

Buyong Support Program

News 2008

Dear Friends,

This is the 27th year of our program of educational, medical and other support to Buyong village and the surrounding communities on Mactan Island in the Philippines.

We have sponsored children in high school and college – we have been involved with village projects – we have started an ongoing feeding program at the school – we have taken on several large projects at the school - we are helping the health center get extra medicines. We owe all of this to you and your donations to the program.



Our yearly trip to the Philippines was again a resounding success. Carl Zaiser and Janet Zaiser visited for more than one week. Keiko Auckerman and three high school students from Japan joined us there. These students represent the PRO (Philippine Relief Organization) at the American School in Japan.

Buyong School

On our first visit to the school, the PRO students chopped, mixed and stirred the ingredients for benignit, which was on the menu for that day. We ate in the classroom and we discovered that this free meal for all children in the school is still the most nutritious meal of the day. The teachers report that they no longer have any malnourished school children. During the week we revisited the school many more times - to see the children at their studies and to see them practicing their skits for graduation ceremonies. We attended graduation on Saturday night - an event with most of the village in attendance.

The Health Center.

The health center is a free community clinic specializing in prenatal and baby care. We visited the health center with large boxes of medicine as our quarterly donation. Mango flavored dimetap and mango flavored cough syrup were among the favorites. Our two medical helpers, Ponciana Soliano and Mildred Cases, have the big job of coordinating and ordering the medicines quarterly. An emergency fund was started this year to offer quick help to those in need.

Sponsorship

Congratulations to Paiza and her family! Our last sponsored college student graduated in May as a Certified Management Accountant. We celebrated with Paiza and ten of her classmates on a boat trip to a nearby, sandy island for swimming and barbecue.

Other events during the week were dinner in village homes, a walk through the village to call on other sponsored students, a thank-you party for the teachers, and a trip to Mactan Shrine to see where Magellan was killed by the warrior Lapu Lapu. The final "despidida" or farewell party for about 40 people was held on Friday night with food and games. After graduation on Saturday night we attended the disco, which is held to raise money for this year's fiesta. A busy time!

IT'S TIME FOR A NEW NAME! We plan to continue with the school feedings. We plan to continue with supplemental medicines to the health center and with the emergency fund. We have changed the name to Buyong Support Program to thank you for your wonderful, generous financial support. Thank you for contributing and caring. You are making a difference in so many lives.

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

Contributions – Checks may be made out to Janet Zaiser, address above.



Preparing the Lunch



Cooking



Eating the Benignit



PRO Students and Teachers



Unpacking the Medicines



Donating the Medicines



Congratulations Paiza



Boat Trip



Party for the Teachers



Presenting the Check



Party for the Children



Graduates



PRO Students at the Graduation



Happy Birthday Janet



-- LOVE --