

# Buyong Support Program News - 2010

## **Friends of the Buyong Support Program,**

2010 is the **29th** year of our program. We continue to support the Buyong Elementary School daily feeding program that now covers more than 750 students, and we continue to contribute 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 public toilets in the village and at the school, and various other projects in the community.

This year we are beginning support of our first second generation sponsored student. Trina Cases who graduated from the Buyong Elementary School as Salutatorian is attending St. Alphonsus Catholic School, (SACS). She is the daughter of Mildred Cases who was sponsored through high school and a two year college course and who is one of the two helpers handling our medical program.

## **Janet's Memorial and Burial**

As you may know, Janet passed away on July 9, 2010 from complications following surgery. She had donated her body to the "Willed Body Program" of the University of Washington Medical School. Her cremated remains were returned to us at the end of August and we made preparations, in accordance with her desire, to have them carried to the Philippines to be placed in the garden at the Buyong Elementary School where our son Paul's ashes were buried in 2003.



On March 13, 2010, daughter Martha, granddaughter Kristine, and Miss Soo Kim carried her ashes to Cebu. Son Carl, Keiko Auckerman, and Maki Funatsu, a friend from Tokyo and a financial supporter, joined them there. The burial urn was placed in the school office and a 24 hour candlelight vigil was maintained until March 22 when a memorial service and burial was held, attended by the entire school and several hundred of the townspeople.

We owe a special note of thanks to Mr. Choong K. Cho of Honolulu, founder and retired President of Korean Air. and to the staff of Korean Air for their kind assistance and care which made the transport of Janet's remains very smooth.

## **Buyong Elementary School**

The feeding program at the Buyong school continues with support from "The American School in Japan". This year, although no students from ASIJ were able to attend, Keiko Auckerman, sponsor of the "Philippine Relief Organization" which was started by Paul, was able to attend and delivered a check for their contribution to the feeding program. She also delivered a donation of two notebook computers.

## **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 some 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. Our two medical helpers, Ponciana Soliano and Mildred Cases order the medicines quarterly. They also administer the emergency fund that is available to residents of the community.

## **School Improvements & Crowning of the Prince and Princess**

Janet's will left a bequest of \$2,000 to the school to be used as they desired. They decided to pave an area in front of the stage used for graduations and other ceremonies and this was done in February. They also want to further extend the paved area and to this end held another PTA Prince and Princess fund raising event similar to last year's.

The Republic of the Philippines Department of Education presented a Certificate of Recognition to "Janet Zaiser & Family" for support of the school. This was dated May 22, 2009 and of course Janet could not receive it but we keep it in her memory.

**Recreation** Martha had not been able to travel to the Philippines since 1986 so this was a sort of "homecoming" for her. She got to meet again with many old friends including Nora Ross (nee Erbito) who was our first sponsored student way back at the beginning of the program. This was Kristine's and Soo's first visit to Buyong so we made sure they got to experience all of the pleasures available; visits to the Alegre Guitar Factory, to the Magellan Monument, and of course all the aquatic sports. Under the tutelage of four experienced Scuba Diving Instructors, Martha, Maki, Nora, and Romeo Erbito they explored the deep, then high in the air ParaSailing, plus a Jet-Ski ride. Romeo is a





brother of Nora and was also one of our very early students. Janet's mother, Clara Watson sponsored him through high school and two years of college. The traditional, island-hopping boat trip was held including a day of swimming, sightseeing, and a picnic on the beach.

**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](http://www.buyong.org)

Contributions – Checks may be made out to Buyong Support Program, address above.



Janet's memorial service



Carl setting the urn in the garden



Principal Mr. Tuburan and teachers



A classroom



Soo with students



Cooking the food



Presenting feeding check to Principal



Laptop computer donation



Health Center medicines



Prince and Princess competition



Some of the contestants



Carl and Martha with the winners





Carl & Soo at Alegres Guitar Factory



Our usual means of transport



But sometimes we take a tricycle cab



Chief Lapu-Lapu



Magellan



Statue of Lapu-Lapu



Our favorite restaurant



We all enjoyed dinner



Now a little grocery shopping



A walk through the village



Over the roof tops



Is this Soo's breakfast or lunch?



Romeo, Kristine, Soo, and Nora



Kristine and Soo being checked out



Romeo coaching Soo under water





The smile shows a success



Both came through O.K.



Now some speedy Jet-Ski



Soo & Kristine ParaSailing



Waaayyy up there!



A few of the gang



Boat trip



Picnic on the beach



Returning home



Water front view



Kontiki Resort



Kontiki dining room



Teacher Liliosa Soliano and Martha



Some of our young friends



A last look at Janet's & Paul's garden