

AIG and Habitat for Humanity

May 31, 2018

In 2013, AIG partnered with Habitat for Humanity to adopt Barangay Margen in Tacloban, Leyte, after the damage of Typhoon Haiyan. Since then, AIG has helped to raise money, rebuild houses, and ensure the livelihoods of Brgy. Margen's habitants.

Upon adopting the Barangay, AIG donated a total of \$360,000 to Habitat for Humanity to rebuild shelters. In July 2015, 63 housing units were handed over to the family residents of Brgy. Margen. After the housing turnover, AIG still committed itself to improving the lives of residents. More construction took place in following years to solidify the drainage system with concrete, build a multipurpose hall, and improving the roads and walkways. Click on the [link](#) for the related video.



Michael De Leon, Vice President, Property and Special Risks, AIG Philippines Insurance, recently took a trip to visit the barangay. He says that “Barangay Margen looks functional,” and that “there has been improvement in paved roads [and] the drainage system is able to handle moderate rain.” He also notes how, thanks to a housing co-operative association that acts similarly to a community council, there is a strong sense of community, and residents are able to receive training for and access to jobs within the community.

While the conditions of the barangay have gotten much better since 2013, there are still improvements to be made. Firstly, Margen is situated near a creek, which floods with heavy rain, and they have no protection against creek overflow at the moment. Secondly, the bamboo fence that was originally set up around the perimeter only lasted for one year because of weather damage, and they have yet to find a permanent solution for their perimeter fence. Finally, about 35 houses are not allowed to receive electricity, as the fire department cites substandard wiring. Habitat for Humanity is currently looking into these issues and how to provide sustainable and cost-effective solutions.

In addition to construction and financial support, AIG has also been involved in the community by providing resources to its residents. December of 2015 saw AIG running a donation drive of housewares. These housewares were then given as Christmas gifts to the residents of the new houses. Then in 2017, AIG donated school supplies to the children of the barangay, including 65 sets of school supplies for Kindergarten/Grade 1 and high school students in conjunction with the School Supplies Sponsorship project of icSRV – the CSR arm of AIG in the Philippines.

The icSRV team is still in the planning stages of what AIG can do for Brgy. Margen this year, but one large event has already been established. On June 7, at the AIG Philippines Insurance open house event (the inauguration of the Insurance office at the Makati PhilAmLife tower), AIG will be handing over a check donation of Php380,000 to Habitat for Humanity in a continuation of its financial support to Brgy. Margen.

Bring on tomorrow!