and after picture of the Payatas Sports Center to show how much has been accomplished. The topmost photo is how the land in Amlac looked like one year ago. Fast forward to today, the land is cemented, nets are installed so the balls won't go out of the area, and two large futsal goals are in place. Next step is painting the court ahead of the soft opening on August 14. In the next two years, we are looking at completing the second court and putting up a roof to cover the whole area. A big thank you to all sponsors and supporters who have helped Fairplay build a home for Payatas FC!

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email:
ffaoundation@gmail.com

or in the UK:
fairplayforalluk@gmail.com

Get in touch with us in the UK through:
Revd. David Tomlinson (Secretary)
St. Johns Vicarage, 1A Burnie Gardens
Shildon, Co. Durham. DL4ND

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