



Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
Dedicated Members for Change

November 15, 2013

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

As you all well know, the Philippines were hard hit by Typhoon Haiyan, causing much loss of life, destruction and devastation. Many of you have written to me inquiring as to ways to help. Our Odd Fellows brothers and sisters in the Philippines have organized a fundraising effort directly help the victims. They are undertaking a basic responsibility and historical tenet of our Order: Relieve the distressed.

For those individuals or Lodges who wish to help the Odd Fellows in the Philippines, I have indicated, below, a link which provides the information you need. This information was provided by Brother Louie Sarmiento, the spark plug in the Philippines who has revitalized and recharged the Order in that nation.

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Dave Rosenberg  
Grand Warden

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The Odd Fellows in the Philippines are planning to conduct a "Relief Operation" soon in partnership with Gawad Kalinga Foundation. We will be sending at least 15 of our members to volunteer and bring relief goods to some of these areas. Some of our members have already volunteered in packing relief goods. If you are planning to send some help, I attached information below on where to send donations for IOOF Relief Operations. We can send you a financial report as soon as the relief operations are done. Link to information:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10152068340448185&set=a.10152068340333185.1073741845.286422978184&type=1&theater>

Sadly, one of the most powerful typhoons in history is believed to have killed over 10,000 people and destroyed thousands of homes in Eastern Visayas (not the whole Philippines). What is shown in international news can make many people generalize it as the "whole Philippines". But it is just 5 Cities in the Philippines that were severely damaged - Tacloban, Leyte, Bantayan



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Island, Antique, and Iloilo. Very sad is that these cities look like they were hit by a nuclear bomb. According to updates, bodies of dead people are filling-up beside the streets. Many people have no food and water and are left homeless. The other Cities in the Philippines are all fine. Normal life continued after the typhoon. But we do have about 5 members whose families are located in those affected cities but we still are assessing how we can help them. One of our members (also a head of Gawad Kalinga Foundation in Negros Oriental) is on a trip to Leyte to see the condition and needs of families of Odd Fellows and the people in that area. We are waiting for his report on how the Odd Fellows in the Philippines can help the victims.

Admittedly, our funds in the Philippines are very limited because our Lodges highly rely on annual dues and member contributions for our projects and activities. We do not yet have an alternative source of funds or investments for our Order in the country. The major focus of IOOF Philippines was to raise funds to build an income-generating building that would help the Order in the country become self-sustaining. This will lead us to support more projects and relief operations without the need to continue asking donations from Lodges or Grand Lodges in other countries if there need be. We have been very careful in spending our finances because of this project we hope to accomplish. We are thinking of the "long-term" humanitarian benefits that we can give to our country rather than short-term. Once we have the building, we can be able to provide better help to people in need, organize fund-raisers in the venue and so on.

The Kapatirang Watchdog Lodge no.1 and Samahang Sillimanian Lodge no.3 in Dumaguete and Kapatirang marilag Lodge no.5 in Laguna did raise funds from member contributions to donate food packs for the victims for Bohol earthquake and are currently gathering more donations for relief goods for the Typhoon victims in Eastern Visayas. This is in partnership with Gawad Kalinga Foundation and Silliman University. According to the update from Sister Sheema Bajana today, Past Grand of Samahang Sillimanian Lodge no.3, the Lodge is gathering for donations to pack and send relief goods to the affected areas. Kapatirang Mindanaon Lodge no.2 in Cagayan de Oro City, on the other hand, just volunteered yesterday to pack relief goods for the victims. Red Cross and other foundations are also doing most of the early relief operations. Our question now is, what is the next move after giving the victims food and water? Many of these victims are left homeless and jobless because business establishments were totally destroyed. Kapatirang Mindanaon Lodge no.2 suggested that we send a group of Odd Fellow members in the Philippines to go to one of the affected areas and do volunteer work under the banner "Odd Fellow Relief Operations" in partnership either with Habitat for Humanity or Gawad Kalinga. This will happen sometime next month or as soon as roads are cleared. This



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may also include members of our Order helping build homes for the victims, etc.

In Friendship, Love and Truth,

Louie Sarmiento