

Buyong Sponsorship Program

News 2007

TO SPONSORS AND FRIENDS OF THE BUYONG PROGRAM: 2007 marks the 26th year of our Buyong Sponsorship Program in the Philippines. You are an important part of this program. You have provided financial aid for high school and college scholarships, projects at the Buyong Elementary School, medicines for the local Health Center, clean water, toilets, and other improvements in Buyong village.

Annual Visit in March 2007: Seven of us visited Buyong for a week of work, fun and excitement. Keiko Auckerman, advisor of the PRO (Philippine Relief Organization) at the American School in Japan, arrived with four high school students, Anna Naito, Marika Dandoy, Eri Ito, and Trisha Satterfield. Janet and Carl Zaiser were there as well.

Buyong School: We visited the Buyong Elementary School many times. One morning the four PRO girls helped prepare the daily feeding for the Buyong students - chopping and slicing the ingredients for "binignit". We then joined the children in the classroom to taste the morning meal. We owe a debt of gratitude to the devoted PRO members at ASIJ as they have been supporting the Buyong feeding program since 1986. Buyong school graduation was that same week and we enjoyed watching the graduation and the dances and skits that were part of the festivities.



School Project 2007: Grades 1, 2 and 3 at the Buyong school have toilets for the children in each classroom. Grades 4, 5 and 6 had two outdoor toilets to serve all three grades, about 300 children. These toilets at the edge of the school property were in poor condition and unusable. Our school project for 2007 was the rebuilding of these facilities.

Village: Walking through Buyong village we met many families and formerly sponsored students and their children. Our Buyong Program installed water pipes and clean water into the center of the village several years ago and we observed families getting their daily jugs of water from this convenient location. The communal toilets which we had built in the center of the village were in bad condition.

Village Project: 2007: Repairing these toilet facilities was our village project for the 2007 visit. The before and after pictures show the remarkable improvement.



Health Center: This center is a free community clinic specializing in prenatal and baby care. We are again supplying medicines to the health center to supplement their meager supply from the city. A kind donation from a new friend bought the center a mercury blood pressure instrument and new forceps..

Scholarship Student: Paiza, our college student sponsored by the PRO, is starting her 4th year at San Jose Ricoletos in Cebu City. She will graduate in March 2008 with a degree as a Certified Management Accountant. Paiza and four of her classmates joined us on the boat for a day of island hopping.



A boat trip and picnic, dinners in village homes, songfests, a party for the teachers, a trip to Cebu City to see the University of San Jose Ricoletos, and a "despidida" (farewell) party with dinner and games for everyone were the highlights of the ASIJ students' visit. A surprise birthday party for Janet was the finale. See the picture with the pig.



The daily feeding at the school and the medicines for the center are important projects we want to continue. We will undertake other special projects as the need arises if we can afford. Our Buyong Sponsorship Program keeps going with your financial support, and you have been very generous through the years. If you wish to contribute again, you may send checks to Janet Zaiser, address below.

Your concern for this village and your contributions to the program have benefited so many children and their families. Keep in touch with us. Thank you for your continuing help.

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www.buyong.org For many more details about the program see our web site updated by Sarah Harrigan Livnat