

DEAF ACTION NEWSLETTER - MAY 2016

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THANK YOU to our SPONSORS and SUPPORTERS

More than 400 deaf students are studying at our special schools because of your kindness and generosity. Education is transforming their lives. They commence school with bewildered little faces but quickly respond to the love and care they receive.

OUR SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF GIVE EACH CHILD AND FAMILY:



- Special education with loving, caring teachers and workers
- Individual attention and signing in small classes
- Signing instruction to parents so they can communicate with their children and restore loving family relationships
- Vocational training and job preparation
- Deaf friends for the rest of their lives
- Some students become teachers of the deaf themselves

Parents are expected to pay some fees or give farm produce. But many are poor and nearly all our students would not be able to attend school without your financial support. Our teachers are very dedicated and choose our schools rather than government schools that pay higher wages. Teachers accept a further cut in wages when we do not have enough money. This happens most years and creates severe hardship. We have not been able to send even the minimum amount needed for food and wages every month this year.

**PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING an EXTRA DONATION BEFORE
the END OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, and INCLUDE the
DEDUCTION in YOUR CURRENT TAX RETURN.**

SCHOOLS in the PHILIPPINES

*The Philippine government has now extended education from 10 to 12 years giving an **extra 2 years of Senior High School** education. Our schools in the Philippines must also add 2 years to the secondary Curriculum; but we will need to give extra finance for this.*

DAVAO in the PHILIPPINES

A work party from Berwick, Australia visited Davao early this year and repaired woodwork, painted rooms and installed cupboards in dormitories. They also enjoyed activities with the students after school hours. It is a wonderful experience to join a work party in our schools. If you are interested please contact us and we can tell you when a visit is planned.

Davao's plans for the new Grades 11 and 12 will include general academic subjects, Humanities and Social Sciences, Computer Hardware Servicing, Beauty Care and Wellness, Food Processing and Hospitality Skills. Extra teachers and resources will be needed and the expenses to provide these will be an extra cost.

As you can see in reading this newsletter our needs are great, but the academic results of our deaf students and their leadership in the deaf community is highly valued.

There were less graduates this year because most of the Grade 10 students will be continuing to Grade 11. This photo shows the **College Graduates** who are to be commended on completing a college degree. Some students also gained the Massage Therapists Certificate. The title of the Graduation Address was "Success to Significance".

Let us also not forget our deaf and blind boy Gabriel who enjoys interacting with students using touch, and freely smiles and joins in many activities. It is wonderful to see him happily participating in school life.



Muir School for the Deaf in Kalay, MYANMAR

30 students now attend this school and 6 are studying at high schools in Yangon, Kalay or towns closer to their homes. Most high schools do not have signing interpreters so it is extremely hard for deaf students to understand what their teachers say. Teachers give them notes and the students read text books; but these students must be congratulated for persevering with their studies.



The students at Muir School have now showed their abilities at public educational meetings. Here is a group of students who presented a big map they made showing the different regions of Myanmar, at the Kalay Disability Awareness Day.

The students also enjoyed travelling to Pintaw Oo village for Christmas celebrations with the adult deaf community. A roof was erected to accommodate the



whole deaf community from the village, and the children from the school. Everyone enjoyed the celebration of Christmas and getting to know each other better using sign language.

Cagayan do Oro Project in the PHILIPPINES

Several young adults who previously completed High School have now returned to DMI in Davao to continue study at College level. A break from study is often a good idea and students in the Philippines sometimes do this. The younger ones continue at Talakag School Special Education Center. Sadly a fire from an adjoining property killed 3 of the pigs, but their buildings and pens were not damaged and 3 other sows are now expecting litters to increase the numbers again.

Immanuel Christian School for the Deaf in Ringa, KENYA

The new Dining Room building has been a wonderful addition to ICSD at Ringa in Kenya. The previous dining room had a dirt floor and windows without glass but now the children can sit and eat in comfort. The tables and chairs used for meals can be stacked at the back, and the room also used as an Assembly Hall. The Graduation Ceremony was held there rather than outside under canvas. There is a kitchen at one end, and it will eventually be fitted with benches, stoves and a Bakers Oven. That will give the school the opportunity to bake and sell fresh bread; and the students will enjoy that too.



As well as continuing to achieve the best exam results for 50 deaf schools in Kenya, ICSD has excelled at the National School Sports again. Some of the winning netball players are shown in this photo.

The lives of disadvantaged deaf students are completely changed by education, and this school is a positive influence in this area of Kenya. Deaf people are being valued and respected through awareness in the community.

BACOLOD & BORONGAN, PHILIPPINES

More students will be starting at the Bacolod dormitory in June, increasing the number to 25. Some of these students have completed primary schooling at schools near their homes but have come to Bacolod to attend Bacolod City National High School, where deaf students are catered for. Leizel, a Social Worker, has now been appointed at Bacolod to help Albert and Kim liaise with the schools, supervise the students after school hours and help them with homework and everyday tasks.



Rodel, our leader in the small dormitory at Borongan on Samar Island was recently married to Dina who is hearing impaired and it was a happy celebration for all.

UGANDA

Over the last 3 years, 10 disadvantaged deaf graduates in Uganda have completed tertiary qualifications that will give them the opportunity to lead useful, fulfilling lives, and lead the deaf community. 3 have graduated from university, 4 have completed teaching qualifications and are now teaching deaf students, 2 have graduated from vocational colleges and 1 man is working for a private security firm.

All these students lost parents when they were young due to war, illness or poverty. They could never have completed education without sponsorship. Each student has studied very hard, and is grateful for the opportunity they have been given. **Thank you kind sponsors.**



We can now offer support to younger deaf children who have lost parents or whose parents cannot work. There are several young students at St Mary's School for the Deaf in Mityana, west of Kampala, whose parents are deceased or who are cared for by grandparents or guardians. They all need support to be able to attend school. The staff in Uganda are always thorough in finding the best school for each student so they are as close as possible to their homes. Thank you sponsors.

Some people **like** to receive **newsletters by email**, and postage has increased now; so if you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email please contact the office. We will still mail your Christmas card and the Report from your student if we receive them from the school.

Fishermen of Christ Learning Centre - LIGAO - PHILIPPINES

FCLC will extend secondary education to 6 years as now required by government law in the Philippines but the school will continue to provide education that caters for individual differences and the needs of **every** student. More computer study and vocational subjects will be included in the extra final 2 years and new tools and equipment will be needed for the practical subjects. Woodwork, building maintenance, dressmaking, health and wellness, hospitality skills and more computer studies will enhance opportunities for employment. The Livelihood Project will continue to teach the skills that help young adults start their own small home businesses and support themselves.



This year a camp was financed and run by supporters from the USA. Camps are not usually included in the school curriculum due to the cost, but they provide an important opportunity for students to develop confidence and experience many activities not usually available to them.

Please help advertise Deaf Action or pass this newsletter on after you have finished with it.

WE NEED MORE SPONSORS.



Deaf Action sponsorship donations are fully tax deductible and go to the school, which your student attends. Our office expenses are kept as low as possible with some workers volunteering their time. If you would like a speaker to share about sponsorship for a group in or near Melbourne please contact me.

I have slideshows of the schools and would be glad to present them to advertise Deaf Action. Or if you would like sponsorship information to give to others please contact me. Education is a wonderful gift to give a disadvantaged deaf child.

Jenny Reid: Voluntary Sponsorship Coordinator

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