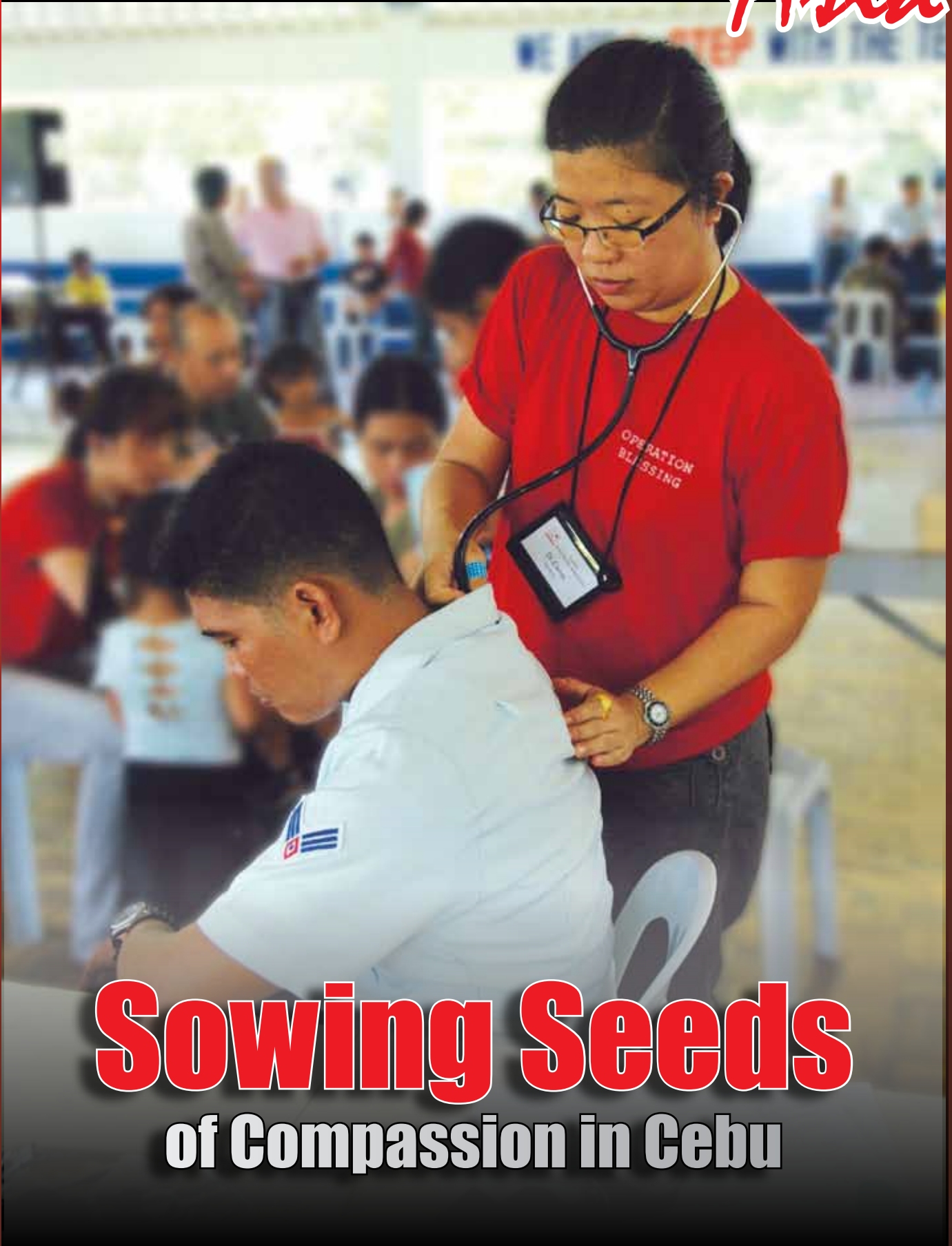


BLESSINGS

NOVEMBER 2010

Asia

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF OPERATION BLESSING PHILIPPINES, INC.



Sowing Seeds of Compassion in Cebu

Because We Care

Dear Partners



These are exciting times for Operation Blessing! The Lord has been leading us to grow beyond our Manila headquarters and expand to the rest of the country.

Last year, I witnessed the small baby steps of Operation Blessing Davao. Today our young office in Mindanao is a light and salt to that region. We've improved lives of Filipinos—Christians, Muslims, and even Lumads—through humanitarian projects that you fervently support.

Recently, God instilled in me a burden to bless more of our brothers and sisters, this time in the Visayas. At first, I felt it was too soon to open another office, but there was just a strong tug in my heart to move in and bring transformation to those islands as well.

We took a bold step and launched back-to-back medical missions in Cebu province, where we saw the glimmer of hope return in the eyes of the sick, the disabled, and the impoverished. We also marveled at the support we had from generous Sugbuanons—volunteers, donors, the military, local governments, and the church.

I can't help but praise God for "tilling the land" in Cebu as we prepare to sow seeds of His love in the Visayas. For sure, it will be a leap of faith, and I'm praying that you, as a faithful partner of Operation Blessing, will be taking this leap with us as well.

May God richly bless you!

In Christ's Service,

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

MEDICAL MISSION

Sowing Seeds of Compassion in Cebu

Sometimes, all it takes to get a mission accomplished is willingness. More people willing to care. More hearts willing to give. More hands willing to help. More feet willing to go the extra mile.

When Operation Blessing Foundation Philippines (OB) went to Cebu for a weeklong medical mission, with them is the willingness to help the needy and sow seeds of compassion among Cebuanos' hearts.

The task was not easy, but the wonderful joint effort of Operation Blessing Manila and Davao surely made things possible.

"I'm so happy to see them uniting to help the people here in Cebu," said Dr. Kim April Pascual, OB's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. It was her "dream come true" to have professionals and volunteers from both offices work together for the first time.

For years, it has been Doc Kim's heart to open doors for OB in Cebu and the Visayas. When the opportunity finally came, there's nothing left to do but take the challenge.

Heartfelt Service, Endless Gratitude

Throughout the six days of outreach last July, not minding the long drives to each site, OB went to least-served barangays in Cebu to offer free medical, surgical, dental, and optical services.

Small-scale livelihood opportunities were given to chosen beneficiaries, and feeding programs were also held for community children. Deep wells were installed and dedicated in areas where sources of potable water are often unavailable.

When Pastor Jun heard of Operation Blessing coming to their place in Hagnaya in San Remigio town, he brought his family to

the mission site to see OB in action, and participate as well.

"It's a privilege to work with people who really have the heart for the poor," said Pastor Jun who volunteered as a counselor that day. His son Kyle was given vitamins and deworming medicines so he will be less sickly.

"The doctor's advice will help improve our son's health. OB is such a blessing to us here in Hagnaya," said a thankful Wendeliza, Pastor Jun's wife.

In Mandaue City, Jimmy rushed his feverish son to OB's mission site. Despite a walking disability and blurry eyesight, he knew he just had to go.

"I couldn't afford to buy new eyeglasses since selling vegetables isn't enough to meet my family's needs," he said.

That day, apart from his son getting free doctor's check-up and medicines, Jimmy received free reading glasses sponsored by Metrobank Foundation. He simply couldn't contain his joy.

"I'm very happy with all these blessings that God has given me," he told OB.

Operation Blessing was able to



Pastor Jun and wife Wendeliza, with their two sons Kyle and Jundel, were not only OB beneficiaries but volunteers as well.

MEDICAL MISSION

Air Force Taps OB and Rotary for Outreach

OB returned to the Queen City of the South last August for another medical mission in partnership with the 560th Air Base Wing of the Philippine Air Force (PAF), Rotary Club of Mactan, and Rotary Club of Cebu North.

The three-day outreach was part of the PAF unit's monthlong activities for its 42nd anniversary celebration.

The medical mission came just in perfect time for Cebuanos like Jerome, 13. He accidentally wounded his left thumb with an *itak* while gathering firewood. His mother brought him immediately to the mission site in Busay, where Jerome underwent a delicate surgery, saving the vital ligament in his thumb.

PAF servicemen stationed at Mactan's Benito Ebuena Air Base, together with their families, also availed of free checkups, tooth extractions, surgical services, reading glasses, and medicines.

"We would like to thank OB for extending us this help you provided. Surely this adds color and meaning to our anniversary," said Colonel Raul Dimatatac



Working together to bring free health services to Cebuanos are the 560th Air Base Wing, Operation Blessing, and Rotary Clubs of Mactan and Cebu North.



Jimmy can now face each day clearly, thanks to OB and Metrobank Foundation, who generously sponsored free reading glasses.

visit six barangays in San Remigio, Bogo, and Mandaue, catering to over 11,000 people. The stories of Pastor Jun and Jimmy are some of the countless testimonies of gratitude and happiness that week.

More to Be Done in the Visayas

This medical mission was made successful through the support of local governments units; local Cebu churches; Rotary Clubs of Mactan and Bogo; Philippine Academy of Dermatologic Surgery Foundation, Inc. (PADSFI); Cebu 6th District Representative Gabriel Luis Quisumbing; Cua, Ebo, and Manglapus families; 560th Air Base Wing of the Philippine Air Force; PAL Foundation; Mizpah Pharmaceutical; and Operation Blessing's generous donors and partners.

It was a mission accomplished—taxing yet rewarding. And for sure it will not be the last. There's still plenty to do, and the work in Visayas has only just begun.

Support Operation Blessing today and help us launch a regional office in Cebu! Call us now at (02) 813-2163 in Manila or (082) 297-3080 in Davao, and learn how you can bless our *kababayans* in the Visayas!

of the 560th Air Base Wing.

OB increased its present services in Cebu with hopes of establishing key partnerships that will help launch a regional office in the city, reaching out to more underserved Filipinos in the Visayas.

Blessing Sugbu

Running back-to-back medical missions in Cebu last July and August:

- **4,830** had free medical checkups
- **803** were served by volunteer dentists
- **200** underwent minor surgeries
- **508** availed of free reading glasses
- **21** special cases were assisted and referred to hospitals
- **35** in Metro Cebu received deworming medicines
- **18** wheelchairs were distributed in Mandaue
- **1,619** residents of Bogo and San Remigio now benefit from 10 new deep wells
- **14** families were given small-scale livelihood projects
- **2,500** children enjoyed OB's programs for kids
- **4,865** Cebuanos prayed to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior

YOU touched the lives of hundreds, and you can transform THOUSANDS MORE in the Visayas region through:



- supplemental feeding of 200 children
- cleft lip and cleft palate surgeries
- a mobile surgical clinic
- weeklong medical missions in Camotes and Bohol islands in 2011
- Holiday of Hope and Cheers for 5,000 kids
- an Operation Blessing office in Cebu, serving all of the Visayas!

Make all these dreams possible through your partnership with Operation Blessing! Send us your filled-out pledge form today, or call us at (02) 813-2163 in Manila or (082) 297-3080 in Davao to learn how you can help.

Cebu Partners Recognize Operation Blessing



Rotary Club of Mactan

Rotarians lauded its partnership with Operation Blessing in successfully conducting recent medical missions in Cebu. A plaque of appreciation was presented during the organization's induction of officers at the Waterfront Airport Hotel and Casino Mactan last August 28.

Mandaue City Government

At the Mandaue Charter Day celebratory dinner at the Cebu International Convention Center, Dr. Kim April Pascual received an award recognizing Operation Blessing's humanitarian efforts in the city.

OB held medical missions in three of its barangays and distributed free wheelchairs to persons with disabilities



Philippine Air Force

The 560th Air Base Wing fetes OB's invaluable partnership during their three-day medical mission in Metro Cebu last August. Operation Blessing officials were present to receive the award during the Air Force unit's 42nd anniversary celebration in Benito Ebuena Air Base last September 13.

MEDICAL MISSION

Dariel and Arvy's Open Window

Dariel's youngest son was a painful sight. Arvy is only three years old, and a skin infection has spread from his small face down to his fragile legs and feet.

"It breaks my heart to see him suffering. I'm deeply hurt because I couldn't afford to bring him to a doctor," Dariel said. With her husband in jail and with less than enough for their daily needs, a medical checkup for Arvy is unlikely. All Dariel could do was pray and wait for a miracle.

God answered her plea when Operation Blessing visited their place in Bogu City, Cebu. A team of volunteer doctors examined the boy's condition and assured Dariel that it can be cured.

Aside from free medications and continuous treatment for Arvy's skin infection, OB will also sponsor his corrective surgery for his rare cleft palate.



As for Dariel, OB gave her a goat that she can raise for extra income. This small-scale livelihood opportunity is what she has been wanting for so long.

"I couldn't find the right words to express the great joy I'm feeling," an overwhelmed Dariel told OB. "I'm so grateful to Operation Blessing and to all the generous hearts who helped us."

LIVELIHOOD

When the Goats Come Marching In

The ropes were tugged and the goats came trampling in, their necks and feet adorned with red ribbons that fluttered as the wind gently blew. The four-legged "gifts" bleated loudly as Operation Blessing turned them over to their grateful new owners.

Lucil, 22, expressed her great joy upon receiving her goat. "I've been praying for a source of income so I can help my husband in sustaining our daily needs," she shared. "I'll be giving birth soon, so I couldn't leave the house and work if I have to take care of our children."

When OB came to Bogu and San Remigio in Cebu and scouted for families in need of livelihood opportunities, a very pregnant Lucil was one of the chosen beneficiaries.



"This goat will definitely be of great help to us financially. God heard my prayer and used Operation Blessing to help my family. I'm so happy and truly thankful," she said.

A total of 10 families were entrusted with goats during OB's weeklong outreach in Cebu last July. Goat-raising is just one example of Operation Blessing's livelihood assistance program, which aims to teach self-sufficiency among poor families through microenterprise projects with easy return-of-investment schemes.

Blessed Beyond Measure

Our God is a giver and not a taker. He blesses those whose trusts and hopes are on Him.

This reality was manifested in the lives of typhoon Ondoy victims in Montalban who are now proud beneficiaries of Operation Blessing's livelihood assistance program, with the support of its generous donor Lisa Alfelor.

Rebecca, who has seven children, was given a small-scale enterprise in weaving doormats as a source of income. "Your help can change the future of our family!" she said with excitement.

Anita's house was destroyed by Ondoy last year. She had to stop selling merienda and use all her savings in rebuilding their home. She had no way of reviving her small business, until OB helped her.

"I can't thank God enough for using OB as His way of saying that



An Operation Blessing donor helped Anita (second from right), an Ondoy survivor, revive her small merienda business.

He cares for me!" she said as she cried tears of joy.

Tirzo and Rowena were given a sidecar for delivering scraps and used bottles straight to junkshops, making their work easier. "I can't believe that you're giving us this sidecar for free!" Tirzo, still surprised, told OB. "Thank you very much for this gift!"

IBM Donates Laptops to OB

IBM donated four laptop units to Operation Blessing as part of its corporate social responsibility program. Under the CSR Refreshed PC program, the units were re-cloned and refurbished to be given to nonprofit organizations like OB.

A deed of donation was signed at IBM's main office in Eastwood, Quezon City to formalize the contribution. The deed was presented by IBM Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs Specialist Mildred Parbo.

Present to sign and receive



the donation were Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Dr. Kim April Pascual and Corporate Communications and Resource Development Manager Gigilyn Endaya from Operation Blessing.

Sewing Her Way to a Better Life

Thelma's family lives in a dilapidated shanty in Paquibato District in the outskirts of Davao City. Her husband harvests coconuts for a living, while she does manicure services to add to their income.

But their combined earnings are still not enough to meet their needs. Worse, Grace, her eight-year-old daughter, was born with a cleft lip, making the child susceptible to illnesses.

Last March, Thelma received double blessings from Operation Blessing Davao. She was one of the



19 students who graduated from the Mobile Out-of-School Training (MOST) program on dressmaking conducted in Paquibato.

As a reward for their completion of the monthlong course, they all received sewing machines, which they can immediately use to start their dressmaking businesses. Even before the graduation, Thelma already had her first customer. "My cousin," she said smiling, "asked me to sew for her children."

And it was not the only blessing she received. OB also committed to having Grace undergo surgery for her cleft lip. A grateful Thelma exclaimed, "I am so delighted, and really happy for all the blessings OB has given me!"

OB Presents Amazing Grace

Operation Blessing thanks its partners and friends who trooped to SM Megamall Cinema 9 last June to support the special screening of *Amazing Grace*, a stirring biopic of anti-slavery pioneer William Wilberforce.

A simple program hosted by Mari Kaimo preceded this fundraising movie event for the benefit of the Mobile Out-of-School Training (MOST) program. Operation Blessing EVP and COO Dr. Kim April Pascual updated guests on the lives transformed by MOST. Beauty queen



Miriam Quiambao and fashion designer Mai Kaufman were also present to share their experiences volunteering and partnering with OB.

Saving Young Smiles in Davao

Armed with toothbrushes, fluoride gels, dental equipment, and warm smiles, Operation Blessing Davao is winning the battle for better dental health.

OB's Mobile Dental Clinic aims to preserve the precious smiles of 3,500 public school children in Davao City. This new project is done in cooperation with the city's Department of Education and volunteer dentists.

Kids in Davao are glad to receive



new toothbrushes and fluoride applications for free. Also, they are now well-informed on taking good care of their pearly whites. "We have to teach these children to be responsible with their teeth while they are still young," explains Dr. Jun Punzalan, OB Davao's staff dentist.

When the Mobile Dental Clinic visited a school in Toril district, 11-year-old Jared grabbed the chance and had his decayed tooth extracted by a volunteer dentist for free.

"I'm very happy because I no longer have to take pain relievers every now and then. My bad tooth is gone," says Jared. "My mother said this opportunity doesn't come often. We are really thankful OB came here to check on our teeth."

'Basyang' Victims Receive Aid

A disaster response team from Operation Blessing braved choppy waters and unpredictable Pacific weather so they can deliver essential relief goods to Bicolanos severely hit by typhoon Basyang.

Residents of Calagua Islands in Camarines Norte were delighted to see the team aboard bancas loaded with boxes of food items and sacks of mats and used clothes to be distributed to affected households.

Around 1,200 families from three coastal barangays were given relief bags. Also, hundreds of children from these fishing villages had a respite from hunger as they were served with nutrient-enriched rice mix during a feeding program.

Assisting the OB team were local church volunteers and municipal government staff and officials led by Vinzons Mayor Agnes Ang. "I hope you never lose drive in what you're doing," the mayor told OB, the first humanitarian



group to bring aid to Calaguas. "I personally thank you for this huge help to us."

Your partnership with OB enables us to quickly respond to calamities even in remote communities and help them in their time of great need.



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