

Mark Middleton (Maui360Tours.com)

To: ramon soriano; ShaylaMassage
Cc: George Fontaine; alan yu; bong david; chary misa; ed vitangcul; Ephpheta; henry coralejo; jess cifra; jess jacob; jess tanchanco; jesse tanchanco; joe baradi; leo dizon; louie salvacion; mary french; mon peralejo; nilo rapista; nitoy velasco; Paige Fontaine; raymond catabijan; rod apostol; roger chan; rose imperial; tony lazaro
Subject: RE: Brookside Tragedy

From: ramon soriano [mailto:monsoriano0211@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 17, 2008 3:58 PM
Subject: Re: Brookside Tragedy

Mark and Shayla

Sorry for the delayed reply. My internet bogged down and I have to wait until it resumes again.

We appreciate your sacrifice and hard work putting thought the tragedy in the web site. I know this is no easy task. We are all grateful for your concern and support and we thank you not only from my club, but to the thousand Brookside men, women and children.

Your web site and posting in the you tube.com has surprised many rotarians in the Philippines for its immediate posting and your efforts to help the residents of the Philippines. I always reply that your presence in the Philippines was providential and God send angels, like you, to do service for his children. Whatever can be raised from your end, we only have to thank you Mark, Shayla, George and all the rotarians in your district and others whom we have reached out through the web site.

The atmosphere now among the Brookside residents is one of terror, anxiety, depression, despair. A total of 20 typhoons are projected within this year. One more is expected now. Just a slight drizzle sends the small children to our Brookside Center and the men and women start evacuating. People there are in panic.

It is like a funeral in the village. All the negative energies are present. You can feel the gloom and sadness. 50% of the community still has no electricity. We ask again, what message is God sending to us and these people are being made to suffer. They have suffered more than enough in this world. And now to experience the horror and terror of flood of debris, boulders, toxic and waste materials in their houses.

As a temporary solution, the city engineers office has put sand bags where the dike collapsed. This will collapse with another flood onslaught. On a long term solution they will dig another canal 50 meters before the collapsed dike and divert the flood waters to another route to the creek. I believe the city mayor is under pressure from all of us and they will prioritize this work.

Donations have poured in. Food and clothing are desperately needed. The men has no income since they stopped working to look after the family and their belongings. People with really sincere intentions volunteer to clean up, unmindful of the stench and debris. The Missionaries of Mary are doing the distribution among the residents. The local Department of Social Welfare and Administration (DSWD) sent 100 pack lunches for the total residents of 1200. They probably want the residents to kill each other first so only 100 will remain standing.

These people truly appreciate what you are doing and aware of what you have done for them. They have seen your presence and are grateful to both of you. I know these people. They do not want to come out as beggars in these times. And yet they have no choice but to accept our donations.

I pray that their spirit will come back and face life again with hope. And I always remind them God sends his love through angels like you and George and the many rotarians in the world. who care and share.

Mabuhay and regards.

Ramon

All my officers and members agree that you came to us at the right time and right place.

----- Original Message -----

From: ShaylaMessage <Shayla@ShaylaMessage.com>

To: ramon soriano <monsoriano0211@yahoo.com>

Cc: George Fontaine <george@fontaine.pro>

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2008 9:43:57 PM

Subject: RE: Brookside Tragedy

Aloha Ramon-

We thank you for all of your dedication to this relief effort. We could see that indeed, you all are very tired from all your humanitarian efforts over the last 3 years, and now to have this immediate tragedy hit our very project area! It is amazing, however, that our Rotary structures offered a safe place for residents to wait out the flood and that they did not lose one life, nor one structure. It makes me proud to be a Rotarian to see such dedication from your club.

Please visit our site <http://www.helpbrookside.com/> and click on my newly edited video http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-d-HjB_C_o posted just this morning in place of the unedited version of the interview put up yesterday. I hope that my efforts in editing the interview with Jess, makes this situation feel more close to home and Rotarians will be motivated to lean towards this project for their donation monies.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all....

Aloha,
Shayla

From: ramon soriano [mailto:monsoriano0211@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2008 4:09 PM

To: George Fontaine

Cc: joseqcifra@yahoo.com; nitoyvelascogps@yahoo.com; alan yu; bong david; chary misa; Ephpheta; henry coralejo; jess cifra; jess jacob; jess tanchanco; joe baradi; leo dizon; louie salvacion; Mark Middleton (Maui360Tours.com); mary french; mon peralejo; nilo rapista; nitoy velasco; Paige Fontaine; raymond catabijan; rod apostol; Roger Chan; rose imperial; ShaylaMessage; tony lazaro

Subject: Fw: Brookside Tragedy

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: ramon soriano <monsoriano0211@yahoo.com>

To: George Fontaine <george@fontaine.pro>

Cc: Paige Fontaine <paige@fontaine.pro>

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2008 7:03:14 PM

Subject: Re: Brookside Tragedy

George,

Thank you.

I had wanted to ask for your help personally but I know your club and district had been supportive of our Philippine projects and I do not wish to stretch your generosity. It seems God has a way of showing you to the Philippines. The visit of Shayla and Mark could not have come at a better time and bring the plight of these villagers.

Seeing the sad faces of these men, women and especially the children, I told Blanca, let us eat our pride and seek help for these people. We call them poorest of the poor but after these tragedy, what lower level can we degrade them. They lost everything, clothes, small appliances, radios, furnitures. Every little possessions they have, unusable and disposable because of the stink and odor that came from the creek.

Our rotary club is doing our best here. Foregoing our work and cleaning jobs but we cannot stay permanently because we have our jobs too. There are other volunteers now and some local employees but it will take time to remove the mountain of garbage that entered the houses.

Up to now, the village is in total darkness and there is still no electricity. There is an atmosphere of desperation and anxiety as the destroyed wall has not been repaired and if another typhoon comes, the whole village will sink in the flood waters.

My children will be helping during the week end and we will ask the help the children of the other rotarians also.

I compare these villagers to one who is drowning. If we do not lend our hand now, these people will drown.

Mabuhay and regards.

Ramon

----- Original Message -----

From: George Fontaine <george@fontaine.pro>

To: 07-08 AG's <george@fontaine.pro>; 07-08 Presidents <george@fontaine.pro>; Admin

<george@fontaine.pro>

Cc: ramon soriano <monsoriano0211@yahoo.com>; Paige Fontaine <paige@fontaine.pro>

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2008 5:47:27 PM

Subject: Brookside Tragedy

Aloha Team,

Yet another disaster has hit Southeast Asia. On May 13th, the Brookside village was destroyed on May 13th in Quezon City, Philippines by a typhoon. Brookside is the home of the Rotary International Village where several clubs in this district have participated in numerous matching grants. There are 1200 residents there. Fortunately, no one was killed when the flood waters came. In fact several of the residents were able to take refuge on the water tower we built. My home club is heading up a disaster relief effort with our counterpart there, RC of Loyola Heights. I know you've all been asked to look at supporting the Myanmar relief effort and there is only so much money that can go around, but please take a look at our website <http://www.helpbrookside.com> and see if there is anything you can do.

We have set up an account with our district foundation so any donations will be tax deductible. Complete donation instructions along with pictures and a video are on the web site. The money raised will go directly to Rotarians on the ground there who are working seven days a week on trying to restore life and hope for the poorest of the poor. 100% of the residents have lost all of the meager possessions.

DG George