

## ACE IPI VISITS HOME FOR ELDERLY IN CAVITE

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For a number of years, the TAHANAN NI MARIA in Bacoor, Cavite has been the refuge of almost a hundred elderly persons, most of whom are abandoned and visitorless, from different areas not only within Cavite but also from neighboring regions. This spacious hospice-run-shelter also houses some psychologically disturbed and physically ailing old folks; some of them also have been entrusted by their respective family members who are working and hence unable to actually extend care and appropriate attention.



*Virgie Bruce, ACE IPI President (standing) accompanies Mama Betty, one of the founding members of Tahanan.*

Last February 17, 2008, ACE volunteers and members, in their ever first visit to Tahanan, were able to gather about 54 elders who obviously were so thrilled to have received visitors. Understandably, most of them do miss their children, other relatives and friends. But they did enjoy the generous helpings of arroz-caldo (chicken-porridge) specially prepared for their taste buds. Many willingly interacted and participated in the games and even in rendering song numbers. We also brought bottled mineral water. The Franciscan Sisters of the Holy Adorers meanwhile gave some colorful dusters and heart pendants made of paper. Most ACE members want to make this visit a more regular one, perhaps at least once-a-month.

