

# Buyong Support Program News - 2011

**DEAR FRIENDS** -This year's News Letter is coming to you later than usual. Ernie has the task of doing the writing and he was laid up for several months with two operations, a Laminectomy spinal operation to relieve a pinched nerve, plus a Gall Bladder removal. He is up and around now, so here we go.

The annual visit to Buyong took place in March with both Carl and Martha traveling there. In spite of the triple tragedies in Japan, (earthquakes, tsunami, nuclear release), Keiko Auckerman of the American School in Japan (ASIJ), and two student members of the PRO, (Philippine Relief Organization), Toma Williams and Josh Noddin were able to make the trip. Josh's brother Zack also briefly attended.



**THE BUYONG SUPPORT PROGRAM (BSP)** began in 1982 when Martha Zaiser decided to help one high school student with her school expenses. Many friends of our family and members of the American School in Japan (ASIJ) community heard what Martha was doing, and expressed an interest in helping other needy children in the Philippines. Within two years we were sponsoring more than a dozen children in school. Since then the Buyong Sponsorship Program continued to grow in size and scope. We have sent 66 children to school and 31 to college. We have provided typhoon relief, cooperated on school projects, given medical assistance to the community and worked with the local Barangay Council on village-wide development needs. 2011 is the **30th** year of the program. We are currently sponsoring one student, Trina Cases, at St. Alphonsus Catholic School, (SACS). Other current activities include:



**Health Center** - The health center is a free community clinic specializing in prenatal and baby care. We supply large boxes of medicine to the health center with quarterly donations. Mango flavored dimetap and mango flavored cough syrup were among the favorites. Last year we purchased a Stethoscope and a Sphygmomanometer. An emergency fund was started in 2008 to offer quick help to those in need. In 2009 it enabled treatment for two patients with cancer, one with tuberculosis, and one with meningitis. In 2010 it covered two with severe hypertension, a diabetic leg amputation, and a baby with cerebral palsy.

## Feeding Program -

The school food program continues to provide a daily hot meal for all students. Since its inception in 1986 the Buyong Elementary School Food Program has dispensed more than four million meals. This food program is recognized as a model program by the Philippine government, as it is the only school in the entire Philippines providing a **free** lunch for every child in the school every day. We currently are feeding more than 830 children. We owe a debt of gratitude to the devoted PRO members at ASIJ as they have been supporting the Buyong feeding program since 1986 and are currently providing about 75% of the funds.



**Adonis Cases** - Adonis was one of our early sponsored students, (high school in 1988 and 1989). He is the brother of another former student, Mildred Cases, and the uncle of our current student, Trina Cases. Unfortunately about 18 years ago he was hit by a truck while walking on the road, and has been severely disabled ever since. However at the end of the 2010 visit, Keiko Auckerman had an inspiration. She arranged for the PRO to buy him a wheelchair. When we visited in 2011 we found that the gift of the wheelchair has changed Adonis' life. His friends take him out where he can meet and converse with other people. He is no longer so confined by his injuries. And when they take him to the seashore he found that although he cannot walk, he can swim. Keiko and the PRO are to be commended for such a wonderful gift!



**Laptop Computer Donation** - In addition to their contribution to the Feeding Program, the PRO donated three laptop computers complete with Linux and some educational games. You can see the children's intense faces in the photos when they were instructed by PRO member Josh Noddin.

**Trina** - Our currently sponsored student continues to do very well in her studies at SACS. She is sponsored jointly by the ASIJ PRO, John & Julie Zaiser, and Carl Zaiser.



**Janet's and Paul's Garden at the Buyong Elementary School** - With help from Cherry Hiyas and others, the planting at the garden was refreshed this spring. Also note the cheerful Philippine colors that were added to the area. Cherry notified us that our Buyong friends paid their respects on or about the anniversaries of their deaths; (Paul July 7, 2003 and Janet July 9, 2009). They are fondly remembered by the community for their years of support and service. May they R.I.P.



**Buyong Elementary School**

**Principal Dr. Oliver Tuburan** - In all of our 30 years of support, Dr. Tuburan, who comes from a family of educators, has been the most helpful and congenial principal. Shown here with Keiko, he came to Buyong in 2008 and has been very helpful and appreciative of our efforts to provide assistance to the school. He made the arrangements for the memorial service for Janet when her remains were interred in the school garden last year. In fact he was instrumental in getting government permission for her burial. We learned this year that he has been promoted to a District Supervisor. However as a condition of accepting the promotion, he insisted that he remain connected to the Buyong Elementary School. We are pleased that his excellence has been recognized, and are very happy that we will continue to be able to work with him.



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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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.

Now for some photos, the beautiful and not so beautiful. These will give you some idea of Buyong and Mactan Island







