

JANUARY
2010

FAMILY CARE INDONESIA

ACTIVITY REPORT



TRAUMA HEALING FOR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

PADANG,
WEST SUMATRA

One of the common side-effects of natural disasters such as the quake in West Sumatra is fear and trauma. Usually the most seriously affected are children, especially those who have lost members of their family, friends, or their homes. These unseen wounds often take a long time to heal. Before our visit to Padang this month, word also spread that geologists had predicted an even larger quake to strike the region. True or not, this rumor intensified the feelings of uncertainty and stress that many people were already experiencing.

As we have after other disasters of this sort, Family Care Indonesia assembled a team of volunteers to bring happiness and cheer and help end the trauma that many of the youngest victims of the quake are experiencing. We brought an exciting puppet show including a lively song and activity program. The program focused on topics such as overcoming obstacles, staying positive, taking initiative, and appreciating differences.

During our week long stay we took our programs to 10 different schools, kindergartens, and orphanages in Padang and the surrounding area. Some schools had been completely flattened by the quake so we had to set up in a tent amidst the rubble. We spent time after the programs interacting with the children and young people. We place an emphasis on this personal interaction as it often goes a lot farther than mere physical aid and is key factor in any disaster recovery situation.

Coloring pages and school supplies were distributed to all students and we bought a brand new computer for one orphanage that had lost their only one in the quake.



Motivation and Encouragement at a Rehabilitation Center

Many of those who are undergoing drug rehabilitation are in dire need of love and care. Family visitation is only allowed once every two weeks and since many of them were not able to celebrate Christmas with their family, FCI brought the joy of Christmas to them by entertaining them with dance, music, games, presents and refreshments.



Institution Educational Support in Medan

Throughout January 2010, Family Care in Medan donated educational videos and books to two needy orphanages. At one orphanage we also did a program which taught moral and character building values through a drama/comedy show and donated bread to the children.



Family Care Indonesia is a nonprofit, volunteer organization. Each of the activities you have just read about was made possible through donations from businesses, associations, and concerned individuals. If you would like more information about Family Care Indonesia, or if you would like to help sponsor Family Care Indonesia volunteers or projects, including those mentioned in this report, please contact us at our address.

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