

Missions Volunteer Program Information



Background

Description of the Philippines

The Philippines is located in South-East Asia. With 7,107 islands and the 12th largest population in the world (92 million), the Philippines is a diverse nation with a wide range of ethnic groups and cultures.

The majority of residents reside on the island of Luzon, on which the capital city, Manila lies. Manila is the 11th most populous metropolitan area in the world.

The main export of the Philippines is its people, with 11 million thought to reside outside the borders of the country. The principle languages are Filipino (Tagalog) and English, with many provincial languages.

The Philippines is one of two predominantly Roman Catholic countries in Asia. (The other is East Timor.) More than 90% claim to be Christian, however only a small percentage are thought to practice evangelical Christianity.

5-10% of the population is Muslim (mostly Sunni Islam) and tend to be on more southern islands. Other traditional religions are practiced, often syncretised with Christianity and Islam.

The Philippines is well known worldwide for its stunning geography and unique flora and fauna. The country houses several active volcanoes (Mayon Volcano, Mount Pinatubo.)

Despite a healthy tourist trade and emerging economy, the Philippines remains a country with great social needs. Many rural and urban areas are poverty-stricken, basic education is yet to be available to all and healthcare and social welfare remains inaccessible by the poorest and most needy members of society.

**Helping Hands
Healing Hearts
Ministries**

Helping Hands Healing Hearts Ministries, Philippines (HHM (or H4M),) is a ministry for sick and dying Filipino children and their families. HHM is based in Olongapo City, Luzon Island; run from a government hospital (James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital). The mission aims to provide medicines, financial assistance and counselling for families whose children are hospitalised. In addition, every family HHM encounters is offered prayer and the opportunity to come to know Jesus Christ. And so the name, Helping Hands (the practical support) Healing Hearts (the spiritual component.)

The charity is accountable to and regulated by the local Department of Social Welfare (DWSD) and by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in the Philippines. In the UK they are under the umbrella of Moira Pentecostal Church as their church mission.

In the Philippines, all healthcare expenses are met by the patient or their family. Each syringe, breath of oxygen, piece of tape and medicine is paid for by the family, usually in advance. This proves an enormous problem to people who earn minimal amounts per day. As a result, children die regularly from conditions which should be, on the whole, easily treatable. (Such as pneumonia, dehydration, skin infections, measles etc.)

Parents often find themselves having to pawn all of their possessions and some have even had to resort to illegal methods of acquiring money (stealing etc.) or forego medical advice, leaving their children to suffer.

HHM was founded by Claire Henderson in 2001. Initially Claire would help a child get treated in hospital up to the point of discharge; however she soon noticed the children were returning shortly after leaving for home. It transpired the child's family had exhausted all resources in funding their healthcare, but couldn't afford the post-discharge treatment; milk, good food or follow-up appointments. As such, the charity opened the Children's Recovery Unit (CRU) in Olongapo City. Within 6 months, God granted the charity the ability to purchase bigger premises, housing up to 23 sick children. The CRU became a place of hope and a place to heal, acting as a halfway house between hospital and home. All the child's needs are provided by the ministry; physical, emotional and spiritual, allowing the child to recover at their pace in a loved environment.

In 2009, a second Recovery unit opened in Baguio City and is in the process of helping new families and becoming known to the local authorities.

The charity has two offices in the James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital (JLGMH). The first is the administrative hub of the mission, the second a dispensing pharmacy offering free medicines to all patients. The link between the hospital and HHM has been formed and strengthened over many years and now the two exist in close correlation with each other. The city mayor as honoured Helping Hands on many occasions and gratitude from higher governmental authorities has been frequently given.

On a daily basis, staff and volunteers with HHM go into the children's wards in the hospital and minister to the patients there. This takes many forms; drama, mime, puppet shows, singing and song, arts and crafts, DVDs and prayer. Indeed, patients are extremely keen for prayer support and readily accept it. This is an exciting area of the ministry, where many, many people are touched and followed up on a regular basis. Through

Dates	<p>Filipino summer time is March and April and not July and August as it is in the west.</p> <p>Rainy Season tends to be from June to September.</p> <p>Christmas is an incredibly busy season for Helping Hands so if you are planning a trip then be aware that you will be expected to "keep up" with the staff!</p> <p>Dates must be discussed with The Director and please remember that not all dates will be suitable. Be flexible!</p>
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- It takes approximately 2 days to travel to the Philippines and recover from the journey, and 1 day to return to the UK.- The maximum stay in the country is 21 days, according to Visa regulations.- It may be possible to extend the duration of the trip if requested by the mission.- Missions exposure is anywhere from 2 to 3 weeks.- Short Term Missions trip is anywhere from 1 to 3 months- Medium to Long Term Missions trip is anywhere from 3 months to one year.

The team should be able to help the ministry in any way needed proportional to their skills.

The details of what the team would be asked to help with would be arranged closer to the time in relation to the needs of HHM at that time.

Definite areas of service:

- Helping in the CRU (Olongapo): assisting the nurses and care givers with the daily feeding, minding and hygiene of the babies being cared for. Helping the older children prepare for school, helping with homework, playing with the kids and promoting God's love for them at all opportunities.
- Cleaning, washing up and helping to keep the CRU presentable and comfortable for the children.
- Helping or leading the daily hospital ministry through art & crafts, singing, drama, puppetry and other media. Praying for families (with or without translation.)
- Attending or leading the staff Bible studies and devotions. Praying with and for the staff in a very active way.
- Attending or leading the children's Bible studies and devotions. Praying with and for the children in a very active way.
- Helping the staff relax!

Tasks

Possible areas of service:

- Helping on a medical mission to a rural area of the Philippines, either with simple medical tasks (heights, weighing etc. Training would be provided), administrative tasks (registration etc.) or evangelism (which runs in tandem with the medical arm of these missions.) Praying for all the patients who come through the medical mission.
 - Running special outreach clubs for local children.
 - DIY improvements of the CRU and other buildings belonging to HHM.
 - Visit to the new Baguio Recovery Unit and helping out in any ways they wish us to (a lot of which will be similar to the above.)
 - Team members with healthcare experience may be able to utilise these (e.g. nurses, OTs, physiotherapists etc.)
 - Trips and excursions with the children in the Recovery Unit(s).
 - Leading/assisting in a service in the local church
 - Spending some time with the YWAM team based in Olongapo as they enter the poorest areas of the city and share God's love in practical ways (e.g. teach English, repair homes, lead after-schools clubs.)
 - Visiting other local orphanages
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<p>Transport</p>	<p>KLM usually offer the cheapest flights to Manila, via Amsterdam, however, it is obviously beneficial to shop around. (KLM offer Pot Noodles for breakfast so if you prefer a little more substantial food then this may not be the airline for you) Other airlines include Emirates, Etihad, Singapore Airlines, Cathay Pacific and British Airways.</p> <p>It is usually necessary to book flights approximately 6 months in advance.</p> <p>NB. PLEASE DO NOT BOOK ANY FLIGHTS UNTIL EXACT DATES HAVE BEEN AGREED IN WRITING WITH THE DIRECTOR! You may well have wasted your money if you book 'cheap, unmissable deal" flights on dates that were not agreed by the director. Not all dates suit the ministry.</p> <p>Transport from Manila to Olongapo takes approximately 3 hours. This would be organised by HHM (most likely by car./van). (included in your overhead expenses)</p> <p>Getting around in Olongapo is very accessible. Tricycles ("trikes") are cheap (approximately 25p) and reliable, holding up to 3 people at any one time. These will be taken at your own expense.</p> <p>Transport to any rural areas or trips out with Olongapo would be organised by HHM.</p> <p>(NB Ministry Trips will be included in your overhead expenses however, shopping/relaxation trips will not be included in your overhead expenses. You would be expected to pay for the Van and driver on that day)</p>
<p>Accommodation</p>	<p>The charity owns a mission house in which some staff reside. It is hoped there would be enough space to house volunteers. However, this is very dependent on the size of team we take.</p> <p>Other larger teams in the past have stayed in paid accommodation, such as hotels. Although an option, remember that it would add to your personal expenses.</p>

	<p>These figures are provided as a rough guide only.</p> <p>Flights: £600-800 (£700) (check out www.crystaltravel.co.uk)</p> <p>Insurance: £50-70 (£50)</p> <p>Personal Extra money (meals, transport, groceries, spending money etc.): £100 per week (very approximate! If you are a texter you may need more money for Top Ups on your phone. You can buy a local sim which will work out much cheaper for you)</p> <p>Overhead Expenses to be paid in advance directly to HHM: This would include your local airport pick up and drop off (each way actually costs approx £35 for gas, driver and tolls), a donation towards electricity and water in the mission house and a lunch everyday at CRU. It would also include free use of internet (wifi) and laundry facilities.</p> <p>Missions exposure (2 to 3 weeks) = £10 per day Short Term Missions (1month to 3 months) = £8 per day Medium to Long Term (3 months to 1 year)=£8 per day</p> <p>Estimated total: £950+ Overhead Expenses</p> <p>We would also hope that you plan to fundraise for the mission itself and not only your personal expenses. Plan to come to be a blessing to the children and families. Plan to be able to fund little projects that may come up while you are there. It is more blessed to give than to receive.</p>
<p>Cost</p>	
<p>Size of Team</p>	<p>This is something that will need to be discussed with the director and will be decided on a case to case basis. Accommodation is a major factor.</p> <p>The charity has hosted teams of approximately 20 before, however, this has been a substantial burden on the ministry rather than beneficial as its difficult to physically transport huge numbers and to meet all their personal needs.</p> <p>Teams of 8-10 people would be an option.</p>
<p>Personnel</p>	<p>The charity is directed by Claire Henderson, a Northern-Irish lady who has lived in the Philippines for almost 12 years. She lives with her husband, Mark, and their 5 children (4 of whom she has fostered into her family), Gerlie, Georgette, Meanne, Caleb and Luke.</p> <p>A member of staff from HHM will be assigned to care for your daily well-being whilst in the country but you are expected to be very independent and able to take care of yourself.</p> <p>At present there are 40 full time staff/missionaries in HHM.</p>

Sight-seeing	The time in the Philippines itself is quite short so holidaying would take a backseat to serving the ministry. Saying that, it would be shame to travel so far around the world and not see some of the sights the Philippines have to offer. Therefore we would try to include some days off for you where you would be able to relax and unwind. There are many local Hotels with swimming pools for you to swim/sunbathe at and there are malls about 1 hour away. Other activities include Zoobic, Ocean Adventure, The Butterfly Garden and Cinema. These activities would be done at your own expense.
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Timeline - Example From a Recent Applicant

May 2010	Proposal/Application Approval from HHM Approval from Local Church
19 June 2010	Helping Hands Ball /Fundraising Events
August 2010	Open the trip to the congregation for applications for team members
Dec 2010/Jan 2011	Book flights
Jan – June 2011	Fundraising
March 2011	Prepare trip schedule – dependent on HHM’s needs
May 2011	Finalise trip schedule – dependent on HHM’s needs
June 2011	Final preparations. Helping Hands Ball - fundraiser
July 2011	Mission trip

Appendices

More Information	HHM website: http://www.helpinghandsministries.com/ YouTube page: http://www.youtube.com/user/HelpingHandsMinistry Watch this video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wp3cZumQ3Eg
HHM Logo Philippines Global Location	Removed to reduce file size
Map of Philippines (showing Luzon Island)	Removed to reduce file size
Map of Luzon (inc. Manila, Olongapo and Baguio)	Removed to reduce file size

Train a child the way he should grow up.

Proverbs 22⁶

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28¹⁹⁻²⁰

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

2 Corinthians 9⁸⁻¹⁰

For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ.

2 Corinthians 9¹³
