

# Manila Women's Forum

A Network of Women Professionals

June 2009

## Recycle and Send a Child Through School

By Rose Hunt

**I**n 1996 Jane Walker visited the Philippines from her native Britain, and ended up walking near the Tondo dumpsite in Manila, an event which was to change her life. Overwhelmed by the appalling living conditions that she saw, she was inspired to raise money when she returned to the UK, enough to build a day care center for 60 children in Tondo. From then on, inspired by her personal faith as a Christian, she became committed to her goal of “preventing people from getting to a place of despair.” (Jane herself had once been in that place of despair, having left a dysfunctional  
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*“What if we said recycling your trash could send a child to school? It’s not rubbish.”*

*Above: Children picking through trash in a dumpsite.*

*Left: Jane Walker and items made by the people she helps, using recycled material.*

**June MWF Meeting** ■ **When:** 6:30 p.m., Monday, June 15, 2009. **Where:** The home of Julia Simpson, 22B Cameron Tower, Essensa in the Fort. **What:** Prunella Samuels, image consultant and owner of “Stylized International Image Consultancy” will be presenting “Assessing and Dressing for Your Body Type” — top tips to accentuate your assets and camouflage your flaws! **Bring:** Something to share for the potluck dinner. **July Meeting:** Monday, 2009 July 20.

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home as a teenager, lived on the streets and “survived by her wits”).

Jane moved to the Philippines in 2006 and began her pioneering work with the people of Tondo. In consultation with people in the community she then set about building a school (there were a 1000 children of school age on the dumpsite) alongside the development of a feeding program. Children were provided with breakfast and lunch so that they would be saved from having to earn money from working on the dumpsite.

However, it became apparent that children needed an incentive to stay at school as 35% of them were dropping out in order to work and generate enough income for their families to feed themselves. The Foundation rose to this challenge by providing 2 kg of rice a day to every child that stayed in school. This approach succeeded; a year later, only 6% of children were dropping out of school.

Now a health clinic has been set up which also helps school attendance; children now don't have to work to provide for the family's medicines and common problems such as respiratory disease are being treated. A team of social workers is now working on the site, visiting once every six or eight weeks. They deal with the complex issues that arise as a consequence of extreme poverty, such as the selling of body parts and sex trafficking.

Jane has recently turned to recycling as a source of income for the people of Tondo; PCF already collects 5 tons of trash a day, and has persuaded several big organizations to donate their trash such as the RCBC building in Makati, the UK Embassy and the British School. The “turning trash 2 cash” program involves the recycling of used (and sanitized) toothpaste tubes, tetra packs, paper, aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles, and tarpaulins into useful household products such as bags and makeshift tents.

Income generated from recycling supports a range of educational, health and welfare activities, including dance, music and singing lessons for the children.

For example:

- \* 2 tons of clean white paper will pay for 1 teacher's salary per month.

- \* 2 kg of tin cans will buy one de-worming tablet lasting for 6 months—that's roughly 120 tin cans.

- \* 30 Tetra packs make 1 shopping bag, 8 Tetra packs makes 1 pencil case.

- \* 2 kg of recycled plastic or 66 plastic bottles will provide a student with a daily hot breakfast and lunch.

- \* 300 pull tabs from soft drink cans will produce one unique 'Jessica' Handbag

- \* Second-hand tarpaulins make shopping bags and easy-to-clean aprons.

- \* Large sheets of tarpaulin can be sewn together to quick-fix leaking roofs for dumpsite shanties.

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*The Philippine Christian Foundation (PCF) turns “Trash 2 Cash”. Above: Jane, Chrissie, Rose.*

Recycle, recycle, recycle.  
What makes the most sense, it seems,  
is this: reduce, reuse, recycle.



1 JUNE 2009

## KaWoMeNaN

Selected and edited by  
Beulah Pedregosa Taguiwalo

### Recycling

#### Recycling and Sustainable Design

Recycling is not really in mind in the design of most products; that's why recycling is not really that easy.

Enter the concept of "sustainable design," first laid out in the book *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things* by architect William McDonough and chemist Michael Braungart. The authors suggest that all products and all the packaging that they require have a complete "closed-loop" cycle mapped out for each component. Every component should either return to the natural ecosystem through biodegradation or be recycled indefinitely.

#### Strict Recycling versus Reusing and Salvaging

In a strict sense, recycling of a material would produce a fresh supply of the same material. Example: Recycling used office paper to produce more office paper, or recycling used foamed polystyrene to produce more polystyrene.

However, this is often difficult or too expensive compared with producing the same product from raw materials or other sources.

Therefore, the "recycling" of many products or materials actually involves *reusing* them to produce different materials. Example: Reusing office paper to produce cardboard.

Another form of recycling involves

*salvaging* certain materials from complex products, either due to their intrinsic value or due to their hazardous nature. Example: Salvaging lead from car batteries, or gold from computer components, or mercury from various items.

#### Recycling and Cost-Benefit Analysis

As with environmental economics, care must also be taken to ensure a complete view of the costs and benefits involved in recycling. Example: Cardboard packaging for food products is more easily recycled than plastic, but is heavier to ship and may result in more waste from spoilage.

#### The Universal Recycling Symbol

Composed of three chasing arrows that form a Möbius strip or unending loop, the universal recycling symbol is an internationally-recognized symbol used to designate recyclable materials.



In 1969 and early 1970, worldwide attention to environmental issues reached a crescendo, culminating in the first Earth Day. In response, then Chicago-based Container Corporation of America, a large producer of recycled paperboard, sponsored a contest for art and design students at high schools and colleges across the country to raise awareness of environmental issues. The winner was Gary Anderson, a 23-year-old college student at the University of Southern California, whose entry was the image now known as the universal recycling symbol.

The symbol is in the public domain. It is not a trademark. The Container Corporation of America originally applied for a trademark on the design, but the application was challenged and the corporation decided to abandon the claim. As such, anyone is free to use the recycling symbol. However, local laws may restrict its use in product labeling in certain cases, such as when its use on non-recycled goods would be misleading or deceptive.

#### Recycling "Hysteria" of the 1990s

The Mobro 4000 was a barge made famous in 1987 for hauling the same load of trash along the east coast of North America from New York to Belize in Central America and back before a way was found to dispose of the garbage.

Chartered by entrepreneur Lowell Harrelson and Long Island mob boss Salvatore Avellino, the Mobro 4000 set sail on March 22 from Islip, New York, escorted by the tugboat Break of Dawn. It was carrying 3,168 tons of trash headed for a pilot program in Morehead City, North Carolina, to be turned into methane. The barge was docked at Morehead City until a WRAL-TV news crew, acting on a tip, flew by helicopter to the coast to investigate. Action News 5 Reporter Susan Brozek broke the story on the 6 p.m. news on April 1, 1987, and North Carolina officials began their own investigation which resulted in an order for the Mobro to move on.

The barge then proceeded along the coast, looking for another place to offload. It continued to meet stiff resistance. The Mexican Navy denied it entrance to their waters, and it reached as far south as Belize in Central America where it was again rejected before returning to New York. Upon arrival it was met with a temporary restraining order and a heated legal battle preventing it from docking. In October, the trash was finally incinerated in Brooklyn. The resulting ash was buried back where it started, in Islip, New York.

The incident is often referred to as igniting the recycling "hysteria" of the 1990s.

#### Recycling Means Business

For Pennsylvania, here are the numbers: Recycling and Reuse Establishments - 3,247. Recycling and Reuse Employment - 81,322 jobs. Annual Sales Receipts - \$18.4 billion. Annual Payroll - \$2.9 billion. Annual tax revenues from the recycling and reuse businesses - Estimated at \$305 million. (*From <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/>*)

#### Recycling: A Waste?

On the other hand, some people think what John Tierney wrote in the New York Times nearly 10 years ago is still true: "Recycling may be the most wasteful activity in modern America."

***(Recycle... Continued from page 2)***

Jane's target over the next year is to generate 2.5 million pesos a month for the community through the recycling of trash and to become an international model for waste picking communities. Currently only 5% of trash in the Philippines is being recycled, so there is great potential.

Her current project is soon reaching completion: a four-story school made from discarded shipping containers. It will accommodate 1100 children, and

will be the first of its kind.

PCF needs your waste materials as a means of funding their education projects. If you know of any communities, especially businesses, who can provide the following items, please contact Jane directly.

PCF needs newspapers, cardboard boxes, paper, tetra bags, toothpaste tubes, unwanted tarpaulins, plastic, aluminum and tin cans.

- Segregate all your plastic bottles, cans, waste metal, used toothpaste

tubes, fast food disposal cups, knives and forks.

- Segregate all your CLEAN paper waste and newspapers.
- Segregate ALL your wet and waste foods, takeaways, etc. into a separate plastic bag before mixing with recyclable items as this contaminates the paper waste and renders it unusable. ■

To contact Jane Walker: Tel. 635 6913  
jane@pcf.ph www.pcf.ph



*Recycle, and send a child to school.*

*Below: 300 pull tabs from soft drink cans will produce one unique Jessica Handbag.*



## **Manila Women's Forum**

Manila Women's Forum (MWF) is a cross-cultural network for women. It provides opportunities to build friendships, talk to women of various cultures, and share information about resources. Our meetings are intended to provide intellectual stimulation and lead to personal and professional development. All women are welcome to join.

The current officers are: **Amy Alexander**, Message Board. **Julia Holz**, Treasurer, Membership and Programs. **Cecilia Leung**, Programs. **Lisa Lumbao**, Chair. **Lisa Stuart**, Message Board Moderator. **Beulah P. Taguiwalo**, Newsletter, Website. **Shari Virjee**, Programs, Message Board.

Cost of membership is P300 per year. Members receive a copy of the current mailing list in addition to the newsletter, which is also sent to non-members. A contribution is collected at each monthly meeting: P20 for members, and P40 for non-members. For more information about MWF, please contact Lisa Lumbao at Tel. 813-0168, or at lumbao@mozcom.com.

Visit our website – a work in progress  
www.geocities.com/manilawomensforum

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