



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

Bugko, December 2017

Dear members, dear friends, and supporters of Mabuhay!

This year, Sister Veronica and I were already in Germany together in September. There were a variety of reasons for this, and we were delighted to see many of our friends and supporters. A highlight of the stay was a short trip to Rome, where we were able to speak briefly with Pope Francis. Meeting the Pope so closely is a special experience.



We resumed clinic operations in October, and our patients eagerly awaited us. Word quickly spread that "Mabuhay" was open again. In our absence, our patient waiting area was roofed over. We had long considered how we could better protect waiting patients from rain and sun, as well as how we could connect our buildings. Roofing the driveway was the solution, and once again, we were able to realize this project thanks to funding from the German Dentists' Aid Organization and Dr. Winter.



A key focus of our work is children. The proportion of children in the population is relatively high. Unfortunately, undernourished and malnourished children are still common. Combined with inadequate or incorrect nutrition, we see many children who are underweight, have bad teeth, urinary tract infections, and respiratory tract infections because their general health simply makes them more susceptible to infection. For years, we have been running an ongoing nutrition program to improve this situation. Our volunteers select the children, weigh them, and, above all, educate the mothers, who often don't even notice their children's condition. Since last year, we have been able to expand this program to the two neighboring villages and currently have almost 80 children enrolled.



In this context, it was wonderful that Dr. Kristyna D. from Czechoslovakia joined us as a pediatrician on November 8th. In addition to children, she also examined and treated many adults. She quickly gained a rapport with the patients. Word quickly spread that we had a pediatrician here. In addition to the clinic, she also helped with work in and around the clinic. In her free time, she explored Northern Samar and got to know the province and its people.



On November 22nd, Sister Veronica and I flew to Manila. The occasion was that I was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit. A great honor. Unfortunately, it could only be a small ceremony, as the German ambassador in Manila, Dr. Gordon Kricke, finds it difficult to travel due to his busy schedule. I was honored, but this award really belongs to everyone who supports our work here and helps make Northern Samar a better place.





Another eventful year lies behind us. Many patients came to us for help. Thanks to your help, we were able to help so many people and do good. We also had many visitors who actively supported our work on site. Thank you/SALAMAT for all your help and support! Be it financial support or donations in kind. Every bit of help is appreciated! And where it is needed, so I wish you a happy Advent season and a blessed Christmas. Your grateful,

Sabine Korth

Malipayon nga Pasko (Merry Christmas) from Bugko!



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