

Tiwala Newsletter March-April 2010

'Show Time!'

Throughout the month of March our children practiced various songs & dances for their much awaited talent show. Our teachers, volunteers & children all worked extremely hard in preparation for the show. On the actual day of the 'Tiwala's Got Talent' event in April the children performed wonderfully and enjoyed the buzz of excitement in the air. We believe that our objectives were met, which were to give our children an opportunity to overcome various fears and insecurities; to gain confidence and self-esteem; to express themselves and to realize their own potential.

It was encouraging to see some of our more timid children bravely performing solos or duets and to see the keen participation of some of our children who have in the past shown very poor attendance and participation in class. One of our young boys (who often sleeps on the streets and is usually very withdrawn) chose to sing solo, but at the dress rehearsal broke down in tears from fear. After a bit of encouragement he went on to perform confidently on the actual day and thereafter felt very proud of his achievement - we are so proud of him!

Another milestone was the integration and participation of our Badjao (sea gypsy) children. Up until April we held separate programs for our Badjao children as they have had difficulty integrating with others. In April we started the integration process and the results were a lot better than we expected. Our Badjao children joined in the pre-show preparations along with our regular students and performed with great enthusiasm and excitement at the show. A few days after the show all of our performers were treated to either a session at a play centre or a swimming pool. Our regular students and Badjao children played harmoniously and have since had no problem integrating.



Summer Workshops

Tiwala held various summer workshops throughout the month of April, including a 5-day Vacation Bible School (VBS) program. We had very high attendance from children, who chose to be learning at Tiwala as opposed to joining the current summer festivities in Legazpi City, where they'd usually make a lot of money by begging from tourists. Some children have been regularly coming to the Tiwala centre in the early mornings in order to shower & wash their clothes - it is a blessing to see how our children feel 'at home' at Tiwala. Overall, our children had an eventful and enjoyable summer and have all made great progress. We ended the summer programs with a VBS & Graduation party!

Volunteer Involvement & Partnerships

Through the 'Tiwala's Got Talent' event Tiwala established an ongoing partnership with Bicol University (BU) in Legazpi City. BU very kindly gave Tiwala full use of their hall, stage equipment & facilities, at no cost. BU continues to be supportive of our endeavors by encouraging their students to volunteer at Tiwala and initiate special events and programs for our children.

Tiwala also received great support and volunteer participation from local churches and individuals from Manila, most of whom are keen to continue their involvement with our programs.

Tiwala's faithful missionaries from England returned to Bicol to support our programs and love our children. The group helped in so many ways, such as assisting with kid's activities, preparing props, commentating at the talent show, supporting field trips, admin and IT assistance, taking lice out of our children's hair, you name it!

Tiwala is greatly encouraged by the level of support we have had from volunteers and local groups. A huge thanks to all who continue to partner with Tiwala by giving prayer, financial support and time.

God bless you!

Tiwala Team :)

