



newsletter

Island Kids
Philippines 

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Dear Friends of Island Kids Philippines

The year 2025 was full of events and contrasts: we experienced the destructive force of nature, but also the boundless power of hope and community.

Over the last months we trained parents, accompanied students to university, and at the same time offered a safe haven for people in personal crises. There was also reason to celebrate: fresh organic vegetables and a new calf on our farm, as well as heart-warming charity concerts in Switzerland. And, thanks to your donations, we were able to end the year with gifts and gratitude for children, young people, and our entire team.

Everything we share in this Newsletter is only possible because you believe in our vision. Whether through donations, visiting a concert, or the sharing our stories – you are the backbone for the children and families in the Philippines. With confidence we look forward to the year 2026 and thank you for joining us on our journey. Thank you for being part of this success story! Together we are changing lives.

■ Creating Opportunities

Located in the middle of the poor quarters Mano-Mano and Mother Ignacia Village, the Landfill Community Learning Center is a place of hope:

- In October, together with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), we were once again able to provide pioneering educational work. One focus was on **empowering the parental homes**: 158 parents participated in workshops on how they can create a good learning environment for their children despite of difficult circumstances.
- For the young people we created a safe space to talk about sensitive topics like **mental health, rights and protection of children as well as bullying prevention**. A total of 78 young people profited from this offer.
- Eight men and six women proved that education is the key to independence by completing successfully the **TESDA driving course**.

We are particularly proud of our current 35 students who are attending various universities. As a guest at the exclusive "Grand Buffet" hosted by the future hotel and restaurant managers studying at the Cagayan de Oro College, Thomas Kellenberger was able to witness their successes for himself.

■ Professionally Competent Education with Heart

At PIKIFI Elementary School, the 6th November 2025 marked the end of an era. With Ma'am Teresa Nacalaban, Ma'am Princessita Tangara and Sir Art Malala, three pillars of our school have taken their **well-deserved retirement**. In a festive ceremony, we looked back on their many years of service: all three have shaped the school since its founding with their tireless commitment, expertise, and above all with their heart. They represented more than teachers – they were mentors and supporters for generations of children. We thank them with all our heart for their dedication and wish them all the best for this new chapter in their lives.

On 5th December, several students had the opportunity to participate in a free examination at the Ministry of Education. The focus was on **professional assess-**

ment of possible autism spectrum disorders. To guarantee an integral support, the young people were accompanied by their parents, teachers and close persons.

■ Gratitude and Joy of Christmas

The year 2025 came to a festive close with a series of **Thanksgiving, Christmas, and end-of-the-year celebrations** that brought smiles to everyone's faces **at the School**. Music, dances and games created a joyful atmosphere. With a good meal, the children and young people celebrated their achievements and enjoyed the special togetherness at the end of the year. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of some donors, we were once again able to give each child additional enjoyment with a personal gift. These moments of happiness are precious for the children in our care.



Joy of Christmas

Very important for us is **the recognition of our motivated staff**. The daily effort of our teachers, social workers, house parents, and the administrative team are admirable. As a sign of our deep gratitude, we were able to give each of them shopping vouchers and a large sack of rice – a support aimed at where it is needed. Full of gratitude we look back on an eventful year and look forward to shaping the future together in 2026.



■ Between Force of Nature and Hope

At the beginning of November, the infrastructure of the Philippines was once again put to the test when two violent typhoons struck the Country within just five days. Although the island of Mindanao was fortunately mostly spared, we share the suffering of the communities affected throughout the Country.

- **The destructive power of “[Uwan/Fung-Wong](#)”**
Already in advance, the national disaster management agency organized the evacuation of over 1,3 million people – a logistical Herculean task. The typhoon brought air and sea traffic to a standstill, and left a trail of destruction in its wake: torrential rain and gusting winds caused devastating floods and landslides. Over 4'000 houses were damaged or destroyed, bridges became impassable, and the supply of electricity and water collapsed in many cities. Particularly painful is the death toll of 33 and 52 injured. While areas like Cebu and Leyte were badly hit, Cagayan de Oro was spared the worst destruction. Nevertheless, the river Cagayan with meter-high waves burst its bank and flooded several districts of the city. Temporary shelter was immediately provided for the people affected, unfortunately amongst them was one of the families we support.

- **The tragedy of “[Tino/Kalmaegi](#)”**

Only days before, the typhoon “Tino” had already caused destructive flooding in central parts of the Country. The toll here is devastating: 269 people lost their lives, over 500 were injured, and more than 100 people are still missing.

The history of the Philippines is marked by extreme storms. With heavy hearts we remember “**Washi/Sendong**” (2011), which claimed a total of over 2'300 lives in CDO and Iligan, or “**Yolanda/Haiyan**” (2013) which killed over 7'300 people. In the light of these historical tragedies, we are extremely grateful that improved preventive measures and early warning systems are proving effective. Although the damage to property remains immense, countless lives were saved this year thanks to early evacuations. However, these measures are currently overshadowed by a scandal of corruption that has come to light. Government officials and politicians misappropriated billions of dollars intended for flood protection. Ghost projects never implemented presumably led to numerous fatalities, particularly in Cebu City.



■ Working Together Against Exploitation

The protection of vulnerable people is at the heart of not only our work. Around the **International Day Against Prostitution** on 5th October 2025, private and official partners joined forces in specific aid and control operations.

- To give women in prostitution an alternative to working on the streets, the teams distributed essential goods such as rice, canned food, and hygiene items. This instant aid was intended to ensure that, at least on this day, they were not dependent on income from prostitution.
- At the same time, strict controls were carried out in known hotspots, including dance clubs, spas, and restaurants. The focus was on protecting minors; any violations of the protection regulations that were detected were consistently reported to the authorities.

Just three weeks later, another operation was carried out for the safety of young people during the night hours, and 16 minors were apprehended for violation of the curfew. The youths were partly under the influence of alcohol or riding motorcycles without a licence. Although luckily, there were no cases of human trafficking or prostitution involved, the operation was still of great significance: the young people were in areas known to be dangerous for child prostitution. In detailed discussions, they and their parents were informed about the serious risks in this area. After reminding the parents of their duty of supervision, the youths could return home safely. (Source: Esther Bühlmann, Streetlight)

■ Heart-Warming Charity Concerts: Musical Diversity at the Highest Level

In December, it was that time again: the traditional Charity Concerts by the “Gendarmen” with “Quattro Schtatzjoni” delighted numerous friends of IKP in Switzerland and other music lovers. These evenings proved once more how powerfully music can unite people.

The “[Gendarmen](#)” demonstrated their impressive versatility. The repertoire covered a wide range: from the majestic sounds of the Empress Sissi and the challenging “Königsstück für Trompete” to the Austrian “Trag mi Wind” and the classics such as Herbert Grönemeyer’s

“Männer” or the pop song “Eine neue Liebe”. Each piece was presented at the highest musical level – a real treat for the audience’s ears.

“[Quattro Schtatzjoni](#)” complemented the program with emotional songs in dialect such as “Vreneli ab em Guggisbärg”, “Loblied uf e Ätti”, and Trauffer’s “Heitere Fahne”. Afterwards they took the audience on a multilingual journey, ranging from the spiritual “Jesus Gave Me Water” to “Feliz Navidad” and the sentimental “Io senza te”.

This year, the concerts were marked by farewells, which brought tears to many eyes. For the last time, the three women of “Quattro Schtatzjoni” enhanced the stage of these Charity Concerts with their singing. Hanspeter Ryf, co-founder of the “Gendarmen”, was also given his farewell in a worthy way. The finale could not have been more appropriate: with the joint performance of the song “Io senza te”, the evening reached its emotional climax. It was a farewell which got under your skin and will be remembered for a long time.





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■ Bata Alima Farm: Sustainability That Bears Fruit

Life is very busy on the farm. Our efforts to practice sustainable agriculture literally show healthy results: by producing and spreading our own organic fertilizer, our fields are thriving. Beans, pumpkins, opo, okra, ginger, zucchini, and bitter gourds grow in impressive abundance. Every week, we are able to deliver about 30 to 50 kg of freshly harvested organic vegetables directly to the Children's Village in the city. It is a wonderful feeling to know that our children are provided with healthy, pollutant free food from our own crops.

The months of October to February are dominated by coffee. The ripe beans are currently harvested, pulped, fermented, washed, and carefully spread out in our new solar dryer.

In December, we experienced a special highlight: our cow Blessy gave birth to her first calf, Samy. It was a moving event for the entire team on the farm to witness a birth for the first time on their own farm. For us, this new life on the farm is a symbol of hope and the constant growing of our project.

Photos and videos can be found at [Facebook](#).



Die Monate Oktober bis Februar stehen ganz im Zeichen des Kaffees. Die reifen Bohnen werden aktuell

■ Fates: May's Way Back to Life

Behind our work are individual fates that often leave us speechless, but at the same time motivate us never to give up. One of these fates is that of 22-year-old May*. May lost her father at an early age and suffered severe trauma in her youth through sexual violence by her stepfather, her brother and his friend. Despite this unimaginable suffering, she showed extraordinary resilience. She took refuge in education, achieved outstanding results, and was eventually rewarded with a scholarship to study social work. But the shadows of the past and the enormous pressure to perform that May placed on herself took their toll. In February 2024, her despair led to a first suicide attempt. We took May into the Children's Village, where she found a sheltered environment and was able to calm down by getting intensive psychological care and support. After a six-month break, she returned to university full of hope. Another severe setback followed in the fall of 2025 with a second suicide attempt. After a short time in the Children's Village, the courageous young woman is now able to continue her studies.

May's road is long and rocky. But we are fighting alongside her. Our goal is to help her to find ways out of the crisis and, despite of her scars, to find a way into an independent and fulfilling life. May's story reminds us, in a painful way, the importance of psychological support and a safe home, in addition to school education.

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Actual information you'll find as well
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