



newsletter

Island Kids
Philippines 

2019/3

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Dear Friends of Island Kids Philippines

Environmental protection should concern us all – including organizations such as PIKIFI (Philippine Island Kids Int'l. Foundation, Inc.). To assert its advocacy for a clean environment, PIKIFI got involved in the campaign „Limpyo Dagat“ (free the sea from garbage).

A good example for how important and even lifesaving a clean environment is can be seen in the fight against the dangerous tiger mosquitoes. These tiny insects are responsible for the dengue epidemic that currently raging in the Philippines.

Standing on top of Paminahawa Ridge, the children and youths from our Children's Village were overlooking the breathtaking landscape of their homeland and appreciated the beauty of its nature. It was our volunteer from Switzerland who organized the two days hiking adventure. In preparation for it, she had raised funds from family members and friends.

In a few weeks already, another 15 girls in need will be able to move into their newly constructed and safe home in our children's village.

We are glad that there is an increasing interest of childbearing teens to join our newly opened class for teenage mothers. For the first time in its history, PIKIFI supports more than 700 student beneficiaries at the same time.

All of this has become possible with your continuous support and prayers - thank you very much! We hope you will enjoy reading and we thank you for your interest in our work.

■ National Dengue Epidemic also affects PIKIFI

Currently, an officially declared dengue epidemic is raging in the Philippines. The tropical disease is affecting numerous children, also children from communities supported by PIKIFI. Alone the waste picker community in Landfill recorded five critical cases of dengue fever. All five children were admitted in the intensive care unit of the provincial hospital. Last August 20, 11-year-old Ajay Oliveros, the younger brother of a PIKIFI student, lost his life because of the disease.

Due to the precarious situation, cleaning operations are now taking place all over the city in order to stop the rapid multiplication of the dangerous tiger mosquito. The tiger mosquito breeds in stagnant, clean water, e.g. the inside of tires, in open plastic containers, etc. Therefore, the removal of such objects has the highest priority.

PIKIFI plays a leading role in combating the mosquitos in the landfill community. Its cleanup activities started last August 21, following a short dengue prevention seminar.



Cleaning operations are taking place all over the city

According to the Department of Health, in the period from January to July 2019, a staggering 146,062 people were diagnosed with the tropical disease in the Philippines alone. This is an increase of 98% compared to the same period last year. Already 622 people died of the disease, most of them children below the age of ten. Dengue fever continues to demand victims also among children supported by PIKIFI. The disease can lead to internal bleedings resulting in organ failure and eventually the loss of life.

■ Free the sea from garbage

May was celebrated in Cagayan de Oro (CdO) as „the month of the ocean“. Under the theme „Freeing the Sea of Garbage“, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources called for a Coastal Cleanup Competition, the „CDO Limpyo Dagat Contest“ (CDO Clean the Sea Competition).



Like the other contestants, PIKIFI from June 14 to September 21 has undertaken periodical cleaning operations. Our allocated section was along the seashore in front of a poor settlement in the port area of the city. The children and our staff gathered all kinds of garbage, including diapers, tires, electronic wastes and even corpses of deceased animals. The garbage gathered was weighed and recorded. Before and after photos documented the work (and success). At the end of September, three winners will be announced. This commitment is yet another chance to raise awareness among our children and youths about their res-

possibility for our environment. On the one hand, their meaningful work keeps the environment they are living in cleaner, but on the other hand it also helps to protect the flora and fauna endangered by vast amounts of waste dropped into the sea.

■ Hike 1st/2nd June 2019

Bathing at the Mangima Spring Resort, climbing Paminahawa Ridge, talking about plans for the future and personal dreams, sleeping in a tent - an experience that will certainly continue to have a lasting effect on the young people from the Children's Village. It was made possible thanks to funds raised by our volunteer Susanne in her circle of friends and relatives. But let us listen to the stories shared by our teenagers in their own words:

- *I'm very happy to be part of that activity climbing in the mountain. It was fun and enjoy experiencing climbing the mountain. Thank you!*
- *This is my first time so i 'm excited to walk the moun-tains and I'm so tired but so happy because of the climb.*
- *I like hiking with my friends and I am enjoying the beauty of silence and the sound or nature and listening to the rhythm of my breath.*
- *It was such a long journey to the mountain and I was so very happy. It was my wish to hike at the mountain in Panimahawa and have a nice view in the world. Thank you very much my Sponsors to give a very big Gift in my life forever.*

Many thanks to all the people who made this adventure in the mountains possible!



PIKIFI supports families in Balubal

Following the closure of the open dumpsite in Cagayan de Oro in April 2017, the government offered twelve of the landfill-families who are supported by PIKIFI a housing unit in the relocation site of Balubal. Since back then these families are living there and 19 of our child beneficiaries are going to school there. They receive school supplies and assistance during our regular on-site visits in Balubal.



In Balubal, there is hardly any work to find and thus the former waste pickers have no regular income. However, they have plans, e.g. to sell vegetables and fruits in the market or to open a small store together. It is important that they tackle their future together as independently as possible. However, PIKIFI is still committed to support the families through the scholarships of their children as well as capability building of the parents.

Third girls' shelter just about to be finished

We expect the construction of the third and largest girls' shelter in our children's village to be completed by the beginning of October. We are very thankful that in this sub-project, both the construction expenses and the construction timeline are within the planned framework. With the new girls' shelter, another 15 needy girls will



soon find a safe home.

There is still a lack of funding for the completion of the overall project „Children's Village“. However, we are confident that we will be able to begin with the imminent construction of our Child Development Center (a Socio-Therapeutic-Prevention and Intervention-Center) in due time. Therefore, we hope for the commitments of our potential donors for the project to be completed within next year. At this point, we sincerely thank all donors for their most valuable support of the project.



■ Capability building as an important component of our development aid

Over the past months, PIKIFI held the following workshop-seminars:

- Optimization of internal processes
- Capability building of our staff:

Internal Houseparent seminar; *the participants had to study their individual topics and prepare themselves to present these to the group.*

Workshop for teachers and supervisors on metacognitive reading strategies *to improve the reading skills of their pupils.*

- Youth Seminar entitled „YOUTH Participation in Peace-building and Good Governance“ and training workshops. Experts explained to our young people how democratic processes work and how they can make an important contribution to local affairs.



Workshop „Reading-skills“

Capability building for our employees, our young volunteers and also for external partners invited by PIKIFI has become increasingly important over the past few years. The sharing of knowledge and experience also testifies to the increasing professionalism of PIKIFI and to the fact that we have become an important partner for local authorities and municipal social services.

■ Record student numbers

Since the beginning of the new school year last June, PIKIFI for the first time supports more than 700 children and youths at the same time.

There has been a big increase of student beneficiaries coming from Kalaanan, a relocation site located about midway between our Zion Community Learning Center and the old Landfill Community Learning Center. Many of the poorest families from the slums along the Cagayan River, which repeatedly threatened them with flooding, were forcibly relocated here. These relocations became necessary, after tropical storm Sendong (Washi) in 2011 had claimed more than 1,500 lives in Cagayan de Oro City alone. Most of the victims came from these settlements, located along the riverbank. Most relocation areas were constructed through foreign aid. Kalaanan is the largest resettlement in the city. Many street children who do not go to school and often get involved in juvenile delinquency or prostitution can be found here. Also our ALS program for teenage mothers, introduced last February 2019, after an initial decline eventually brought a new growth in student numbers.



ALS-program for teenage mothers

■ IKP Charity concerts and other events this November/December

Thomas Kellenberger will be in Switzerland and Germany from mid-November to mid-December 2019 to share about our work in the Philippines. Aside from already planned events, he also gladly accepts invitations from interested groups who want to learn more about our projects and advocacies.

The following events are already planned and will take place in the evenings of the announced dates. Detailed information on event times and locations will follow on our Facebook page, webpage and in the next newsletter or separately via personal email to our newsletter recipients.

15./16. November, Friedrichshafen (D)

Evenings in the living room of Lisa and Mathias Düerkop with IKP presentation and open Q & A session

29. November, Steffisburg

Charity concert with the children's choir of the elementary school of Unterseen

7. Dezember, Bern

Info evening with IKP presentation and open Q & A session for our donors

13. Dezember, Spiez / 14. Dezember, Erlach

15. Dezember, Signau

Benefit concert with the largest brass septet in the world [DIE GENDARMEN](#) and the a capella trio [QUATTRO SCHATZJONI](#)

We are looking forward to welcome you to one or more of these events.



Die Gendarmen

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

www.islandkids.de
www.islandkids.ch

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