



newsletter

Island Kids
Philippines 

2019/2

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Dear friends of Island Kids Philippines

We are happy to share with you a lot of good news in this latest edition of our newsletter. We are very proud of our fresh graduates and also of our employees, who contributed much to the formers' success. We are grateful for a rescued life and once again we want to thank all our donors and sponsors.

The start of constructions of the third girls shelter in our children's village and its rapid progress makes us confident and gives new hope to victims of trafficking, especially those who have become victims of child prostitution. We believe that the official accreditation of PIKIFI (Philippine Island Kids Int'l. Foundation, Inc.) as a non profit non governmental organization not only honors our work, but moreover opens up new perspectives to our long partnership with government institutions, especially in the area of human trafficking.

The successful completion of the school year 2018/19 for most of our beneficiaries makes us proud and thankful. During this years summer break, 114 children for one week rehearsed for a musical. The musical camp was followed by two very successful performances. A lot of work was behind the successful performances, but even more it was fun and joy.

Delight with us in the fruits of our labor, which becomes only possible with your continuous support!

■ Closing Ceremonies 2019

545 children and youths successfully completed their pre-school, kindergarten, elementary school year, secondary school year or university year. Another 100 will have to repeat their school year.

- 464 children finished their school year at our Zion Community Learning Center (kindergarten up to 6th grade). After the summer break, 57 of our teens moved up to a public junior high school for their grades 7-9.
- 112 high school students completed their school year. Of those, 25 junior high school graduates moved up to senior high school. Four senior high students are facing new challenges.
- For 7 students, a university academic year came to an end.
- 26 students successfully completed the ALS (Alternative Learning System).
- 12 teenage mothers regularly visited their special class for teen mothers, which had opened its doors last January 2019.



Rosalinda Ragmac, over the past years repeatedly awarded for her most outstanding achievements, finished her 10th school year with 94/100 points as the best of more than a thousand students of the Canitoan National High School. Despite chickenpox, she managed to give a very motivational speech during the graduation ceremonies and even performed a song.

Rica Mae Quidlat was also awarded for her very good performances in the 10th grade. Her mother Rose was one of our first students in the Alternative Learning System (ALS). She completed ALS back in 2009 and has since then been working as a community worker in our Medical Assistance Team (PIKIFI Health Programme).

Armilyn Gawahan on January 22, 2019, successfully completed her Bachelor Degree in secondary education, major in general science. She is now preparing for her national licensure exam for professional teachers, which is held once a year only.

Danica Paid on April 12, 2019, successfully completed her Bachelor Degree in secondary education, major in English. She too is preparing for her licensure examination.

Arnie Vallejos on March 28, 2019, successfully graduated from senior high school. He now continues his studies at the Liceo De Cagayan University (Bachelor of Physical Education). The 22-year-old gifted dancer had dropped out from school in grade 2 to take care of his sister's children. He later returned to school for two years. After his father was shot dead, Arnie worked as a waste picker until he became a beneficiary of PIKIFI. Since the age of 13 he lived in our Shelter Home and was able to attend school regularly.

Nathaniel Yagonia, in 2018 a graduate of the technical-vocational course in fisheries with specialization in fish processing technologies, was lucky to find employment in an international company.

Considering the personal background and the difficult living conditions of our beneficiaries, regular school attendance appears to be a far greater challenge to them compared to other children. Hence, we are all the more proud of their great commitment and we continue to work hard to ensure that the least privileged and least empowered children will be able to achieve the same. We are aware of the fact, that the hopes and dreams of the children and young people we care for would not have been realistic without the support of our donors. Therefore, dear most valuable donor, we want to express our sincere gratitude to you!

■ Official recognition of PIKIFI as an NGO

The accreditation of PIKIFI by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) last November 2018 set two milestones. The official accreditation of a non-governmental social welfare organization is the last step after its registration and licensing. At the same time it is the biggest hurdle in the whole recognition process of an NGO: all areas of the organization are thoroughly examined and must meet the high standards set by DSWD. For our work in the Children's Village (Residential Based Programs and Services) we received Level 1 accreditation. For our work in the waste picker community (Community Based Programs and Services) we received Level 2. This great success became possible especially because of the hard work of our social workers and our Executive Directress, Virgelia Demata-Vicare.

The official Accreditation not only honors our more than a decade long work among the urban poor, but it also opens new doors within our most important partnership with government agencies. As our next step, we are planning to work out our tax exemption within the Philippines. Within Switzerland and Germany we are already tax exempted, which allows our donors to deduct their donations from their taxes. Although PIKIFI as a charitable foundation never had to pay taxes, we still lack the needed tax exemption that would allow our Filipino donors to deduct their donations from their taxes. We hope that after processing our tax exemption, Filipinos will be more eager to support our projects financially.

■ Children's Village Phase 2

On March 25, 2019, the constructions of the third and largest girls' house for our Children's Village began. Once finished, it will accommodate 15 victims of human trafficking. The building is due to be finished by the end of July this year.

If ever the necessary funds are put together, we will then start the constructions of our two-story Child Development Center. It will serve as a Socio-Therapeutically Prevention and Intervention Center with a reception, work spaces for the social workers and the administration, therapy and counseling rooms, a medical room, a storage room, a kitchen, a meeting and conference room, two bed rooms including a common area with bath and kitchen for volunteers and visitors and the directress and the presidents offices. Adjacent to the building, a garage for our school buses is to be built as well.

After the completion of these buildings and thus the completion of the project „Children's Village“ we might not further increase our work in Cagayan de Oro City. Due to the increasing number of children and youths we are caring for the budget needed for our operations had increased every year ever since the beginning of



our work in CDO. In addition, ever-larger classes are graduating from our Learning Centers and are moving up to public junior- and senior high schools. Every year more of our graduates are enrolled in a college or university. This basically very positive development is also reflected in rising costs.

Nevertheless, we want to continue to be confident that through the continuous support of our donors and sponsors we will be capable to face the financial challenges ahead of us. At the same time, we are looking for ways to invest in a future that will be less dependent on donations. To achieve this goal, we want to even more intensify our partnership with government agencies such as the Department of Education and the Department of Social Welfare and Development while at the same time generate income through commercial activities (sewing and dressmaking, welding, bakery, farming).

■ Paralegal Skills Training

VFrom March 26-28, 2019, a „Paralegal Skills Training“ sponsored by the European Union took place in Manila. The training was attended by Virgelia Demata-Vicare and Thomas Kellenberger. Paralegal organizations for example are providing legal assistance to victims of human trafficking or more generally to victims of human rights violations (including violations by the state).



The training was very informative and helpful. Since our third girls' home is explicitly intended for victims of human trafficking, more specifically child prostitution, we are grateful for all the partnerships and support in this area.

■ Musical „Ang apat kong kaibigan“ (My four friends)

114 children and youths joined the one-week ADO-NIA-musical-camp in our schoolyard. During the camp held within summer break they rehearsed a musical under the lead guidance of 14 leaders from Adonia Philippines/Precious Impact Pilipinas and with the help of 26 employees of PIKIFI.

After Zumba, Bible lessons and early breakfast, the campers started with their practice in groups: they learned songs (choir and solo) and rehearsed theatre scenes and choreography (dancing, sign language). However, there was also some time for basketball, volleyball and badminton. Meanwhile in the kitchen, our volunteer mothers were cooking 24 hours a day. In addition to breakfast, lunch and dinner, the cooks also prepared delicious snacks for more than 150 people. After dinner and following the evening program, the participants shared

within their groups their experiences during the day. On the fourth day already songs and dances were rehearsed on or in front of the stage. Wow, that looked great!



On day six (May 6), our Landfill Community Learning Center hosted the first performance of the biblical story of the paralyzed man and his four friends. Some children were obviously nervous, but everyone was happy to show their talents and result after one week of rehearsal. The first performance of the musical thus became a great success.

On May 7, the musical was performed for a second time at the SM City Uptown shopping center. After national and Cagayan de Oro anthems and speeches of special guests, all the attention was on the children's show. They had improved again and performed magnificently. The audiences were thrilled!

As a reward, there was a dinner in the mall for everyone. Later on the children surprised their leaders with a song to thank them for everything.

The following day it was time to say goodbye. Each child received an award, photos, a pin and a Self-made gift from his/her group leader. After taking a last snack together, the camp was officially concluded. The emotions among the children, our employees and also the mem-

bers of the Adonia team went high. There were even tears running. Everyone is now hoping for a reunion with their new friends next year!

(story by our volunteer Susanne Stricker)

For PIKIFI this camp was a great experience. We are very grateful and we thank Adonia Philippines/Precious Impact Pilipinas from the bottom of our hearts. The children were highly motivated, even those who continually challenge us or even run away. All the participants, from the children to the employees, the administration, logistics, kitchen and maintenance to the executives, were very enthusiastic. The latter, in particular, also got many new impulses for their work.

Find out more about Adonia's work in the Philippines

www.adonia.ch/spenden/patenschaften



■ Destinies

How much is a human life worth?

One-year-old Zealance in an unobserved moment fell into the river. When he was finally rescued, his lungs were filled with water and he was facing death. He was immediately taken to the public hospital, where there was no place available in the intensive care unit. Desperately, his parents (former beneficiaries of PIKIFI) asked us for help.

Once again, we were confronted with the difficult question of whether the budgeted money from the 'Emergency Medical Aid Fund' should be spent to save a single child. We again decided that a human life remains priceless and helped Zealance. Almost one month later he was eventually discharged from the hospital in good condition. The fact that he had been transferred to the intensive care unit of a private hospital, where he had been connected to a mechanical ventilator for almost one month, saved his life. Since Zealance is still very young, his brain should be able to compensate for the function of the cells destroyed due to the lack of oxygen. At the moment, he does not appear to have suffered any lasting damage.

Although we were able to generate contributions from local offices and politicians (around CHF 1,500) as well as from the health insurance company (approximately CHF 2,000), the majority of the high hospital costs had to be carried by Island Kids (around CHF 7,000). This has used up our emergency medical fund. If you would like to help us replenish it, here are our account details:

Bankverbindung Schweiz
Berner Kantonalbank, 3001 Bern
Zugunsten von:
Island Kids Philippines,
Vorholzstrasse 12, 3800 Unterseen
IBAN: CH84 0079 0042 4190 1489 2
PC BEKB: 30-106-9
Vermerk: Medical

Bankverbindung Deutschland
Begünstigter: Island Kids Philippines Deutschland e.V.
IBAN: DE55 1605 0000 1000 9063 84
BIC: WELADED1PMB
Vermerk: Medical

By supporting us, you help us to save lives.

Company details



For Switzerland:

Island Kids Philippines
c/o Ruth Kellenberger
Vorholzstrasse 12
CH-3800 Unterseen

info@islandkids.ch
newsletter@islandkids.ch

Donations account Switzerland:

Berner Kantonalbank, 3001 Bern
IBAN CH84 0079 0042 4190 1489 2



For Germany:

Island Kids Philippines
Deutschland e.V.
c/o Familie Erzinger
Gartenstraße 36
D-14548 Schwielowsee

deutschland@islandkids.ch

Donations account Germany:

IBAN: DE55 1605 0000 1000 9063 84
BIC: WELADED1PMB

Pictures:
Island Kids
Fotolia.com

Compilation German: Christina Kurzen
Layout/graphic: René Müller

Actual information you'll find as well

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www.islandkids.ch

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