

# Reach International Healthcare and Training, Inc.

Reaching the Isolated and Underserved in the Philippines with **Medical Care**



**March 2016**

Stories from the field

## Teaching Them to be Prepared

When calamities or emergencies strike communities, people with proper training and knowledge are needed for quick response. Not only do we teach people to stay safe, but we also work to cultivate compassion and social concern in our students.

We have had a long-term partnership with the Governor's Office of Sarangani Province and regularly give them one week out of our monthly schedule. We are currently working with them to raise awareness and preparedness in remote communities of Sarangani. During our work with them this month, we were privileged to train 76 locals in two separate Muslim communities.



I explained to her how dangerous it is to give birth with an untrained midwife in an unclean environment. I taught her how critical it is to have proper care both during pregnancy and afterwards and why it's really important for them to go to the hospital for the birth.

These Lumad people are very uneducated about so many medical and health issues, but this is the work of Reach International – to reach out to help and teach them and to share with them the love of Christ through our work. I, myself, am 50% Lumad. I feel so fortunate to be able to help my own people so they can keep their tribe in peace and not be driven away from their lands.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16). God Bless and please keep on praying for us and for them. Thank you.



**Donations:** Reach International Healthcare and Training, Inc.  
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**Dr. Sam & Sherri and Pastor Ian Otbot**  
are in the U.S. until April 27.

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## Health Education is SO Important!

Shielani Otbot— Reach Staff Nurse

We were requested by another ministry to join them in Talaingod, Davao del Norte, a remote area where they are working to grow a young church plant. While it is a beautiful and peaceful place, named "Prayer Mountain", the Dibabaoan Tribe who live there is a minority (Lumad) tribe with a very difficult life. They are very poor people and don't have easy access to the city, hospital, or schools for their children.

I asked one of my patients, a mother, where the women go to deliver their babies. She told me that they deliver mostly in their own houses. Many babies and mothers die because of poor medical care and unsanitary conditions. She was very thankful that the births of her own children had gone well and that her babies were born healthy.



## Encouraging Visits

The Municipality of Lake Sebu, in the Province of South Cotabato, is very close to our hearts because we've taught three 10-month healthcare workers classes there in the past.

Our healthcare worker training program also includes follow-up visits to communities where classes were held and we recently spent 2 days in the Lake Sebu area to work with the former HCW graduates doing free clinics. We were both blessed and encouraged to see them continuing to use the skills we taught them as they provided care to their communities.