

FEBRUARY 2020 ISSUE



# SMALL MIRACLES

The Monthly Newsletter of Chosen Children Village Foundation, Inc.





FROM THE  
DESK OF

editor



Hi everyone,

Seven weeks ago, the walls of our home in Silang shook with the force of the Taal Volcano eruption. The first week was fraught with worry. We were worried about the safety of the children and staff. We were worried whether we had the resources to stay in Baguio (we evacuated on January 16th) until it was safe to return. We were worried that things might get worse and that we might not even have a home to return to, CCV being a mere 8+ kilometers from the crater of the volcano.

**But we kept the faith in Him and He didn't fail us.** By his grace, people from all over the world came to help The Chosen Children Village Foundation in its hour of need. First on the line were our trustees. Both Present and Honorary Members came out in droves with their friends and sponsors to augment the cause and make sure that we have a home to return to.

Next, close to 275 groups/individuals visited our facilities in Silang and Baguio to offer their support and drop their in-kind donations. We have filled several rooms with all the goods we received and those that we cannot use, we gave to fellow Taal evacuees and impoverished communities in the North.

The figure of 275 who gave in-kind donations is in itself amazing but those who gave financial assistance was even more staggering. Close to 330 individuals and/or companies from Baguio, the whole Country of The Philippines and even some foreign countries such as Singapore, Greece, Spain, USA, Canada and others, gave financially to aid our evacuation and recovery.

Words cannot express how grateful we are for each and every one of you. We will try on the next few pages but if we miss anyone, please accept our apologies.

You are all amazing! Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Sincerely, **RAF**

# A TIME TO GIVE THANKS

We have hundreds of people and organizations to thank for their help during the evacuation and rehabilitation of the village in the aftermath of the Taal Volcano eruption.

First of all, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude to the **Board of Trustees** for their tireless work and strong leadership during this critical time in our history. They made sure that the children and staff have the funds they need for the seven weeks that they stayed in evacuation in the City of Pines.

In addition, they saw to it that the children had a village to return to last February 25th. They provided the tools and resources required for the clean-up and repair of the cottages and other facilities in the village.

Next, we'd like to thank our staff for going above and beyond the call of duty during this crisis. The 18 staff who accompanied our children in Baguio had to endure longer working hours in cramped working spaces to take care of our children. It was a huge challenge made worse by extreme weather conditions; the weather in Baguio was at its coldest during their stay there.

Meanwhile, our staff in Silang took care of the cleanup of the village and rehabilitation of the farm. It's not easy work - the ashfall had to be swept and hosed daily so they do not harden and cause more damage. The land has to be cleaned, tilled and prepared for replanting while the animals needed taking care of. All in a day's work!



# VILLAGE REPAIR & RESTORATION

The quick repair and restoration of the Chosen Children Village wouldn't be possible without the help of volunteers and donors who willingly shared their time and resources to our cause.



*Volunteer staff from Mr. Nico Paradies cleaned three cottage roofs.*



*Ms Rosemarie Villa-Real donated wheelbarrows, shovels, ladder, high pressure hose & other tools needed for the clean-up*



*Kai Seeds & the Department of Agriculture donated seeds to restore the farm.*



*Mega Paints donated gallons of paint and painting supplies to protect and repair the roofs and walls of our cottages*



*A group from the National Institute of Jail and Penology spent a day cleaning up cottages, working on the farm, and helping with the food preparation for a day.*

# ANGELS CROSSING IN BAGUIO

Baguio 's weather may be freezing but its people definitely aren't! It is home to some of the most generous and kind-hearted people we have ever met. They welcomed us with open hearts and embraced us as their own. Truly, we never expected to receive so many blessings and we are forever grateful to the people of this wonderful city!

One of the angels we had the fortune of crossing paths with is **Socorro Rojas-Baylon**. She visited us almost daily and the children became so familiar with her that they called her Mama. She played with the children and lent a helping hand to Mommy Lita and Mama Bing at every opportunity.

Another angel we came across with is **Onada Pauline**, a behavioral therapist. Like Mama Socorro her presence was felt daily by the children she took care. She also bonded with our staff during their day offs, touring them around Baguio.



*Welcome to our new Child Sponsors for February 2020*

- Regina Santos
- Marty Hancock
- Tatian Pena
- Karen Bautista
- Robert Dussault
- Jennifer Pañares of Panlin Merchandising
- Robert Mondor
- Thomas Manning
- Marina Antoinette Austria

Please forward this newsletter to family, friends and colleagues who might be interested in sponsoring a child(dren). Or you can also send this link:

<https://chosenchildrenfoundation.com/sponsorship/>

*"The thankful receiver bears a plentiful harvest."*

- WILLIAM BLAKE

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**YOU ARE ANGELS!**

*Apologies if we missed your name! Kindly email [admin@chosenchildrenfoundation.com](mailto:admin@chosenchildrenfoundation.com) so we can be sure to add you in our thanksgiving blogpost.*

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BIMPAK  
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*"No one has ever  
become poor by  
giving."*

- ANNE FRANK

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Michelle Molina  
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Mickey & Friends  
Milette & Mark Batol



*Our boys with visitors  
from a local university*

*"Selfless giving is  
the art of living."*

- FREDERICK LENZ

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Pilar Quiros  
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Pinesville Subd. Senior Contribution  
Pink Sisters  
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Portia & Paolo Alvendia  
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Our deepest gratitude goes out to everyone who has donated goods and services to help us evacuate and restore the village to its former glory.

**YOU ARE A BLESSING!**

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## IN-KIND DONORS

Aira Kana Uda  
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Emeliza & Jerry Castro  
Emelyn Tampoa  
Emilyn Floresca  
Emmyline G. Becasen  
Emy Jarata (Cursillo Group)  
Engr Rizalino Banta



*Mass in Baguio with the sisters of St Scholastica*

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Lita Cawilan  
Ludy & Gerry Cayabyab  
Luna Salvador  
Maggie Poe  
Maiou Flores (Woodstown)  
Maison Nicho  
Manka  
Manor House  
Marian Garcia  
Marissa & Nena Yap

*Jefferson Lau donated 100 comforters for the children.*



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Maristela Diaz  
Mary Grace Estepa & Seguin Family  
Mary Rose Agustin & Company  
Matt Wesleyan  
Medtech Batch '91 (SLU,UB)  
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SLU School of Aurora Hill  
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Supreme Hotel  
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Tajimaya Sumibi Yakiniku  
Tala  
Talisay dela Rosa  
Teano's Donan Belo  
Teresa Hernandez  
Teresita Jabonete  
The Clutter Shop  
The Cordillera Connection  
The Master Garden  
The Salvation Army  
Thelma Nisperos  
Tionsan  
Tonette Ventura  
Tracee Guinyawan  
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UBHS Class '88  
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Winnie Lumanlan  
Winnie Sapin  
Xuxia Concepcion  
Ymari Antoinette Rabara  
Zafirah & Viel Molina  
Zandralyn Sudiagal



*Celebrity Gerald Anderson celebrated his birthday with us in Baguio*



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# MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR

Now that we're back in the village and the children are going back to their normal routines, there is a lot to be grateful for. First of all, we're grateful that we have a village to go back to. The situation could have gotten worse if Taal spewed out magma; it would have more devastating effects on the village and we would be in Baguio longer.

Second, we're grateful for the support system that we have. Aside from our Board of Trustees, donors, and sponsors, we have received overwhelming support from people in social media. CNN Philippines TV Host **James Deakin** heard about our plight through **SOS Children's Villages** and shared it to his network on Facebook. Within 24 hours, we received hundreds of new donations through our Paypal account. We were surprised by the outpouring support and we only hope that we can cultivate our relationship with these new donors.

Finally, we're grateful that we do not have any casualties. Aside from the few farm animals that died because of complications caused by the ashfall, all the children are in good health.

We're hoping that the coming months would be less challenging than the past two so we can focus on the new projects that we're undertaking. For the meantime, let this video of **Elijah Batongbuhay** inspire you. Elijah is one of our semi-functional, wheelchair-bound boys but he is striving to be independent. He has gone back to physical therapy and the video below features him putting on socks after a treatment session. It seems like a very easy task but it's difficult for someone in his condition. Yet he perseveres and does it all on his own.



### FOR USA DONATIONS & FUNDRAISING INQUIRIES, PLEASE REACH OUT TO:

**KEVIN OR SUZANNE BOVAIRD**  
Friends of Chosen Children Village, Inc.  
c/o Bovaird Insurance Agency, LLC.  
9299 W Olive Ave, Suite #304, Peoria, AZ 85345  
Suzanne'S Cell: 602-757-8107  
Email: FCCVUSA@gmail.com

For the latest updates about the village & our little angels, follow us in social media!



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Chosen Children



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