



Emmanuel and his mother, Marilou, about a month after his reconstructive surgery by doctors from Operation Smile, arranged by Paul Zaiser.

Leaving a Legacy

Shoko Yagi '05, co-president of the Philippine Relief Organization (2004-05) and Keiko Auckerman, on Paul Zaiser's '75 legacy.

In the spring 2004 edition of *the ambassador*, Ron Furth paid tribute to the late Paul Zaiser '75, highlighting his work with ASU's Philippine Relief Organization (PRO) and the Buyong Scholarship Program. The article mentioned Zaiser's efforts to get reconstructive surgery for Emmanuel, a child from Buyong village born with a double cleft palate. Several readers subsequently asked for an update, and we are happy to report that Emmanuel's surgery was successful. Visiting doctors from Operation Smile, a medical charity organization, operated on Emmanuel in February 2005, and he is now a healthy 3-year-old.

The work to help Emmanuel was typical of Zaiser's generosity. Among his legacies are the award-winning free lunch program for student of Buyong Elementary School, which has fed thousands of students in the past two decades, and a scholarship program that has helped dozens of Philippine students attain a college education. Among them is Ruth, who now works in an IT office designing pipe systems for a factory and also manages her own businesses, selling mobile phone accessories and ice cream.

As evidence of the respect and affection with which he is remembered, Romy (a former scholarship student) and others designed, built and are maintaining a memorial garden for Paul on the grounds of Buyong Elementary School. The plaque on the garden reads, "This Garden is dedicated to the memory of our friend, Paul Zaiser." [a](#)