



Our trip to the Philippines in summer, 2015

The school we are helping is roughly 70 miles away from my home town in the Philippines. It took us at least 3 hours to travel there, each way, and that was starting at 5am to avoid the rush hour! It was a long and uncomfortable journey most times due to bad weather and terrible road conditions but it was all WORTH it. Seeing the happy faces of the children and the teachers, spoke volumes. They always give us a very warm & happy welcome, even the parents who were there from 7 to 4pm (school time) waiting for their children. There are nearly 870 children with 25 teachers. Most classes have 55 to 60 children with just 1 class teacher!!

It's nearly 2 years now since the typhoon struck. Sadly, the school had not benefited at all from any major charity disaster fund that had been available elsewhere during the typhoon, but were fortunate to get some aid from a French charity, who built a new grade-2 classroom during the month they worked there.

While we were there, the U.S. Army built 2 new classrooms for grade 6. Another 2 new classrooms were also being built using money from private sponsors. The rest of the school still needed urgent help. We arrived at the right time to help them with one of their most important needs.



The school needed a new outdoor stage urgently. Performing Arts are very much a huge part of education over there, so every time they have a programme, they had to travel quite a distance by foot to use other facilities. It can be daunting with hundreds of children, unimaginable! So you can all imagine the joy of the whole school community

when we said we are able to re built the stage. We commissioned an architect to redesign it, and after consultation with the school head, we started the work ASAP. We had hoped to completely finish the stage before we came back, but with bad weather (another typhoon season) it was delayed a little. As you can see in the photo below, we formally opened it, not quite finished. The ceiling & painting still needed to be completed. However, as promised the work was all completed 2 weeks after we left. Our Charity logo proudly mounted on the top to finish it!



Many teachers & parents I spoke to said that providing the stage will make a huge difference and we made so many people happy! And this is can be seen during the opening ceremony which was attended by Barangay Captain (town mayor); DoE Superintendent; 3 other head teachers of the school nearby & parents of the school.



The girls working with children at school.

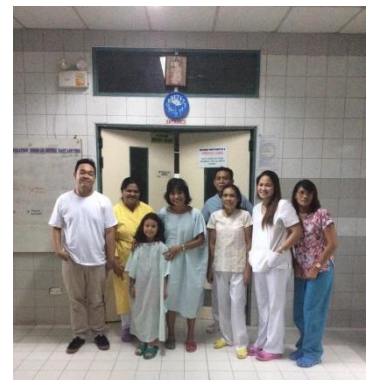
Eliza demonstrating cursive writing, and Sheeana handing out vitamins to the students.

We also had the chance to visit an orphanage/centre for the disabled, in Cebu. We were able to hold a dinner party with their carers and friends. We were able to supply them with items that they urgently needed, such as Calpol, seizure medicine, nappies, milk, vitamins & other medical supplies. Eliza even provided a party bag for each of the children! Thanks to the money raised when she had her haircut.



We also visited the local Mandaue City Hospital, where we donated the Baby Incubator and the Bili Light (therapy light for jaundice babies) in 2012. This time we brought medical supplies that we were able to send from here. Again, the supplies were very gratefully received by the hospital. The staff had told us how much the equipment made a difference to their works and to the community.

Thank you so much.



Our Next Project:



The school would very much like if we can re rebuilt or renovate this PTA building below. This has 3 classrooms. When we were there, the other 2 classrooms were used by year 6, but the middle classroom wasn't safe to use. I am in the process of getting the best quotations at the moment. We have still some funds remaining but not quite enough. This will be our biggest project so far and how wonderful would be if we can make it happen!

For more information, see www.AngelsForChildren.org.uk or Beth Street 07719 785986