

Calamity Relief Assistance

Each year, the Philippines, being in the typhoon belt, experiences at least 20 typhoons. Many of these are classified as super typhoons, especially those occurring in the last quarter of the year. Typhoons cause inundation, coastal havoc, shipwreck, landslide, other natural disasters and infrastructure losses. It doesn't help that the Philippines is located in the ring of fire which predisposes the country to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

During disasters, the Philippines heavily depends on charity to help victims recover from devastation. Immediate needs include medicines, toiletries, food and clean water, clothing, blankets and construction materials.

When Typhoon Frank hit the Philippines in June 2008, the National Disaster Coordinating Council reported 2.9 million people affected across 46 provinces, 644 people killed, 291 injured, 942 missing, 307,745 displaced and some 107,181 houses damaged and 65,413 totally destroyed. Initial assessment of property damage caused by Typhoon Frank was at US\$22 million.

The FtH's calamity relief assistance projects for 2008 were as follows:

Relief Assistance No. 1

Area	:	Libon, Albay
Activity Date	:	8 February 2008
Beneficiaries	:	350 families
Amount of Donations:		\$2,689.06

On 08 February 2008, the FtH distributed relief goods to families affected by typhoons in Libon, Albay. Each family received a gift pack containing rice, canned goods, sugar and coffee.

The FtH officers and volunteers who joined the relief distribution were Doming and Gloria Samson, Bill and Bella Barrientos, Percy and Pepito Solis, Pablito and Tess Alarcon, Dwight and Lorna Penson, and Angela Penson.

Relief Assistance No. 2

Area	:	Roxas City, Capiz
Activity Date	:	05 July 2007
Beneficiaries	:	500 families/typhoon victims
Contact Person	:	Municipal Social Work and Development (MWSD) and the City Government of Roxas
Amount of Donation :		\$2,908.39

When *Typhoon Frank* hit the Philippines, the province of Capiz was one of the most severely devastated. In response to appeals for relief, FtH had allocated PhP120,000.00 for relief operations in Roxas City, Capiz.



The Roxas City Administration and DSWD identified 500 beneficiaries for the relief operations. About 182 families were from Barangay Dingina and 318 families were from Barangay Banica. Said agencies

also prepared and packed the relief items. The beneficiaries each received corned beef, sardines, meat loaf, noodles, three kilos of rice, coffee, powdered milk, and sugar.



Relief Assistance No. 3

Area : Romblon
 Activity Date : 21 July 2008
 Beneficiaries : 530 families
 Contact Person : Municipal Social Work and Development
 (MWSD)

and Local Government Unit of Romblon

Amount of Donations: \$3,091.78

On 20-22 June 2008, *Typhoon Frank* hit Romblon and left about 70% of the province's property damaged. On 21 June 2008, the *MV Princess of the Stars* sank in the waters off Romblon leaving hundreds of passengers and a toxic cargo, endosulfan, trapped inside the ill-fated vessel. Because of this tragedy and to prevent further damage, the local government

declared a fishing ban in the nearby area, with deleterious effect on the livelihood of the people of Romblon.

Help was sought by the local government to cushion the effect of the ban and typhoon.

In response, two US-based Filipino organizations, the Hawaii International Relief Organizations (HIRO) and the FtH, funded a PhP135, 000.00 relief operation for the victims of the typhoon in Romblon.

On 19 July 2008, Mr. Daryll Javier of the CFO and Mr. Carl Abella of the FtH traveled to Barangay Sablayan, Romblon to lead the relief operations. They were received by Mr. Emilio Beltran, Jr., Chief of Staff of Governor, Natalio Beltran III and Romblon Vice-Mayor, Melben Mesana at the Sablayan Barangay Hall. Barangay Sablayan was one of the severely damaged coastal barangays in Romblon.

There were 340 families waiting for the relief operation. Mr. Abella gave a short talk and told the residents that the operation was sponsored by



Filipino-Americans from Hawaii and Washington DC and that the sponsors are good-hearted people coming from all walks of life. He said that the gifts, however small, came from the heart with lots of love and prayer for all the residents. The residents were crying while listening to Mr. Abella.

Each of the beneficiaries received three kilos of rice, three packs of chocolate drink, three packs of powdered milk, one kilo of sugar, two tubes of toothpaste, two cans of sardines, four pieces of noodles and 25 grams of coffee.

On the following day, 20 July 2009, the relief operation proceeded to Barangay Agnaga. As the relief leaders arrived the Barangay Hall, there were 190 families already falling in-line waiting to received the gifts. Barangay Agnaga was in the same situation as Barangay Sablayan. As it was situated near the seashore, many residents lost their houses to the typhoon. Mr. Abella gave a short talk and then started the distribution of the packages.

Relief Assistance No. 4

Area	:	Makato, Aklan
Activity Date	:	27 July 2008
Beneficiaries	:	487 families
Contact Person	:	LGU Makato, AKlan
Amount of Donations	:	\$2,908.39

When typhoon *Frank* hit the Philippines in June 2008, one of the most affected areas was the municipality of Makato in Aklan, with 80% damage to properties and infrastructures based on the report of the municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (SWDO).



In response, the FtH, allocated P120,000.00 for the victims of the typhoon in Makato,

Aklan.

The relief operation was conducted in Brgy. Baybay in Makato, Aklan on 27 July 2008. It was led by FtH representatives Mr. Carl Abella and Mr. Domingo Samson, Mayor Ramon S. Legaspi, Jr. of Makato, Aklan and Barangay Captain Ramil Pelayo of Barangay Baybay.

The FtH donation benefited a total of 487 families, based on the recommendations of the Office of the Municipal Mayor of Makato. Of this figure, 374 families come from Sitio Centro and 113 families were from Sitio Hagachac. The municipal SWDO assisted in the procurement and packing of relief goods.



Based on the recommendation of the SWDO, each of the beneficiaries received five kilos of rice, one pack of 50 mg. coffee, one pack of powdered milk, three cans of sardines, three cans of corned beef, six packs of noodles, one kilo of sugar and one tube of toothpaste.

Rehabilitation Assistance (as reported by LB)

January 31 - February 2. Kalibo, Aklan. After Talingting, we all drove back to Roxas City and took a flight to Aklan. Upon arrival at Kalibo, we were met by Rod Solidum, President of the Rotary and our host, together with other Rotary members.

The following day, we were all ready for our fact finding as well as seeing the

sites of Kalibo, Aklan. After our native breakfast, we walked over to Mr. Solidum's office, which is just a couple of blocks away, to see the slide show of the Rotary's projects. Saw the prospective greenhouse project and the seedling program at the Agriculture Garden. Greenhouse project is building a greenhouse at different barangays and teaching the people about planting different seeds such as okra, eggplant, etc. as a means of livelihood that could benefit several barangay families.

After lunch, we proceeded to Makato to look at their Payaw Fishing project. At present the village has five payaw fishing projects and they are in need of several more. Prospective livelihood payaw fishing projects are to be funded by Cebu (Poly Tuazon) donations, DC Community and HIRO of Hawaii through Feed the Hungry Inc. Volunteers present were Tess, Pablito, Estela, Mario, Lottie, Willie, Fely, Manny and Joe Clavecillas.



January 30. Iloilo/Aklan Trip. Volunteers arrived early morning at the Philippine Airlines domestic airport for an early flight to Roxas City. We were met at the airport and drove three hours to Estancia, then took a half hour boat ride to Talingting, a rather remote area of Iloilo. We were met by the school principal in Talingting who showed us the school area destroyed by the recent typhoon. The 200 children and their families were gathered at the school yard and after a short program, FTH volunteers handed the gift bags and the smiles on the children's faces were enough to make it such a worthwhile trip. The volunteers were Tess, Pablito, Estela, Mario, Willie, Lottie, Fely, Manny and Joe C. by LB

With the above visits, it was decided that the Rehabilitation Projects that FtH, with the donations collected from the Washington, D.C. areas, Hawaii and California, will undertake the following rehabilitation projects which are now undergoing:

Aklan, Makato – Payaw Fishing The Payaw system is a deep-sea, double-layer bamboo raft but now as an alternative we use Large Buoys as Floater and is built and deployed at several layers boundaries within municipal waters, to be used by the marginal fisher folk's hook and line fishing, gill netting and other types of non-destructive fishing gear. It will also operate along the food chain link or prey-predator relationship. The Buoy's will be lashed together in the ocean with the fish shelter attached below, the mooring line section composed of cable wire and rope and other accessories, and the anchor made of concreted sand and gravel. The Buoy's lasts for more than a year, depending on sea surface conditions. In other areas, Payaw are built of sturdier materials like metal frames and trusses, which last longer but cost more. These types are targets of pirates and thieves, which sell the metal to junk shops.

The Payaw project is meant to provide sustainable livelihood to small fisher folk associations, while protecting and enhancing the sustainability of the coastal marine environment.

Abaca & Pina Farming

Greenhouse Seedlings – if this will be successful, the seedlings will be enough to supply the whole Philippines.

Talingting, Iloilo 2 classroom building that will cost \$14,000 that will benefit at least 200 children.

Submitted by:

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