

Volunteer – report Gugma sa Kabataan, Inc.

Nils Gosing and Benno Monse

When we came to the Philippines on January 6, 2012 we did not know what would expect us in this country. We did not know much about the culture and the people. During the first two months we got to know the Philippines by travelling on our own. Soon we both were very impressed by the beauty of the nature and of the people. We were really looking forward to come to Cagayan de Oro and do our volunteer work.

When we started our work on February 28 we were welcome to become members of the “family” from the first day on. The staff and the children made us feel “home” very promptly. We became acquainted with the program and work of Gugma sa Kabataan, Inc. within days. The work gave us pleasure from the beginning on, furthermore it showed us a different side of life which we didn't know from Germany. Typhoon „Sendong“ in December 2011 was a immense stroke of fate to the local people. It made us very happy to see how Gugma sa Kabataan, Inc. could help them. We visited affected spots and saw destroyed houses of families of the children. And during our stay we could see much progress. Also in our school visits we saw that the people were back to everyday life quite fast.

The amount of money that Gugma sa Kabataan, Inc. had for their disposal was used very wisely. The money was spent there where it was needed.

The work with the children consisted of two parts. In the morning time we did tutorials in chemistry (Nils) for the coming 3rd year high-school children and physics (Benno) for the coming 4th year high-school children.

After lunch the children took rest and in the afternoon we played with them. Beside

board games and chess we also played ball games and badminton.

The children were always very friendly to us, and treated us authoritatively. They enjoyed the playing, and the tutorials. We made them laugh and they made us laugh very often.

Besides our work the stay in Cagayan de Oro showed us a lot of the culture. We met a lot of new friends, Minda also helped us a lot to become acquainted with the Philippines. She took us to friends of her, showed us local places in Cagayan de Oro talked a lot with us about our and their culture and also told us a lot about the local cuisine.

She brought us fresh fruits (bananas, pineapples) from the market every morning and helped us to have a great time we will never forget.

We are planning to come back to the Philippines as soon as possible. In 2013 for sure, but maybe its possible later in 2012 also. The country has really fascinated us.

We are very thankful for “Mommy Minda” for making this amazing time possible.

In our future we would like to stay in close contact with Gugma sa Kabataan, Inc. and visit the office occasionally.

Nils & Benno