

Hello everyone...

As you probably saw on TV, Manila was hit by a strong typhoon over the weekend, and life is just miserable for a majority of the vulnerable population who lost their homes. The devastation there is just terrible, just check the local newspapers: <http://www.inquirer.net> and <http://www.philstar.com>.

If there are any of you who would like to make a donation, do let me know. It would be great to send out clothes from the US, but that would take time to reach them, although I'm not ruling that out either (if the girls over at Bisaya Bulletin can help with the sending thru balikbayan box, we can have that distributed to the victims when it gets there).

We have a Manila office that I've already asked to give out our donations. Sadly, there is well deserved skepticism these days in handing over cash to corrupt officials even those working for NGO and charity organizations, that's why I am volunteering the Zee office in Manila for this relief efforts. Our plan is to give out Gift Certificates from Jollibee or McDo (worth around P100 for one piece chicken plus rice and soda), which would be of IMMEDIATE HELP especially to the kids. To ensure transparency, we will be taking pictures and I've requested friends in Manila to personally supervise the distribution together with the Zee staff.

It would be wonderful to share what little we have, but the little you have in the US is plenty lots in the Philippines! Ten dollars for example, can buy five meals... All I need is for you to email back to me the amount (no amount is small enough!), and I can have that advanced in Manila, while you send your check to me in Florida.

Sincerely,

Eva Gullas