



newsletter

Island Kids
Philippines 

2023/4

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Dear Friends of Island Kids Philippines

We are very pleased to report that Thomas Kellenberger is finally getting better. He is confident that he will be able to come to Switzerland at the beginning of December. In due time we shall inform you of events where Thomas would like to talk about his long trip, his plans and further objectives of PIKIFI's work.

There is other good news of our work in Cagayan de Oro: Start of the school year, a competition, a new Swiss stamp and much more.

In these last weeks of the year 2023 we wish you all the best for the coming year. With the following words of Maggie Gobran we would like to motivate you to continue your support of other people nearby and far away. Each one of us has the possibility to change this world in a better place, if only in a small way. Together a lot can be achieved!

"At the beginning I went to the poor to help them to have a better life. Today I know they help me to become a better person." (Maggie Gobran)

We wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year full of confidence and hope for peaceful, positive changes
Thomas Kellenberger, PIKIFI, IKP Switzerland and IKP Germany

■ Good and Positive News

Since a few weeks Thomas Kellenberger has not experienced any more fatigue episodes. He is again working 100% and has started to resume some light sports activities. "This gift of a second life is pure joy and I hope to stay in good health. In my current state I will again be able to organize events", he told the board members of IKP.

Moreover, Thomas has a specially nice plan: On 9th September he went with the children of the Children's Village and the care workers on a small hiking trip. Among them was also the long-time and devoted carer and qualified High School teacher Rachel Gose. To the surprise of everybody, Thomas all of a sudden fell on his knees in front of Rachel and asked the big question: "Do you want to become my wife?" To the cheers of the children, Rachel said "Yes".

Rachel has been working for PIKIFI for many years. During the months of Thomas' long trip, the love between the two started to grow and deepen. Towards the end, Rachel accompanied Thomas for a week, and when his health deteriorated after his arrival she looked after him and encouraged him, in addition to her work.

■ School Year 2023/24

On 29th August classes have started again. The week before was dominated by "Brigada Eskwela", a period where everything within and around the schoolhouses gets cleaned and prepared. Teachers, children, parents – everybody joins in. It is a big social task carried out with much enthusiasm.

Up till now, our 450 school children from the basic levels kindergarten to 6th form had to have their lunch in stages. In October/November, a big covered eating area is being built behind the schoolhouse. In future, the children will be able to take their meals together at the same time. A dedicated donation has enabled this building project.

■ International Teachers' Day

On 5th October, the International Teachers' Day is also celebrated in the Philippines. As a thank you, Thomas Kellenberger and Virgelia Demata invited all the teachers of our school for a lunch and then to the swimming pool. In their speeches, they acknowledged the important and formative contribution of the men and women often working extra hours for the care, upbringing and education of the children supported by us from nursery school to 6th form. Games, dances, music, songs and a luscious buffet were part of the cheerful celebration.



The PIKIFI Teachers.

■ International No Prostitution Day

The International “No Prostitution Day” was celebrated in Cagayan de Oro with several events.

A symposium for the prevention of human trafficking took place in the Cronin Hall of the Archdiocese under the direction of the City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD) and in partnership with PIKIFI, World Vision and Balaod Mindanaw (NGO for legal assistance/victimaid).

Invited were all the owners of transient hotels, nightclubs, massage salons in CdO. They were informed of the widespread prostitution in the city, especially of the sexual exploitation of underage children and its disastrous consequences. The organizers appealed to them to adhere to the law and to deny access to underage children without parental supervision. Although prostitution is illegal in the Philippines, human trafficking is widespread. Especially alarming is the prostitution of children which is all too

to lectures on sexually transmitted diseases, on their rights as children, on human trafficking and on existing aid programs of the city and of private aid organizations. In between lectures there were games, teambuilding activities and a common lunch. Former underage prostitutes talked afterwards how they succeeded in escaping prostitution. In the end each girl received a red rose, a sticker with the slogan „Ampingi imong Pakabililhon, Yabe kana sa imong Kaugmaon“ (take care of your precious self, you hold the key for your future). In addition they were given a bag with sanitary articles and food so they did not have to walk the streets that day. Forming a circle and together singing the song „If We Hold On Together“ by Diana Ross, the successful event came to an end.



Streetwork.

obvious in the streets of CdO. The numerous transient hotels in the city play a key role in it. Often underage children are admitted in company of their suitors, although this is illegal and can lead to the closure of the hotel. Many suitors demand sexual intercourse without condom which often leads to venereal diseases.

Simultaneous activities for underage victims of prostitution took place in the „[Skatepark for Jesus](#)“ organized and coordinated by PIKIFI, the NGOs „Diri Husi“, „Tisaka“ and „[Streetlight](#)“ and by the Police Station 1. After a prayer in the morning, the underage children listened



Underage children listened to lectures on sexually transmitted diseases.

Most participants were members of the gang TBS 13 (True Brown Style 13) – a group of underage children living in the streets, often in conflict with the law and very vulnerable to human trafficking. In CdO, TBS 13 counts approximately 180 members. Many of the young girls of the gang are active in prostitution. In the evening, a convoy of police, CSWD, Balaod Mindanaw, Tisaka, Streetlight and PIKIFI visited all those transient hotels, nightclubs and salons whose owners have not turned up to the symposium. Numerous infringements of the law were detected and charges filed. A team of PIKIFI stuck bills for prevention of human trafficking on the entrances of these establishments. Afterwards, employees of PIKIFI and Streetlight went along the streets of the red light district distributing roses, sanitary articles and food parcels among the prostitutes. Some women shed tears, and after having received the

food parcels went home. Our teams only encountered two underage girls this evening. They also cried and went home after having received the food parcels.

The “No Prostitution Day” is over, the fight against prostitution continues, because no human being should be sold.

■ Completion of the Projects Safer Kids and BRC

That children have rights seems to be obvious to us. In the Philippines, however, this is a continuing topic in schools or at events. On 31st July and 1st August 2023, a workshop took place for representatives of the area Canitoan working with children, in the context of “Save the Children”. Topics were the rights of children, analyzing the situation in the area and planning how to improve the situation.

Thereby the project „Safer Kids“ has now been completed. In future, the role of PIKIFI will be monitoring the local authorities. After being trained by us, they will continue the project independently.

Equally, the project BRC (Building Resilient Communities) which has been implemented in various selected Barangayas (districts) will be finished within the coming weeks. Again PIKIFI will take on the monitoring. PIKIFI will now apply the acquired know how in the community of the former waste collectors in Landfill.



Workshop participants.

■ Drawing Competition of the Swiss Embassy

The Swiss Embassy has invited the schoolchildren of PIKIFI to a creative Christmas project: Under the slogan „right to education“, pupils of the 1st to 6th form were drawing and painting. On the basis of criteria like topic, creativity, originality and wow factor, the best three artworks were selected and awarded with prizes (school material). The winning picture will decorate the Christmas card of the Embassy this year.

Guided by Leah Remolado, art teacher, the children set upon their task.



No one too small to be an artist.

■ Concert of the „Die Gendarmen“ and „Quattro Schtatzjoni“

We are very pleased that the „[Die Gendarmen](#)“ and „[Quattro Schtatzjoni](#)“ will support the work of IKP/PIKIFI again with advent concerts. We invite you to these high quality and merry concerts.

DIE GENDARMEN BRASS meets VOCALS & Quattro Schtatzjoni

G

BENEFIZKONZERTE

Eintritt frei / Kollekte zu Gunsten Island Kids Philippines

Fr.	08.12.23	20:00 Uhr	Ref. Kirche Spiez
Sa.	09.12.23	20:00 Uhr	Ref. Kirche Ins
So.	10.12.23	16:00 Uhr	Ref. Kirche Signau

8 musicians - one more handsome than the other. They play wherever they are wanted - or just turn up! Their repertoire is often drum-like, sometimes trombone-like, even trumpet-like or dreamy bass-like ... yet not always serious! - With "Blue Lights" on stage; these are «[Die Gendarmen](#)».

■ IKP-Shop

Already, for the 7th time a new A-Post stamp of IKP is issued in Switzerland. Because of the increase in price of Swiss Post (new CHF 1.20), orders for this motif can only be printed and delivered from 1.1.2024. Please make sure while ordering to indicate clearly which motif you want.

On the B-Post stamp the PIKIFI logo remains.



You will find the flyer with the order form enclosed. Further information is available under projekt@islandkids.ch or phone Tel. +41 (0)31 992 29 37

■ Fates

On 15th August, after agonizing labor, the twelve-year-old M. delivered her first son. For years she has been raped by her father and was now giving birth to his child. M. is now living in the Children's Village where she is safe from him. Currently her father is on the run. If M. decides to press charges against her father, PIKIFI will assist her during the trial.

The mentally impaired B. is pregnant after having been raped, yet she does not know who is the offender. A member of our team accompanied her to a medical check-up including a HIV test. She also submitted a charge against a person unknown.

L. who was looked after by Esther Bühlmann in the context of the project „Streetlight“, contracted tuberculosis.

Together with PIKIFI a therapy could be organized for her in order to treat the diseased areas in her stomach. L. recovered quickly and gained weight enabling her to lead a cheerful and active life again.

■ We are mourning

Sad though, was the progression of the disease for E. who also contracted tuberculosis. E. quit school and was more living in the streets than with his father, and sniffing glue. When he fell ill, his father neither took him to the doctor nor to the hospital. He was afraid of the hospital because his wife died of tuberculosis in hospital in 2021. When PIKIFI became aware of the state of E. it was unfortunately too late. We could not do anything for him anymore. E. died at the age of 14 from tuberculosis, which basically can be cured. In the Philippines, tuberculosis is still one of the most frequent cause of death due to more and more multiresistant bacteria playing a role.



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Actual information you'll find as well
www.islandkids.de
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