

Subject: News from our STEPS expansion

Dear friends,

we hope that you and your loved ones are well and that you can enjoy these beautiful days!

We have a very busy week behind us! First Manny and Sebastian, our Swiss volunteer, were in Cagayan de Oro at the beginning of last week for a STEPS parents seminar, and then last Friday they went with Ellen, our head teacher and Stefan, our volunteer from Germany, to Samar to introduce about 40 new teachers and volunteers to our STEPS teaching process.

STEPS Parents Seminar in Carmen, Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao

In a seminar last Tuesday Manny and Sebastian introduced the parents of the new STEPS students of course 2019-2020 to the STEPS program. This is the start of our third year of STEPS in this poor community! "School starts at home" is our motto, and for the Steps program to be successful, we need the involvement of parents. Here Manny and Sebastian are teaching the parents how to flash words with our flashcards and how to pronounce the words correctly.



STEPS Teachers Seminars in Samar

In the same week, from August 16th to 19th, Manny and Ellen, together with our volunteers Stefan and Sebastian, went to Samar to train new teachers and volunteers in our STEPS pre-school program. We had around 40 participants in the 2 seminars, including primary school teachers and volunteers! The first seminar took place on Saturday 17 August in Calbayog, the second on Sunday 18 August in Catarman. It was nice to see the enthusiasm of the participants! There are still communities on Samar that do not have kindergartens, and we are grateful that we can meet this need, at least in some places!

Thanks to several donors we were able to buy tables, chairs and computer/monitor sets for 7 STEPS centers and printers for some of the centers. If all goes well, we will have 3 Steps programs in Catarman, 3 in Calbayog, 5 in Tagapul-an and 1 in San Jorge.



Here are some photos of the students of the new STEPS course 2019 - 2020 in Ipil Ipil, Catarman, in the north of Samar and in Rizal, Calbayog, in the west of the island:

Ipil Ipil in Catarman: 2nd STEPS course



In Rizal, Calbayog: 1. STEPS course



We greet you and your loved ones and wish you all the best and God's blessing,

Manny, Eveline and team