

# Buyong Support Program News - 2012

**FRIENDS of the Buyong Support Program** - This is now the 31st year of the program. Carl and Martha, along with Keiko Auckerman of the American School in Japan (ASIJ), and Josh Noddin, a student member of the PRO, (Philippine Relief Organization), went there in March. This is the second year in a row that Josh has made the trip. He is to be commended for his interest and support of the activities.



One of our long term helpers, Evelyn M. Cabanisas passed away in January. She was designated as "Master Teacher", taught at Buyong Elementary School (BES) for more than forty years and helped manage both the feeding program and scholarships. She was a good personal friend and supporter of our program. We along with the Buyong community will certainly miss Evelyn and her kind support.

Another helper, who is shown right, Lilirosa B. Soliano, (Lily) also a "Master Teacher", retired this year after more than forty years. However she will continue to help manage funds for both the feeding and scholarships.



For the future the feeding program will be handled by Fevilyn Eyas (Grade 2 teacher), Lily, and Brenda Igot (Home Economics teacher).



Other changes at the school:

Dr. Oliver Tuburon, formerly Principal, has been promoted to the Department of Education and we have a new Principal, Mrs. Victoria Pasaje, shown here with Josh presenting the ASIJ feeding check. She is taking an active interest in our program and we look forward to her continuing help.

**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 Support 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. 2012 is the 31st year of the program. We are currently sponsoring one high school student, Trina Cases who continues to do very well and is beginning her third year at St. Alphonsus Catholic School, (SACS). She is sponsored jointly by the ASIJ PRO, John & Julie Zaiser, and Carl Zaiser



Other current activities include:

**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 a large portion of 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..

**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 millions of 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. BES is now adding a Kindergarten and this will increase the number of children we are feeding each day to over 950. 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 19 years ago he was hit by a truck while walking on the road, and has been severely disabled ever since. In late April he developed chickenpox and we are sorry to report that he then passed away. Chickenpox is rarely fatal, although it is generally more severe in adult males than in adult females or children. In the tropics, chickenpox often occurs in older people and may cause more serious disease, and in otherwise healthy adults tends to be more severe and may be fatal. Our sincere condolences to the entire Cases family for their loss.

**Janet's and Paul's Garden at the Buyong Elementary School** - When Paul died on July 7, 2003, and when Janet passed away on July 9, 2009, their cremated remains were interred in a garden in front of the Buyong Elementary School. The school and residents of the town hold memorial services in their honor on those anniversaries. This year we were able, with help from Cherry Hiyas and Mildred Cases, to have put in place a new plaque as shown on this photo.



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.

The Zaiser Family – 6636 Milano Ct. SE, Olympia. WA 98513 (360) 455-7420 [emzaiser@aya.yale.edu](mailto:emzaiser@aya.yale.edu)  
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.