

DISASTER RELIEF

# OB Brings Aid to Mayon Evacuees

Bicolanos living within Mayon's six-kilometer-radius permanent danger zone spent the holidays in evacuation centers as the restive volcano spewed lava and ash plumes last December.



**A**midst the tension, Operation Blessing went to Albay province to give aid to evacuees through feeding and relief goods distribution.

One of the affected barangays was Muladbuca Grande in Guinobatan town, where 89 families were temporarily housed in a school. Problems arose when three children contracted diarrhea due to a possible contaminated water source.

On Christmas Day, OB brought in its water purifier station to help prevent more of these cases from happening. The people were grateful to OB for taking the extra mile to meet their needs.

"They were distressed on how they would get safe water to drink. Good thing OB's help arrived just on time!" said Elvie Gabalfn, OB volunteer social worker.

FREE WHEELCHAIR DISTRIBUTION

# Turning the Wheels of Hope

Last January 28, Operation Blessing gave out new wheelchairs as gifts to more than a hundred persons with disabilities in Compostela Valley province.

**T**he distribution program was done in partnership with Free Wheelchair Mission, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Sacred Harvest Foundation, the Philippine Army, and the provincial government.

One of the beneficiaries is Hector, 30. He used to work as a lineman in a power company until an accident left him handicapped and scarred for life.

More than 31,000 volts of electricity flowed through Hector's body, leaving burn marks on his head and face down to his arms and legs. His damaged ear resulted to his loss of balance.

The embarrassment caused by the accident was unbearable. He would not come out of his room and isolated himself from the outside world.

When Hector and his mother heard of OB's free wheelchair distribution, they were delighted. Their prayers were answered when he was chosen as one of the 103 beneficiaries.

"I realized there



is more to life than just staying in one corner of my bedroom," Hector said. "This wheelchair is such a great help for me. Now my mother won't have a hard time carrying me, and I could go out any time without much hassle."

As he sat on his new wheelchair, Hector is ready to begin his life again.



PARTNER NEWS

## OB celebrates ICAP Charity Day 2009

Operation Blessing is thankful to be one of the beneficiaries of ICAP's Charity Day held last December. The world's premier voice and electronic interdealer broker holds the annual event to support various charities by donating a day's worth of revenues and commissions. ICAP Philippines chose OB as one of its beneficiaries for 2009. "It's our way of giving back to the society that is host to our business," said ICAP Philippines President Boopsie Eraña.

DISASTER RELIEF

# OB Responds to Kalookan Fire

**Nida lost her home in a fire that razed approximately 300 households inside the Philippine National Railways compound along Samson Road, Kalookan City. The fire, which lasted eight and a half hours, was believed to have been caused by a burning electrical wire.**

**T**he only thing Nanay Nida had time to do was to look for her four grandchildren who were left in her house when the fire started. After hours of searching, she was grateful to see that none of them was hurt.



Thanks to Operation Blessing, Nanay Nida rises from the ashes.

Moved with compassion, OB immediately responded by providing goods and supplies to the

fire victims. Affected families were given relief packs containing soup mixes, used clothes, and crisis management booklets.

"I can't believe this has happened to us. But through your prayers and words of encouragement, I know that by God's grace we

can stand again," Nanay Nida told OB. "Thank you so much, Operation Blessing!"

DISASTER RELIEF

# OB Helps Out in Damayang Lagi



**N**one of the 3,000 families in Barangay Damayang Lagi, Quezon City thought April 25 will be a different Sunday. An afternoon fire destroyed their houses, businesses, and material possessions, and even took lives. Affected families, with a great need for food, shelter, clothing, were relocated to the side streets of E. Rodriguez Avenue.

Jesus Is Lord Church Tatalon Chapter opened its doors and helped Operation Blessing pack relief goods. Volunteers also organized a program inside the church where evacuees were taught about the love of Jesus Christ and given encouragement through prayers.

New and used clothes, bottles of mineral water, medicines, and mats donated by OB partners were distributed to over 800 affected families, including Olivia's. She is a single mother of five who earns a living as a house caretaker and street sweeper. Now her whole family is in crisis, but she tells and encourages her children, "Tiis lang. Makakabalik din tayo sa normal."

She shares her gratitude to Operation Blessing: "I'm very thankful for the help you've given us. I wholeheartedly thank God for giving us a new life, a second life, and for saving us."

LIVELIHOOD

# A Thankful Mother from Payatas

**Last December, as part of its community transformation program in Payatas, Operation Blessing gave out small-scale businesses to four mothers so they can provide for their children's needs.**

**T**hese are mothers whose children are enrolled in OB's Bless-a-Child program, providing kids with nutritious meals, free education, and proper healthcare.

One of them, Evelyn Andares, received packs of dried fish for retail. A mother of three kids, she used to be a manicurist, but because she's breastfeeding her youngest, she can't work the whole day. Her husband's asthma is also an added burden to the family because of the medicines they often can't afford.

"I really thank God for what I received today. Indeed this will be a great help for us," Evelyn said. "Now I have a better chance in earning a bigger profit, plus I can save money and buy my husband's medicines."

Evelyn added: "Thank you so much for the people who made this possible, and I'll pray to God to help us in making this business progressive, so that I can help others who are also in need."



These packs of dried fish will bring more income for Evelyn's family.



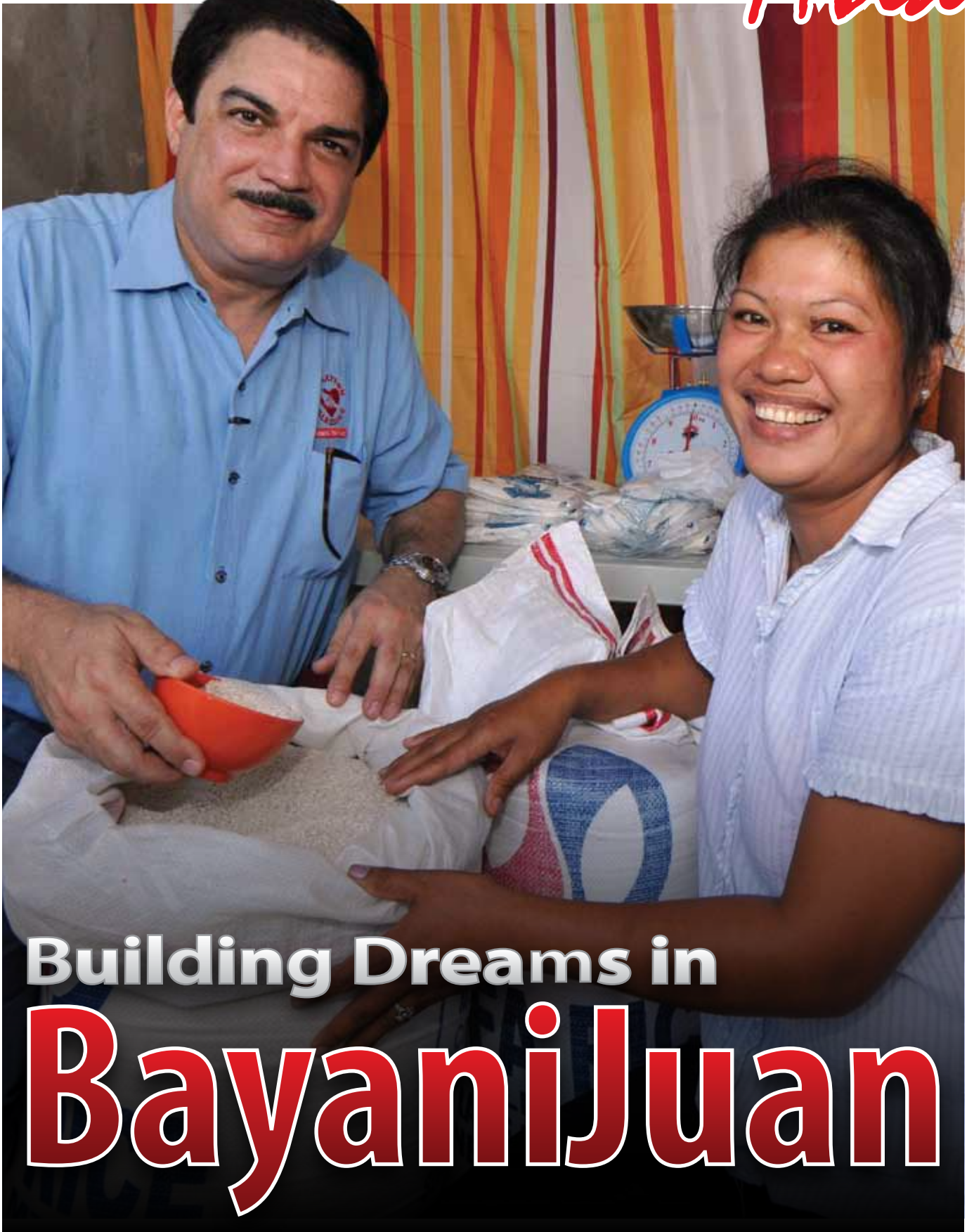
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# BLESSINGS

MAY to JULY 2010

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF OPERATION BLESSING FOUNDATION PHILIPPINES, INC.

*Asia*



Building Dreams in

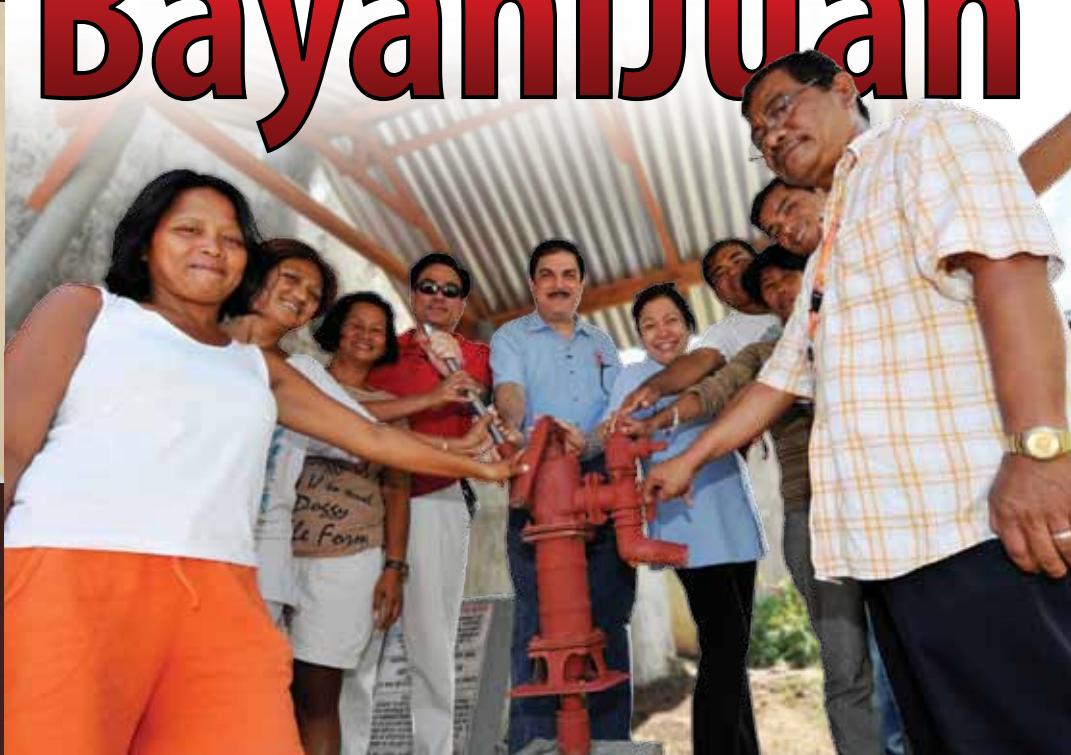
**BayaniJuan**

Because We Care

# Dear Partners

COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

# Building Dreams in BayaniJuan



Water is now more accessible in BayaniJuan because of Operation Blessing's 13 new wells inside the community.

Due to this year's national elections, we had to put a hold on weeklong medical missions that we usually do. But that didn't stop us from doing what we do best: bringing vital assistance and life-changing hope to those who need it.

Since the start of this year, hundreds of children were blessed by our different outreaches by feeding them nutritious meals, sponsoring their education, and providing surgeries to those with cleft lip and palate.

In the heat of El Niño, we responded to several fires in Metro Manila, installed wells in provinces, and rationed purified water for free. We continued to bring wheelchairs to differently-abled Filipinos, as well as provide small businesses to deserving families.

We also have made tremendous efforts in strengthening ties with other non-government organizations, such as the ABS-CBN Foundation. We have highlighted this crucial partnership in this issue of Blessings Asia.

Your support, too, is very crucial to us. Partners, big or small, are the lifeblood of Operation Blessing's manifold projects. It's only because of heavenly grace and your unwavering commitment to us that all of these things are made possible.

May God bring you, me, and Operation Blessing to a whole new level of faith and trust in Him.

Blessings,  
*Kim April Pascual, M.D.*  
**KIM APRIL C. PASCUAL, M.D.**  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Operating Officer

**The scorching heat of the sun was beaming on the roofs of houses standing side by side. Out on the street, a group of children were excitedly waiting for the wind to blow their kites. Everything seemed all so well and peaceful inside BayaniJuan in Calauan, Laguna. Still, many hopeful hearts were praying for a blessing to come.**

**O**peration Blessing Foundation Philippines (OB) went there—not just to witness and observe the needs of the community, but to give aid and bless the residents who are rebuilding their lives in BayaniJuan.

### Wells of Hope

At present, BayaniJuan is a community composed of more than 5,000 families. It's a project made possible with the help of the Calauan local government, National Housing Authority and ABS-CBN Foundation.

Every week, more and more families are being relocated here. With houses built on 107 hectares of land, BayaniJuan is specially apportioned for those left homeless by demolitions, relocations, and disasters like the devastating typhoon Ondoy.

One of the basic needs of residents here is a sufficient supply of clean and

potable water. Sadly, only a few water stations and shallow wells can be found within the vast community.

Thelma, 65, who relocated from the slums of Paco, has been living in BayaniJuan for almost a year. She knows the struggles of not having an accessible source of fresh water.

"We have to walk far from our house before we can reach the nearest well. Sometimes we have to buy water for P3 per small container. It's an added burden to us," said Thelma.

OB saw this need and immediately installed 13 additional shallow wells inside BayaniJuan. After dedicating the wells, the people freely used them to their heart's delight, with the promise that they will take good care of these blessings given to them.

As for Thelma, her joy is uncontainable. "This is a very wonderful gift! Thank you for being so mindful of our situation," she exclaimed gratefully.

## Beginning Again

Neighbors Minda and Mary Jane couldn't believe they were chosen as recipients of rice retail businesses as part of OB's livelihood projects for BayaniJuan residents. For them, it was a dream come true.

Both single parents, Minda and Mary Jane need to make a living for their children. After they relocated to BayaniJuan, things got harder for them. They couldn't easily find a job like they used to when they were in Paco.

"We're struggling to survive each day. But now we can slowly begin again with this blessing you've given us. We want to thank Doc Kim and the whole OB staff for choosing us. They really have the heart for people like us," Minda told OB.



OB gave them five sacks of rice to start off their businesses. For hardworking mothers like them who desire nothing but the best for their family, it was an answered prayer.

That day, OB also conducted a free medical and dental mission for BayaniJuan residents and a feeding program for the children.

There is still so much to do in BayaniJuan. OB has just begun planting seeds of hope and love in the hearts of people who are building their dreams and starting anew.

## MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

# Transformed Smiles Shine in Davao



**Aldrin Francisco, 12, and his sister Jessa, 10, were born with clefts or gaps in their lips and palates. This congenital deformity makes them vulnerable to speech problems, ear infections, and the harsh ridicule of their schoolmates.**

A simple surgical procedure can solve Aldrin and Jessa's problem, but their parents simply can't afford it.

"For years, I've been praying for my children to have the operation," Evelyn said. "My heart just goes out to them."

OB Davao agreed to shoulder all expenses for Aldrin and Jessa's corrective surgeries, including lab tests, medicines, and hospital fees. This life-changing sponsorship was done in partnership with the Davao Medical Center.

Both brother and sister had their operations last October, with OB staff assisting them along the way. And when Evelyn finally saw her kids' new smiles, she felt as if she's the happiest mother alive.

"I thank God now that they can live normal lives," an overjoyed Evelyn said.

Aldrin also expressed his gratitude to OB now that he and her sister are now free from the stigma of their defect.

"I won't be shy anymore. Now my sister and I can play with other children and have fun in school," he gratefully said.

## Your Partnership Transforms Smiles!

Parents of these kids from Davao are thankful to **YOU!** Because you choose to support Operation Blessing, their children can now face the future with confidence!



RAENIER, 1 year old

JASMINE, 1 year old

## PARTNER NEWS

# Israeli Embassy Donates Medicines

OB gratefully received donations of medicines from the Embassy of Israel in Manila as part of last year's typhoon relief efforts.

Yaniv Revach, Deputy Chief of Mission of the embassy, turned over 11 boxes of medicines at the headquarters of CBN Asia in Makati City.

"Especially during the time of need, of course, we are honored to help our friends here in the Philippines," said Revach.



LIVELIHOOD

# Repair Skills Restore Hope and Dignity

J obless, penniless, and hopeless. This is how Dennis Panay and Ryan Intal felt a year ago, when landing a job requires more than a stroke of luck. But that was before they came to learn about OB's Mobile Out-of-School Training (MOST) program.

Dennis and Ryan were among the 39 MOST graduates in Davao City last March 2009. Today, these two are well on their way to earning a good future from their new skills in appliance and cellphone repair.

Right after graduating from MOST, Dennis began receiving repair orders from his neighbors who wanted their broken appliances fixed. Soon enough, he's accepting house calls from his friends around the city.

"It's like almost every day, I have a customer," said Dennis. Profits from his



appliance repair service helped him buy more repair tools for his new trade. And last October, he was able to purchase and drive a *triskad* or passenger pedicab, assuring him of a more stable source of income.

Ryan's slight handicap—a limping left leg caused by a vehicular accident—proved to be much of a setback in finding a job. But thanks to MOST, he is now enjoying his newfound fulfillment and improved self-worth.

He had support from a churchmate in setting up a sidewalk cellphone repair shop. Today he has customers almost every day. Oftentimes his classmates at MOST help him with the repair orders and get to earn, too.

"*Gamit na gamit namin 'yung aming natutunan,*" Ryan said.

"My parents are glad that I can now help with the family's finances. It feels good that I've done all these through hard work," he added. "I am so happy because Operation Blessing changed my life!"



HUNGER RELIEF

# Working Together in Alleviating Hunger

O peration Blessing again joined hands with Union Church of Manila (UCM), local churches, and the local government in UCM's "Feeding The Multitude" program in Tondo, where each of the over 1,300 indigent families received 25 kilograms of rice divided in three distributions.

Before lining up to receive their rice bags, Tondo residents were first invited to join small groups led by local pastors and church workers who shared the Gospel to them.

Lola Victorina had tears of joy because of the blessing she received, especially in these times when she's not able to eat three times a day and has no one else to turn to.

"I am grateful because people like you are devoted into doing things like these," she told OB.

Lola Victorina is thankful for her bagful of blessing.



PARTNER NEWS

## Water Purifying Tablets from MPMF

Manuel P. Manahan Foundation (MPMF) donated P3 Million worth of water purifying tablets to OB for the benefit of last year's typhoon victims. MPMF is a non-government organization that seeks to alleviate living conditions in poor rural areas.

Ample supply of the tablets will be given to families in places where constant supply of potable water is not available, particularly in areas hardest hit by the typhoons.