



## PROVIDING RESIDENTIAL CARE TO STREET CHILDREN AND OTHER MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN ZAMBOANGA CITY, PHILIPPINES

Holy Trinity Open House is an association based in Estavayer-le-Lac, Switzerland that aims to directly support the activities of the Holy Trinity Open House Foundation in Zamboanga City, Philippines. The main activities of the association in Switzerland is to organize fundraising campaigns.

Board members:

- Lorna Fe Haas, *president*
- Claudien Chevrollet, *Theologian in ecclesial mission*
- Andreas Neil Dutli, *SME and individual developer*
- Mariam Haas, *early childhood educator*
- Patricia Hofmann, *fundraising officer*
- Elsa Wagner, *law student*

Lorna Fe Haas is the president of the association in Switzerland as well as the founder of the Holy Trinity Open House Foundation in Philippines. Touched by

the poverty in her country, she decided to devote herself to the street children of her hometown Zamboanga City upon her return to the Philippines in 2011. With the encouragement and support of her friends in Switzerland, she started to build an orphanage.

The Holy Trinity Open House is registered with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in Zamboanga City and was completed in 2014. Its mission is to provide residential care to street children and other most vulnerable children and to give them access to education, medical services, socio-cultural and recreational activities. The long-term goal is to give the children the necessary tools for them to have concrete possibilities to become citizens who will have a positive impact in society.



Lorna Fe Haas surrounded by children, neighbors, and relatives for the inauguration of the open house in April 2015.

# WHAT WE DO

## Context



Zamboanga City is a 1st class highly urbanized city in the Zamboanga Peninsula of the Philippines. It is the sixth-most populous and third-largest city by land area in the Philippines and is the commercial and industrial center of the Zamboanga Peninsula Region.

The city has been the scene of various events that have greatly affected its population.

Notably, 2013 was the year of the Zamboanga City crisis. The Zamboanga City crisis was an armed conflict between the forces of the Philippine government and a faction of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). The crisis erupted on September 9, 2013 when the MNLF faction attempted to raise the flag of the self-proclaimed Bangsamoro Republik at Zamboanga City Hall which had earlier declared its independence on August 12, 2013 in Talipao, Sulu. This armed incursion was met by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), which sought to free the hostages and expel the MNLF from the city. The standoff degenerated into urban warfare and brought parts of the city into a standstill for days. The conflict caused the displacement of more than 100 000 people, the occupation of several villages by the MNLF, the deaths of civilians as well as the closure of the Zamboanga International Airport and a reduction of economic activity in the city.

More recently, in September 2020, continuous heavy rains caused flooding in Zamboanga City affecting several villages. Some civilians were forced to flee from their homes and sought refuge to their relatives and

evacuation centers within their village. Many houses were severely affected by the violent wind, resulting to the destruction of around 50 houses, while the total number of partially damaged houses is around 130.

Armed conflicts, natural disasters as well as the modernization of the city has forced many residents from the city and its neighboring islands to leave their homes. As a result, the number of homeless children has increased in the city. Often, they sleep in the streets and take their chances at survival by begging. Some of them also engage in negative coping strategies and commit minor crimes such as theft.

The Holy Trinity Open House Foundation in Zamboanga City has been a refuge for children since 2015 and aims at offering quality of life and wellbeing to the affected children.

## Our Intervention

The Holy Trinity Open House Foundation (HTO) was inaugurated in April 2015 and aims to support orphans, street children and other vulnerable children in Zamboanga City.

The primary objective of HTO is to provide full residential care to the children. We also provide our beneficiary children with opportunities to achieve their full potentials as human beings by caring for their physical, educational, spiritual, social, and emotional needs. As a result, HTO constructively contributes to the general development of the population. Some of the children are orphans, others have been abandoned by their parents. Some still have parents or other relatives but they are too poor to support them. For us, each child is precious.

Our vision is to build a community where children of all ages live freely and responsibly, where their rights are respected and needs sufficiently met and where a loving and competent team cares for them continuously.



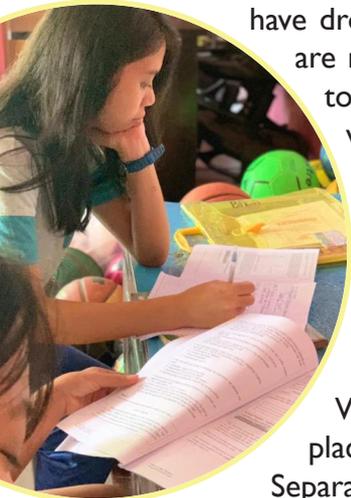
## Activities

At the moment, 23 children are benefitting of the activities carried out in the house.

HTO carries out activities through a holistic approach and bases its programs around seven pillars:

### 1. Education

Literacy program is provided to children who have dropped out of school. Once they are ready, they will be assisted to go to formal school. Counselling on vocational education/training is also provided to young people to assist them towards economic independence in the future.



### 2. Shelter

We maintain a safe and wholesome place where children can stay.

Separate rooms for boys and girls are provided as well as beddings, toiletries, and adequate clothing. The building has rooms and areas for educational sessions, library, recreation, and play including facilities and basic equipment, a dining room and kitchen with complete utilities for cooking, eating and washing dishes. Adequate bathrooms, toilets and washrooms are provided separately for boys and girls as well. Adequate water supply is provided and is checked by the health officials of the City to ensure that it is safe.

Children are oriented to safety measures such as fire prevention/management, reporting injury and other accidents occurring to any other children to the staff immediately, and common hazards and what to do about them. Staff are provided with offices and conference rooms and separate quarters but within the shelter's premises...

### 3. Health

Physical examination is conducted on children upon admission and annually thereafter. Health services including dental needs of children are accessed from or arranged with hospitals and clinics. A sick bay or isolation room/s is provided for children who have contracted contagious disease/s. Health education is integrated in the holistic education program which we provide.

The staff has undergone first aid training and a first aid kit is always available. A line of communication is maintained with clinics and hospitals for emergencies, regular check-ups and illnesses needing hospitalization.



### 4. Nutrition

Food which conforms to the nutritional requirements of children and appropriate to their ages is prepared and served in full compliance with sanitary standards. As a matter of training in household chores children are involved (with guidance) in food preparation and cleaning as deemed appropriate to their age and capacities. Meal-times are organized as wholesome occasions and venues where children are provided with opportunities to increase their social skills as they interact with each other.



### 5. Spirituality and Values Formation

Since street children are subjected to life-threatening situations and trauma which may have adversely affected their social skills and self-image, we maintain a special service which addresses these problems and help restore children's trust in themselves and in others, confidence in their capacities and to move on to achieve effective and productive living.

### 6. Recreational and socio-cultural

We provide safe and wholesome recreational materials for indoor and outdoor games, organize recreational activities with the children, celebrate special events and holidays, and occasionally we make a presentation program to their local community.

### 7. Promotion

This activity includes participation in the local life of the community to help the members to increase their awareness of the presence and needs of the children. We provide them with



opportunities to be involved in caring for the children and in supporting us in any way they can. Children will be encouraged to participate in community activities as well. In addition, HTO organizes searching and follow-up with family members, reuniting siblings and sometimes returning children to their families. While doing that, the wellbeing of the child is always our priority.

To discover what a typical day looks like for the children, you can watch our video here:

<https://youtu.be/oeL0IY8Ftf0>



## Coordination

The president of the association based in Switzerland, Lorna Fe Haas, is also the founder and manager of the open house in Zamboanga City. She is the one monitoring and overlooking all the activities and making the bridge between Philippines and Switzerland.

In Switzerland, she can rely on the voluntary help of the board members while in Philippines, she has a dedicated staff working with the children. To provide



professional and effective care and services, there is a crew of licensed, experienced, compassionate and competent social worker, skilled and experienced

care givers and house parents who all work as a team to achieve quality and sustainable levels of services to the children. We continue to enhance the team's competencies through staff development and other human resource development and management strategies.

The staff is composed as follow:

- 1 social worker
- 1 teacher
- 2 house parents
- 1 duty staff



The activities are carried out by the staff mentioned above. They can also count on the help of 4 older children of the house who support the daily tasks.

A financial reporting is done monthly as well as a full report once per year.

## The House Staff



**Joselito** is in charge of the general maintenance of the house. He repairs, does the grocery shopping, helps with daily chores, and oversees that all the technical and logistical aspects of the house are in order. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, he is in charge of going back and forth from the public school and the orphanage to bring the educational modules prepared for by the government for homeschooling.

The houseparents **Gloria** (2nd from left) and **Nancy** (last in line) assist the children in their daily chores and everyday activities, but are also there to give a motherly and reassuring presence. **Ronalou** is a teacher by profession and comes in everyday at the orphanage since the pandemic to give lessons. In Zamboanga, the Community Quarantine has lasted a year now and all students were not able to go back to school. Ronalou helps our 23 children succeed

and graduate in their respective years while distance learning. Our social worker **Belinda** works with us only partially at the moment since moving around has been a lot more limited and controlled also be-

cause of quarantine rules. We are also hoping to find funds to hire another full time social worker.



## How to support us

Would you, as an individual, foundation, or company, like to create human value by giving street children a real chance to become citizens with a positive impact in society?

Your donation means a lot and makes a difference in the life of a child. For example, you allow a child for a whole year:

**206.- to attend school**

**464.- to be accompanied and cared for**

**1'290.- to be fed and housed**

**1'960.- to be completely taken care of**

We offer you a unique opportunity to become a direct investor in our orphanage. **Every franc invested goes into the account of the orphanage, no intermediaries, all the work of the foundation in the Philippines and our association in Switzerland is purely voluntary.**

**Our annual budget reaches CHF 48'089.-.** The support of our donors allows us to finance the services offered to the children. In order to carry out the activities, we would be enormously grateful for your support according to your possibilities. By making a donation, you will receive from us an annual report to keep you informed of the progress of the activities.

BUDGET	PHP		CHF*	
	per month	per year	per month	per year
<b>Operational costs</b>	<b>135 500</b>	<b>1 626 000</b>	<b>2 548</b>	<b>30 579</b>
Food	103 500	1 242 000	1946	23 357
Transportation (taxi, way to school etc.)	7 000	84 000	132	1 580
School material	5 000	60 000	94	1 128
Medical fees	5 000	60 000	94	1 128
Service material (gaz for the kitchen, cleaning material etc.)	8 000	96 000	150	1 805
Kitchen supplies	7 000	84 000	132	1 580
<b>Staff costs</b>	<b>60 300</b>	<b>723 600</b>	<b>1 134</b>	<b>13 608</b>
1 Social Worker	19 000	228 000	357	4 288
1 Teacher	9 000	108 000	169	2 031
2 House parents	18 000	216 000	339	4 062
1 duty staff	9 000	108 000	169	2 031
Social benefits (incl. insurance)	5 300	63 600	100	1 196
<b>Other</b>	<b>4 000</b>	<b>207 497</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>3 903</b>
Small remuneration for the help of the 4 children	4 000	48 000	75	903
Travel fees (visits in Switzerland and Philippines)	-	106 331	-	2 000
Support costs (activities in Switzerland)	-	53 166	-	1 000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>199 800</b>	<b>2 397 600</b>	<b>3 757</b>	<b>48 089</b>

\*Original Budget in PHP, conversion rate of 01.03.2021

## Future perspectives

A plan was established in 2020 to complete the infrastructure of the house to use it to its fullest capacity and be able to welcome additional children. The following constructions will allow us to welcome 25 more children by the end of 2022.

## Construction of a boy's quarters

This building comprises different offices such as isolation room for sick children, intervention area, counselling therapy room, space for visitors, staff quarters, library corner, control observation room and room for a variety of social conferences as well as cultural, religious, official and personal activities.

**Cost estimate: PHP 2'000'000.- / CHF 37'612.-**

## Construction of an outdoor kitchen

This kitchen includes a dining area and a food storage and aims to extend our serves.

**Cost estimate: PHP 850'000.- / CHF 15'985.-**

We would like to carry out the **constructions mentioned above for a total of CHF 53'597.-**



### To make a donation:

Holy Trinity Open House, Pensier  
Account number : 15-538228-0  
IBAN : CH88 0900 0000 1553 8228 0  
BIC : POFICHBEXX



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Confirm amount and  
donation



*Maraming Salamat Po! Thank you very much!*