# **Our Highlights**

# 2023-2024 Bulacan sponsor site, The Philippines

This fiscal year saw development at the site in many ways, especially in the following areas:

### **SPONSORSHIP**





825

sponsored children



CRITICAL NEEDS

beneficiary had a medical critical need funded



453

sponsored girls



376

sponsored boys



100%

of sponsored children were enrolled in school



sponsored children graduated secondary school



41

sponsored children graduated from a post-secondary school



family circles



## Simbang Gabi (Night Mass): A Filipino Christmas tradition

On December 16 every year, many families begin Simbang Gabi: going to dawn Masses for nine days until Christmas Eve. The Masses are 4:00-5:00 am, when the rooster crows. It's a community affair! After Mass, people meet up with friends in the church plaza and buy special rice cakes (Bibingka and Puto Bungbong, pictured) to eat for breakfast.

The Simbang Gabi is more than a religious ritual, it's a cultural experience that shows the warmth, unity, and strong faith of the Filipino people especially during the Christmas season.

