

HISTORY OF PRESCHOOL MOVEMENT AROUND BARANGAY, PHILIPPINES

as told by Aimee Hillard, IVI Executive Officer and Efren Casquejo,
IVI Program Director and former staff of ICA, 2018

Institute of Cultural Affairs

The first preschool organized by ICA in the Philippines was the Sudtonggan Preschool. This school was part of the first Human Development Project in the Philippines: Sudtonggan, Lapu-Lapu City, Mactan Island, Cebu Province, Region of the Visayas. The Sudtonggan Preschool is still in operation and has a health clinic as a second room. This school has been renovated from time to time by Island Ventures volunteers.

Efren Casquejo reports the following:

“When we started the Mactan cluster preschools, our theme was Malusog na Bata Malusog na Bansa...Healthy Child and Healthy Nation. There were 24 preschools – the Mactan 24. ICA agreed with the Department of Education that the Mactan 24 preschoolers were a priority to enroll in first grade. It was an agreement between the Lapu-Lapu City Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD) and ICA. DSWD provided the snacks, which ICA delivered monthly to the schools. ICA was to monitor the classes and schedule a monthly teacher meeting to evaluate how well the students were learning the curriculum. The teachers had an honorarium from ICA.

Nine additional preschools were located in other areas: There were five preschools in the Langub cluster. Langub, Davao City, Mindanao. Three preschools were around the project in Zamboanga. And one preschool in the project in Bicol Region (Putsan, Tiwi, Albay).”

Island Ventures (IVI) – Window on the World Service Learning Programs

IVI volunteers undertook the building of preschools on the Island of Mactan. Many of the preschools had a room for the preschool and another room for a clinic. When this program started, the City Health Office did not have outreach into the outer barangays so this gave the communities a place and ability to schedule regular clinics.

The IVI training center is located on the Marigondon Road, Barangay Basak, Lapu-Lapu City, in the same Barangay as Sudtonggan. When IVI was chartered, the staff and board asked Mayor Panganlinan, what he would want IVI to do. The Mayor charged IVI to take on the development of his most impoverished islet, Pangan-an.

Efren Casquejo continues:

The fourth IVI Training School focused on curriculum and was taught by Pat Despain and Efren Casquejo. The students were appointed preschool teachers who

committed to teach in the Mactan 24 preschools. The training was three-weeks long for 48 preschool teachers who lived in the Sudtongan Training Center.

IVI Window on the World Volunteers built twelve preschool buildings from 1986-2006. Of those, the following are still functioning:

1. Pangan-an: Elvie teaches 100 students, 50 in the morning and 50 in the afternoon.
2. Marigondo: Melly Nunez teaches 50 students, 25 in the morning and 25 in the afternoon.
3. Kalubihan, Marigondon: Elizabeth Bentillo teaches 50 students morning and afternoon.
4. Agus Proper: Miss Collette teaches 30 students morning and afternoon.
5. Atabay, Agus: Ester Solliano teaches 30 students morning and afternoon.
6. Andres Baring: 50 students - Purita visited the school recently, but she doesn't know the name of the teacher.

Preschools IVI has given assistance:

1. Buagsong: We painted the whole building.
1. Camela Tura: 50 students morning and afternoon. IVI built the first building.
2. Basak Mercado: Ruth Llgan teaches 40 students morning and afternoon. We donated the ceiling and roof.
3. Sudtongan: Godilla Paquibot and Wilma Dinoy teach 100 students morning and afternoon.

NOTE: Only Sudtonggan has a clinic and is still functioning. Some of the Dubai children are students."

In 2018 the City government, DSWD has taken over the selection and training of "Daycare" teachers. The City Health Office now has extension clinics. Island Ventures responds to needs requested by preschools, mostly renovating buildings, and offering assistance to visiting volunteers, medical people and educators. The Pangan-an and its preschool are still a priority of IVI. Nutrition supplementation continues to be provided monthly. Pangan-an is an outer islet, a one hour motorized boat trip from the main island of Mactan. The preschool is one of the many programs that the community decided were needed and which IVI has assisted in developing. They were the tool with which we were able to begin to work in many communities, gain their trust, and educate parents and teachers who often became leaders in their communities.