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St Charles Borromeo Philippine Medical Mission (SCBPMM) Supports Distribution of Relief Goods to Flood Victims

On September 26, 2009, Typhoon 'Ondoy' hit the Philippines and caused severe flooding in Metropolitan Manila. Thousands of people were displaced as their homes were damaged. The flooding resulted not only in the loss of property and possessions but of many lives as well.



SCBPMM had a first hand account of the damage through Fernando Manibog, an SCBPMM volunteer and supporter, who was in Manila at that time. Fernando visited Provident Village in Marikina City, one of the most damaged areas in Metro Manila and where the death toll was among the highest. He was given a motorbike tour by the Councilman and town officials. He witnessed the severe damage caused by the floods that in some places reached the second floor of houses, apartment buildings and commercial establishments. Almost nothing was spared. Debris was seen hanging from wires on electric poles as a sad evidence of the most serious flooding that hit the country in almost half a century. Fernando met several residents who related to him that they waited for hours on rooftops of the tallest structures under merciless cold rain and darkness while waiting for the flood waters to subside.

'Alone we can do so little ... together we can do so much'

Coming up Events:

- Barrio Fiesta - June 5, 2010
- 11th Annual Raffle - September, 2010

Volunteers' Corner

Opportunities for involvement in SCBPMM around

- Fundraising planning
- Grants search
- Grant proposal writing
- Project management assistance

Come and join us and help make a difference in the Philippines

We need your help ...

In order to continue providing services to the poor in the Philippines, SCBPMM must continue to raise funds and seek donations.

If you are interested in making a donation, you can mail a check or send a money order to:

**St. Charles Borromeo
Philippine Medical
Mission or SCBPMM
3304 N Washington Blvd
Arlington, VA 22201**

Immediately after 'Ondoy' hit the Philippines, SCBPMM sent funds to Fernando to purchase relief goods for those who have lost their homes and possessions. Fernando filled two long vans with canned goods, rice, bread, instant noodles, bottled water, medicines and other critical items.



The relief goods were delivered to major relief centers for distribution to the flood victims.

Many of the victims felt they have not been forgotten and expressed deep gratitude for the help extended to them.



SCBPMM would like to thank the generous donors who extended a lifeline during a time of dire need in the Philippines.

Partners in the Philippines

Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission, Inc. (FOLPMI) - a non-profit non-governmental institution serving the poorest of the poor in the Philippines. Its projects include, among others, feeding centers, livelihood projects, and immunization programs.

Childhope Asia, Philippines (CHAP) - a non-profit non-governmental organization established to address the plight of street children in the Philippines. It provides, among others, basic education, health care services, livelihood training, shelter and counseling support to street children

Religious of Notre Dame of the Missions (RNDM) - a group of sisters who work in remote and poor areas in the Philippines. Their ministries include community development, basic health care services, health education, nutrition programs and provision of education opportunities.

ANAWIM Lay Missions Foundation, Inc. (ANAWIM) - a refuge for the abandoned elderly, a few orphans and physically and mentally handicapped persons.

FOUNDATION OF OUR LADY OF PEACE MISSION, INC. (FOLPMI) – Relief Projects

SCBPMM answered the call of Sr. Eva Maamo, SPC, President of FOLPMI to assist them in their relief operations for flood victims of Typhoon 'Ondoy.' A relief drive was held by SCBPMM for cash and in-kind donations from its volunteers and their families. The money raised, along with boxes of donated medicines, medical supplies and clothes were sent to FOLPMI.



FOLPMI would like to thank SCBPMM for the financial assistance they provided, which was a big help in funding FOLPMI relief operations.

SCBPMM, in turn, would like to thank the various donors for supporting the relief drive. We would also like to thank a group of Filipino nurses from Inova Hospital and Dr. Gilbert Irwin, MD, founder of Medical Missionaries for providing medicines.

'Don't tell God how big your storm is; tell the storm how big your God is'

Child & Family Services Philippines, Inc (CFSPI) - a social service agency dedicated to the rights of children and the empowerment of women

Archbishop Gabriel M. Reyes Memorial Foundation (AGRMRF) - a non-profit foundation to provide development assistance to the people in Aklan

Useful links: (PMM Partners)

Religious of Notre Dame Missions (RNDM)
<http://www.rndm.org>

Childhope Asia, Philippines (CHAP)
<http://www.childhope.org.ph>

Anawim Lay Missions Foundation (ANAWIM)
<http://www.anawim.com.ph>

Child & Family Services Philippines, Inc (CFSPI)
<http://www.cfspi.org.ph>

If you are interested to meet our partners and to visit the projects we support, please send us an email at: pmm@stcharleschurch.org

RELIGIOUS OF NOTRE DAME OF THE MISSIONS (RNDM) – Medical Program

Based on a report of the Sisters of the Religious of Notre Dame of the Missions (RNDM) for the period April to September, 2009, SCBPMM funds have been able to support the medical program of RNDM for the Dulangan Manobo tribe of Southern Philippines. The report gave individual stories of men, women and children who, by accident or illness, were provided with hospitalization, medicines, emergency transportation, doctor's visits and nutritional support. Through SCBPMM's help, the sisters of RNDM were able to nurse them through their illnesses. The funding has also given prescription medicines to about 260 people, provided health education to villagers in 17 communities, paid for hospitalization bills and emergency transportation costs of at least 10 people and fed countless others.

To quote Sister Petite Lao of RNDM: 'This fund is so important to us because it can be a matter of life and death for the Dulangan Manobo people. The tribe can barely manage to provide for their basic needs. They cannot save for a rainy day because there is no extra money to save. When medical emergencies occur, these people have nothing to spare. With SCBPMM's help from halfway across the globe, the RNDM sisters have been able to help the Dulangan Manobo villagers with their medical needs.'



The RNDM sisters expressed their heartfelt thanks for SCBPMM's support.

'Giving is a necessity, sometimes more urgent, indeed, than having'

Who we are ...

St Charles Borromeo Philippine Medical Mission (SCBPMM) is a 501(c) (3) organization, dedicated to promoting the inherent right of the poor and the underprivileged in the Philippines, to receive basic and adequate health care and to empower them, through education, to become responsible and productive members of society.

What we do ...

To accomplish its mission, SCBPMM works in partnership with established non-profit organizations in the Philippines. SCBPMM undertakes fund-raising activities to support its partners' poverty alleviation projects and programs.

*'To The World, You
Might Be One Person,
But To One Person,
You might be the
World'*

CHILDHOPE ASIA, PHILIPPINES (CHAP) – Mobile Health Clinic

SCBPMM funds half a year operations of the mobile health clinic, a project established by Childhope Asia Philippines (CHAP) in early 2007. Recognizing and believing that health and education go hand-in-hand, CHAP's Mobile Health Clinic aims to serve the neglected street children under the organization's Street Education Program.



The mobile clinic goes to areas in 6 districts of Metro Manila. Over the past year, it has served over 2,500 patients whose ages range from 11 to 18. The mobile clinic is manned and operated by a medical doctor and volunteer health practitioners and medical students. Illnesses are diagnosed and managed through tests and proper medicines, and prevented through proper health education. The nutritional status of children is also taken to determine if they are undernourished. A multitude of health problems have been treated mainly respiratory ailments and parasitic skin infections.

In addition to providing basic laboratory exams, the mobile clinic also extends dental check-up in partnership with Centro Escolar University (CEU). The van doubles as a dental clinic where primary dental care and services are provided by partner dental health practitioners.

The mobile clinic has also embarked on a new program, the mobile health e-library. A small collection of health training modules and teaching guidebooks are now available in the mobile clinic. Children's books and videos on health related topics are used during public health lecture.

'By saving one child, we bring the kingdom of heaven to earth'

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC (CFSPI) – Healthy Start and Medical Assistance

For comments and suggestions, please contact us at:
pmm@stcharleschurch.org

If you want to receive this newsletter by email, please send us your email address.

*'Life is God's gift to us
... what we make of it
is our gift to God!'*

Since its establishment in 1987, CFSPI has been greatly involved in its advocacy of the health, growth and development of every child. In addition to providing medical assistance to its clients, CFSPI implements The Healthy Start, an early childhood care and parent education program

Through a \$4,000 grant provided by SCBPMM, CFSPI's resources were augmented for the almost two hundred children enrolled in the organization's Healthy Start Program. The grant also assisted

- the organization's medical mission for children in Baguio City and Naguilian, La Union, in the northern Philippines,
- training on Basic First Aid and Life Support for staff,
- feeding assistance for children in all project sites, and
- food packages for families in Naguilian, La Union.



Through the grant from SCBPMM, treatment was also provided to Carlos Bautista of Naguilian, La Union, who was diagnosed to have epilepsy. In addition, the grant provided a feeding program for malnourished children, and medicines during the medical examination of children from the same area.

On behalf of CFSPI President and CEO, Mr. Manuel Z. Urquico, Bernadette P. Ymson, the director for Preventive Program, would like to extend their deepest gratitude to SCBPMM for their support. They hope to continue the valued collaboration of CFSPI and SCBPMM as they build better, safer communities for children and in building strong bonds among families.

'When you help someone up a hill, you get that much closer to the top yourself'

ARCHBISHOP GABRIEL M. REYES MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC (AGMRMFI) – Preventive Health and Nutrition Education

'You have one more day not because you needed it, But because somebody else needs you'

SCBPMM, in partnership with the Archbishop Gabriel M. Reyes Memorial Foundation, Inc. (AGMRMFI) assisted families in Aklan, a province in central Philippines, who lost their homes and means of livelihood because of Typhoon Frank in June 2008. Through *Bulig Aklan Integrated Rehabilitation Project*, assistance was provided to six barangays (San Jose, Pang-itan, Galicia, Talangban, Mercedes and Bacyang) in the riverside town of Madalag, the most devastated of all towns in Aklan. The project components included:

- *supplemental feeding* of 50 malnourished children including deworming, medical and dental check-ups;
- *education and training* of 100 couples in the areas of responsible parenthood, and marriage enrichment, gender and development, natural family planning, primary health care, nutrition, and environmental awareness and protection;
- *livelihood development* for 25 families, financial assistance, entrepreneurial training, and seed dispersal; and,
- *capacity-building and interfacing* including training of para trainers and community counselors.



These photos were taken at two seminars attended by 51 parents from Barangay Talangban, San Jose and Pang-itan; and, another 50 participants from Barangays Galicia, Bacyang, and Mercedes.



The project successfully over-achieved its objectives in all areas with 53 children moving from below normal to normal weight, 256 couples trained in various education modules, 53 restarted livelihood projects and 10 indigenous para trainers and community counselors taking over the education and follow-up tasks

The stimulus funds that SCBPMM provided for this health and nutrition rehabilitation project inspired and motivated local leaders after they saw the difference the project made in empowering couples and families, and in building confidence in enriching family life and activities.

A unique accomplishment of the project is the strategic partnership with provincial offices and local governments which provided counterpart financial resources to the project including staff time. More children were reached, and families which were benefited by the project tripled in number.

Don Bosco School Medical/Dental Mission A Mirror of God's Goodness, A Reflection of God's Love

On November 14, 2009, about 719 patients from poor families in Sta. Mesa, Manila received free medical consultation, free dental treatment, free X Ray-ECG and free medicines on the second phase of Don Bosco School (DBS) Medical/Dental Mission. The project was made possible through the Social Committee of DBS Educating Community (EC), who was the main organizer.

'What the sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity ... they are trifles to be sure, but scattered along life's pathway, the good they do is inconceivable'



Volunteer doctors, dentists and nurses attended to the families in a high spirit of welcome, their smiling faces beckoning hope and care. There were about 21 doctors, 23 dentists and 5 nurses, which included 17 DBS parents.



There were also about 27 volunteer DBS teachers who attended to mothers carrying their babies as they went through the consultation procedures. DBS students were also on hand to usher in patients to see the doctors. Some even served as dental aides and meal distributors around the campus.

'We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give'

The medicine supply proved to be sufficient. Mr. Buddy Avila, current DBS EC Executive Board and his wife solicited supplies from pharmaceutical companies within Metro Manila. Mr. Tiny Meneses, owner of a pharmaceutical company in Metro Manila, Intermed Marketing Philippines, is a major donor of medicines not only in this second medical mission of DBS but also in its first mission held on October 10, 2009. Dra. Resurreccion, the school physician, had her own solicitations from her own circle of donors in addition to donations of medicines anonymous DBS parents and friends.



DBS acknowledged that the financial assistance sent by generous 'kababayans' from Virginia, USA was a big help. The Washington DC – based Filipino volunteers from St Charles Borromeo Philippine Medical Mission sent \$2,000 for needed medicines and for the X-ray and ECG diagnostic examinations extended mostly to about 101 senior citizens and sick adult patients.



As evident on that Saturday at Don Bosco School, God's goodness is mirrored in so many ways where time, heart and hand are the most precious gifts that reflect God's love and cheer the spirits of the patients.

*'Be the reason for
someone's happiness
And never the cause
for someone's sadness'*

St. Charles Borromeo Philippine Medical Mission turns 10

On September 19, 2009, SCBPMM celebrated its 10th anniversary with a thanksgiving and appreciation event at the St Charles Borromeo church gymnasium. Supporters, friends, volunteers and their families were on hand to celebrate the milestone in SCBPMM's mission



The event included entertainment by Carlos Ibay, a renowned Filipino blind pianist, a medley of songs from the Filipino group Buklod Kaibigan Music Ministry and a musical number from Fr. Gerry Creedon, St Charles Borromeo church parish priest. Food was abundant with a lot of Filipino food prepared by Filipino volunteers and friends. There was also an opportunity to have portraits taken.

During the event, SCBPMM's Annual Raffle Draw was conducted along with a silent auction which included over 60 items. These fundraisers along with door donations raised over \$8,500. SCBPMM would like to thank everyone for their donations of time and money and for making the event a success. The event not only provided a time for celebration but for renewing commitment to the partners in the Philippines.



Nick Tongson, former President of SCBPMM and who emceed for the evening, was recognized for all his contributions, shown here with Maricel Bretault, SCBPMM co-founder.

Fr. Creedon commended SCBPMM volunteers and supporters for all their efforts and hard work in bringing aid to people in the Philippines. He added that SCBPMM should take pride in raising and distributing approximately \$655,000 during the past 10 years and hoped that the next 10 years would even be more successful.

'It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice'

SCBPMM Board Approves Grants and Donation

On October 29, 2009, the SCBPMM board met and approved 4 grants and 1 donation amounting to a total of \$28,490. The grant and donation amounts and the respective recipients are:

- \$ 6,000 - Child Hope Asia, Philippines to support its mobile clinic in Metro Manila for half of the year
- \$ 4,890 – The Religious of the Notre Dame of the Missions for its health and education program with the Manobo tribe, an indigenous community in the Cotabato province of Southern Philippines
- \$ 6,600 – The Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission to support feeding centers in Paranaque, a suburb of Metro Manila
- \$ 9,000 – The Archbishop Gabriel M. Reyes Memorial Foundation for a rehabilitation project with communities in Aklan severely devastated by Typhoon 'Frank' in 2008
- \$ 2,000 – The Don Bosco Salesian Sisters operating a school in Sta. Mesa, Manila, for the relief of the flood victims of Typhoon 'Ondoy' in September, 2009

From the Treasurer ...

SCBPMM 2009 FINANCIAL REPORT

St Charles Borromeo Philippine Medical Mission (SCBPMM) raised over \$55,000 in cash and in-kind donations for calendar year 2009.

In 2009, SCBPMM distributed \$46,129 to its partners in the Philippines.

- \$ 13,580 – FOLPMI
- \$ 18,077 – CHAP
- \$ 5,472 – RNDM
- \$ 9,000 – AGMRMFI

In addition, SCBPMM contributed \$4,100 for Flood Relief in the Philippines for victims of Typhoon Ondoy which caused severe flooding in Manila in September, 2009

SCBPMM sent \$2,100 to assist flood victims through an SCBPMM volunteer who was in Manila at that time (see article above).

An additional \$2,000 was sent to Don Bosco School (DBS) for the relief of flood victims. This financial assistance was used in conjunction with the Medical Mission that DBS conducted in November, 2009 (see article above).

Since its creation in 2006, the Celia Coronado Endowment Fund has grown to \$12,713.

SCBPMM would like to thank all of our generous donors and dedicated volunteers for their continued support.

4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF CELIA CORONADO

March 13, 2010 marks the 4th death anniversary of Celia Coronado, co-founder of SCBPMM. Volunteers of SCBPMM, Celia's family and countless friends will always remember her as the driving force behind SCBPMM.

JOIN US AT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

SCBPMM celebrates Barrio Fiesta on June 5, 2010. Please watch for announcements and updates about this event in the coming months.

On September, 2010, SCBPMM will hold its 11th annual raffle. Over the years, this fundraising event has enabled us to continue our support for the programs of our partners in the Philippines. We call on our volunteers, donors, and parishioners of St Charles Borromeo Parish to again support us in this effort.

***'The important thing is not how much we accomplish,
but how much love we put into our deeds every day.'***

--- Mother Teresa

**'One
Hundred
Years
From Now
It will not matter
What kind of
car I drove
What kind of
house I lived in
How much was
in my
bank account
Nor what my
clothes looked like
The world
may be a little
better
Because I was
important
in the
life of a
child'**