



November 25, 2013

Dear Friends,

Here's a short update on our typhoon relief efforts for the families of blind children. Out of about 90 school programs or communities, we have been able to make contact with all but about 25 so far. In the next two weeks we will be trying to complete the list of schools and all the kids. As of now, we know of about 37 kids or families that had to leave their homes because of damage. Some of these are in evacuation centers now. Nine of the schools had major damage and are not usable, and six of our trained teachers lost their homes.

Those are the numbers we are working with so far, with more to come as we finish our list. Its quite a daunting task, even more so because its spread over such a wide area.



*Jonryl wants to go to school. His mother wants their house repaired.*

To put more of a face on it, here are a couple of the families we will work with. Mac Jonryl, (at the right) is a nine year old student in a new program that we started on the island of Daan Bantayan in northern Cebu.

Jonryl's mother left for her work in a slaughter house at 3:00 am that day of the typhoon. She planned to go home if the weather started to deteriorate. But the typhoon hit so

suddenly that she only had time to run for shelter. She hid in a little concrete cubicle while the building toppled around her, all the while crying and praying about her two little boys left at home.

When the typhoon passed, she headed home, making her way through downed trees, roofs of houses, and debris everywhere, knowing that her little house couldn't have withstood the storm. Unknown to her, her husband had stayed home that morning and had managed to get their boys to safety before their house was ripped apart. Mac Jonryl's only worry was that he wouldn't have clean clothes to wear to school. His mother says that if she had known the boys were safe, she would have included their house in her prayers. We plan to help them get back into their home and get Jonryl back into school.

At the right is Danie Maire with his sister. They also live in Daan Bantayan, with their grandparents. Part of their house is still standing but because of no work since the typhoon, their situation is quite desperate. We want to help with their house and also with emergency relief.



These are two of 37 families that we are targeting, with more to come as we get closer to the worst hit areas. The need is really beyond our capabilities. By way of comparison, in the big typhoon of 2007, which was just as devastating but affected a much smaller area, we spent about P1.7M (Euro 28,000 or close to USD 38,000) in our reconstruction work there. We are looking at quite a bit more than that this time, so you can understand our concern.

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