



newsletter

Island Kids
Philippines 

2025/2

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Dear Friends of Island Kids Philippines

The latest news from our two foundations PIKIFI (Philippine Island Kids Int'l. Foundation, Inc.) and BARLIF (Bata-Alima Regenerative Living Int'l. Foundation, Inc.) speak of moving successes and tireless commitment.

Highest achievements in sport by young talents, valuable experiences at scout meetings and positive developments at the PIKIFI school show the various involvements.

Especially the end of term celebration is an important milestone not only for the children and young people, but also for us. The achievements of the educational goals are proof of the effect of your support!

The successful completion of the "Kuya Thom" project paves the way for the Bata Alima project leading us into the future. The inauguration ceremony and first progress on the farm, supported by a spirit of community and innovative ideas, are promising.

All these events show: Together we can achieve great things and give hope. Your support is crucial – thank you so much!

■ Graduations

In April, the 2024/2024 school year ended. All successful students fill us with pride and encourage us in our activity, because they are all the results of our decades of work. What was hardly more than an unattainable dream in 2007 at the beginning of our work in Cagayan de Oro, has become a desirable goal: a solid education with the prospect of a good job enabling them and their families to escape the cycle of poverty.

We are pleased and grateful for the successful graduation of:

- 48 students after 6th grade, who will continue their education at a public High School with our support
- 25 students from the Junior High School (10th grade)
- 32 Senior High School students (12th grade) who will be able to go to college or university
- 25 students in their academic year at university

One of the students was featured in the **documentary** **“Mitenand”** on **Swiss TV** in 2008. At the time, Jenly was in 6th grade with us and dreamt to become a medical doctor. Whether the dream has come true, was revealed in “Mitenand” of 25th May 2025.

■ Change of Bank

To give our children and young people hope and opportunity is only possible thanks to your support. Thank you very much! In this context, we would like to inform you that IKP Switzerland has changed bank. The Raiffeisenbank charges no further fees except a small flat-rate fee. The more and quicker our donors make their payments via this new account (with the note donations or sponsorships), the more expenses we will avoid. Thank you for your support in this respect.

Payment to:

Raiffeisenbank Jungfrau, Untere Bönigstrasse 3,
3800 Interlaken

In favor of:

Island Kids Philippines (IKP), Susegg, Waldeggstrasse
175, 3803 Beatenberg

IBAN: CH03 8080 8009 4649 4887 4

IID (BC-Nr.): 80808

SWIFT-BIC: RAIFCH22



donations



sponsorships

■ Success in Sport

On 15th February, the **Paragames** took place in Cagayan de Oro (CdO). Greg John Magabilin, a student of SpEd-class (Special Education) at PIKIFI School, achieved the remarkable 6th place in the running event. We are incredibly proud of his achievement!

Also on 15th February, Jenny Rose Dulapo qualified in **table tennis doubles** for the regional competitions in Misamis Occidental. We were so happy for her! Although she gave her best, she unfortunately dropped out before the final. Nevertheless, she is very determined and continues to train for her next competition. We wish Jenny Rose good luck and all the best!



Jenny Rose.

■ Fight Against Human Trafficking

A focus of PIKIFI remains the care of children who became victims of abuse. Part of it also includes legal support with the aim of restorative justice* so that they can receive justice and come to terms with the consequences of what they have experienced. It is a significant success for PIKIFI to have been admitted into the newly founded Council of Coordination for Justice Sector "Special Justice Zone for OSAEC of the Supreme Court of the Republic of the Philippines". This Council serves as another platform for the voices of the children and the cries of the poor to be heard. Their call for

justice is also reflected in the current 36 ongoing cases of victims supported by PIKIFI, which deal with human trafficking, rape, sexual harassment, assault and OS-AEC (Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children).

** Restorative justice is aiming at bringing together all those affected by a crime, to discuss the harm and needs that have resulted, and to define the restorative measures needed to enable a comprehensive healing process.*

■ Challenges for the Health Service

One of the patients causing us great concern is John Noriel in 4th grade. A few days ago, the boy was admitted to hospital because of breathing problems and continuous dizziness. He has a **rheumatic heart**, which also has a **hole** in it. At the moment, John Noriel is treated with medication, but he needs heart surgery. As the necessary equipment at the public provincial hospital in Cagayan de Oro has broken down, surgery would only be possible in the private hospital, which is too expensive for PIKIFI. Our team is now looking for possibilities in public hospitals in Manila or Davao.

Extremely worrying and challenging is the accumulation of cases of **tuberculosis meningitis** among current and former PIKIFI students. This rare but very dangerous form of tuberculosis (TB) attacks the central nervous system. The treatment is complex and often lengthy. The prognosis depends on an early diagnosis and an efficient therapy.

Following the tragic death of 17-year-old Angel Mae (Newsletter 2025_1), all PIKIFI students who had regular contact with Angel Mae were tested for TB. During this process, another young girl was diagnosed with early-stage TB meningitis. It was only thanks to this early diagnosis and an immediate hospitalization with drug treatment, that worse consequences or even death could be prevented. The girl had previously complained about headaches and was often tired. But as such symptoms can have numerous causes, nobody would immediately have suspected TB meningitis.

Another TB meningitis patient suffered a stroke in 2024 and survived with severe brain damage. The 11-year-old boy is able to move around independently and can communicate in a restricted way, but he needs physiotherapy and speech therapy and will be reliant on care for the rest of his life.

The treatment of **HIV/AIDS** requires not only medical measures (antiretroviral therapies), but also social and psychological support. Currently, PIKIFI is much concerned with the topic of HIV/AIDS, as we support several affected people. Quite often AIDS is connected to tuberculosis. In two instances, HIV/AIDS being diagnosed too late out of fear of being stigmatized, led to TB meningitis. Possibly through a weakened immune system, the blood barrier in the brain can fail and lead to this complication.

When one day three men wanted to shoot monkeys on the grounds of the Bata Alima Farm, we stopped them and strongly advised them to refrain from this illegal hunt. One of the men was on crutches. After an accident seven years ago, the 34-year-old father of four children had his right leg amputated above the knee. We are now helping him to get a **prosthetic leg** through PIKIFI. Motivated, he promised never to hunt/eat monkeys again.

■ Bata Alima Celebrates its Foundation

On 14th February, the official ceremony of the foundation and inauguration of BARLIF ([Bata Alima](#) Regenerative Living Int'l. Foundation, Inc.) took place. The preparations were challenging as neither electricity nor enough seats for the guests were available. Thanks to the big support of many helpers, the ceremony was a success. It started with a traditional ritual of members from the local Higaonon Tribe and traditional tribal music was performed by artists from the related Talaandig Tribe. The artists gave us emotional moments by establishing a special connection to the children through their moving songs. Afterwards, [Bata Alima](#) presented its vision and mission. This was followed by inspiring words from Sir Henry Binahon, who has been fulfilling for decades a similar vision with his Binahon Agroforestry Farm. Other potential future partners honoured us with their presence, and almost all the children, young people and staff of the PIKIFI Children's Village were able to attend.

Cooperation with local and regional partners is of great importance for both PIKIFI and Bata Alima. Prospective agronomists from the USTP (University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines) will soon be doing their internship on the farm. Equally, future engineers and psychology students from Xavier University (one of the oldest universities in Mindanao) are working on projects together with PIKIFI and Bata Alima under the motto "When purpose and passion meet".

A donor gave us a petrol-powered garden shredder and equipment for obtaining coconut oil.





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In the meantime, work on the farm is progressing. Three houses, a composting toilet and a greenhouse have been built. Together with volunteers and children from the recycling community, garden beds and fields have been created and various vegetables, such as ampalaya, beans, pumpkins, gherkins and okra have been planted, as well as banana, coconut, durian, lanzones and Arabica coffee trees. Animals also populate the farm: two dogs, 34 chickens, 7 ducks, water buffalo Frank and the pregnant cow Blessy for which we have planted Madre de Auga plants.

There is a lot to do on the farm! We look forward to receiving innovative ideas and any kind of active support. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at volunteer@islandkids.ch.

■ Presentations

Although Thomas Kellenberger is currently in the Philippines, he was able to give a telephone interview in the context of “Die [Fünfte Schweiz](#)” on **Radio SRF1**.

This year, he will again be giving multimedia presentations about his long hike back from Switzerland to the Philippines.

As a new topic, he will also be pleased to talk about the visions, goals and challenges of the Bata Alima Farm. Anyone who would like to organize such an event, please contact info@islandkids.ch to arrange a date.



■ Creative Ideas for Support

The "Restaurant Strandbad Hünenberg" on the Lake of Zug offers Clarytea, the matcha iced tea made by young entrepreneurs from Zug. This healthy refreshing drink can boost concentration and protect the body from oxidative stress, thanks to antioxidants and caffeine in matcha. For every bottle sold, 2 Swiss Franks will be donated to Island Kids Philippines. We are very pleased about this initiative and would like to thank the people responsible.



GESUNDEN MATCHA-TEE TRINKEN & GUTES TUN



Matcha-Eistee made in Zug

In 16 days around the world" has been the motto of the children's week of the **Church Community Heiliggeist and Münster in Bürenpark in Bern** for three years. This year, the children traveled to the southeast of Switzerland from 14th to 17th April. IKP was given the wonderful opportunity to introduce the young participants (and the guides) to the Philippines involving all their senses. In charge was our president Gabi Gafner, a competent and imaginative retired teacher. Activities like playing, dancing, making music, doing craft projects, telling stories, sports, singing, eating and drinking took place. We are very pleased to have received the entire offering on the final day.

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Actual information you'll find as well
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