

Tribute to Paul Zaiser

Paul began managing the Buyong program in 1983. In 1996 Paul left his teaching position at the American School in Japan and moved to the Philippines to expand and extend the range of activities of the sponsorship program. Paul became a part of the local community, organizing youth groups, participating in fiesta and community planning, and offering his help to local residents. His house was a community center - always open to guests. Weddings, birthdays, baptisms and funerals became a part of his daily life in the Philippines. Volunteering in the community, exploring the central Philippines, adapting to the culture and making life-long friends had a profound impact on his life. The Maribago Barangay Council made Paul an Adopted Son of Maribago.



Paul's sudden death in July 2003 was a shock to his family, his friends and to the Buyong community. Paul's remains are buried in a small memorial garden in the courtyard in front of the Buyong Elementary School. Friends, teachers and students visit the garden daily and lovingly care for the blooming flowers.

Continuing Programs 2004, 2005, 2006

The program continues after Paul's death in a more limited way – with the daily feeding at the elementary school and with quarterly donations to the health center. One scholarship student recently graduated from nursing school, and our remaining sponsored student is in her third year of university, studying to be an accountant.

In 2005 our fund provided financial assistance in remodeling the main conference room at the elementary school. The ceilings, floors, doors and windows were redone as intruders were breaking in and stealing everything. The room is now larger, safer, very attractive and intruder free.

Janet continues to make a yearly trip to Buyong to arrange for these ongoing projects. Others have visited the village in the past three years - including Zaiser family members Carl, Andrew, Julie and Erica. Keiko Auckerman, who is advisor for the Philippine Relief Organization at the American School in Japan, visited in 2005 with two high school students who came as representatives of their school organization. The PRO has been an integral part of the Buyong Program since 1986 and is dedicated to raising money to continue the school feeding program.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the initial vision of Martha Zaiser and the generous donations from more than 200 people during our twenty-five year history. We extend our sincere thanks to all those who continue to support the Buyong Sponsorship Program. You have had a positive impact on this small community and helped to improve the lives of many families.



Martha Zaiser



Paul Zaiser and friend Cherry



Janet and Ernie Zaiser



Keiko Auckerman of ASIJ

We hope you will continue to tell others about the Buyong Sponsorship Program and remember us when it is time to give. Your contributions help ensure that our educational and medical work will continue. Donations may be made by check to Janet W. Zaiser at the address below.

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Our website has been updated by Sarah Harrigan Livnat
Visit this site for more information about our program. <http://www.buyong.org>