



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

January 3, 2014

FORWARDED FROM THE PHILIPPINES:

Dear Brothers and sisters,

Greetings!

We would like to update you about the successful "Odd Fellow Relief Operations" for typhoon Haiyan victims in Leyte, Philippines, organized last December 18-23, 2013. About 19 of our members representing various Lodges in Dumaguete City, Cagayan de Oro City and Manila, volunteered to bring and distribute relief donations for over 2,000 victims. Play therapy was also organized by our trained members to put some smile especially for the children.

Without your donations, this relief operation could have not been successful. This is truly Odd Fellowship translated into actions. Before the existence of social security system, welfare state, national health insurance and trade unions, the Odd Fellows provided sick and death benefits for its members and their families. And before the existence of civic clubs like Rotary and other charitable foundations that we know today like the Red Cross, the Odd Fellows offered most of the social work to help people and communities in need. The world has changed indeed. Many of our humanitarian works are unknown to the public because of the fact that our membership no longer directly does the "good works". For years, we have preferred donating our money to other groups to do the work. As a result, our Order's good works had become unknown to many people which somehow contributed to our general decline in membership. This event has tried to change this fact as we put our own members to do our duty to "relieve the distressed". Our rituals are the theory part of our mission as Odd Fellows, the good things we do show that we practice what we preach. Yes we are not a civic club or a charity but we are a fraternity that does a lot of good. Fraternity, unless linked with acts of humanity, is an empty name.

It is our hope that your Grand Lodges will continue to support the new Lodges in the Philippines until we become fully self-sustaining in the near future. As a fairly young jurisdiction, we do need the guidance and assistance of the bigger and more organized Grand Lodges. Our charter members in the Philippines cannot do this alone. For now, we are still at risk of closing down but our members are doing their best to preserve the existence of the Odd Fellows Order in the Philippines. Once we have at least one Lodge Hall, we will work on establishing a Grand Lodge of the Philippines. We have to do this step by step. It is also our wish that IOOF in Europe, North America and other countries will settle their differences and work together in unity and harmony to strengthen our Order globally. Maybe it is time we show the world that we are really an international fraternal Order. We must stop falling apart from each other because it will do our Order no good. Admittedly we are, up until today, the least known Fraternal Order in the world despite our long existence.



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

IOOF Philippines will again organize a second relief operation sometime March or April 2014. By clicking this link, you will see some photos we took during relief operation in Leyte, Philippines: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152189608353185.1073741847.286422978184&type=1>

Once again, thank you! Happy New Year!

In Friendship, Love and Truth.