



SUPPLIED PHOTO

David Amy and Marijke Reesor show off some of the medical supplies that came with them to parts of typhoon-ravaged Phillipines.

## Local tandem part joins Phillipines relief efforts

Talk about timing.

Two of Stouffville's own, David Amy of Stouffville Christian Church and Marijke Reesor of Community Mennonite Church, are making their way back to Manila, the Phillipines, after spending almost two weeks in the typhoon-ravaged towns of Ormoc and Tacloban in the central Phillipines.

That wasn't part of their original plans.

David and Marijke both took jobs this past summer in Stouffville to earn enough money to work among the poor and destitute people of Manila and the surrounding villages. The plan was to go on a five-month short term mission with Emmanuel International, a Christian relief organization based in Stouffville.

"As 'providence' would have it, while they were still being acclimated to their new tropical setting, super typhoon Yolanda hit the central Phillipines, taking a tragic toll on property and human life," said David's father, Stouffville Christian Church pastor Jim Amy.

Emmanuel, in co-operation with other organizations, was quick to respond by dispatching a team of

relief workers in early December to bring much needed food, water and medical supplies to the devastated area. David and Marijke were part of that early response team.

After spending several days loading up two 10-wheeler trucks with 35 tons of rice, canned goods, bottled water and shoe box gifts for the children, David and Marijke and the response team set off on a two-day journey by road and boat.

The team, including volunteer doctors from Manila, crisis counselors, and logistics experts, worked hard with local volunteers to set up emergency shelters and distribute emergency supplies in the Ormoc and Tacloban area.

David and Marijke will return to Manila to complete their original mandate, but Emmanuel plans to continue a long-term rehabilitation project of drilling wells for clean water, assisting small businesses get restarted, and helping farmers and fishermen re-establish their livelihoods.

Stouffville Christian Church has been raising funds for this project.

For more information, go to [stouffvillechristianchurch.ca](http://stouffvillechristianchurch.ca) or [eicanada.org](http://eicanada.org)

### Holiday transit schedule

If you are taking public transit over the holidays, you should note there will be some service changes in effect until Jan. 5.

YRT/Viva will operate on Sunday/holiday schedules Christmas Day, while Saturday service will apply Boxing Day.

TTC will offer holiday service Dec. 26.

YRT/Viva service returns to normal service Dec. 27.

Dec. 31 sees early afternoon GO shuttles and express services and free YRT/Viva transit rides after 7 p.m., with extended service until 4 a.m. on some YRT/Viva routes.

Jan. 1 will see holiday service and normal service resumes, with some modifications to TTC service, Jan. 2. For more information, visit [yrt.ca](http://yrt.ca)

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