

BUYONG SUPPORT PROGRAM NEWS - 2009

Friends of the Buyong Support Program,

2009 marks the **28th** year of our program. We continue to support the Buyong Elementary School daily feeding program, and we continue to contribute much needed medicines for the local Health Center. Your donations provide the means of this support – **so we owe it all to you.** Your gifts in the past have enabled us to send 65 deserving students to high school and 31 to college, to provide the school with electricity and water, to bring drinking water into Buyong village, to construct toilets in three villages for the public use, and various other projects in the community.

In late March, Julie, Carl, and Janet Zaiser were joined in the Philippines by Keiko Auckerman and two students from the American School in Japan. The students, Siobhan and Max, represented the PRO (Philippine Relief Organization) that raises money for the feeding program. Ginny Allen, a retired American School teacher, was also part of the group.



Buyong Elementary School

The feeding program at the Buyong school is still the only daily, free feeding for an entire school in the Philippines. The parents and teachers are enthusiastic about the feeding, and say there are no malnourished children in the school anymore. Each child must finish their first serving, and many go back for seconds. Siobhan and Max got to school early on the first morning to prepare the food for the feeding, then sampled the finished stew in the classroom. Imagine feeding 680 children every day!

The Health Center.

The health center, specializing in prenatal and baby care, is a free clinic for those in the community who can't afford a private doctor. The government provides medicines for the clinic, but they are never enough. Our donations of medicines supplements the small amount given by the government, in fact we are supplying half of all the medicines the clinic receives. We have two medical helpers who order the medicines quarterly. They also administer the emergency fund that is available to residents of the community.

Playground Demonstration and Crowning of the Prince and Princess

The most ambitious happening of our visit was the school fundraiser – it was an all day affair. Dances by each classroom on the playground were held all morning, and a delicious lunch was provided for the visitors. A pedicab motorcade carrying the hopeful candidates for prince and princess was held in the afternoon, followed by the crowning of the lucky winners.

Keiko and her PRO members received an outstanding award during the ceremonies – a resolution expressing heartfelt gratitude to ASIJ, the PRO and Keiko for their concern for the less fortunate constituents in the community and their endless assistance with the feeding program. Janet was honored by a resolution proclaiming her an adopted daughter of Barangay Maribago for continuing her efforts to support the school, the health center, and the community.

Boat Trip and "Despidida" The traditional, island-hopping, boat trip on Friday had about 30 on board for a day of swimming, sightseeing, and a picnic on the beach. The final farewell party (despidida) for about 40 people was held on Saturday night with food, games and prizes for all.

Thank you for your wonderful, generous financial support. Your contributions are helping so many people in the Buyong community. Your concern is making a big difference in many lives.

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

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



Siobhan & Max preparing the food



Cooking the food



Tastes good!



At the Health Center



Donating the medicines



Buyong Village



Presenting feeding check to Principal



Pedicab motorcade



Little Princess candidates



Boarding the boat



Swimming party



Our group on the beach