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### **Mission**

To help the poorest of the poor children to have better lives by giving them P.E.A.R.L.S. (Peace, Education, Aspiration, Respect, Love and Smiles) through education, empowerment, nutrition, nourishment, and healthcare.

## **Vision**

A world where no child, at no time, is hungry. No child should be hungry for nutrition, education, shelter, medical services, and opportunities to achieve their full potential.

### **OUR TEAM**

The Board of Directors is composed of professionals and executives from diverse backgrounds and industries. With their individual expertise and knowledge, they provide over-all guidance and strategic direction for the growth of Project PEARLS.



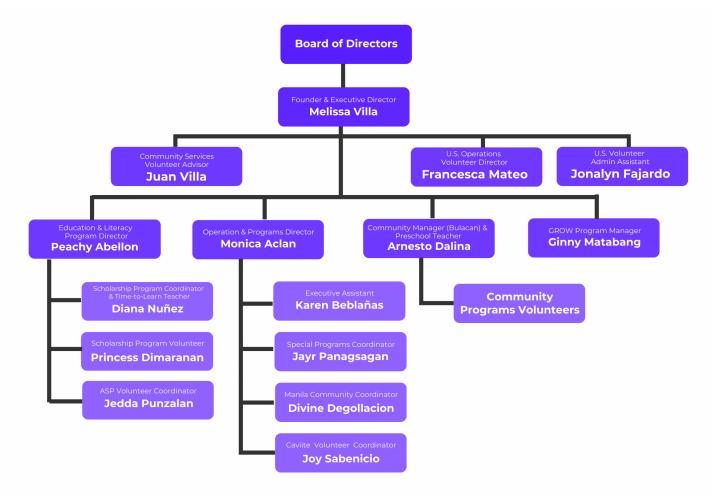
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#### **Community Core Teams**

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We are able to do what we do because of the incredible heroes who wholeheartedly believe in our mission. Their generosity and support allow us to change the lives of children living in poverty and to create a better future for our nation.

### Meet the Education Champions, Hunger Warriors, and Life Changers.

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Velarde, Isabella, Charlie and Marissa

William Brandenburg

### Community of Heroes: Advocates, Partners, and Sponsors













































































Rotary











Club of San Francisco Chinatown





































# OUR PROGRAMS



Our Guiding
Principles









Our Core Programs



EDUCATION & LITERACY



HEALTHCARE & NUTRITION



EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SKILLS DEV'T



# EDUCATION & LITERACY

Scholarship

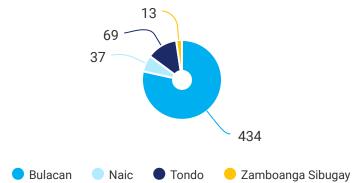
Community Learning Activities

LitClub

### **Scholarship Program**



# Number of scholars per community

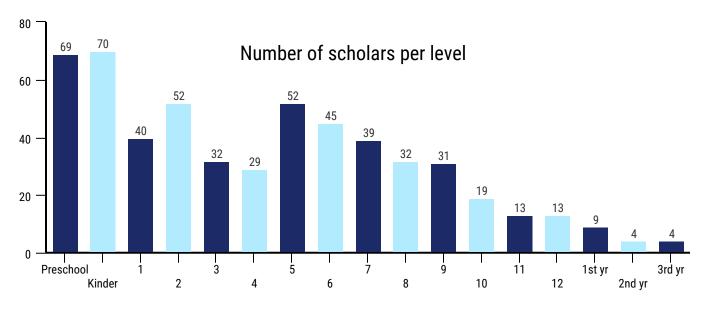


### Number of scholars per school year

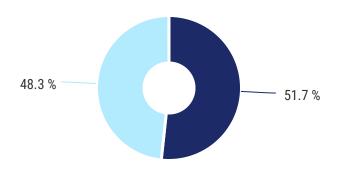


The main goal of Project PEARLS is to help children and families break the cycle of poverty through the transformative power of education. We recognize that the lack of economic resources is a barrier to one's access to education. To overcome this, the PEARLS Scholarship Program provides educational investments in the form of school supplies, transportation allowance, food packs, vouchers for field trips and projects, and other resources that are critical for academic success. We also build communities of support through mentorship and tutorial sessions. These learning opportunities aim to develop their aspirations, self-confidence, attitudes, skills, and knowledge so they can be empowered to shape a better life and future for themselves.

Currently, we have 553 scholars in four communities: Brgy. Batia, Bocaue, Bulacan; Helping Land, Tondo, Manila; Brgy. Malainen Bago, Naic, Cavite; and Kabasalan, Zamboanga Sibugay.



### Breakdown of sponsorship



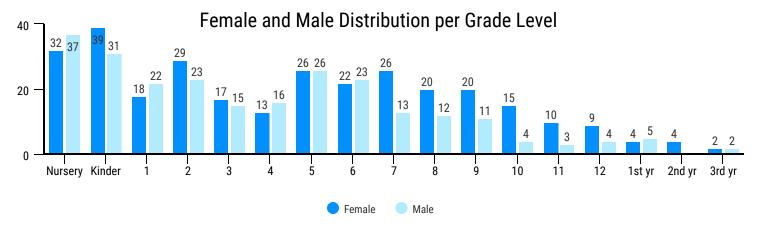
With sponsors

The biggest concentration of our scholars is in the grade school levels. This school year, we also have the most number of scholars graduating from senior high school. For SY 2020-2021, we will have a total of 30 college scholars.

More than 50% of the scholars are under the sponsorship of different organizations and individuals. The remaining non-sponsored scholars are covered by our general fund acquired from grants and other donations.



### **Scholarship Program**

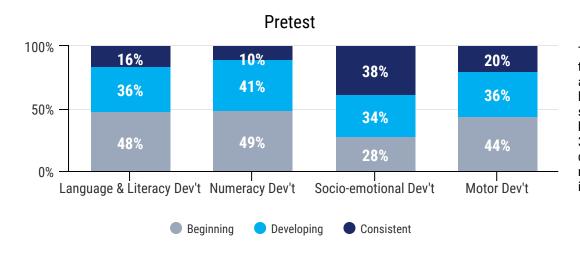


Over-all, there are 306 female scholars, and 247 male scholars.

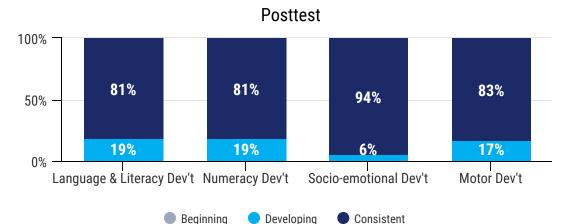
#### Nursery Scholars' Development Report

This school year, we had 69 Nursery scholars who successfully completed the program in the PEARLS Learning Center in Bocaue, Bulacan. To measure their developmental milestones, we conducted a pretest and posttest in four key areas: language and literacy, numeracy, socio-emotional, and motor skills. The results of the test show the different characteristics of the child that correspond to a certain development level:

- · 'Beginning' level: the child starts to show interests in the subject
- 'Developing' level: the child performs and participates on a regular basis with adult help
- 'Consistent' level: the child performs and participates independently on their own



The pretest and posttest show that there is a significant improvement among the children in the different learning areas. At the start of the school year, the highest percentage of kids in the 'consistent level' is only at 38% in the area of socio-emotional development. The lowest is in numeracy development where only 10% is in the 'consistent level'.



At the end of the academic year, more than 80% of the children are already in the 'consistent level' in the areas of language and literacy, numeracy, and motor skills. The highest is in the area of socio-emotional development where 94% are already in the 'consistent level'.

### **Message of Gratitude and Hope**



### Kim Mikel, 3rd Year College Scholar

#### Zamboanga Sibugay

"Project PEARLS Scholarship Program helped me a lot in my studies because they are very supportive with my school requirements and even covers my transportation expenses going to school. It was in 2014 when I became a high school scholar and now, I am in my 3rd year college taking up Bachelor of Agricultural Technology. I was also given an opportunity to mentor the younger kids in our community in Zamboanga Sibugay through the Litclub Program and I was able to attend some trainings in Zamboanga City and Manila. I am very thankful for this gift of Education. I hope that Project PEARLS will continue to help more children so they can attend school. Thank you very much!"

Kim Mikel has been in the Scholarship Program since 2014. He dreams of becoming an agriculturist to help the farmers and the people in their community in Mindanao.

### **Joyce Ann, Grade 10 Scholar**

Bocaue, Bulacan

"In 2013, my 4 siblings and I became scholars of Project PEARLS. We are a product of a broken family and during that time, I really do not know how we can survive our daily lives, much more our schooling. When Project PEARLS came, we were given a great opportunity to be a scholar. I was in Grade 4 student then at 13 years old. They helped us in so many ways from school needs, uniforms, food, and other needs to keep us through the day. My siblings and I are very thankful to Projects PEARLS and its sponsors because we really do not know what could have happened to us if not for them. I do not have to worry about my education, all I need to do is to persevere in my studies and to make sure that I will graduate in college to help my brothers and sisters. Thank you very much, Project PEARLS! Now I am looking forward to enter my Senior High School Years!"

Joyce Ann is a diligent student and a responsible sister to her siblings. She also actively participates in the mentorship and tutorial program for the younger scholars.



### **Message of Gratitude and Hope**

### Jeslyn, LitClub Member

Zamboanga Sibugay

"LitClub taught me a lot of things. It helped me improve as a person and it increased my knowledge as a student. I learned how to form camaraderie and friendship with my peers, and I learned the value of self-confidence and cooperation. I was also able to enrich my skills in writing, drawing, and public speaking, which helped me in improving my academic standing. Lastly, I gained a deeper vision for my life and I realized that I can achieve my dream of finishing college."

Jeslyn is an incoming Grade 7 student for SY 2020-21. She has been an active LitClub member for three years now.





# **Teacher Diane Time-to-Learn Program**

"I feel absolutely blessed that my students were able to start their academic learning in our Time to Learn Program. I noticed their interest in learning as soon as they started attending the classes. This was the children's first school setting. During the first few months, they learned to draw shapes, color and write some letters and numbers as well. As we moved to the 2nd part of the school year, we started with phonetics and identifying different pictures. Project PEARLS provided a loving, nurturing and safe environment for these children who are living in poverty. We only do not teach them academics, but we also make sure that they develop their social skills as well as they try to prepare for the bigger school."

### **Community Learning Activities**



### **After School Program**

92 tutorial and mentorship sessions

The 'After School Program' (ASP) provides tutorial sessions for around 200 to 300 children and youth in Tondo every Sunday. ASP is a learning environment that allows students to understand the lessons on a more personal level through the help of volunteer teachers. In Bulacan, our high school scholars also conduct tutorial and mentorship sessions for the younger scholars to help them in their academics.



Brain Booster,
Toy Library, and
Time-to-Learn

568 art, play, and reading sessions

The 'Time-to-Learn' and 'Toy Library' are programs designed for children aged 4 to 6 years old who are not able to attend formal schooling yet. These programs provide them a safe space where they can develop social skills through meaningful play. They also learn basic reading and writing lessons. On Saturdays, we have brain booster activities that aim to develop creativity through art and crafts.

### **LitClub Philippines**

in partnership with

### LitWorld Be the Story.

LitWorld is a US-based non-profit organization that works in different parts of the world with the core mission to "strengthen kids and communities through the power of stories." The various programs of LitWorld are centered on the "7 Strengths" (Belonging, Curiosity, Friendship, Kindness, Confidence, Courage, and Hope) that aim to empower children and youth through literacy. Project PEARLS is honored to be one of LitWorld's partner organizations since 2012. Under their guidance and support, we established LitClubs in different communities in the Philippines. LitClubs are designed to run outside of school time to bring children and teens together for "joyful learning, creative expression, community building, and developing social-emotional skills." We have trained LitClub mentors who oversee this in-depth literacy and empowerment program.

(https://www.litworld.org/)



# Training for new LitCLub mentors and members

This year, we welcomed new LitCub members and mentors in Camarines Norte and Cavite.

March 1 to 3: Aklatan sa Kostal, Camarines Norte

'Aklatan sa Kostal', a humble initiative started by Arquiza family, serves as a library, computer learning center, and a safe space where children and teens can develop their different interests and talents. With the humble leadership of our newest mentor, Ms. Sol Arquiza, 23 boys and girls became part of LitClub-ASK. The picturesque and calming surroundings of Aklatan is a perfect place for these children to further enhance their storytelling and literacy skills.

#### October 8: Naic, Cavite

In mid-2019, the National Housing Authority started to relocate more than 700 families in Tondo to a new community in Naic, Cavite. Around 60 PEARLS scholars and families were among the first batch of relocated families. To assist them in the transition, we still continued the Scholarship Program for the children and youth. We also saw the need to provide learning opportunities for the kids to help them cope in a new environment. Thus, LitClub-Naic was born. From being members of LitClub in Tondo they are now equipped to mentor the new batch in Naic.







The weekly LitClub sessions are designed to improve overall literacy levels and to encourage children to increase their social awareness and sense of personal value. Through its modules and unique learning activities, a strong support network and safe space is cultivated among the members and mentors.

In addition to these regular sessions, LitClub also conducts various activities throughout the year to promote the importance of literacy and to develop self-expression, confidence, and understanding.



### **World Read Aloud Day**

February 5 is World Read Aloud Day. This is an international campaign started by LitWorld in 2010 to celebrate the joy of reading aloud and to advocate for literacy as a fundamental human right.

In celebration of this important day, our LitClubs in Bulacan, Manila, and Zamboanga Sibugay conducted different storytelling and reading activities in their own communities. We also partnered with the National Library of the Philippines to encourage more students to participate and to advocate for global literacy.



# **LitClub Graduation in Zamboanga Sibugay**

A special graduation ceremony was conducted in Zamboanga Sibugay to celebrate the success of LitClub members who completed the Year 1 curriculum. This graduation signifies an important milestone in their "literacy journey" as they become more equipped and empowered in sharing the 7 Strengths in their communities!



### **International Day of the Girl**

The United Nations declared the 11th of October as the International Day of the Girl. As a worldwide observance day, it promotes girls' empowerment and the recognition of their human rights. It also mobilizes public concern and political will to address the unique challenges and needs faced by girls around the world.

LitClub members in Tondo, Bulacan, Zambales, and Zamboanga Sibugay conducted various activities to celebrate this day and to show solidarity in this important movement.



# HEALTHCARE & NUTRITION

Feed the Tummy, Nourish the Mind

Health Clinic

**Medical & Dental Missions** 

### Feed the Tummy, Nourish the Mind

90,000+

total meals served





When Project PEARLS started its outreach program in Ulingan, Tondo in 2010, the first thing that was addressed was the basic need – food. It was based on the simple premise that hunger hinders children from learning. Until now, we still serve healthy meals and multivitamins to around 250 to 300 children in Helping Land, Tondo every day. This is to ensure that they do not go to school with empty stomachs. After the feeding, we conduct learning activities for the children: Time-to-Learn program, Toy Library, Brain Booster Program, and After School Program. We also provide free breakfast to our Nursery scholars in Bulacan.

### Health Clinic in Tondo, Manila

### **800+**

### patients served

We provide free check-ups and medicines for children and adults to treat common illnesses such as fever, diarrhea, cold, cough, and headaches. This is done through the help of volunteer doctors and nurses. As a recognized satellite clinic of the Manila Health Department, a special focus is given on maternal and child health and the promotion of the "First 1,000 Days Program".

### Php 1,177,431.00

total expenses including special medical assistance provided for families and children



The lack of health insurance or savings for most families is another serious challenge. As an organization that is deeply engaged with the families in the community, we also try to give financial support for medical emergencies. We also care for several families who have children with special needs by supporting their healthcare needs.

### **Medical & Dental Missions**

## Dental Lessons and Check-ups Valenzuela Medical Center

February 15. The Dental team of Valenzuela Medical Center, headed by Dr. Erlinda Lumibao, conducted lessons on proper dental hygiene and provided free check-ups for our 70 Nursery scholars in Bulacan.



# Medical and Dental Mission in Zambales Archipelago Builders

February 16. Our generous partner, Archipelago Builders, led a Medical and Dental Mission for around 300 adults and children of Lakas Tribe in Botolan, Zambales. Over the years, this community has become very close to our hearts. We established a LitClub for the children, and one of our partners helped build a classroom. This has been made possible through the leadership of their tribe chief, Kuya Carlito. Sadly, he passed away a few weeks prior our visit. We dedicated this medical mission in his honor and memory.



# **Eye Exam and Dental Check-ups**Dr. Dan Baxter & Fresno Diwata Lions Club

May 19. Dr. Dan Baxter and his team from Fresno Diwata Lions Club served our dear Lola and Lolo (elderly) in Helping Land, Tondo by giving them free eye check-ups and prescription glasses. They also brought volunteer doctors and nurses to give medical check-ups for adults and children.



# **Dental Mission in Tondo**Dr. Tess Venturina

*November 4.* Dr. Venturina led a dental hygiene lesson for children in Tondo. She also provided the following services for around 100 children: fluoride application, toothbrushing drill, and tooth extraction.





# Medical Mission in Tondo Dr. Fe Del Mundo Medical Center

November 25. Dr. Fe Del Mundo, one of the country's leading pediatricians and the first woman to be named National Scientist of the Philippines, established the first pediatric hospital in the country – the Children Medical Center, now Fe Del Mundo Medical Center (FDMMC). In commemoration of her death anniversary, the doctors and nurses of FDMMC served the children of Tondo through a medical mission.





### Family Planning Seminar and Services Likhaan Center for Women's Health

March 28. Likhaan Center for Women's Health has been our long-time partner in bringing reproductive health services to the communities we serve. They held a seminar on family planning (FP) and provided FP services for more than 40 women in Brgy. Batia, Bocaue, Bulacan. This program empowers women to have informed decisions relating to their own health, and to that of their families.

### **Food for Learning Program**

in partnership with



True to its core mission "to provide immediate and long-term global food relief for those in severe need", USANA True Health Foundation partnered with us to provide food assistance for our scholars and families in need in Tondo. The 300 monthly grocery packs helped the families in three key aspects: ensuring that children have healthy meals; easing the financial burden; and receiving moral support during difficult times.







### EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Special Workshops and Educational Trips

New Programs:

G.R.O.W. (Giving Resources and Opportunities to Women)

Pop-up BayaniHAN (Bayani for the Homeless, Abandoned, and Neglected)

### Special Workshops

180+

participants in 7 workshops and

Learning is not limited within the four walls of classroom. We want our scholars to be exposed to different kinds of opportunities so they can explore their interests and enhance their skills and talents. We do this by partnering with organizations and companies to provide them with workshops, seminars, and educational trips. These activities also give them an increased sense of social and civic awareness. As they become more knowledgeable on issues such as reproductive health, children's rights, and mental health, they will be more empowered to seminars take action in their own lives and in their communities.















#### **Summer Workshops in Jollibee and McDonald's**

May to April. Every summer vacation, our young scholars look forward to joining their favorite Kiddie Crew and Mini Managers workshops. This is a chance for them to learn discipline, teamwork, and leadership. And most importantly, they get to meet new friends!

#### "You, Me, Empathy" (Developing Empathetic Leaders for Mental Health) by AIESEC Philippines

February 17. Together with our volunteers and mentors, our high school and college scholars took part in this mental health forum organized by AIESEC Philippines. "You, Me, Empathy" tackled the importance of taking care of one's own mental health in order to become empathetic youth leaders and role models.

#### "FYI: For Youth Information"

April 26. 'FYI: For Youth Information' is a seminar for our high school scholars in Bulacan. We partnered with Likhaan to give valuable knowledge on teenage pregnancy, HIV awareness, and other concerns relating to reproductive health. We also invited Mr. and Mrs. Karlo and Chai Biglang-awa to share their journey on having healthy personal relationships.

#### Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA): Youth Campaign and Advocacy Planning (Cebu City) by SPARK! Philippines

May 2 to 5. Through the invitation of SPARK! Philippines, our scholar and youth mentor, Aubrey Soria, participated in the GAA workshop held in Cebu City. In this workshop, youth leaders developed a campaign and advocacy plan to end gender-based violence and to empower girls and young women.

#### **Art Workshop in Ateneo De Manila University**

June 16. Our kids from Tondo showcased their creativity in an Art Workshop led by the following individuals and organizations: Sarah Jane Domingo, Patty Py, the Ateneo Art Gallery, and the Ateneo Art Studies Program.

#### **Child Rights Summit by Museo Pambata**

October 19. In partnership with Museo Pambata, our young scholars from Bulacan attended the Child Rights Summit in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the UN-CRC. The goal of the summit was to raise children's awareness and appreciation of their rights and responsibilities.

#### **ICARE** (International Community **Actively** Responding to the Environment) by International **School Manila**

December 10 to 13. ICARE is an annual activity of ISM that aims to contribute to the holistic learning of students by actively engaging within various communities. Twenty-six ISM students led different workshops for our PEARLS scholars. The topics are: ornament making, theatre, dance, coding, football, ultimate game, and toy car making.

### **Educational Trips**







### **University Tours**

May 27 and 30. Studying in universities seems like an impossible dream for most children and youth living in poverty. We want to break this mindset by bringing our scholars closer to these respectable universities. Through these campus tours, they learn about the different courses being offered, and the scholarship programs available for them. The talks from the students and professors also inspired them to pursue higher studies. Thank you so much to these universities for welcoming our scholars: Far Eastern University, Ateneo De Manila University, and De La Salle University.

370+

### participants in 13 field trips and kiddie parties

Book Giving and Storytelling by CANVAS Gallery

Field Trip for Top ASP Kids

'Ito na ang Panahon' by Museo Pambata

Star City Field Trip by UHappy Events

Jollibee and Mcdo Kiddie parties by: Noeliza Feliciano, Gianne Manzano, Mary Grace Pascua, and Anthony and Tere Leonardo

Halloween Party by Alexander Mann Solutions

Field Trip in Mind Museum by PMI

Christmas Party by Makati Medical Center

Gift-giving and Workshop by Telus











### **Workshops for Parents and Staff**





Our core team of staff and volunteers constantly strive to gain new knowledge and skills by attending different learning workshops and summits. We are grateful to our partners and sponsors for these opportunities for growth.















#### 'Panatag Nanays' Lectures by Jedda Punzalan and Hilary Anne Diaz

Jan. 29 & Feb. 1. Jedda and Hilary led an engaging seminar for the Mothers in Tondo and Bulacan. The topics focused on Financial Literacy and Parenting Guidance.

#### **Basic Office Training for Staff**

February 14. We conducted a basic office training to equip our community staff and volunteers with practical knowledge that they can use to make their work more efficient.

#### **Women Achievers Summit**

March 16. Five of our core team members attended this summit where they learned how to become more effective and influential leaders. The topics also taught them how to sustain their personal growth and wellbeing by responding to the unique needs of being a woman.

#### **Gender and Development Training by SPARK! Philippines**

April 24 to 27. Together with other NGOs, Karen Beblañas and Monica Aclan attended this training 'writeshop' organized by SPARK! Philippines. It aimed to teach NGOs how to integrate gender and development principles in their policies, programs, and mission.

#### 'Awit at Laro: Pamato sa Pagtuturo' Workshop by Tukod Foundation

May 17 to 19. In this workshop, our 'ASP' and 'Time-to-Learn' teachers and lead coordinators learned unique and engaging teaching techniques that harness the power of Filipino culture through play and songs.

### Child Protection Seminar for Staff by Ms. Nancy Agaid of Stairway Foundation and TCI

May 21 to 23. Our staff and core community volunteers learned the principles of child rights and how to incorporate child protection in our programs.

#### **'LEAN it to Win it' by Telus Int'l Philippines**

October 16. Led by the Business Process Excellence (BPE) team of Telus Int'l Phil., this workshop enabled our core team to understand the basics of Lean Process Improvement and how it can be applied in our programs and processes.

#### **Gender Mainstreaming Summit by SPARK! Philippines**

October 28 to 29. Representatives from public and private sector and civil society groups gathered together to learn the different gender and development approaches, and to identify policy gaps and possible recommendations. This summit was attended by Karen Beblañas, Jayr Panagsagan, and Arnesto Dalina.

#### Nonprofit Storytelling Conference in San Diego, California

October 28 to 30. This annual conference brings together nonprofit professionals and independent consultants to exchange ideas about the best practices and latest developments in the nonprofit sector. Using the power of storytelling through online and offline engagement, this conference also aimed to teach organizations how to advance their mission and achieve their goals. Melissa Villa, Peachy Abellon, and Monica Aclan attended the conference in California.

### **New Program:**

### **GROW** (Giving Resources and Opportunities to Women)









### Women of Ulingan, Tondo

Ulingan, Tondo is the first community adopted by Project PEARLS in 2010. Here, children and adults work hard every day to make charcoals or scavenge from garbage to make ends meet. This is where everything started for Project PEARLS. With a small group of volunteers back then, a weekly outreach program was established. It eventually led to the PEARLS Scholarship Program. In 2013, the National Housing Authority relocated the families to a new community in Brgy. Batia, Bocaue, Bulacan. Project PEARLS assisted them in the transition and continued the Scholarship Program for the children. But even with the new housing units, the families are still experiencing poverty because of the lack of income source and livelihood programs. To address these challenges, we created GROW - Giving Resources and Opportunities for Women.



10 women in Bocaue. Bulacan employed in the program



8 skills learned: macramé, shirt printing, sewing, tie dyeing, paper making, painting, upcycling, and dish garden making



1,200 +products made 70% products sold



34 bazaars and pop-up stores



GROW focuses on empowering women by providing them with the skills, resources, and training that they need for their economic and social growth. The first batch of ten women were taught various skills such as macramé, t-shirt printing, and sewing. They also advocate for environment-friendly practices. All of the products that they produce are made out of upcycled materials such as scrap cloths and used tarpaulins.

We are thankful for the grant support of these organizations that enabled us to establish GROW:













### New Program:

## Pop-up BayaniHAN (Bayani for the Homeless, Abandoned, and Neglected)









The individuals and families living on the streets are among the most neglected and most vulnerable sectors of our society. Without the safety of homes, they are exposed to all kinds of risks such as diseases, malnutrition, abuse, and exploitation. In response to this, St. Arnold Janssen Kalinga Center provides services for the homeless of Manila. Since 2015, they have been providing services such as free meals and showers, counseling, and holistic support for education and livelihood.

In line with our mission to serve the poorest of the poor, we partnered with Kalinga Center to reach out to our homeless neighbors. We launched our new program, Pop-up BayaniHAN (Bayani for the Homeless, Abandoned, and Neglected) on November 30, in commemoration of the bravery of one of our greatest heroes, Andres Bonifacio.

We are grateful to our modern-day heroes - volunteers and partners - for the following services: restaurant-style feeding, haircut, medical and dental check-up, clothes "shopping", and grocery and care packages.

370+
homeless
individuals served











True to the spirit of *bayanihan* (Filipino word which means unity, work and cooperation), different organizations and individuals came together to bring critical services for the homeless of Manila. We thank all these heroes for making this possible:

Partner Organizations: Kalinga Center | The Forgotten International

Food Sponsors: Bacolod Chicken Inasal | RFM | Michelle's Putong Ube| Dr. Fe Del Mundo Medical Center Foundation Philippines. Inc.

Haircut Services: Kalingang Barbero

Medical and Dental Services: Dr. Fe Del Mundo Medical Center Foundation Philippines, Inc. | University of the Philippines - Dental Health Brigade | Dr. Jeprel Del Prado | Dr. Vana Leachon | Dr. Mil Jocson | Dr. Giana Ferrer | Dr. Ren Sanquil | Dr. Cristel Wee | Solmuell Florano (Pharmacist) | Dr. Veronica San Diego Pascual | Dr. Mariz Ebuen

Hygiene packs and grocery packs: Unilever | Victoria Court | LDS Cooperative, Inc. | Wells Fargo | Smiles By Sally

**Donors:** Marie Young | Jaime Lopa | Share Your Spare Singapore | Alexander Mann Solutions | Global Telehealth Inc.

**Clothes donors:** Azusa Yamazaki | Fernando Family | Jam Gueta and friends | Emily Sagun and friends | Ado & Steph Belo | Cillie Gonzales | Michelle Dela Peña and friends | Nikki Remulacio and family | Sheryl Villaluz and family | Mutya Capacis



# SPECIAL PROJECTS AND EVENTS

Cassie's Bag of Dreams

**Memory Project** 

Blessing and Opening of the Second Floor of Learning Center

International Mandela Day

Raising Funds and Awareness

Melissa's 55th Birthday Celebration

"GROW Together": PEARLS' 9th Anniversary

**Christmas Events** 

### Cassie's Bag of Dreams





300

school bags given to children in Bulacan and Manila

July 27. Now on its sixth year, Cassie's Bag of Dreams Challenge continues to bring hope and love to underprivileged children in different communities. Cassie Eng, one of our youngest volunteers and advocates, organizes fundraising and partnerships with organizations to provide hundreds of backpacks for students. For this year, we joined Cassie in distributing backpacks to the children under the 'Paghilom Program' of St. Arnold Janssen Kalinga Center. These are children whose families have been victims of extrajudicial killings. Our Nursery scholars in Bulacan are also among the 300 recipients of the backpacks.

### **Memory Project**

3,600+

portraits distributed to 900+ children and youth in three communities: Tarlac, Siquijor, and Zamboanga Sibugay

February 19 to 22

"Creating a kinder world through art."

This is the core mission of Memory Project, a US-based organization established in 2004. They envision a world dominated with kindness, understanding, and friendship through the use of art. The Memory Project mobilizes art teachers and students in the US to create and donate portraits for children and youth around the world who are facing challenges such as disasters, conflicts, poverty, or neglect. They also facilitate the delivery of the artworks in different countries. The portraits do not just break the cultural barriers and physical borders, but it also allows children to preserve a unique piece of their childhood memory in an artwork.









# Blessing and Formal Opening: **Second Floor of Learning Center**



Almost ten years ago, we had a simple learning center in Ulingan, Tondo that could only accommodate around 40 to 50 children. Now, the PEARLS Learning Center in Bocaue, Bulacan got bigger with the addition of the second floor. Our hundreds of scholars now have a bigger space where they can study, research, and mentor one another. The Learning Center will also house our Daycare Center for the preschool scholars.

On April 6, Fr. Graziano Gaviolli led the blessing and official opening with our volunteers, partners, scholars, and friends.

Our dream of building a bigger Learning Center for our scholars became a reality this year because of the generosity of our heroes, **Archipelago Builders** and **Baque Corporation**.



### **International Mandela Day**



July 18 marks the Nelson Mandela International Day. And for the second year, we are honored to be chosen by the South African Embassy as their community partner in commemorating this important occasion. True to Mandela's commitment to serve the marginalized, we held medical check-ups, dental screening, and gift giving for our scholars in Bulacan.

The celebration was made even more meaningful with the launch of the "Nelson Mandela Youth Leadership Network". The Network is composed of our college scholars as pioneer members. It aims to provide them with various trainings to hone their leadership skills and to inspire them to become true change-makers in their community.

We are very grateful to the **South African Embassy** and to the **United Nations Information Centre** for making all of these possible!







### **Raising Funds and Awareness**

#### IVolunteer's GoVolunteer and BayaniRun



April 6. IVolunteer organized the "Go! Volunteer" expo in Glorietta, Makati to shine a light on the advocacies of different NGOs and to encourage more people to get involved.

November 17. BayaniRun is an annual advocacy run of IVolunteer that aims to raise funds for NGOs and to highlight their various causes.

#### KalayaanSF



June 22. KalayaanSF is a festival in San Francisco, US that promotes Filipino culture and history. It featured a cultural showcase, live entertainment, and concert. We thank Radi Calalang and the staff of the 2019 KalayaanSF Festival (Union Square) for the invitation and support.

#### 'Avengers' Block Screening



April 27. Alexander Mann Solutions organized a block screening of "Avengers: Endgame" to raise funds for our feeding and educational programs. Our scholars also had fun watching the movie!

#### **We-Eat MNL**



WE-EAT MNL, a student-led organization at the University of Asia and the Pacific, spearheaded a campaign to sell wheat cutlery sets. The proceeds of the sale was allotted for the Scholarship Program.

#### **Tattoo Flash Day**



October 20. Gold Leaf Ink, led and owned by Regina Estrada, organized a unique fundraising initiative for the benefit of our feeding program. Hundreds of customers showed up for the Tattoo Flash Day held in California, US!

#### **ISM Future Faces**



Future Faces is an organization formed by a group of dynamic high school students in International School Manila (ISM). Even at a young age, they have a strong sense of social awareness and responsibility. They are committed to make a positive change in the communities that we serve. Because of their dedication and hard work, we will be building a multi-purpose center in Bulacan, together with Green Antz, and Fabtech Master Builders. This will house our several programs that will benefit the scholars and their families. Future Faces also organized a Gala Dinner on September 7 to raise funds for the building. We are very humbled and grateful to partner with these inspiring youth.

### **Special Events**

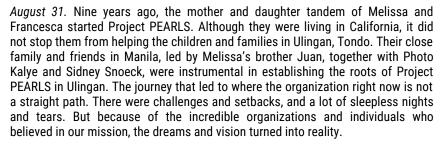
#### Melissa's Birthday Celebration with 55 Mothers

June 7. Every year, our Founder and Executive Director Melissa Villa celebrates her birthday by honoring Mothers in the communities. For her 55th birthday, she invited 55 Mothers from Tondo and Bulacan for a special luncheon. We recognize the love, devotion, and sacrifices of these strong women to uplift their families despite the hardships they are experiencing. Their hard work and resilience constantly inspire us to continue doing what we do – for the children, for the community, and for all the amazing women.



### **Grow Together: PEARLS 9th Anniversary**





As we celebrate the nine years of PEARLS, we gathered our heroes for a simple get-together to show our gratitude and love. *GROW Together* showcased our journey for the past nine years, our current programs, and a look into the future plans of Project PEARLS. We also officially launched our newest program, **GROW: Giving Resources and Opportunities for Women**. GROW is a social enterprise that aims to empower women through livelihood skills and stable income source.

We hope that this gathering inspired our volunteers, donors, partners, and sponsors to continue walking with us in this journey to serve the future of our nation – the children and the youth.

Special thanks to Solution Space in Makati for allowing us to use the venue for free.







### **Christmas Events**



## Michelle Concepcion's Birthday and early Christmas Treat



December 7. It has been a yearly tradition for Michelle Concepcion to share her birthday blessings in the communities we serve. This year, she brought hundreds of gift bags and toys for our scholars and families in Bocaue, Bulacan. It was a meaningful birthday celebration filled with love, laughter, and smiles. We are grateful to Michelle and family for always keeping PEARLS children in their hearts.

### **Adopt-a-Family and Christmas Toy Drive**











December 22, 23, and 24; January 18.

We are always amazed by the immense generosity of people from different parts of the world. Because of them, thousands of families and children had a memorable celebration of Christmas.



**4,200+** gifts for children and youth

1,400+

Noche Buena packs for families

Five communities covered:

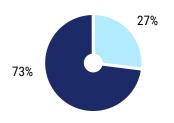
Tondo, Manila Bocaue, Bulacan Naic, Cavite Zamboanga Sibugay Capas, Tarlac

# THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



We believe in transparency and accountability. We recognize that the support of our Heroes is based on mutual trust that donations are utilized to help children and families in the best ways possible.

### **Financial Highlights**



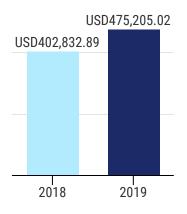
#### **Total Donations**

Total donations received in the Philippines: Php 6,359,117.00 (equivalent to USD 129,777.90; assuming PHP 1 = USD 49 exchange rate)

Total donations received in the US: USD 345,427.12

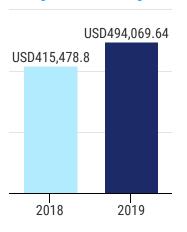


Philippine Donations



# Total Expenditures (PH and US)

US and Int'l Donations



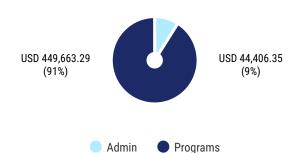
### **Sources of Donations**



### **Expenditure Allocations**

Grants

Public Support







### **Online Presence**



**31,007** Facebook Followers



**1,934** Volunteer Sign-ups



9,078
Instagram Followers



**127,438** Website Visits

Through our online engagement, we are able to reach out to more advocates and heroes in different parts of the world. More importantly, it allows us to share the stories of families and communities who constantly inspire us to continue on with our mission.





We are grateful to our dedicated and talented volunteer photographers who tirelessly capture 'One Love' in motion: Sidney Snoeck, Rita Dela Cruz, Divine Degollacion, and Jay-R Panagsagan.

(All photos in this Annual Report are rightfully owned by them and are published with their permission.)