

## SVD – USC Mission Team Delivers Relief Operation to Victims of Typhoon Sendong in Cagayan de Oro

The SVD – USC mission team went to Cagayan de Oro last January 27 and 28 to deliver relief operation to the victims of typhoon Sendong. Typhoon Sendong unleashed its fury in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan Cities in the island of Mindanao last December 16 and claimed thousands of lives and left another thousand of families homeless. The mission team was composed of 65 volunteers mostly employees and staff from the University of San Carlos. They were divided into sub-teams, namely, relief distribution team, psycho-social team and the medical team.



The relief distribution team was able to distribute close to 400 sacks of used clothing, 400 25-liter galloons of water, canned goods, noodles, mats, a good number of pails filled with household materials and ten tons of rice packed into ten kilos each. The psycho-social team composed of guidance counsellors handled sessions of debriefings to both adults and children while the medical team composed of five doctors from Sotto Memorial Hospital in Cebu city, a pharmacist and several nurses from USC, were able to treat more than six hundred patients. The team was also able to distribute school supplies to 2,500 high school students at a huge high school in the city.

There were four beneficiary-areas of operation, namely, Barangay Carmen Relief Center, Balulang Muslim and Christian Communities, Misamis Oriental General Central High School and Fatima Parish Relief Center, all located in the heart of the city.

The whole operation was highly successful due to the support of many benefactors and donors both locally and internationally. The volume of relief goods distributed, medicines and other services delivered could only attest to the generosity of the supporters. As well, the University of San Carlos and the Society of the Divine Word through its local and international resources and linkages also gave its abundant share. The USC allowed its bus and a six wheeler truck to be brought to Cagayan de Oro on its own expense to ferry the volunteers and relief goods.

The impact of the whole operation was enormous not only to the beneficiaries but to the volunteers themselves. The beneficiaries on the one hand, were deeply touched by the presence of the volunteers. They felt they are not abandoned. They felt they are being taken cared of. The volunteers, on the other hand, were moved by the opportunity to journey into the lives of the victims. They all came back to Cebu immensely transformed. For how else is the Word of God eloquently preached than to let the typhoon victims feel they are being loved.

