

YOLANDA DISASTER RESPONSE UPDATES November 12 – 19, 2013

For more recent updates on Typhoon Yolanda disaster response,

visit www.facebook.com/springboardfoundation

VOLUNTEERS BASED IN MANILA NEEDED starting November 15:

THE MISSION: Drive survivors arriving at Villamor Air Base to the homes of their Manila-based families or to bus terminals.

We're doing it that today. Less than 10 volunteers. They need more!

First flight arrives at approximately 9am. A plane arrives every 2 hours until 10 in the evening.

Go to the DSWD desk at the Grandstand of the Villamor Airbase. Inform them that you want to help transport the survivors to whereever they need to be in Metro Manila. DSWD contact: 0906 468 0287 (Glenda Derla)

Many arrived with tattered sacks that contained remnants of their lives. Some only had one number of a family member in Manila- often their last chance of survival after the storm. A boy, just 17 years old, took half an hour trying to remember the number of his sister.

The stories were painful repetitions: they stood in line for days, hoping to get on the plane. No tents to shield their young children, even until today. No one distributing relief goods that they could see from where they were standing. A 7-month old baby surviving on water with sugar. 2-3 hour walks from their homes to the airport. Not knowing if the planes were leaving for Cebu or Manila but most didn't care. They just wanted to get out.

Many have families waiting for them. Some know where to go but don't have money to get there. All of them, despite what they've been through, didn't forget to say "Thank you".

They've been through a lot. If you can bring even just one family to the only home they have now, it will help.

We can do more. Please volunteer. If you aren't available, send you car & driver for the day. Spread the word.

Metro Manila is not the easiest landing place for people. Imagine how much a free ride can do for a penniless family with nothing left but a tattered sack filled with muddled clothes, their fears, and yes, their gratitude that they are alive.





This is one of the groups we have partnered with and donated 2 loads to them, yesterday they were again at Alison Doig Henderson collecting the goods that were packed at the Union Church and on their way to help those in need.

We salute you all who are donating, packing, shopping, loading, delivering, shipping, unloading and distributing... each person in the chain plays a huge part... No support is too small - making a difference to those who are in need.

I know some of our members want to go and support, this is not the time. Leave the work to those on the ground there who live there already, medics and their teams; Trust me, there will be rebuilding; this is not going to end this week.

Let's support those professionals who can heel and hug.

Thank you.



Eileen Juan Grey

We'll never know the story of people and situations. A grandfather and a baby. Where are the parents?

Volunteer work is not for the fainthearted. There are some times when you need to shut your heart and see it as a "job". - BANTAYAN Is. SheEO Relief work headed by Julie Alegrado-Vergara.



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Springboard Foundation shared Myron Harvey Chua Cua's photo.

November 17 @

A big salute to the volunteers from United Fire Association who went to Tacloban last Thursday to personally distribute the relief goods to the victims of typhoon Yolanda. Batch 1 of the relief goods operation was a success. Two areas were given relief goods namely Dulag and Tacloban. Once again, I thank all the donors for giving their support to the victims of typhoon Yolanda. This wouldn't be successful without everybody's effort. As for the pictures, our six men contingent team has them. I will upload and share the photos once it has been uploaded. Hearing the stories of the volunteer is really heartbreaking. We could see it in their faces that even if they did not feel the effect of the typhoon personally, they were still traumatized by the after effect. We also thank sir Jay for organizing and making the relief good operation possible.

Photo care of Philip Kua — with Tammy Cua-Liao and 36 others.



Our boxes were in the plane: Please read the post by Jay below; more details later as to where and photos as we get them. As you know there is not power there and so we have to be patient for feedback.

Later tonight, I really hope as my house is groaning, I know that Alison has the most as I ran out of space and sent her the trucks from the Dusit Thani Hotel thank you Claire and Alex for your wonderful and continued support! So later to night the Firefigters will be coming to collect the ready bags to go on a ferry in conjunction with the Azkals Football team donations to Taclogan, they have a foundation there which is an educational Center.

Please read - joint efforts always achieve so much more:

United Filipino Chinese Fire Rescue Comms Association Inc
UNITED FIRE ASSOCIATION of the PHILIPPINES 6 Man Contigent
team (Super 6) will arrive Tacloban airport at 2pm today Flight 971
Airbus 320 - Special Emergency Flight through PAF 250th
Presidential Airlift Wing. Thank you also to Col. Balagtas for the kind
heart and assistance. Thank you to the Filipino Chinese Community,
to Sarah McLeod and the British Community, to the American
Community of East Coast USA Group, to the Evangelical Church of
Dona Hemady, to the Member Brigades of UNITED FIRE. We are
one and United!!! Bangon Pilinas, Magkaisa tayo!!!

v

As the day comes to an end we can finally report that our goods are on the plane ready to go at 9.30 tomorrow morning. I cannot thank Jay from the United

Fire Organisation - volunteer firefighter group and a fabulous NGO. I can honestly say that this has been the hardest logistical nightmare I have ever experienced. At every turn there are challenges. I can understand how the People in Cebu are still stuck there with the goods and volunteers.

It is easy to criticize and I shall leave that to the professional reporters, the news from the BBC and CNN tonight has been hard to swallow as I sit here in my comfortable chair at home with my cup of hot tea. I cannot imagine any of us have not been affected in some way.

However the good news the deliveries we have from everyone is amazing, we have been overwhelmed by the support and generosity of each and every person. I am sure you will agree that it is important to get our goods to places that can make a difference.

On Friday we are arranging a packing morning at the Union Church in Legaspi village. We will be taking all the goods we have and will need help repacking to get ready for our next deliveries.

More details from Caroline tomorrow.

We are planning more trips and flights - but more about those tomorrow.

4 tons going is not so bad!

Monies that have been donated have not been spent. We have decided that we need to wait for the news from our partner groups on the ground in the various areas. That's the only way we will know for sure what will be the most effective way to help those people in greatest need and also guarantee that is does.

For those of you who are fairly new to Manila" this will go down in history for sure and is not going to be over for many weeks or months.

We will need your help moving forward so please do not think you have to rush everything this week. Your help will be needed for a lot longer.

Thank you so far, what ever you have been doing, packing, collecting with whatever group, your work will makes difference the frustrations of today will hopefully mean things move better tomorrow.



The United Fire Association are picking up our goods collected and taking it to Villmor this afternoon; Photos later.

I am sure you are seeing on the news that the NPA have been in Tacloban and causing problems. This has meant that the security is heightened. Some companies have issued a warning about travel to the area.

We will keep you updated on the details and news we get. This as you can imagine will make distribution not easy.,

Gerry from HOPE is in Tacloban at the moment but communication is not easy but he has been in contact with HQ in Cebu a couple of times and things are not easy.

We have been given a contact through HOPE for Ormoc, possible other route to get goods there. Will report back when we ahve more information.

The 20 Mobile purification Units are from HELP - a Germain foundation. They will be delivered to Cebu next Tuesday and Wolgang Nierwetberg is going to try and get to meet the HOPE team in Tacloban, traveling via Cebu in the next couple of days.

I cannot tell you how difficult things are, the DSWD goods are currently in Cebu and waiting to be moved to the area, with security and desperation makes life very difficult.

As promised updates as we get them

Hi all, we appreciate that you all want updates and details. But if you inundate us with texts and calls we cannot move and get organised. We are currently working with HOPE who have a centre in Cebu and will be getting donations of 20 water purification units, from a Germain group (details later) and have to get those there, we are working in finding out how to get goods to the smaller towns and villages that have not really had anything due to the difficult roads or no roads and working with an organisation called ShelterBox which looks like a really good group and they have a great kit for families, but obviously we need to do due diligence.

We thought that Gina and James could go on Thursday but is looks like Saturday is a better day - obviously for security, safety and space on the planes as evacuees and aid is more important.

We will update this Facebook page as often as we can with photos and each week we will write an updated newsletter to thank those who have helped and update on the work done.

Please continue to donate, we will continue to ensure that those organisations we work with are legitimate and we will track all our donations.



Earlier this evening with the Eco village maids and guard! HMR van - thanks loaded!





After Thursday once we have details and met HOPE and Gawad Kalinga we can make decisions on what and where we can best make a difference.



I have not been as inspired for a long time - the Volunteer fire association - what an amazing group of people - doing real jobs by day and fighting fires in their spare time. I am humbled by the work they do.



Currently sitting with the volunteer fire association an amazing NGO that we are learning more about.

Jay Palomo is the President and we've met some if the other fireman and been in their truck!

About to unload the full HMR truck and there is a flight tomorrow which is good news.

We have been able to get Gina and James on the flight manifest for a Thursday and they will be well taken care of.



This is fabulous Theresa who has listed and logged all donations this is second batch about tone loaded. Thanks everyone.





Thanks so much Claire and Alex and the whole team there from the Dusit Thani hotel for the huge pile of Superb bedding!





Tonight we deliver a truck (thanks to HMR) to the united fire association ready for packing tomorrow fly Thursday straight to Tacloban as whilst commercial flights can't get there - this is a military plane. Once there we can report back what is happening and share organizations there.

We are all watching the news and updates and can see how difficult it still is.

We will be talking to HOPE and Gawad Kalinga. Also I have been advised that there are other international groups on the ground which we need to meet and talk to. Rest assured that 100% of your donations delivered will be delivered and distributed to those in need.

There are just to many! Thanks to the BSM school for their work, BWA. Always standing strong. Manila club and the BCCP.

More updates and photos as we get them. Message us with your activities and questions

Thanks



Thousands of families in Visayas Region have recently lost their homes and belongings and countless loves ones that are not yet accounted for and may never be found. They are in dire need and we are appealing to you for support.

Read http://www.springboard-foundation.org/

#typhoon #yolanda #philippines

