



PROJECT PEARLS
PEACE • EDUCATION • ASPIRATION • RESPECT • LOVE • SMILES

2022 IMPACT REPORT

Table of Contents

01

Messages

03

About Us

10

Education & Literacy

04

Our Team

32

Healthcare & Nutrition

55

Bayanihan
(Relief Operation & Program for the Unhoused)

08

Our Programs

43

Empowerment through
Skills Development

59

Special Projects & Events

64

The Year in Numbers

Message from the Founder & Executive Director

As I sit down to write this message for our 2022 Annual Report, my heart is filled with gratitude and admiration for each one of you who has played a significant role in the journey of Project PEARLS. Together, we have made a remarkable impact in the lives of the poorest children and families, offering them a chance at a better life through education, literacy, empowerment, nutrition, and healthcare.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our generous donors. Without your unwavering support and financial contributions, none of the incredible work we have accomplished would have been possible. It is because of your compassion and belief in our mission that we have been able to provide education and empowerment to countless children who are trapped in the cycle of poverty. Your donations have brought light to their lives and opened doors to a brighter future. Thank you for being the backbone of Project PEARLS.

To our supporters and volunteers, your dedication to our cause has been an endless source of motivation and inspiration. Your belief in our work has ignited a spark of hope within countless individuals, encouraging them to join us in making a difference. Your voices have amplified our message and attracted more hearts and minds to our cause. Thank you for being our tireless advocate and for being the heart and soul of Project PEARLS.

Last but certainly not least, I want to express my deepest gratitude to our exceptional staff. Day in and day out, you work tirelessly to ensure that our programs run smoothly and effectively. Thank you for being the backbone of Project PEARLS and for embodying the spirit of service.

But our work is far from done. As we celebrate our achievements, we must also acknowledge the persistent inequalities and systemic barriers that continue to hinder the progress of the children and families we serve. Poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, and inadequate healthcare remain formidable challenges, and together we can tackle them.

As we move forward, let us remember that every contribution, no matter how small, makes a difference. Each act of kindness, each dollar or peso donated, each hour volunteered, is a testament to our collective commitment to building a brighter future for the poorest children and families.

Together, we can create a world where every child could thrive and where poverty becomes a thing of the past.

With heartfelt gratitude,


Melissa Villa



Message from the Deputy Executive Director

Dear Project PEARLS Family,

The past two years have been tremendously challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, your strong support and commitment have enabled us to persevere and fulfill our mission. Because of you, we were able to continue supporting our scholars, providing educational resources, serving healthy meals, and providing healthcare assistance to those who need it most. We are immensely grateful to you.

As we reflect on this year, we see a glimmer of hope and relief as we witness the gradual decrease of COVID-19 cases and the relaxation of restrictions, enabling us to resume in-person activities with greater ease. Reconnecting with volunteers and partners, and seeing our scholars face-to-face in our activities truly recharges our spirit and reignites our passion for our work.

However, the social and economic crisis brought on by the pandemic is still here. Many families are still grappling with the effects of job loss, mental stress and fatigue, the rising cost of necessities, and extreme poverty. We have also seen how two years of blended and distance learning has severely affected the students. According to World Bank's State of Global Learning Poverty (2022), the Philippines' learning poverty is at 90.9%, the highest learning poverty rate in ASEAN. This means that 9 out of 10 Filipino children are unable to read and understand age-appropriate texts by age 10. This is truly an alarming report and now more than ever, we must work together to address this challenge.

It takes a village to raise a child. And we need YOU - our village of Heroes - to make a difference in the lives of these children. While we call on our leaders to make the necessary policy changes and budget allocations to help our teachers and students, we can also make a difference in our own humble ways. You can volunteer in our tutorial sessions to help children who are struggling academically; you can help us raise funds so that we can continue to provide support for our scholars; you can advocate for us so that we can reach out to more partners; you can donate books, school supplies, and other educational materials. Let's work together for a better tomorrow for the Filipino child, and for the Philippines!

Thank you for supporting our mission! *Padayon!*

With heartfelt thanks,


Monica Aclan



About Us



Our Vision

NO child at no time, should go hungry!
No child should be hungry for nutrition,
education, shelter, medical services,
and opportunities to achieve their full
potential.

Our Mission

To help the poorest of the poor
children to have a better life by giving
them PEARLS (Peace, Education,
Aspiration, Respect, Love and Smiles)
through education, literacy
empowerment, nutrition, and
healthcare.

Our Team

The Board of Directors is comprised of dedicated individuals from diverse industries and fields. Each member began their journey as a volunteer or partner, and as a result, they all embody profound passion and compassion. Through their efforts, they have made significant strides in creating a positive impact within the communities we serve. Their invaluable guidance and unwavering support enable us to uphold and sustain our mission and advocacy.

Board of Directors (Philippines)



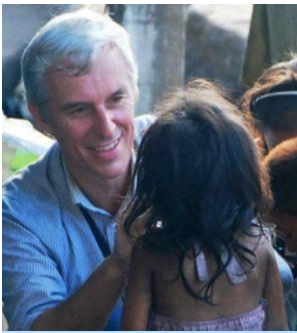
Melissa Villa
President



Marie Young
Chairperson



Rita Dela Cruz
Corporate Secretary



Sidney Snoeck
Member



Stephanie McGuire
Member



Sylvia Araneta
Member



Adrian Soco
Member



Maricel Montero
Member



Catherine Baculi
Treasurer

Our Team

The Board of Directors is comprised of dedicated individuals from diverse industries and fields. Each member began their journey as a volunteer or partner, and as a result, they all embody profound passion and compassion. Through their efforts, they have made significant strides in creating a positive impact within the communities we serve. Their invaluable guidance and unwavering support enable us to uphold and sustain our mission and advocacy.

Board of Directors (USA)



Harry Eng
Chairperson



Beverly Ann Jimenez



Connie Villeta



Edlyn Lagapa



Marcy Brandenburg



Tina Villadolid

Core Team (USA)



Francesca Mateo
Co-Founder &
Secretary



William Brandenburg
Treasurer



Nang Perez
Executive Admin
Assistant

Full-time Staff and Core Team



Melissa Villa
Co-Founder &
Executive Director



Monica Aclan
Deputy Executive
Director



Peachy Abellon
Education & Literacy
Program Manager*



Karen Viel Beblañas
Dev't & External Relations
Manager



Juan Villa
Hunger Relief Program
Manager



Ginny Matabang
Empowerment & Livelihood
Program Manager



Jay-R Panagsagan
Communities Manager



Melissa Mae Bendanillo
Health & Human Services
Manager (Social Worker)



Jeremiah Rafanan
Management Services
Manager



Arnesto Dalina
Time-to-Learn Head
Teacher/Community
Coordinator - Bulacan



Paulyn Aguilar
Scholarship Program
Assistant Manager



Ron Jason Pascual
Social Media
Manager**



Diana Nuñez
Time-to-Learn Teacher/
Scholarship Program
Coordinator - Tondo



Cheryl Pibte
Time-to-Learn Teacher /
Scholarship Program
Coordinator - Bulacan



May Baylon
Empowerment & Livelihood
Program Coordinator



Divine Degollacion
Community Coordinator -
Tondo



Joy Sabenicio
Community Coordinator -
Cavite



Jonalyn Andia
Community Assistant
Coordinator - Tondo

*resigned on Oct. 17, 2022
**resigned on Sept. 2, 2022

Lead Volunteers and Community Teams



Ria Orsal
Scholarship Program
Coordinator (Over-all)



Lowella Lagat
Scholarship Program
Coordinator - Cavite



Jenifer Cardente
Scholarship Program
Coordinator -
Zamboanga Sibugay



Princess Dimaranan
Administrative Assistant



Jedda Punzalan
After School Program
Coordinator



Tondo Community Volunteers



Bulacan Community Volunteers



Cavite Community Volunteers



**Zamboanga Sibugay
Community Volunteers**



OUR PROGRAMS

Our Programs

Our Guiding Principles

The core programs of Project PEARLS are anchored on the first four Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. We believe that our small contribution can create a ripple effect of positive change, ultimately making the world a better place for both present and future generations.



Our Core Programs



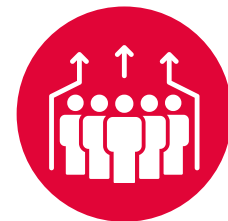
Education & Literacy

We provide a Scholarship Program to over 700 students across our four communities: Tondo, Manila; Bocaue, Bulacan; Naic, Cavite; and Zamboanga Sibugay. In addition, we conduct LitClubs, LitMoms, Brain Booster Program, and After School Program to help improve the literacy, artistic, and social skills of children and youth.



Healthcare & Nutrition

We implemented a Hunger Relief Program to ensure that every child receives at least one healthy meal per day. We also partner with other organizations and individuals to offer medical and dental services to the community. Additionally, we provide financial aid for emergency, medical, and social services as needed.



Empowerment through Skills Development

We empower women in the community through the GROW Program, which offers the necessary resources and opportunities for a sustainable livelihood. We also provide workshops and training to help community members develop their skills and capacities. This creates further opportunities for personal growth and development.



EDUCATION & LITERACY

Scholarship Program



It is not beyond our power to create a world in which all children have access to a good education. Those who do not believe this have small imaginations.

- Nelson Mandela



Project PEARLS' primary mission is to contribute in improving the lives of children and families in the poorest and most vulnerable sectors of society. We strongly believe that education is one of the most transformative and powerful tools that can break the vicious cycle of poverty.

The path defined by poverty is fraught with obstacles and limited opportunities for personal growth. Families, who face harsh economic situations, prioritize their daily survival: acquiring food, paying for utilities, obtaining medical care, and other necessities. As a result, it is significantly more challenging for them to focus on long-term goals and aspirations. Poverty is more than mere economic deprivation; it strips individuals of opportunities and freedom to pursue personal development.

Education is a fundamental aspect that sharpens our abilities, knowledge, and skills, unlocking a world of possibilities and opportunities. Unfortunately, social and economic barriers can impede access to quality education, which is where the Project PEARLS Scholarship Program comes in. By offering educational investments and supportive communities, we instill confidence and empowerment in children and youth, inspiring them to create a better future for themselves and their families. Education empowers individuals to become positive agents of change in their communities and our country as a whole.

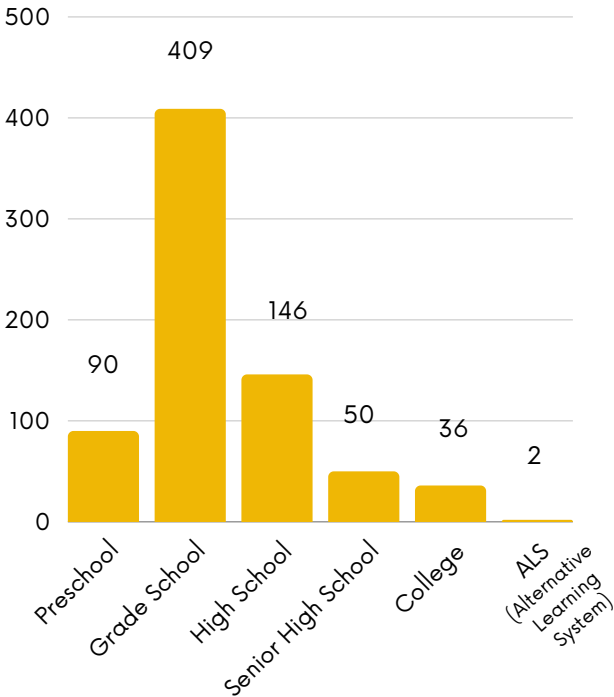
733

SCHOLARS IN 4 COMMUNITIES

Majority of our scholars are located in Bocaue, Bulacan. The other communities where we have scholars are in Tondo, Manila; Naic, Cavite; and Kabasalan, Zamboanga Sibugay.

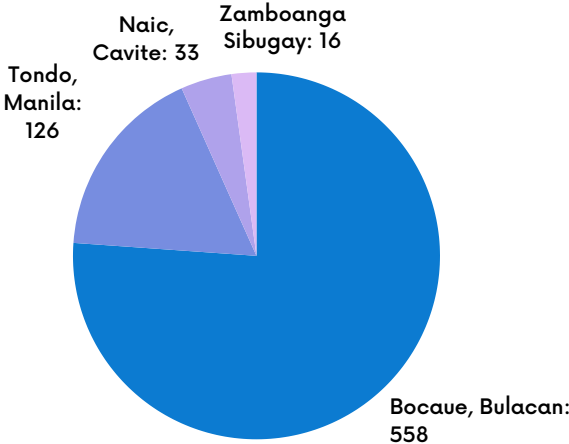
The breakdown of scholars per level is as follows:

Scholars per Level (SY 2022 - 2023)

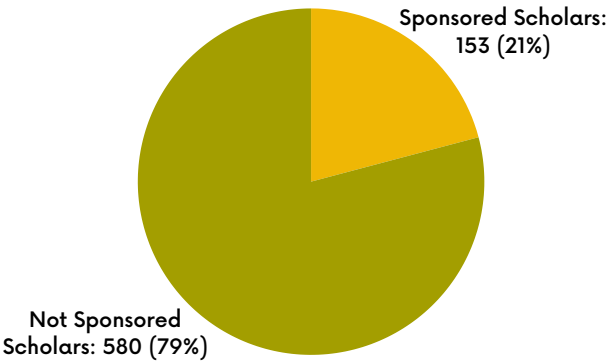


With the help of our education heroes, we extended support to **733 scholars** during the School Year 2022-2023. Our scholars received a range of essential provisions, including school supplies, transportation allowance, vouchers for school projects, and access to a variety of learning opportunities. With the generous support of **USANA Foundation**, we were able to provide healthy grocery packs every month to the scholars and their families to ensure that they have nutritious meals. Because of the grant support from USANA Foundation, we distributed more than 12,870 kgs of food packs to more than 700 scholars.

Scholars per Community



Sponsored Scholars



More than twenty percent of the scholars were sponsored by different individual donors and partner organizations. The remaining non-sponsored scholars were supported through our general fund from grants and fundraising initiatives.



Where our scholars are located



This School Year 2022-2023, the Department of Education implemented the transitioning to face-to-face classes. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, modular or distance learning was implemented for the past two years. This year marks the return of students to the classroom where they can once again enjoy the benefits of in-person learning with their peers and teachers. While the risk of Covid-19 still exists, health protocols are being implemented and the wider population is being encouraged to get vaccinated to manage the situation.



Some of our college scholars have also resumed in-person classes, while some universities still maintain a blended learning approach that combines online and face-to-face classes. To support our scholars in their online classes, we continue to lend them laptops. Additionally, they utilize the Learning Center, which provides access to Wi-Fi and other equipment such as computer and printers for educational purposes.

Time-to-Learn Program



90
**TIME-TO-LEARN
SCHOLARS IN TONDO
AND BULACAN**

The Time-To-Learn program is our early childhood education program that aims to provide quality education to 90 children in our Tondo and Bulacan communities. The program offers enjoyable learning activities and basic literacy lessons to children aged 4 to 5 years old. It also focuses on fostering fundamental skills and knowledge in young children, establishing the groundwork for personal growth, holistic development, and future academic success.

This academic year 2022 to 2023, we have introduced a blended learning approach that combines in-person classes three times a week with modular learning for the remaining two days. We currently have 30 Time-to-Learn scholars in Tondo, and 60 scholars in Bulacan. We have three full-time teachers leading this program.



Time-To-Learn Program: Moving Up Day of Batch 2021-2022



In June and July, Project PEARLS conducted the Moving Up Day for our Batch 2021-2022 Time-to-Learn scholars. This momentous occasion celebrated the academic achievements of the scholars and recognized the dedication of their parents and teachers. The event was a joyous celebration filled with gratitude and applause as parents, teachers, and volunteers gathered to mark the scholar's milestones. Seeing their children in graduation gowns and caps made the parents very proud and happy. The scholars are now well-equipped to embark on their Kindergarten journey with confidence.

This event highlighted the impact of Project PEARLS' mission to provide quality early childhood education for underprivileged children, enabling them to have a solid foundation to reach their full potential and build a better future for themselves and their communities.



Brain Booster Program

414

**HOURS OF
BRAIN BOOSTER
ACTIVITY**



The Brain Booster Program aims to cultivate the artistic and creative skills of preschool and elementary children in our communities. We believe that engaging in art activities is crucial for children as it nurtures their creativity, self-expression, and imagination. The Brain Booster program facilitates the development of children's fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and problem-solving abilities. It also enhances their self-esteem and fosters a sense of accomplishment.

Furthermore, incorporating art activities offer an enjoyable learning experience for children, allowing them to experiment with diverse materials, colors, and textures, which can help enhance their sensory awareness and broaden their comprehension of the environment. These art and crafts activities also showcase the richness of Filipino culture and values, cultivating a deeper appreciation of our heritage among children. This year, we conducted 92 sessions, with around 300 to 400 children per session, in our communities in Tondo, Bulacan, and Cavite.



After School Program



114

**HOURS OF
AFTER SCHOOL
PROGRAM**

The After School Program was established with the objective of addressing the need to provide tutorial and mentorship sessions to grade school and high school students in our communities. Due to the lack of resources and a supportive environment, many children and youth living in poverty face difficulties excelling in school, resulting in a higher risk of dropping out or engaging in manual labor at an early age. The program seeks to offer a supportive environment that will enable them to succeed academically, with lessons focused on English, Math, or Science. Our volunteer-teachers and scholar-mentors work with the kids to reinforce what they learned in school, clarify concepts, and provide individualized attention.



The program also instills discipline and teamwork through various group activities. As part of the program, our scholars not only receive valuable academic support but also learn the importance of giving back to their communities by mentoring and tutoring younger students. This is done every weekend in our communities in Tondo, Bulacan, and Cavite. We conducted 38 After School Program sessions this year.

LitClub and LitMom

147 LITCLUB MEMBERS

6 LITCLUBS

42 LITMOM MEMBERS IN BULACAN



In collaboration with LitWorld, an international non-profit organization advocating for global literacy from New York, USA, we have established Literacy Clubs (LitClubs) in various communities. LitClubs provide in-depth literacy and empowerment programs for girls and boys aged 10 to 14. These clubs are more than just literacy tutorials; they offer a space for joyful learning, creative expression, community building, and developing social-emotional skills. To further empower the community, we also have LitMoms, with 42 women members, who engage in activities focused on the 7 Strengths.

We currently have 6 LitClubs for girls and boys in four different communities and one LitMoms club in Bulacan.

After more than two years of "at-home sessions," we were finally able to resume face-to-face LitClub and LitMom sessions this year. The members were overjoyed and delighted to be back together, learning and growing with one another once again.



World Read Aloud Day

On February 2, we participated in the celebration of World Read Aloud Day (WRAD) alongside communities and schools worldwide. WRAD is an annual event that every first Wednesday of February, initiated by our partner organization, LitWorld. The purpose of this day is to emphasize the significance and influence of reading aloud in building literate societies.



This year, our WRAD festivities comprised both online and at-home reading sessions. We deeply appreciate the parents' active involvement in the activity and their efforts to encourage reading among children. We are also immensely grateful to our partners LitWorld and the National Library of the Philippines for their support in making this event possible.

International Day of the Girl



On October 11, 2022, a total of 147 LitClub members from 6 groups in Bulacan, Naic, and Zamboanga Sibugay took part in the celebration of International Day of the Girl, centered around the theme "All girls deserve better—the world deserves better." The event revolved around honoring girls and women by creating self-portraits that highlighted their strengths. Furthermore, the participants gained insights into the essential role of girls in society and their contributions as partners for a better world.



Cassie's Bag of Dreams



100

**SCHOLARS RECEIVED
BAGS AND SCHOOL
SUPPLIES**

Cassie Eng is a dedicated Project PEARLS Volunteer, our youngest advocate, and a youth ambassador. Since 2014, Cassie has been making a difference in the lives of children and youth from underprivileged communities in the Philippines through her personal project, "Cassie's Bag of Dreams Challenge."



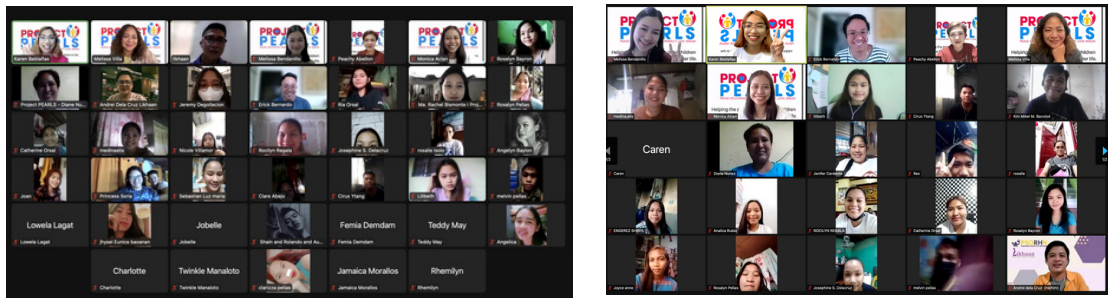
On August 6th, Cassie visited our community in Bocaue, Bulacan to distribute bags and school supplies to 100 high school and college scholars. It was a special day as Cassie not only distributed supplies but also listened to the inspiring stories of our scholars. As a new college student, Cassie also shared some tips and advice on how to succeed and make the most out of college life.



Cassie was joined by her supportive parents, Harry and Mailou. Harry celebrated his birthday and shared his birthday blessings with hundreds of children. Mailou was also a quiet, yet strong force behind the scenes, helping in the feeding, Brain Booster activities, and bag distribution.

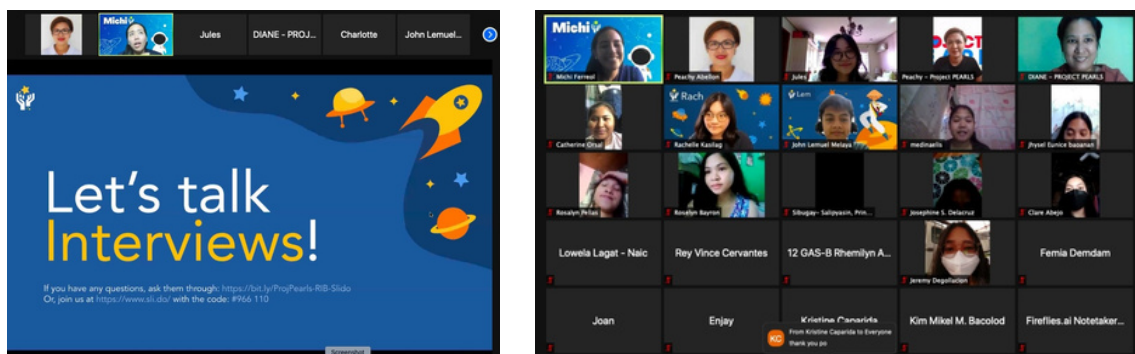
Workshops and Webinars for Scholars

Adolescent Reproductive Health Webinar by Likhaan



(January 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2022) **Likhaan Center for Women's Health**, our long-time partner organization, led an Adolescent Reproductive Health Webinar for our senior high school and college scholars. The webinar was conducted on four consecutive Sundays, from January 9 to 30, 2022. The webinar aimed to educate the youth on the importance of reproductive health and its impact on their overall well-being. The topics discussed were as follows: Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health; RTI, STI, HIV, and AIDS; Teen Pregnancy and Maternal Health; and Family Planning. The webinar provided a platform for the youth to gain knowledge on reproductive health issues, enabling them to make informed choices and decisions in their lives.

KadaKareer Workshop for Scholars



(February 13 and 27, 2022) In partnership with **KadaKareer**, we organized a webinar for our high school and college scholars to prepare them for their internship and job search journey. On February 13, the theme of the webinar was "Seize Your Opportunity—Internships & OJTs." The session focused on helping scholars understand the importance of internships and on-the-job training in building their careers. It provided guidance on how to find opportunities, the application process, and how to make the most out of these experiences. On February 27, the focus of the webinar was "Resumé & Interview Bonanza." The session aimed to help scholars prepare their resumes and hone their interview skills, essential tools in securing their desired job positions. The webinar provided a platform for the scholars to learn and develop their skills, enabling them to be more competitive in the job market.

RISE (Reducing Inequalities in Skills and Employment) for Youth Program by MakeSense



(March to September 2022) Four of our scholars, John Henrex, Shiry, Melvin, and Girlie, were among the 50 youth participants who joined the four-part Youth Training Camp from July to September 2022 as part of the **RISE for Youth program**, organized by **MakeSense Philippines**. Through this program, they gained valuable skills and insights to enhance their employability. Mentors and speakers from diverse fields also guided them on how to achieve their career objectives in the near future. The RISE for Youth program, a program by MakeSense in collaboration with Citi Foundation, aims to empower 270,000 Filipino youth on their employment journey, with a focus on social impact.

Echo Training Session by the RISE Scholars



After completing their training camp sessions, our RISE Scholars organized a RISE Echo Training for the Project PEARLS scholars in Bulacan. This training involved sharing their experience and knowledge with fellow Project PEARLS scholars, with the aim of helping them improve their communication skills and self-awareness.

Customer Service Training by Decathlon Philippines



(June 21, 2022) **Decathlon Philippines** organized a Customer Service Training for our college scholars. During the session, they gained insights into the essential qualities of a Decathlon team member, including the importance of prioritizing exceptional customer service. The workshop was a fun-filled day of learning, and the scholars even had the opportunity to use some of the sports equipment in the Decathlon store.

IKEA PH Store Visit and Orientation



(July 19, 2022) Four college scholars from Bulacan participated in a company tour and orientation at the **IKEA Philippines Store**. During the visit, they gained valuable insights into the significance of IKEA's store layout and how the company implements in-store marketing strategies. Additionally, they had the opportunity to learn more about IKEA's company values and work culture.

Online Safety Seminar by Sanghaya Foundation



(July 21, 22, and 26 2022) The **Sanghaya Foundation, Inc.** conducted a seminar on online safety for our scholars in Tondo, Bulacan, and Cavite to educate them about the Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) cases in the country and how they can protect themselves from becoming victims. Given the alarming rate of OSEC in the Philippines, we partnered with Sanghaya Foundation to raise awareness about the issue. The seminar provided our scholars with insights on the benefits and risks of social media and the internet. It also equipped them with preventive measures to avoid being easy targets of online predators. The importance of this seminar cannot be overstated as the Philippines has one of the highest numbers of OSEC victims in the world. It is imperative that we work together to combat this issue.

International Youth Day with One Tondo Community and UNDP



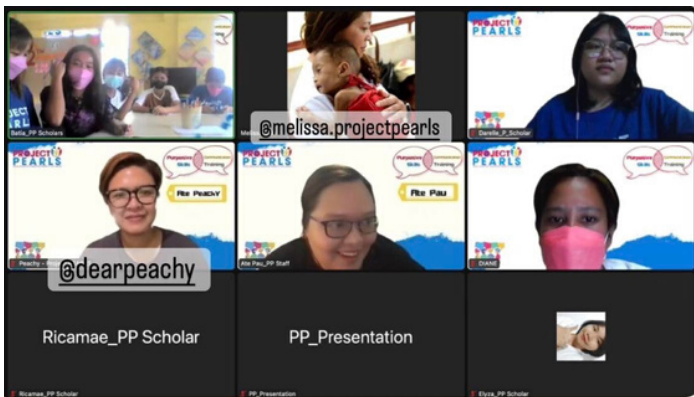
(August 12, 2022) Ten scholars from Bulacan and Tondo participated in the International Youth Day celebration hosted by **One Tondo Community and UNDP**. This day is designated by the United Nations to increase awareness about the issues affecting youth and encourage them to become more engaged in their communities. Through this event, we engaged with the youth to highlight the impact of honing their skills in various areas such as arts, science, sports, management, and community building.

Rugby Clinic by Decathlon Philippines and Makati Mavericks Sports Foundation



(September 11, 2022) We are grateful to **Decathlon Philippines** for being our partner in bringing sports closer to our scholars. In September, we organized a sports activity for fifty high school scholars in Bulacan, marking their first physical activity since our communities reopened. The **Makati Mavericks Sports Foundation** provided guidance as our scholars were introduced to the game of rugby. This activity proved to be a fun and engaging way for our scholars to develop their sports skills, while also promoting teamwork and building their confidence.

Purposive Communication Skills Training



(September 2022) Five scholars in Bulacan and five scholars in Tondo participated in the Purpose Communication Skills Training facilitated by our Education & Literacy Assistant Manager, Paulyn Aguilar. The objective of this training program is to develop future youth leaders who possess not only excellent public speaking skills but also a dedication to becoming active community members. This training was also conducted to prepare the scholars who were participating in the Tondo Rising Young Leaders Program.

Tondo Rising Young Leaders (Rise - Schmidt Scholarship)



(September 2022 to January 2023) Ten scholars from Tondo and Bulacan were chosen to take part in the **Tondo Rising Young Leaders program (TRYL)** launched by our partner, **AHA! Learning Center**. The program aimed to equip these bright young minds with a plethora of workshop opportunities, enabling them to sharpen their abilities in proposal writing, public speaking, and other valuable personal development skills. Following the program's successful completion, these talented scholars submitted their project proposals, vying for a chance to qualify for the prestigious Schmidt Scholarship.

Global Youth Career Coaching Event by Mondelez



(October 8, 2022) We collaborated with **Mondelez International** for their inaugural Global Youth Career Coaching Event Webinar. The webinar provided an excellent opportunity for our high school and college scholars in Bulacan, Tondo, Naic, and Zamboanga Sibugay to interact with experts from Mondelez. During the event, the experts shared their personal experiences on choosing a career path, highlighted ways to excel in their chosen field, and discussed the job opportunities available in their multinational company. We are grateful to Mondelez International for their valuable contribution in making this event a success, and for providing our scholars with an educational and enriching experience.

Mentoring Session with Gary Cason

(October 2022 to December 2023) Our dedicated advocate, **Gary Cason**, took the initiative to organize weekly mentoring sessions for our young male scholars. The program's inaugural sessions were attended by Henrex Rivera and Rey Vincent Cervantes. The mentorship program aimed to inspire and guide the two young men in facing challenges at work and in life, and provided them with practical approaches to overcome those challenges. During the sessions, Rex and Vince were inspired to seek advice and learn important life lessons on topics such as career advancement, leadership, and setting life goals. The mentoring program was a valuable resource for our scholars and an excellent platform for them to learn and grow under the guidance of an experienced mentor.



Career Talk and Office Tour at Arup Philippines



(November 24, 2022) **Arup's** mission statement, "We shape a better world," truly reflects their commitment to inspiring the next generation of professionals. In line with this mission, Arup provided an excellent opportunity for our scholars to expand their horizons and dream bigger. Thirty of our scholars visited Arup's stunning office in Ortigas, where they engaged in a career talk with a team of experts, including engineers, architects, environmental and social planners, and other Arup professionals. The professionals shared their experiences and insights,

inspiring our scholars to consider pursuing a career path in this industry. Additionally, the scholars had the opportunity to showcase their creativity and teamwork by building Lego pieces that represent what peace means to them. We are deeply grateful to Arup for their invaluable contribution to providing this inspiring opportunity for our scholars.

DLSU Arts College Government's Arts Festival 2022

(November 26, 2022) Five talented scholars from Tondo attended the Arts Festival 2022, organized by the **Arts College Government at De La Salle University (DSLU)**. The Arts Fest aimed to showcase various art forms and create opportunities to foster a better society. It also aimed to promote the diverse career paths of liberal arts changemakers. Our PEARLS scholars had the opportunity to participate in various art activities during the festival. Additionally, they were given a tour of the DSLU campus, during which they were inspired by the students and professors to pursue higher education at a reputable university like La Salle.



International School Manila's iCARE 2022



(December 12, 2022) In 2019, we had the opportunity to host the first batch of students from **International School Manila (ISM)** for the **International Community Actively Responding to the Environment (iCARE)** program. This annual initiative aims to foster holistic learning and active community engagement among ISM students. This year, we were delighted to welcome yet another group of ISM students to participate in iCARE. This year, ISM students volunteered in our Time-to-Learn program where they took on the role of educators, teaching basic literacy to our scholars. The interactions between ISM students and our scholars were inspiring and heartwarming to witness. Our scholars gained valuable insights and inspiration from their interactions with the ISM students, who in turn, learned a lot from our scholars' unique perspectives and experiences. Overall, the iCARE program has been a wonderful opportunity for our scholars and the ISM students, and we look forward to continuing this partnership for years to come.

Dance Workshop by Sky Dance Avenue

(December 17 to 18, 2022) Our scholars from Bulacan had a great time learning new dance moves and honing their talents with the guidance of the talented team from **Sky Dance Avenue MNL**. Ninety scholars from Time-to-Learn and high school levels participated in the two-day dance workshop led by the founder of SDA, Sky Bautista. Throughout the workshop, our scholars were able to learn a variety of new dance moves and grooves, which they proudly showcased at the end of the workshop.



They also proudly presented their dance routine at our Christmas gift-giving event on December 24. We are grateful to the entire Sky Dance Avenue team for sharing their time and expertise with our scholars. Their efforts have undoubtedly helped to unlock new talents and abilities within our scholars, providing them with the opportunity to explore and express themselves in new and exciting ways.

Message from our Scholars



Rey Vince Ian Cervantes
Bachelor of Science in Criminology
Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Institute
of Science and Technology (EARIST)

"I was one of the students chosen for the Project PEARLS Scholarship when I was in high school. I value this scholarship because it allows me to focus on my academics, increasing my chances of remaining in school. After graduation, there are a few things I'd like to do. First and foremost, I want to find a career that I enjoy. Second, I want to honor my parents by saving the money for my future and repaying those who have supported me. Thank you, Project PEARLS, for providing me with a scholarship. As a result of your kindness, I am now a college graduate. Thank you for your continued support for people like me who cannot afford to go to school or who lack the financial resources. Thank you very much!"

"During my days in Ulingan, I was very excited every Saturday when Project PEARLS visits our community. I always look forward to the LitClub sessions because it encourages and inspires me to study hard and learn. Because of Project PEARLS, my family does not worry about my school needs such as school supplies, and uniforms since they are all provided. They also provide training and seminars to improve our skills and knowledge which prepares us for a better future. I am deeply grateful for all the support that Project PEARLS provided. Because of the people who supported the Scholarship Program, I am able to finish my studies. Thank you very much!"



Ria Orsal
Bachelor of Science in
Office Management
Bulacan Polytechnic College

Meet our College Graduates this SY 2021 to 2022!

We are immensely proud of these scholars for their unwavering commitment and relentless efforts in pursuing their dreams! Their outstanding achievements serve as a beacon of inspiration to other young dreamers.



Cyrine Starr Torres
Bachelor of Secondary Education,
Major in Filipino
Western Mindanao State University -
Ipil Campus
Scholar since 2017,
from Zamboanga Sibugay



Kim Mikel Bacolod
Bachelor of Agricultural Technology
Western Mindanao State University -
Siay Campus
Scholar since 2017,
from Zamboanga Sibugay



Princess Joy Soria
Bachelor of Science in
Psychology
Far Eastern University
Scholar since 2012,
from Bulacan



Rey Vince Ian Cervantes
Bachelor of Science in
Criminology
Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez
Institute of Science and
Technology (EARIST)
Scholar since 2017,
from Tondo, Manila



Ria Orsal
Bachelor of Science in
Office Management
Bulacan Polytechnic
College
Scholar since 2012,
from Bulacan



HEALTHCARE & NUTRITION

Hunger Relief Program



If you cannot
feed a hundred
people, then
feed just one

- Mother Teresa



The Hunger Relief Program is a vital component of our mission. We recognize that hunger is one of the most significant obstacles to overcoming poverty. When individuals, especially children, suffer from malnutrition and food insecurity, their physical and cognitive development is hindered, and their ability to learn and thrive is compromised.

In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic hit the world and caused unprecedented levels of disruption and hardship. Despite the many challenges posed by the pandemic, we remained committed to our mission of addressing hunger in the communities we serve. We recognized that in the face of widespread illness and economic instability, our services were needed more than ever. We continued the feeding program in Tondo, Manila, and we also implemented the feeding in our serviced communities in Cavite and Bulacan.

The pandemic has had a particularly devastating impact on those working in the informal sector, including drivers, garbage scavengers, vendors, construction workers, and other daily-wage earners. These individuals have been left without work or income due to the community quarantines and work closures.

As a result, thousands of our fellow Filipinos are facing extreme poverty and food insecurity. Many families report that they are more afraid of dying from hunger than from Covid-19. In response to this crisis, we have redoubled our efforts to provide meals and other forms of support to those in need.

278,500+

MEALS SERVED IN THREE COMMUNITIES



Our Hunger Relief Program has adapted to the challenges posed by the pandemic, implementing safety measures to protect staff and volunteers while still providing essential services to those in need. We have partnered with different organizations to ensure that we are able to sustain the programs.

Despite the ongoing difficulties presented by the pandemic, we remain committed to our mission of addressing hunger and poverty in our communities. We know that by providing access to nutritious meals and other forms of support, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those most in need.

In 2022, we were able to provide critical food support to the communities we serve, serving between 11,000 to 36,000 meals per month. Our success is due in large part to the generosity of our partners and sponsors, who provide vital financial and in-kind support to our program. We receive donations of bread, rice, vegetables, vitamins, canned goods, and other food items that are critical in ensuring that we can provide nutritious meals. In addition to our partners, we are grateful for the efforts of our dedicated community volunteers. Their selflessness and commitment have been invaluable in making our program a success. Our community volunteers cook, prepare, and serve the meals to our communities. Their hard work and dedication have enabled us to reach more people and make a greater impact in the fight against hunger.





24,544+ kgs

**FOOD DONATIONS
SHARED WITH THE
COMMUNITIES**

In addition to serving meals, we also distribute a variety of food items from our partner organizations. These donations, which include rice, noodles, fruits and vegetables, frozen meat, powdered juice, bread, and pastries, are crucial supplements to the daily needs of families in our communities. We are immensely grateful to the following partners, who have played a vital role in addressing hunger and food insecurity in our communities: **Century Pacific Food Inc., RFM Food Corp., Scholars of Sustenance (SOS Philippines), Eric Kayser Philippines, Breadtalk, Selecta Philippines, Michelle's Putong Ube, and Rise Against Hunger PH.**

2,590+ kgs

**CLOTHES, SHOES, TOYS,
BOOKS, ETC. SHARED WITH
THE COMMUNITIES**



We successfully distributed over 2,590 kgs. of pre-loved clothes, shoes, toys, books, and other essential items to families and children in Tondo, Bulacan, and Cavite. Our gratitude goes out to all our generous donors and partners who have selflessly extended their help.

These donations did not only address the needs of the families but also contributed to reducing waste that would have otherwise ended up in landfills. We firmly believe that sustainability is a collective responsibility, and we are grateful to have played a small part in making a positive impact on the lives of those in need while promoting this important cause.

Story from the Community

Meet Jocelyn, 42 years old, and a resident of Helping Land, Tondo.

Jocelyn is one of the many parents in Tondo who have big dreams and aspirations for their family and children. However, due to extreme poverty, the path to achieving these dreams is full of challenges. Her family's meager income is barely enough to cover their needs. Thankfully, the Hunger Relief Program steps in to provide Jocelyn's children with nourishing and filling meals. Moreover, this program has also introduced her to our educational programs tailored for children.



"When I heard about the feeding program in Project PEARLS, I started lining up frequently to get food for my children. The feeding program has been helpful to us because it provides free breakfast for the kids before they go to school in the morning. The meals prepared by the volunteers are guaranteed to be nutritious, and as a result, my children have become healthier."

Through my participation in the feeding program, I learned that they also accept scholars, and fortunately, I was able to enroll my child in this program. Thanks to Project PEARLS, the children in our community have become more active and have gained new knowledge. I am deeply grateful to Project PEARLS for all their help!"

"Noong nabalitaan ko na may feeding program sa Project PEARLS, madalas na akong pumipila para kumuha ng pagkain para sa aking mga anak. Nakakatulong ang feeding program sa amin dahil sa umaga, mayroon nang libreng almusal ang mga bata bago pumasok sa paaralan. Dahil din sa mga pagkaing nakukuha namin, lumusog ang mga anak ko dahil ang pagkaing inihahain ng mga volunteers ay siguradong masustansya."

Dahil din sa aking pagpunta sa feeding program, nalaman ko na tumatanggap sila ng scholars at sa kabutihang palad, naipasok ko ang aking anak sa programang ito. Dahil sa Project PEARLS, naging mas aktibo at natututo ng mga bagong kaalaman ang mga bata sa aming komunidad. Lubos akong nagpapasalamat sa Project PEARLS sa lahat ng kanilang tulong!"



W.O.W. Center

Water, Opportunities, Wellness Center



6,000+
liters

**WATER DISTRIBUTED
TO FAMILIES AND
SCHOLARS**

On March 31, we officially opened the W.O.W. (Water, Opportunities, Wellness) Center in Bulacan, which will provide clean and safe drinking water to families and scholars in the community. The W.O.W. Center is a state-of-the-art water filtration system and water refilling station. This year, we were able to distribute more than 6,000 liters of water to more than 550 families in Bulacan.

This initiative would not have been possible without the generous support of the following individuals and organizations: Harry Eng, Vanita Louie and MooMoo, Bill and Amie Schaming, Marcy Enriquez Brandenburg, William Oliver Brandenburg, Ernie Chow, Gwen Hinze, Larry Shaw, Jeri Fujimoto, Rose Chew, Jon Kaufman, Janet, Karen, and Nancy, Rotary Club of San Francisco Chinatown, The Rotary Club of Peninsula Starlight, South San Francisco Rotary Club, and the Rotary Club of Belmont & Redwood Shores. Their contributions have made it possible for us to provide access to clean drinking water to those who need it most.

We believe that access to clean water is a fundamental right, and we are committed to ensuring that families in underprivileged communities have access to this basic necessity. In 2023, we will be doing a capital campaign to turn this project into a social enterprise that would help sustain all our programs.



USANA Vegetable Garden Tower



The USANA Garden Tower is a powerful solution to the issue of food insecurity in both urban and rural communities. As a core program of **USANA True Health Foundation**, the Garden Tower provides a sustainable and nutritious source of food for individuals and families who may not have access to fresh produce. The towers themselves are made from durable and long-lasting materials, ensuring they can be used for many years to come. Each tower can hold an impressive 120 plants, making it a highly efficient means of producing food.

In April, the USANA Team went to our serviced communities in Tondo, Bulacan, and Cavite to install over 50 garden towers. By installing USANA Garden Towers in the communities we serve, we can help address the critical issue of food insecurity and provide families with the tools they need to live healthy and sustainable lives. We are grateful to USANA for their commitment to this important project.



Medical and Healthcare Services

Distribution of MMS from Vitamin Angels



**180,000
doses**

**MULTIPLE
MICRONUTRIENT
SUPPLEMENTS FOR
WOMEN**

With the support of our long-time partner, **Vitamin Angels**, we distributed 180,000 doses or 1,000 bottles of multiple micronutrient supplements (MMS) to our partner clinics. The supplements were given to pregnant and lactating women during their pre/post-natal check-ups, aiding in the healthy development of babies during their critical first 1,000 days and reducing the health risks of anemia for expectant mothers. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Northville V Birthing Station (Bocaue, Bulacan), Batia Health Center (Bocaue, Bulacan), Malainen Bago Health Clinic (Naic, Cavite), and Vitas Health Center (Tondo, Manila) for partnering with us in this vital program.

Eye Care by Rotary Club SF Chinatown



**200+
READING
GLASSES**

During their visit to the Philippines, the team from **Rotary Club SF Chinatown** not only inaugurated the W.O.W. Center but also organized an Eye Care activity. They distributed more than 200 reading glasses to the residents of Tondo and Bulacan, addressing the need for proper eye care in underserved communities. This initiative is just one of the many ways in which the Rotary Club SF Chinatown demonstrates its commitment to improving the lives of people in need.

The Isha Project

50
women
PROVIDED WITH
FREE PAP
SMEAR TEST



The **Embassy of Israel - Manila**, in partnership with **Miss Universe-Philippines** and the **Makati Medical Center Foundation**, collaborated with us on "The Isha Project", which aimed to provide free pap smear screenings to women in our serviced communities in Tondo, Bulacan, and Cavite. Through this initiative, we were able to offer free pap smear tests to women, which enabled them to undergo screening for any potential infections or illnesses related to reproductive health. The screening was crucial in identifying any early signs of cervical cancer or other reproductive health issues that may have gone undetected otherwise. We are grateful for the support of our partners in this project and their commitment to improving the health and well-being of women in our communities.

Family Planning Services with Likhaan



50+
women
PROVIDED WITH
FREE FAMILY
PLANNING
SERVICES

We assisted over 50 women in Bulacan and Tondo to receive free family planning services by accompanying them to the **Likhaan Center for Women's Health**, our trusted partner clinic. Our aim is to empower women by providing access to essential health services and enabling them to make informed decisions about their reproductive health. Likhaan has been delivering excellent healthcare services to underserved communities for over two decades. We are proud to collaborate with them to deliver reproductive health care services to the women in the community.

Emergency, Medical, and Social Services



In addition to our core programs, which focus on education and hunger alleviation, we offer financial assistance to scholars and families in our communities who are facing personal crises. We understand that poverty not only affects a family's economic capacity but also their ability to prepare for unexpected medical issues, emergencies, and other forms of crisis. Without social security or safety nets, these challenges can be overwhelming. As a response, we offer support to those who cannot afford medical care, burial expenses, medications, and other essential needs. We also provide financial and in-kind assistance for urgent needs such as medical check-ups, clothing, home repairs, and other expenses that impact the well-being of children and families. Common medical cases affecting children in our communities include coughs, colds, flu, stomach flu, pulmonary tuberculosis, pneumonia, skin rashes, infections, wounds, asthma, and dog bites.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were able to provide over half a million pesos in assistance to families and children in our serviced communities this year. Our Social Worker conducts home visits, counseling sessions, and interviews to monitor the assistance provided and ensure that families receive adequate support.

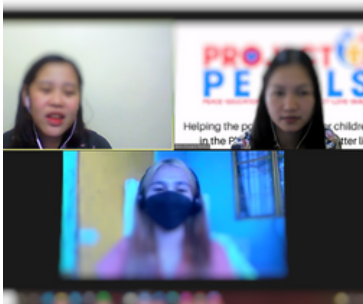
PHP 581,181.83

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR
EMERGENCY, MEDICAL, AND
SOCIAL SERVICES PROVIDED**

**461
CHILDREN AND
ADULTS**

**15
FAMILIES**

Psychosocial Interventions



The pandemic crisis, with its lockdowns and various economic and social crises, has had a significant impact on the mental health of many individuals, particularly young people. We recognize the importance of addressing these issues and have taken steps to provide support to those in need. Our Social Worker provides personal counseling sessions with youth and parents who are experiencing difficulties. Additionally, we provide resources and referrals for individuals who require more specialized mental health and psychosocial services. We engage with psychologists and other service providers to provide further assistance and create a safe and supportive space for individuals to process their thoughts and emotions freely. We understand that mental health support can be expensive and inaccessible to many individuals, particularly those from low-income backgrounds. Thus, we aim to make counseling services accessible to all and to help remove the stigma associated with mental health care.

We believe that everyone, regardless of their socio-economic status, has the right to access mental health services. We recognize that mental and psychological well-being are crucial to the holistic development of a person.



**EMPOWERMENT
THROUGH SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT**



Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women.

- Maya Angelou



We started GROW, which stands for Giving Resources and Opportunities to Women, in July 2019. Our goal is to provide resources and opportunities to help women to become more economically and socially empowered in the relocation community of Brgy. Batia, Bocaue, Bulacan. These women are mothers, grandmothers, and sisters of Project PEARLS scholars. They were relocated by the National Housing Authority in 2013 from the slum community of Ulingan in Tondo, Manila to this new community. Although housing was provided, no source of livelihood or income was introduced, leaving these families even more impoverished in Bulacan than they were in Tondo. The aim of GROW is to address the lack of livelihood skills and to help women realize their full potential and value. The program focuses on nurturing and empowering women and girls, with the belief that empowered women empower others socially and economically.

Over the past three years, we have witnessed the remarkable resilience of the women of GROW, who have transformed their challenges into opportunities for learning, growth, and self-improvement. Through our program, they have acquired a diverse set of skills, including t-shirt printing, macramé, sewing, and mushroom production. Moreover, our workshops have enabled them to enhance their personal and social skills. We are so proud of the inaugural batch of 10 GROW makers who have successfully completed their training sessions and graduated on March 17, 2022. The graduation ceremony was a testament to their unwavering dedication to self-empowerment, which will enable them to support their families and uplift their community.

Graduation of the First Batch of GROW Members



On March 17, we celebrated the first batch of ten GROW makers by holding a graduation and recognition day. This was a well-deserved event honoring their remarkable achievements and milestones over the past years. It was also a special day as GROW welcomed a new batch of women as trainees. The first batch of women will be sharing their knowledge and skills and mentoring the new batch of GROW makers. The recognition day and the welcoming of new trainees are a testament to GROW's commitment to empowering women and promoting gender equality through sustainable livelihood programs.



New Products

The women of GROW are truly extraordinary. They transform discarded materials into beautiful, one-of-a-kind products that range from home decor to stylish accessories, from bags to customized items. With their mastery of sewing, macramé, t-shirt printing, and candle making, they turn trash into treasure. Aside from earning an income, they also reduce waste and create sustainable solutions by upcycling various materials. Here are the latest addition to their beautiful collection:



Buklod is a macramé wristlet keychain that will help you carry your essentials wherever you go. Not only does it securely hold your keys and other valuables, but it can also be used as a strap for your purse or wallet.



Dwellbeing collaborated with us to create and produce these eye-catching throw pillow case, coaster, dish covers, and Japanese knot bag. We are very thankful for this partnership as Dwellbeing donates part of their sales to our Hunger Relief Program.



Ugma, which means "happiness" in Bicolano, is a product collaboration of GROW and Ruyág. The macramé bag is handcrafted by the women of GROW and the abaca bucket abaca bucket is woven by artisans from Bicol. Ruyág aims to create intentional, cruelty-free, and organic products made by Bicolano hands.

New Partners and Collaborations

GROW collaborates with different brands and stores to showcase the skills of the women and the products that they make. This year, we are grateful to partner with the following brands.



The Body Shop partnered with us to produce their "Be Seen, Be Heard" canvas tote bag, which they offer as a giveaway to customers who purchase a minimum of Php 1,500 worth of their products.

Photo from The Body Shop page

Easel Organization is a non-profit youth organization dedicated to helping underprivileged individuals in pursuing their passions. For their tote bag collection, they partnered with us to produce the "The Empower Others" tote bag. The proceeds from their sale benefit their partner organizations.



Photo from Easel page



Photo from La Vela page

La Vela Manila is a local online shop that specializes in hand-poured soy candles. Our GROW artisans crafted the mini macramé bags and candle cozies, which they include as a bundle with their candles on their pop-up and online store.



Butterfly Twists Philippines is a British women's footwear brand known for its ballet flat. They collaborated with us to produce mini Lingap bags (macramé market net bags) for sale in their stores.

New Partners and Collaborations



USANA True Health Foundation teamed up with GROW to produce and sew the garden towers, which were then distributed to several partner communities of USANA throughout the Philippines.

This partnership enables the production of high-quality garden towers, which provide a sustainable and nutritious source of food for individuals and families who may not have access to fresh produce.

We are pleased to have **Yano Yumi** as one of our newest partner stores. Located in Baler, Aurora, Yano Yumi offers a carefully curated selection of Filipino brands that promote an eco-ethical and sustainable lifestyle. By partnering with Yano Yumi, we can extend our reach and offer more options to individuals who are looking for sustainable and ethical choices.



We are proud to collaborate with **Ruyàg**, a direct manufacturer of handicrafts specializing in natural fibers endemic to Albay such as abaca, raffia, and bancuan. Ruyàg community is committed to creating intentional, cruelty-free, and organic products made by Bicolano hands. We use Ruyàg's mini baskets to create our Uigma bucket bags, resulting in high-quality, and sustainable products. Through this collaboration, we can produce unique and beautiful bags and accessories while supporting local communities and promoting ethical and sustainable fashion.

Training Workshops and Events

Training on Mushroom Tissue Culture



(April 21, 2022) In partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DA), we organized a hands-on training session on mushroom tissue culture, spawn, and fruit bag production. As part of the training, DA generously donated 500 fruiting bags. We held the training for young Mothers and GROW members in our serviced community in Bulacan. After the training, we also set up a space for them to produce mushrooms that they eventually harvested and sold. Through this initiative, we provided a sustainable source of income for the community while also promoting self-sufficiency and empowering individuals to take control of their own livelihoods.

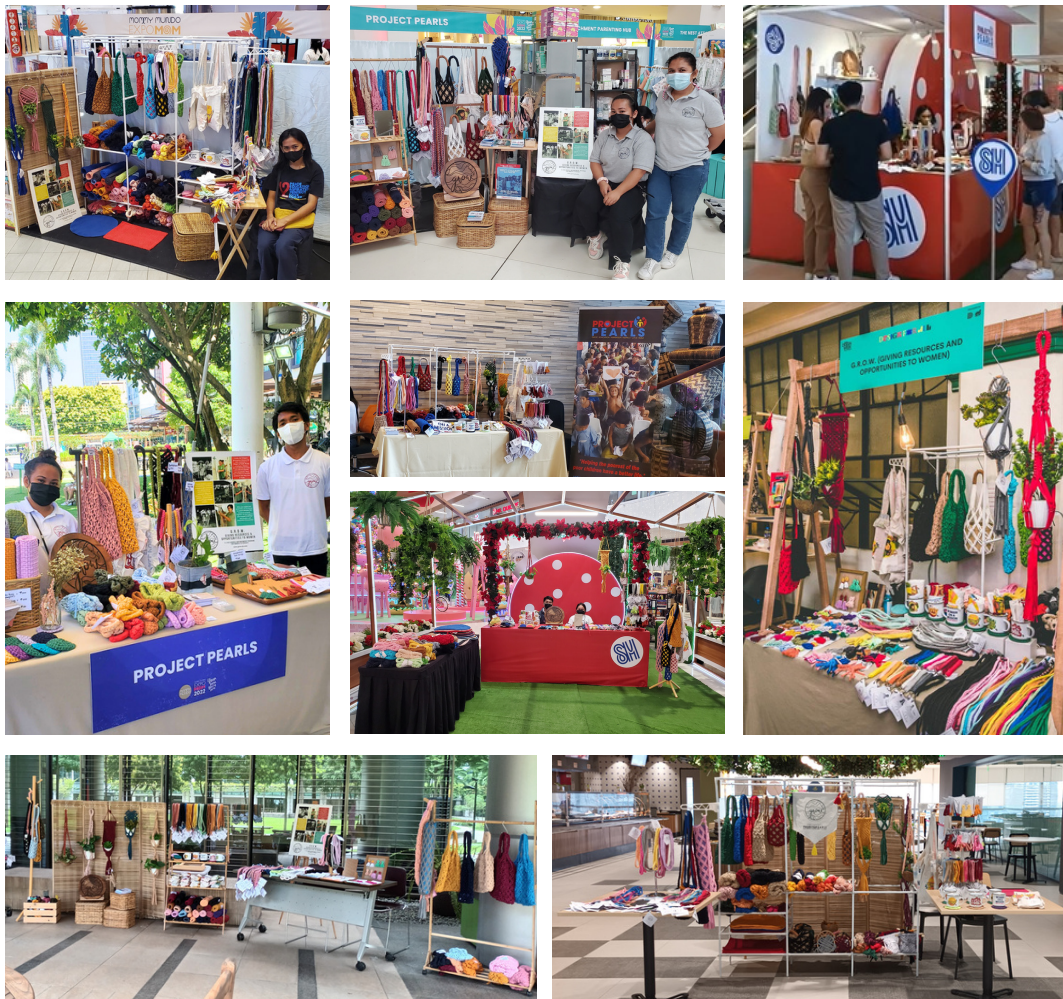
GROW Booth and Macramé Workshop for ARUP Employees



(November 24, 2022) As part of **ARUP's** community engagement activity, GROW conducted a Basic Macramé Plant Holder Workshop for the employees of the company. During the workshop, participants learned the basic techniques of macramé and were able to create their own plant holders. The event not only provided a fun and engaging activity for the employees of ARUP, but it also served as an opportunity to promote GROW's mission and products. Our GROW makers were able to showcase and sell their products to the employees of ARUP. We are proud to have been a part of this event and are committed to continuing to engage with the community through sustainable and ethical practices.

Training Workshops and Events

Bazaars and Pop-Up Stores



We feel immense gratitude for being a part of the following bazaars and pop-up stores. Through these opportunities, we were able to showcase the incredible products crafted by our GROW artisans. This was made possible by the unwavering support of our partner companies and organizations.

- ❁ Mommy Mundo Expo BGC (April 23 to 24, 2022)
- ❁ American Recreation Club Bazaar US Embassy (May 24 to 25 and June 4, 2022)
- ❁ Mommy Mundo Expo Glorietta (August 13 to 14, 2022)
- ❁ Unilab Main Office (Sept. 14-16, 2022)
- ❁ SM North EDSA 100 Days of Happiness (Sept. 17 to Oct.22, 2022)
- ❁ Mommy Mundo Expo at Trinoma (Oct. 8-9, 2022)
- ❁ Saturday x Future Market at Escolta (Oct. 22, 2022)
- ❁ SM East Ortigas 100 Days of Happiness (Nov. 21 to Dec. 26, 2022)
- ❁ Mommy Mundo Expo Glorietta (Nov. 19 to 20, 2022)
- ❁ ARUP Office, Ortigas (Nov. 24, 2022)
- ❁ Holiday Inn, Makati City (Dec.9-16, 2022)
- ❁ AMEX Taguig City (Dec.19-20, 2022)

Community Savings Club



We are proud of our community teams in Tondo, Manila and Naic, Cavite for uniting and forming their respective Community Savings Clubs (CSC)! Our community teams, composed of volunteers and scholars' parents, attended an online training session about financial literacy and policy formulation with the guidance of **Mr. Muneer Mahinay of Team Hyperlokal Kapital**. The CSC is designed to provide members with opportunities for savings, access to loans, and social funds, thereby promoting financial stability, social safety net, and community development.

After more than six months of savings, the members were able to save a total of PHP 94,780.00 and PHP 83,787.00, in Tondo and Naic respectively.

They used these savings for the needs of their families and children, and some of them also used it to start their own small business. We are grateful to partner with Team Hyperlokal Kapital for initiatives like the CSC. We are committed to empowering communities through financial literacy and creating supportive savings clubs.

Php 178,567.00

**TOTAL SAVINGS
27 MEMBERS**



Workshops & Webinars

A Primer on Online Sexual Exploitation of Children and Women by Hands On Manila Foundation

(February 15, 2022) Our team members attended the online training on “Primer on Online Sexual Exploitation of Children and Women” organized by **Hands On Manila**. This training provided them with valuable information and insights on how to protect children and women from online sexual exploitation.



The workshop covered a range of topics, including the different forms of online sexual exploitation, its impact on victims, and how to report cases of abuse. Our staff came away from the online workshop with a greater understanding of this issue and a renewed commitment to protecting vulnerable individuals in our community.

Voter's Education and Civic Education for Parents

(April 29, 2022) We organized an online discussion and forum about voter's education and civic education for the parents of our scholars. With the theme, “Why do you Vote? A discussion on the importance and power of our vote” (“Bakit ka Bumuboto? Talakayan at Kwentuhan tungkol sa Kahalagahan at Kapangyarihan ng ating Boto”), this event aimed to provide parents with the necessary information and knowledge to make informed decisions for the upcoming May 2022 national elections. The event covered various topics, including the importance of voting, the electoral process, the candidates, and the platforms they represent.



Webinar on "Navigating Social Work Practice in the "New Normal" by UP Philippine General Hospital Medical Social Service



(September 28, Oct. 5 & 12, 2022) Our Health & Human Services Manager and Social Worker, Melissa Mae Bendanillo, participated in the webinar series entitled "Navigating Social Work Practice in the New Normal" as part of the **University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital Medical Social Service's** 67th Founding Anniversary celebration.

The webinar aimed to provide an understanding of the "new normal" reality and its impact on social work practice. It also provided an opportunity for social workers from various settings to discuss good practices, share what works, and explore ways to sustain them. Additionally, the webinar tackled the welfare and well-being of social workers, promoting solidarity among them to address their needs. The insights and learnings gained from the webinar are valuable to our Social Worker in the work that she does for the communities.

Volunteer Engagement Training by iVolunteer Philippines



(November 26, 2022) **iVolunteer Philippines** has been our long-time partner in volunteer engagement. Aside from providing a platform to promote volunteerism among Filipinos, they also help non-government organizations gain valuable learnings from industry experts. Our Communities Manager, Jay-R Panagsagan, and Assistant Community Coordinator (Tondo), Jonalyn Andia, participated in the Volunteer Engagement Training where they learned strategies to grow and inspire more volunteers, and gained new perspectives on effective volunteer engagement. The training was an enriching experience filled with retrospection, exchanges of ideas, and building connections. We thank iVolunteer Philippines for this opportunity and look forward to further collaborations.

Project PEARLS Team Building and Strategic Planning



(April 22, 2022) Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, our team had been limited to online activities for the past two years. Therefore, it was a much-awaited and refreshing change to finally have a face-to-face gathering. We dedicated a day to various activities and learning sessions aimed to foster stronger bonds and collaboration among team members. The event emphasized effective communication, collective problem-solving, and the cultivation of trust within the team. By the end of the program, everyone had a renewed sense of camaraderie and commitment to our mission.



(Sept. 30 to Oct. 1, 2022) The management team had a two-day Strategic Planning Session led by our HR Consultant, Ms. Michelle Hernandez. It was incredibly insightful as the team was able to deepen their understanding of one another as leaders. Together, they identified challenges and strengths, explored strategies, and established goals for 2023. The presence of our esteemed Board Chairperson, Ms. Marie Young, further enriched the session, as her insights and advice offered valuable guidance on how to effectively and efficiently achieve our collective goals. The planning session served as a wellspring of inspiration, igniting the team's unwavering commitment to our mission.



BAYANIHAN

RELIEF OPERATION &
PROGRAM FOR THE UNHOUSED

Bayanihan para sa Bohol

Typhoon Relief Operation in Bohol

Super Typhoon Odette (international name: Rai), struck the Philippines in December 2021, causing devastating impact in several parts of the country. It was the strongest typhoon of the year and the second costliest in Philippine history, following Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. The typhoon resulted in severe flooding, landslides, and power outages that impacted numerous communities, leaving thousands of Filipinos affected. Bohol was one of the severely affected provinces, leaving the area with significant damages to infrastructure, agriculture, and human lives.



In an effort to aid the recovery of Dr. Cecilio Putong National High School and Tagbilaran City Central Elementary School, we launched the "Bayanihan para sa Bohol" fundraising initiative. Thanks to the generous support of our valued partners, including ADM, The City Eats, Watts of Love, iVolunteer Philippines, Metro Thrive Enterprises, Harry Eng and Family, Hiraya Manawari, Soulful Mornings, Angela Duterte Nagata, Rachel Briones, and numerous other compassionate donors, we were able to extend our assistance to these two severely affected schools in Bohol.



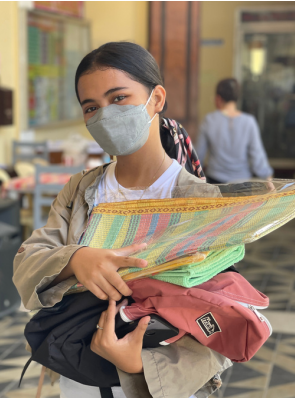
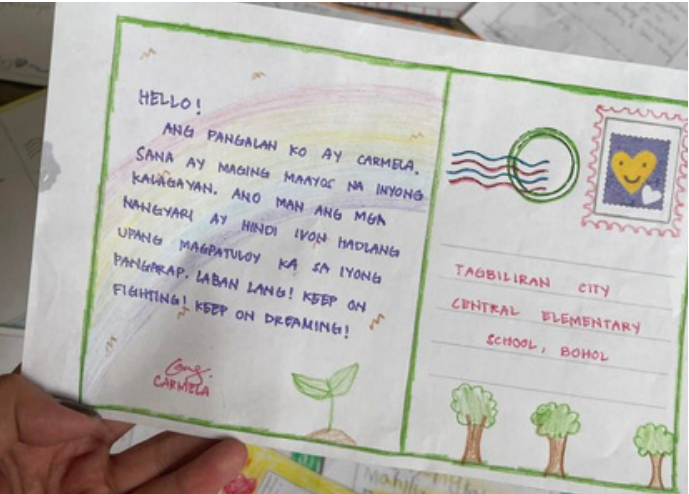
(March 13 to 15, 2022) Our first stop was at Dr. Cecilio Putong National High School (DCPNHS) where we provided support to 500 children. We distributed a total of 500 school bags, each with school essentials set, COVID-19 essentials kit, blankets, towels, sleeping mats, and Litclub-on-the-go activity packet. The relief packs also included Letters of Hope from our PEARLS Scholars. For the students of Tagbilaran City Central Elementary School (TCCES), we distributed toys and gifts, face masks, snack packs, towels, and Letters of Hope from our PEARLS Scholars. The faculty of the two schools also received solar lamps, printers, printer ink, projector, projector screen, whiteboard, markers, bond paper, and bottled paper. We also donated 10 buckets of wall paint, paint rollers, and brushes to TCCES, and our team helped out with painting the school facilities.

Php 802,818.70+
WORTH OF RELIEF PACKAGES

500 STUDENTS AND FAMILIES RECEIVED RELIEF PACKS

TEACHERS RECEIVED:

- 100 solar lamps**
- 5 printers and 4 sets of printer ink**
- 2 projector and projector screen**
- 2 whiteboard and sets of white board markers**
- 100 reams bond paper**
- 100 (10 L) bottled water**



BayaniHAN

Bayani (Hero) for the Homeless, Abandoned, and Neglected

4,600+
MEALS SERVED

1,500+

PACKS OF HYGIENE KITS,
MOSQUITO PATCHES,
AND UNDERWEAR



In partnership with **The City Eats** and **ADM**, we extended crucial aid to families and individuals experiencing homelessness within the City of Manila. This year, our efforts resulted in the provision of substantial assistance, including over 4,600 meals served. Recognizing the multifaceted needs of this vulnerable population, we went beyond food provision and also distributed a range of essential items. We provided hygiene items (soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.), underwear, mosquito patches, and preloved clothes, books, and toys to the children. We express our heartfelt gratitude to Arup, Telus International Philippines, and Share Your Spare Singapore for their valuable contributions to this program. Through our collective efforts, we strived to address the immediate needs of individuals experiencing homelessness while promoting their dignity and well-being.





SPECIAL PROJECTS & EVENTS

The Memory Project



"Creating a kinder world through art." This is the core mission of The Memory Project, a US-based nonprofit and youth arts organization that promotes intercultural understanding and kindness through the power of art. Since 2017, we have collaborated with them to provide one-of-a-kind, heartwarming portraits for children and youth in the communities we serve. They connect with art teachers and students to create and donate portraits to youth around the world who have faced substantial challenges, such as violence, disasters, extreme poverty, neglect, and loss of parents. Due to the pandemic, the distribution of the portraits created in 2020 was delayed. We are delighted to finally be able to distribute them this year on February 9. Over 100 scholars have received their portraits, each crafted with love by talented artists in the United States. We express our profound gratitude to The Memory Project for this incredible partnership.



A String of PEARLS: A Scholarship Benefit

Project PEARLS USA & Saint Joseph's Arts Foundation hosted one of their most important fundraisers, "A String of PEARLS: A Scholarship Benefit".

We are very grateful to all the sponsors, donors, partners, attendees, our staff and volunteers for making this fundraiser event successful and memorable. Together, we raised over USD 60,000! The funds raised will support the college scholarships of almost a hundred scholars who are living in extreme poverty.

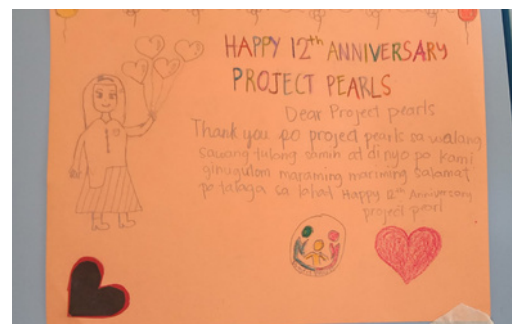


12th Anniversary Celebration



(August 2022) It has been 12 years since Project PEARLS first set foot in the slums of Ulingan in Tondo, Manila. Since then, this remarkable journey has been filled with transformative experiences. To celebrate this milestone, we gathered children and families in our serviced communities in Tondo, Bulacan, and Cavite and served comforting and hearty meals to them,

Throughout these 12 years, we have proudly served thousands of meals, provided support to hundreds of scholars, engaged children through educational programs, and reached out to families in need. This is made possible by the unwavering dedication of our staff, volunteers, partners, supporters, friends, and families. Their continuous support and love have played an integral role in shaping Project PEARLS, and we are eternally grateful for their trust and commitment. To more years of PEARLS! Happy 12th Anniversary to all of us!



Special thanks to our partners for making this celebration more special: Selecta Philippines, Adrian Soco of Share Your Spare Singapore, and Citadines Millennium Ortigas.



Adopt-A-Family & Toy Drive

1,500+

**NOCHE BUENA PACKS
DISTRIBUTED
(7,145+ KGS OF FOOD
ITEMS)**

6,700+

**TOYS AND GIFTS
RECEIVED**

22,000+

**HEADWEAR FROM
FOWNES BROTHERS
& CO.**



At Project PEARLS, it has become a cherished annual tradition to spread love and bring smiles during the Christmas season. While this time of year is eagerly anticipated by many, we recognize that families living in poverty may have a different experience. That's why our **Adopt-A-Family** and **Toy Drive** campaigns hold such significance for us; they allow us to create truly memorable and special Christmas moments for those in need. Thanks to the remarkable generosity of our heroes, we have made an impact on the lives of countless individuals. Through these campaigns, we were able to provide Christmas gifts to over 4,000 children, and we also distributed holiday grocery packs to 1,500 families in Tondo, Bulacan, and Cavite. Additionally, we extended our reach to children and families living on the streets of Manila, offering them toys, gifts, sanitizers, and hot meals. We are grateful for the kindness displayed by all our heroes who made these endeavors possible!



4,000+

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH
GIFT RECIPIENTS**

3,400+

HOT MEALS

4,300+

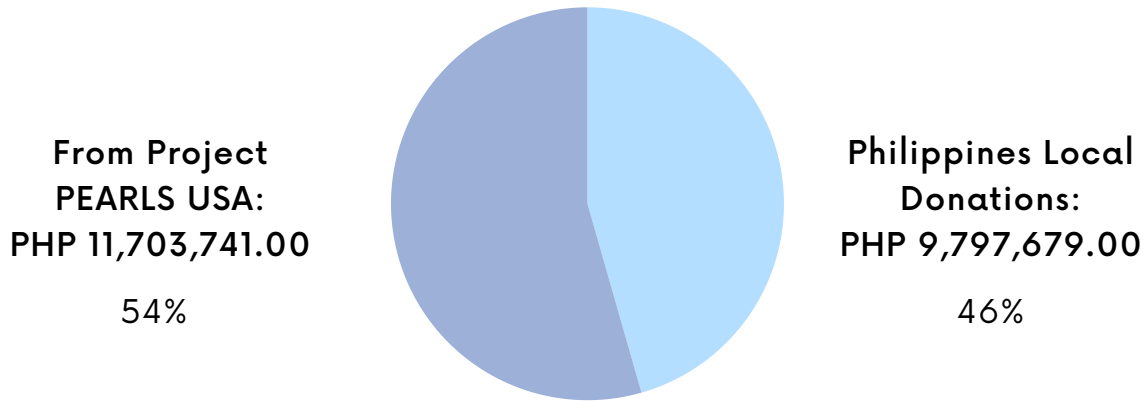
**HAND SANITIZERS FROM
TWO GOOD CO.**



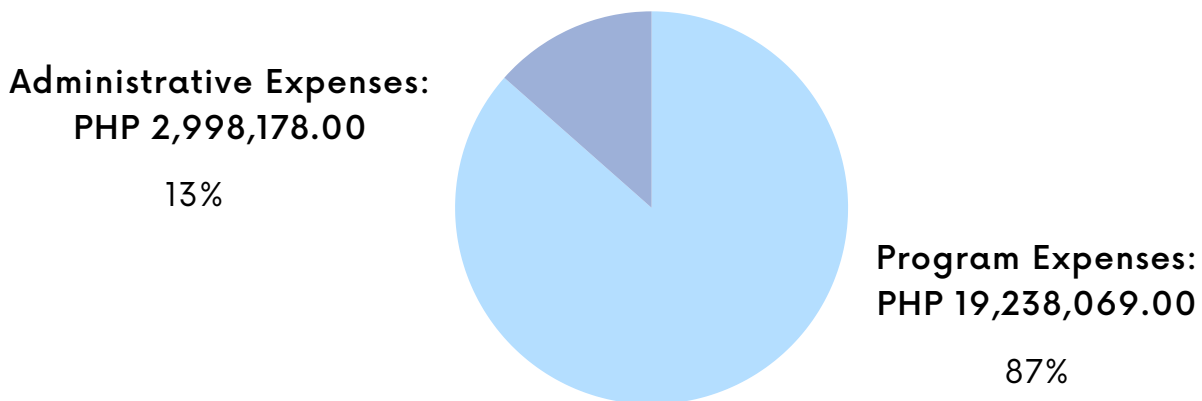
THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

2022 Financial Highlights

Total Donations: PHP 21,501,420.00



Overall Program Cost and Administrative Expenses: PHP 22,236,247.00



Project PEARLS USA operates as an independent entity distinct from Project PEARLS in the Philippines. Its primary focus is in fundraising and applying for grants to sustain the various programs in the Philippines. Notably, over half of the total donations and grants received last year were contributed by Project PEARLS USA.

The excess in the expenses is offset by the remaining balance of donations from the fiscal year 2021.

**To our Heroes, thank
you for your ongoing
support of our mission!**




We are incredibly grateful to the Education Champions, Hunger Warriors, and Life Changers who have wholeheartedly supported our programs. Your generosity and compassion are transforming the world, making a difference in the lives of countless children and families, one step at a time.



Helping the poorest of the poor children and families in the
Philippines to have a better life.

-  www.projectpearls.org
-  fb.com/ProjectPEARLS2010
-  @projectpearls
-  [Project PEARLS](https://ProjectPEARLS)
-  info@projectpearls.org

Philippines Office: 
168 P. Zamora Street
Caloocan City 1400

USA Office: 
2211 American Ave. Ste 6,
Hayward, CA 94545