



Registered association for the promotion
of medical care and social support in
Northern Samar, Philippines

Bugko, April 2016

Dear members, dear friends, and supporters of Mabuhay!

Our annual general meeting took place again on December 11th, and Sister Veronica and I were delighted to see many friends and companions of Mabuhay-Hilfe zum Leben e.V. again, as well as to welcome new friends. A lot happens in a year, and the general meeting is a good place to report on it and answer questions.



On December 14, we received the first reports of the highly destructive Typhoon Melor, which directly impacted our island of Northern Samar. It was the strongest typhoon this island had ever experienced, and many people were left without shelter and electricity until February 20, 2016. In Bugko alone, 840 houses were either damaged or completely destroyed, and even our solidly built clinic sustained significant damage.

A heartfelt thank you again to everyone who spontaneously supported us in December in our effort to provide assistance to the typhoon victims. We were able to put the money to good use immediately upon our return, as reconstruction work was still in full swing.



In this context, I would like to personally thank everyone who has repeatedly contributed to us being able to help in Bugko over so many years. This is done through financial support, but also through diverse donations in kind, such as bandages, medicines, clothing, tools, toys, sports equipment, bedding, etc., to name just a few. For years, the Meyer family has packed these items about three times a year and sent them to us to be used or distributed on site. Our island is still one of the poorest in the Philippines and we are therefore very grateful for everything that is sent to us. How often have we been able to make people happy, help them, and alleviate hardship as a result. Your help gets to where it is needed, and that is why Sr. Veronica and I are in Bugko.



With the help of Rotary Bonn, we were able to expand our sanitary facilities. This became necessary because the number of patients we are seeing is increasing and the clinic is also being used as an evacuation center during the frequent typhoons in the region.



On January 15, Dr. Georg Lindner from Bad Krötzing visited us for the second time for three weeks to provide dental treatment to our patients. This time, he brought his wife, Eveline, with him. She worked successfully in our new cafeteria, and he worked in the new treatment room. They were also fully involved in distributing relief supplies after the typhoon, and Dr. Lindner

was once again able to experience the devastation typhoons leave behind here (he also experienced Typhoon Glenda here in July 2014).



Almost at the same time, Nathalie K. from Göttingen came here to do an internship. She would like to study medicine and wanted to get an insight into a hospital ward. Dr. Lindner was very happy about the unexpected German help in the dental ward. She found it particularly easy to interact with the children.



On February 26, my parents came here for the sixth time. To our great joy, this time they had brought Ms. Susanne Schmidt, our chairwoman of the Mabuhay-Hilfe zum Leben e.V. association, with them. My father had already sent medication, syringes, and acupuncture needles, and patients had been asking weeks in advance when the specialist would be coming. In that short time, he saw more than 1,000 patients. Early in the morning, patients were already standing at the gate, waiting patiently for their treatment. Many again traveled long distances just to see the specialist and receive help. For Ms. Schmidt, it was her first visit, and she wanted to find out more about the project first hand. She worked in our newly furnished cafeteria every day and quickly made contact with the patients and children.



On March 2nd, Dr. Paul Radway from Colorado Springs, USA, came to us again with his ISM (International Surgical Missions) team to perform outpatient surgeries. As he has done for many years, patients came to us for free surgery. Dr. Radway operated almost non-stop, only stopping when the last waiting patient had been treated. Our volunteers and my father, Dr. Korth, assisted with great joy. At the same time, major surgeries, such as hernias, thyroids, breast tumors, fibroids, gallstones, intestinal tumors, and cleft lip and palate, were performed in Biri, one of the offshore islands of Northern Samar, over a period of 10 days. Many of our patients also underwent surgery there.



The grand inauguration of our multi-purpose building took place on March 6th. Dr. Klaus Winter, the head of the German Dentists' Aid Organization, Dr. Klaus De Cassan with his wife Michaela, and Dr. Hans Niebel traveled there especially to attend. The German Dentists' Aid Organization financed this major project and has stood by our side throughout the years since the Mabuhay Clinic was founded. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the German Dentists' Aid Organization, because without their substantial financial support for our project over many years, we would not be where we are today and would not be able to provide so much help. Our Bishop, Emmanuel C. Trance, celebrated Holy Mass with us and then inaugurated the building. Many visitors came from near and far to attend the event and see the new building. It is already a huge help that we have the additional space to help our patients. More are coming every day, and our focus remains on providing good medical care, especially to the poor. So far, we are still the only institution in Northern Samar that cares for these people.



I thank you for your diverse help here. We continually realize how our concern here is also yours. So, I send you my warmest greetings and wish you all a blessed Easter.

Yours,

Sabine Korth

Salamat (thank you) from Bugko!

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