

Tiwala Newsletter December 2009

Seasons Greetings! Tiwala has not been directly affected by Mayon Volcano's recent eruption. We are however unable to get to our mountain outreach to hold our Christmas party and other regular programs as it requires us to travel through the danger zone. Therefore our programs in Santo Domingo will be postponed until such time as the volcano is no longer hazardous.

Kalye Tiwala Party

Tiwala held our first Christmas party for street children & underprivileged children from the Legazpi slums (children aged 5-15 years). Social Work students from Bicol University (BU) hosted the party at the BU Social Work Campus in Daraga. Through this collaborative effort Tiwala and BU students provided a fun and exciting event for the children, some of which had never attended a Christmas party prior to this. The children had a wonderful time, as to be expected, and some of our children had an opportunity to perform dances for the audience, which was very courageous of them and a great milestone in terms of their confidence development.

ALS Party/Recognition

Our second party was for our Alternative Learning System (ALS) students. This party was both a Christmas celebration and a recognition of our student's achievements. The students were rewarded for their progress throughout the academic year thus far and enjoyed the fun and games at the party. It was a blessing to see the synergy in the group and high level of participation from the boys.





Badjao Children's Party

Our third Christmas party was for a group of Badjao children (nomadic tribal children from Mindanao). Tiwala has been reaching out to this group of children whenever possible, although they are not enrolled in our regular programs due to the nature of their lifestyle, which involves wandering from place to place. Whenever they are in Legazpi for a season, we do our best to help them. This Christmas we treated them to a Christmas meal and gave them gifts of clothing, books and hygiene supplies.

Vehicle for Tiwala Kids

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, Tiwala is having some difficulties in transporting the street children to our learning centre, as our current use of public transport (above right) is proving to be somewhat risky for our children. We seek to achieve a safer, cheaper and more reliable transport system, through acquiring our own vehicle. Please contact us should you wish to be involved in this endeavor.

Big thanks to Bicol University, Unilever and to every individual who partnered with us this Christmas. Because of your financial contributions and donations in kind (such as jackets & hygiene supplies) we were able to bless many underprivileged and rejected children!

God bless you in 2010!

Gail Narramore
Founder