

Buyong Sponsorship Program News 2003

The Buyong Sponsorship Program began in 1982 when Martha Zaiser decided to help Nora Erbito complete her high school education. Starting with this simple goal the BSP quickly expanded to include many more scholarships for deserving students, assistance to the Buyong Elementary School, and projects to improve the overall health and standard of living for residents of Buyong and Maribago.

Over the last twenty years the program has continued to pursue these three main goals. Despite some initial setbacks, we have had many successes, including:

Scholarships: Sixty-two students have gone to high school and/or college as a part of the program. Sixty-seven different individuals, families, school clubs or church groups have participated in this aspect of the program. Graduates of the Buyong Sponsorship Program include industrial and civil engineers, quality control inspectors for a variety of firms, health care workers, teachers, government workers, police, hotel and restaurant employees, dive shop operators, scuba instructors, and even a disc jockey.

Elementary School Projects: Contributions to the Buyong Elementary School include:

1. Roof repair after typhoon
2. New classroom desks and benches
3. Medical clinic construction
4. Garden fencing
5. Workbooks for the lower grades
6. Electricity throughout the school
7. Installation of running water in the school
8. Mimeograph machine
9. School fencing completed
10. Tree planting
11. Encyclopedias for the school library
12. Laptop computers for school use
13. Computer instruction for teachers and Grade Six students
14. Desktop publishing of school Graduation Programme

School Food Program: The school food program continues to provide a hot meal for every child in the school. Since its inception in 1986 the BES Food Program has distributed more than one and a half million meals.

Medical Program: The BSP supports education and immunization programs at the Maribago Health Center. Our own BSP Medical Program continues to provide education and medicine for Buyong residents with tuberculosis.

Village-wide Projects: Working with the Maribago Barangay Council, the BSP has helped with many community projects, such as:

1. Typhoon relief – repair and rebuilding of more than fifty houses following a major typhoon
2. The establishment of water cooperatives and the construction of communal toilets in four locations
3. The development of a trash collection system
4. Participation in the barangay “Clean and Green Campaign”
5. Assistance for the annual “International Coastal Clean-up”
6. Maribago school roof repair
7. Construction at the Datag Daycare Center
8. Gravel surfaced Buyong village beach access road
9. Laptop computers and instruction for the Maribago Barangay Council
10. Continued assistance and support for programs at the Maribago Health Center.



Of course, none of this would have been possible without the initial vision of Martha and the generous support received from more than 200 people during our more than twenty-year history. Your contributions have made a big difference in the lives of many people.

We hope you will continue to tell others about the Buyong Sponsorship Program and remember us when it is time to give. With your contributions we can further pursue our goal of helping the people of Buyong.