



May 2020

## Grateful for support during COVID-19

*I would like to send all our Sponsors and Supporters best wishes at this difficult time. We are all missing the usual activities we enjoy and visits to extended family and friends. Thankfully modern communications include 'face time' to our deaf friends. It is unsettling and hard to keep children and teenagers content; and grandparents are missing their treasured grand children! I hope your family can communicate in different ways and share fun activities.*

*The lockdown rules are quite stringent in some overseas countries where we have schools and it is even more difficult for our deaf students and families. Most police do not know sign language and our deaf people find it hard to explain their reasons for being away from home.*

### PHILIPPINES - Ligao Fishermen of Christ Learning Center



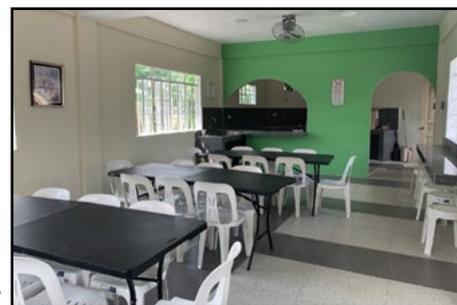
*Student lounge* fruit trees. The

roof was blown off the rice mill! The boys dormitory was badly damaged, and classrooms and the student lounge needed major repairs. A team of helpers worked on the massive 'tidying up' job and although the school did not have electronic communications for many weeks the students returned to class at the planned time in early January. Thank you to all who gave towards the rebuilding.

Thankfully the new dining room and kitchen, and the typhoon proof Administration Building survived completely. The rice mill had to be repaired quickly to protect the machinery. Rebuilding of the boys dormitory and repairing the roofs is well on the way.

A typhoon hit this school in December 2019 and damaged buildings and all trees, including the coconut plantations and

The student lounge is rebuilt and is being used as a classroom while repairs to classrooms continue. It is holidays now and all schools have been closed by the government because of this coronavirus.



*New dining room*



*Rice Mill - roof going on*

Thank you for your donations to repair the damage. The rebuilding is progressing well.

# Thank You!

A special thank you to all supporters who donated to the special Christmas gifts in 2019. Those funds have now been sent to the schools and self-help projects for:

- School fees, desks, furniture, beds, linen, mosquito nets, uniforms, shoes, toiletries, library books, school stationery and sports equipment.
- Small Business Projects have received start-up funds and equipment; including a computer projector, sewing machines, a motorbike and tools.
- Farming Projects have received funds for pigs, goats, chickens, trees etc.



## Bacolod Dormitory

Sponsors from New South Wales visited Bacolod with gifts, and also brought computers donated by Illawarra Sunrise Rotary in Wollongong, and Glenhaven Rotary Club in northern Sydney N.S.W.

'THANK YOU' to those Rotary Clubs. Seaton Rotary Club in the Cornwell area of England also donated the 'Teacher in a Box' that acts as the server. THANK YOU very much for these computers that are very popular and used for homework and after school activities in the dormitory.



## Neoliza from Bacolod Marries Charles



Charles and his family from Western Australia have supported and visited the Bacolod dormitory. Their interest and support is greatly appreciated and they have become good friends with the staff and students over the years. A strong friendship developed between Charles and Neoliza and over the years it has grown to commitment and marriage! Neoliza visited Australia last year, and their happy wedding was celebrated in April. Sadly Neoliza's brother and family could not come due to the coronavirus! The wedding is on Youtube 'Charles and Neoliza Wedding'.

*Photo from left:*

*Pastor Jason in a traditional Filipino Wedding Shirt, Sue (Charles mum) Charles, Neoliza in her beautiful wedding dress, Chas (Charles father) and Corey, the Interpreter for Charles and Neoliza.*

## Davao - Deaf Ministries Institute

Coronavirus has been spreading in Davao City and the city has now been divided into 8 districts to try to stop it spreading through the whole city. The school was told to send students home and the Graduation Ceremony has been postponed. It is now the normal holiday time in the Philippines so the students are not missing school learning. Many students come from towns away from Davao and self-isolating in their homes will be safer. We hope school will open in June or July and the students will not miss much school time.





COVID-19 has had an impact on all of us around the world. Some countries have been impacted more than others, but every country has felt the effects. Many people that DMI support in developing countries are struggling harder than most. Lock-down for them means no work, no income, no food. We are launching an appeal to raise much needed funds to give these people access to staples to feed their families.

**To donate:**

[www.deafmin.org/donate](http://www.deafmin.org/donate) (Click on Food Emergency button)

or  
Bank Transfer (*details on back cover*) use "food emergency" as ref.

or  
Fill out enclosed form and send to Deaf Action (*details on back cover*)

## CONGO - Beni School For The Deaf



There have been 2 new Ebola deaths in the city of Beni so we hope the new coronavirus does not start there as well! This school has 60 deaf students who are very thankful to attend a school for the deaf.

There are 11 deaf orphans who need education so they can have 'hope for the future'. The national language in school is French so perhaps you would like to polish up on your French and write a letter to these students!

They would love to know someone is thinking of them. The students also learn Sign Language, Maths, Science and General Cultures.

Imagine being a deaf child with no parents and not knowing what will happen to you! I have included photos of 3 of them. Please contact the Sponsorship Co-ordinator if you would like to sponsor a student or the school in general.



**Kavira      Musubao      Wivine**

**We urgently need sponsors to support the students at this school.**

## KENYA - Immanuel Christian School for the Deaf (Ringa)



We are extremely grateful to Kathi from Japan who donated the money to buy extra land next to the school. This has given the children a soccer or volley ball field now; and the possibility of more classrooms for higher grades when needed. The soccer goals are a bit wobbly but a sporting field is a government requirement for all schools and the children are so happy to play soccer and other major sports again.

At last the school in Kenya has a water supply and the high water tank gives good water pressure. Sadly a bad storm damaged the

beautiful trees at the front of the school, and a large tree fell on the boys toilet block. All the toilets at the school are only 'pit' toilets but the foundations were badly damaged and need rebuilding!

There was some money left from the Water Appeal reserved for 'water piping and maintenance', so re-construction of the boys toilet block and the addition of a wash basin and urinal for the boys has been approved. The girls toilets and the teachers toilets will also have a washbasin installed for the first time. This is needed in these coronavirus times.



**Tree fallen on toilets**

## MYANMAR - Muir School for the Deaf (Kalay)



Yangon, the capital city of Myanmar is in lockdown but our school at Kalay in northern Myanmar is on holidays for the hot season. Work is continuing on the new fences around the school and will be completed when the students return to start their new school year in May or June.

A special 'THANK YOU' goes to Sato, a generous sponsor and supporter from Japan, who donated a new vehicle that is sturdy enough to travel on the rough roads out to the village where there are many deaf people. The students celebrated Christmas with them in the village and always enjoy the trip.



## UGANDA

As well as giving formal education in literacy and numeracy we aim to give students vocational skills and gain employment. Our 3 students at Malaika Vocational College are progressing very well and 2 students will graduate later this year.

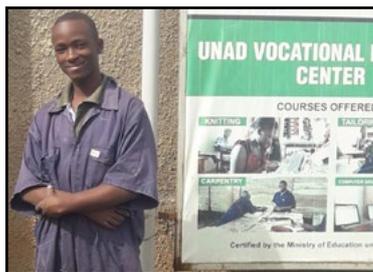


Sylvia

Sylvia is finishing a Diploma in Catering and Hotel Management and is already working at "Endiro Coffee Lounge". Peter is finishing a Certificate in Institutional Catering and has started working at "The Kitchen". Winnie has nearly completed a certificate in Hair Dressing at Malaika and is earning enough money plaiting hair to pay her transport costs to the college!

Simon has started vocational training in leather work and shoe repairing at Uti Vocational School.

Jordan, Allan and Rachel have started vocational training at the Ugandan National Association of the Deaf Vocational School this year. The boys are learning Carpentry and Rachel is learning Tailoring and Dressmaking. Prossy completed Grade 7 at St. Mary's School and her parents have helped her gain employment at a local tailoring store. This is a good skill to learn and should give her ongoing employment so she can support herself. THANK YOU to all sponsors of our Ugandan students.



Jordan

All schools in Uganda were closed quickly due to coronavirus. The younger students are home now and will return to their schools when they re-open. Thank You to all the sponsors of these students. Education has given them opportunities to gain formal qualifications and support themselves.

**We are very grateful to all our loyal sponsors. A special thank you to our supporters who have given extra donations during this time of uncertainty. Our donations understandably have dropped, yet the costs of the schools are ongoing.**



[www.deafaction.org.au](http://www.deafaction.org.au)

### Tax-deductible

#### Donations:

Please make cheques payable to:

Deaf Action

Details for EFT: BSB: 633-000

Account: 145834263

Credit Card facility available at office

Paypal facility (secure) on website

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