

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2009

Recently certain areas of the Philippines experienced typhoons and severe flooding. Our region was not affected by this disaster therefore all at **Tiwala** are safe. However, we do remember those who are suffering at the moment as a result of this calamity and invite you to join us in praying for families who lost their relatives, friends, homes and possessions. As it is currently monsoon season, there are threats of more typhoons approaching and we will therefore take every precaution to ensure the safety of our children and community.

Student Involvement

Social work students from Bicol University College of Social Sciences and Philosophy have joined **Tiwala's** regular programs with the street children in Legazpi City. The students have strategized a 'values formation' program for the children, which they facilitate every week. The students have chosen various themes for each month and use methods such as role-play, puzzle making and games to achieve their objectives. The theme for September was 'Showing Respect', with the activities aimed at teaching the children the value of respect for their peers, elders, parents, family, teachers, society and environment. The children have enjoyed the workshops and have been very participative.

In addition to the social work & counselling **Tiwala** offers the children, we would be very grateful if psychology students could join our team, working with the street children in particular. As with the social work students (right), we believe that having more students and working professionals on board on a voluntary part time basis, would add much depth to the social, emotional & psychological guidance and counsel we are able to offer the children. Should you be in a position to volunteer your time and input (even from a distance, by way of sharing ideas for related activities etc.), please contact us!



Mountain Community Update

Tiwala is still working closely with the mountain community in Santo Domingo where we were based for 18 months. Our team continues to run weekend programs for the children and mothers, which have a high attendance rate. **Tiwala** has recently partnered with a local church near the location of the mountain village. Through this partnership we are able to offer the mountain folk more guidance and support, especially with regard to 'raising families with Christian values'. Recently our team took a group of 39 from the mountain village on a field trip to a



wildlife park in Legazpi, followed by a brief trip to the city. As some of the children have never been to the city, it was a great experience for them and furthermore a good opportunity for them to see the area where we are now based.

Income Generating Projects

Tiwala is considering various options for income generating projects, as we are determined to eventually be self-sufficient to a large extent. In addition to subsistence farming, which we aim to do once we have established our mission on a farm, we would like to focus on a particular project that could bring in a sustainable income for our regular programs. As we are still in a research phase, we would be very grateful for any practical advice or ideas regarding such projects. We currently have volunteers researching the feasibility of income generating business ventures in the Philippines, which is of great help to us. If you are interested in doing such research for us, or if you think you could link us to any networks that could be of assistance, please let us know - we'd love to hear from you!

Thank you for caring about **Tiwala's** mission. We are so grateful for all your help - you are making such a difference to our children. We have felt all your prayers and we particularly appreciate your prayers for our safety during the current monsoon weather.

Every Blessing,

Gail Narramore
Founder