

ICA Success Stories

Philippines Typhoon Haiyan's Aftermath: Sponsored Children and their Families Receive Help and Hope

Typhoon Haiyan, known as Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines, struck the country on November 8th, 2013. The deadliest Philippine typhoon on record killed at least 6,183 in the Philippines alone. The phones at Pearl S. Buck International started ringing and emails began arriving as soon as stories and vivid images were disseminated in the United States. Sponsors with children in the Philippines wanted to know about their children and others wanted to know how they could help.

Pearl S. Buck International staff learned that all of our sponsored children and families were safe but homeless, without financial resources, and many lost their livelihoods. The Philippines executive director received the great news that Pearl S. Buck International donors were sending in donations daily, and a project proposal was submitted to rebuild the homes of our sponsored children, provide basic necessities, and assist with rebuilding the livelihood where possible.

Ultimately, over \$18,000 was raised and wired to the Philippines on December 15th. Funding was released to the families just four days before Christmas along with new school supplies. Each sponsored child's family received funds to repair/rebuild their homes, to add to capital for a small-scale livelihood, and to purchase basic commodities such as food, clothing, candles, and medicines. The financial assistance issued to each family varied, depending on the extent of damage to their homes and personal belongings.