



THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

Receiving the Gift of Eyesight, a New Smile, a Self-Confidence



Daisy is a 16-year old from the mountainous region of Sitio Santa Fe Iram, New Cabalan, Olongapo City. She currently lives with her sister and her mother, who works as a laundry woman in their community. Daisy's father died 10 years ago due to kidney failure, leaving her mother as the sole caretaker and breadwinner for their family.

As a growing child, Daisy stayed at home and played only with her sister. She had been diagnosed with a cataract in her right eye, leaving her unable to see out of that eye, and her teeth were crooked with the front teeth missing. Many people bullied her because of these things, and so she avoided going places or playing with other children. She never smiled so people couldn't see her missing teeth.

Last year, Daisy's sponsor visited her as part of the Pearl S. Buck International Cultural Trip to the Philippines. One of the significant aspects of these tours is the opportunity for personal encounters between sponsored children and their sponsors—these moments of meeting are always touching and emotional for both parties. Upon meeting Daisy, her sponsor immediately stated his intention to help get sight restored to her right eye and to have her teeth fixed. He believed that if Daisy could see better and wouldn't be afraid to smile and be around friends, that she would learn to socialize with people and have improved self-confidence.

From May to October 2019, Daisy went through major eye surgery and an extensive dental procedure. Her sponsor was right—Daisy is now the picture of a confident young woman who smiles all the time. When she was interviewed by her social worker, Daisy expressed her deepest gratitude for having the chance to rebuild her self-worth and for no longer having the painful experience of being bullied, calling her sponsor “the light of my life.” Now as a senior high school student, Daisy is pursuing a Technical-Vocational and Livelihood Track and hopes to finish it within the next two years. She dreams of going to college and pursuing her education to become a teacher.



The staff and board of Pearl S. Buck Foundation Philippines are extremely grateful to child sponsors and donors whose support changes the lives of children such as Daisy—building their confidence, enabling them to stay in school, and allowing them to follow their dreams. 🌍



FUND A PROJECT: Help a Child Prepare for Disaster Project



You can help Sponsored Children in the Philippines Prepare for Natural Disasters

On Sunday, January 12, 2020, Taal Volcano in the Philippines, 37 miles south of the capital of Manila, erupted, spewing a cloud of toxic ash into the air. Tens of thousands of residents were evacuated, while others were instructed to shelter in place—like the staff and volunteers in the Manila office of Pearl S. Buck Foundation Philippines and many sponsored children and their families. Even now, weeks after the eruption, there is still the threat of an even more catastrophic eruption, and many families remain displaced in evacuation centers, in need of food, water, and basic necessities.

Natural disasters such as this eruption, and like the typhoon that recently hit the Philippines, affecting sponsored families and children, are a regular occurrence in this country. Sponsored children and their families, many of whom live in little more than shacks,

are at the mercy of these storms, eruptions, and other forces of nature. Many child sponsors and donors have already answered the call to help—and you can, too!

The Help a Child Prepare for Disaster Project has two components. First, it intends to conduct a seminar that will teach the sponsored children and their parents the importance of



environmental protection, disaster preparedness, and disease prevention. Second, the beneficiaries will receive boots, raincoats, umbrellas, and disaster kits which they can use during the rainy season and at times when strong

typhoons or earthquakes hit their communities. This rain gear will also protect them from certain water-borne diseases that are widespread during the rainy season and excessive flooding. Helping these children and their families be prepared for when disaster strikes will keep them safe, keep them healthy, and keep them in school.

Thank you for your generous support of this and all of Pearl S. Buck International's Fund A Projects. You can find out more about the Help a Child Prepare for Disaster Project at: pearlsbuck.org/fund-a-project to find out more about this and many other projects that are helping to change the lives of sponsored children.🌍

