

IJA I-GIVE “Operation Bulig”

It was the Provinces of Samar and Leyte, especially Tacloban City which received the most news coverage during the destruction wrought by Typhoon Yolanda, subsequently identified as the most severe storm in recorded history. Yet, the entire central region of the Philippines, especially the Visayas and Palawan were not spared. The Island of Panay, which includes the Province of Aklan and the City of Kalibo, suffered extensive devastation of croplands and the destruction of homes, schools and churches. Indeed, one area of New Washington, the birthplace of our revered Cardinal Jaime Sin, is completely gone.

People from all over the world criticized our government for slow moving aid or worse, mostly for political reasons. Amidst the outpouring of millions of pesos in monetary help and volunteers from many different nations of the world, they still doubt the resilience of the Filipino people. Some, however, continue to help for they believe that helping, sharing and giving is the only right thing to do and, unfortunately, the only thing you need to do. We will instead be the solution rather than be part of the problem. To those of you who believe and combine prayer with your actions, we give our heartfelt thanks.

One group which trusted us with relief goods is INFANT JESUS ACADEMY, an institution dedicated to IRED – Integrity, Responsibility, Excellence and Discipline. IJA Kalibo’s buildings and personnel were not spared from damage and, sadly, most of our teachers were left either roofless or homeless.

Despite the hardship of coping with the aftermath of Typhoon Yolanda, the IJAian community gave witness by working hand in hand during the relief efforts, sparing their ‘baon’ to share goods or “sweating out” during the repacking and distribution of relief goods to far flung Barangays.

In the words of our school Chancellor, Mr. Peter Mallonga, ***“Our community service effort in the school under the banner of IJA VOICE is one way of educating our children that faith alone does not make us Christians, but it is the integration of our faith and action in serving others, especially those who need our service the most, that makes us true followers of Christ.”***

Through the concerted generosity of the IJA Marikina, IJA Antipolo and IJA Kalibo communities, supported by the IJA Kalibo Family Council which donated rice, with Principal Dr. Edna Gonzales' leadership and the Office of the Activities Coordinator, in cooperation with IJA-VOICE, the Interact Club, SAC and other student and teacher volunteers, IJA has distributed several tons of relief items, of canned goods, noodles, used clothing, milk, bath and laundry soap, toiletries, bottled water and other items to these hard hit areas in the province of Aklan:

To Barangays Poblacion, Alaminos and Ma. Crispina in the town of Madalag – 1,129 packs of goods and 100 packs of clothes; to the Quezon Avenue community in Kalibo – 46 packs of food; in cooperation with the Rotary Clubs of Roxas and Forbes Park, Makati, 50 packs of clothes and a chain saw to Brgy. Tabon, Batan; 120 packs of goods and rice to Brgy. Ipil, Batan; 123 food packs and 155 packs of clothes to Brgy. Sungkulan, Batan; 151 to Parish of CAMAKA, Batan with 20 packs of clothes; 62 packs to IJA Personnel who suffered damage to their homes; together with the Sto. Nino Seminary college volunteers, 100 packs of goods and rice to Brgy. Joyao-Joyao, Numancia; 156 packs of food to Brgy. Mambog, Banga; 54 packs of food to

Brgy. Dongon West, Numancia; 10 packs of food and rice to Brgy. Poblacion, Numancia; 19 packs of food to Brgy. Fatima Nutrition Scholars and 80 packs of goods to Brgy. Rizal, New Washington.

In cooperation with Operation Taghoy Philippines, the Philippine Dental Association-Manila and Dr. Joseph Macasiray of the International College of Dentists, IJA Kalibo has been distributing free Anti-Tetanus vaccine, toothbrushes, toothpaste and hand soap to survivors of Typhoon Yolanda at the IJA Clinic, Kalibo Campus, while supplies last.

Fr. Charles Isagan of the Parish of Madalag has this to say, *“It is very important that the missionary spirit would disturb the minds of our youth. It is also important that the seeds of volunteerism, sharing, giving, loving and carinl grow in their hearts. Let your VOICE OF LOVE be heard by the poor, and be the VOICE OF GOD to our youth.”*

