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life **volunteering** charity mentoring
openness doing good opportunities
communications uplifting lives **mission**
values **partnership** heartfelt experience
service cooperation support donations
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#igivehope 

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The year 2017 has been a year of impactful volunteerism and active partnerships for Childhope Philippines. Throughout the year, our partners have been greatly involved in helping to rebuild street children's lives—serving as shining beacons of hope for a much brighter future.

Aptly tagged as #igivehope, the volunteer-driven activities bring hope through empowering street children in countless ways. The interaction with different groups of people help the children build self-confidence. Sharing of stories and life experiences provide children with motivation and encouragement to strive to finish their education—the only proven tool that they can use in order to break the cycle of poverty. These activities help mold the character of children into what we envision them to be: respected, functional, and responsible members of society.

Hope springs eternal. Our volunteers become partners and stakeholders—advocating for the cause of street children—becoming champions who aim to uplift the lives of these vulnerable groups in our society.

We thank every one of you who believed in our mission for the street children and continued to support us on our journey towards realizing our goals.

This one's dedicated to you.

We look forward to more years of fruitful partnerships with you—all for the advancement of the welfare of Filipino street children.

ABOUT US

HISTORY

Childhope Asia Philippines is a not-for-profit, non-government organization working to promote the welfare of street children in the Philippines. It works toward the liberation of the child from the sufferings caused by working and living on the streets.

It traces its history back when Childhope International was founded in 1986 by individuals from children's agencies who saw the need to address the plight of children in need of special protection, specifically on behalf of street children.

In 1989, Childhope established a regional office for Asia, with its headquarters in Manila, after the First Regional Conference of Street Children in Asia was held. Since then, it facilitated networking and collaboration among the different agencies working for street children in the Asian region.

In 1995, Childhope officially became Childhope Asia Philippines, Inc. as registered under the Securities and Exchange Commission.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the organization is to reduce the number and prevent the proliferation of street children. Childhope aims to empower street children and their families, and help them get access to better futures. It believes in education without borders, where the alternative education sessions seek to make a difference in the lives of street children by giving them the chance to read, write, and learn.

Childhope works to liberate the street children from the sufferings caused by working and living on the streets. It promotes and upholds the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, focusing on these disadvantaged children. More than teaching the street kids the basics of reading and writing, Childhope instills in them the values they need so they can grow up to be caring, confident, responsible, and resilient members of society.

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

Childhope is governed by a Board of Trustees—volunteer professionals known in their particular fields—with notable experience in social development work. Management of daily operations, development of strategy and leadership is delegated to the Executive Director, under the direct supervision of the organization's President who is also part of the Board.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND 2017 OFFICERS



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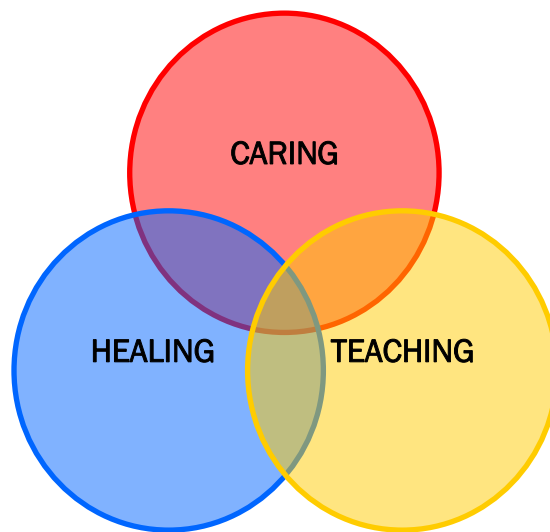


Ms. Mylene R. Lagman



Ms. Maria Fatima Reyes

THE STREET EDUCATION AND PROTECTION (STEP) PROGRAM



Childhope Philippines responds to the needs of street children and youth through its banner program, the Street Education and Protection Program (STEP).

Guided by the caring-healing-teaching framework, the STEP Program has 4 major components which are created in consultation with and participation of the children beneficiaries in order to provide for their holistic development—putting the best interest of the child at the center of the program:

1. **Education**, which includes the following components:

- A. Alternative Education modules on children's rights, primary healthcare, values education, gender sensitivity, adolescent sexuality, personal safety and protective behavior, substance abuse prevention, and reproductive health;
- B. Basic Literacy and Numeracy (BLAN), which is conducted among younger children or even to older ones who have not yet been taught how to read, write and count numbers;
- C. Non-formal education classes under the DepEd-accredited Alternative Learning System (ALS) whereby street children and youth learn through modules guided by street educators trained as Instructional

Managers;

- D. Formal education opportunities, wherein children are assisted to go back into formal school when applicable;
- E. Vocational/Technical Skills Training which aims to provide the participants with technical/ vocational skills training opportunities that will help them to develop service/technical skills and positive income generating activities which will allow them to financially support themselves.

2. **Psychosocial Interventions**, which includes counselling beneficiaries and provision of assistance to help them cope up with the stresses and challenges that they encounter while learning/training;

3. **Health and Medical services**, which provides primary preventive medical care and consultations/treatments to ensure that the children are healthy and in full physical capacity to learn; and

4. **Skills Development**, where beneficiaries are trained in leadership, computer literacy, sports, the arts and other skills that will help them nurture the good traits they possess and apply the values they have learned in life planning.

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- 506** gained access to alternative and basic education opportunities
- 64** regularly attended basic literacy and numeracy classes
- 43** study elementary and secondary level modules through ALS
- 40** scholars given educational assistance for formal school
- 19** finished Vocational and Technical training courses
- 22** assisted to find employment after training



EDUCATION

PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTIONS



- 367** provided with individual and group counselling sessions
- 360** provided with emergency relief and material assistance
- 49** home visits to counsel children with family problems affecting behavior
- 38** school visits to aid children with low academic performance
- 31** center visits for case follow-up and exposure
- 3** referred to temporary shelter to save them from abuse and neglect

- 1,238** medical consultations served through the Mobile Health Clinic
- 1,450** peer health counselling sessions by Junior Health Workers (JHW's)
- 1,115** cases given first aid by JHW's
- 34** JHW's trained and provided with first aid kits
- 22** minor surgical procedures done
- 21** assisted for medical referrals
- 2** assisted for hospitalization
- 0** complications, permanent disabilities and mortalities due to improper or delayed medical treatment



HEALTH

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



- 424** gained meaningful interaction through outreach activities
- 261** learned respect, teamwork and discipline through sports
- 198** honed their skills in visual arts
- 92** learned how to play musical instruments
- 60** gained self-confidence to show their musical skills and talents
- 58** gained knowledge in computers and advance computer technology
- 44** children leaders actively serving their communities

- 11,000** volunteer hours spent with children
- 1,600** corporate and individual volunteers
- 246** stakeholders reached through Advocacy activities on Children's rights

ADVOCACY, NETWORKING, PARTNERSHIP-BUILDING



Street Education: breaking the cycle of poverty, one step at a time

PJ, Isko, and Louie are men of the streets. Their stories speak of different lessons, yet they are all intertwined by a key theme: education opens opportunities for those who work hard for their dreams.

As young boys, life for PJ, Isko, and Louie revolved around survival — getting by with the little they have. PJ used to help his mom out with their store, but eventually resorted to begging from people so he and his family could have something to eat for the day. Besides begging, Louie and his siblings also took turns scavenging for plastic bottles and selling them to help feed the family. Isko and his family also suffered from poverty. With little to no support, he had no direction with his life and was on the verge of giving up.

But with prayers, hard work, and determination, life took a turn for the better for the three young men. And it started when they realized the importance of learning and pursuing a good education.

STREET EDUCATION

PJ, Isko, and Louie joined Childhope's street education program for street children. They attended alternative education sessions — where they learned about reading, writing, children's rights, good values and spirituality. They enjoyed watching videos that taught them about the basics of proper hygiene, and the importance of family, friendship, and dreams.

But more than literacy and numeracy, the street education program equipped them with life skills to overcome challenges. Through their active participation in the program, PJ, Isko, and Louie slowly developed their talents, built their confidence and self-worth, and carved out a better future for themselves.

It's not an easy journey, and there will always be people and circumstances trying to break you and bring you down. But you can always make a choice to use these problems as opportunities to learn and do better.

“By not giving up in the face of adversity, I assure you that you will become stronger. You can only live a life worth living when you finally decide to face all of their fears and take the first step forward,” said PJ.

GIVING BACK

At present, PJ, Louie, and Isko are all paying it forward in their own simple ways. From a street child, Isko is now a street educator who is on a mission to create more “Iskos.” He said nothing makes him happier than protecting, guiding, and empowering the little street children.

“I want to make a positive impact in the lives of thousands of street children, just like my former Ates (elder sister) and Kuyas (elder brother) from Childhope. I want street kids to know that life does get better if you keep your head up and work hard enough,” said Isko.



Louie also became part of Childhope as a Mobile Music School Coordinator. He goes around the streets of Manila but with a higher purpose — to share his passion for music with the street children he cares for. He teaches the basics of playing instruments like guitar, keyboard, and drums and also hones the street children's talents in singing.

"I am happy to share the knowledge and skills I have not only about music but how it helped shape me as a person. It's overwhelming to see that they are learning," Louie said.

PJ also worked with Childhope as a street educator after he graduated from college. He went out of his way to teach street kids the best way he can. Now, he continues to embark on his new life at sea and remains hopeful to fulfill his dream to be a machinist to help more people.

'SHARING KINDNESS'

The street kids' dreams live on. And with your support, more and more street children can be like Isko, Louie, and PJ — already living stories of success, hope, and inspiration.

We encourage you to be part of our street education program, by giving back in the best way you can. There are a lot of opportunities to share the kindness — you can donate and help us fund and sustain our programs; you can help us with in-kind donations; and you can volunteer to share your time, talents, and skills to hone the street children.

By sharing the kindness, you can be part of a meaningful journey of transforming the lives of street children. Why wait? The time is now.



Street girl selling sampaguita earns diploma, toga

More than anything, Khay Anne's will to succeed and positive attitude empowered her to achieve her dreams. She is overflowing with gratitude to all those who made this possible.

The cemetery is a place of grief, isolation, and sometimes, danger. We go to cemeteries to pay respects to the dead. For many poor families, cemeteries have become their homes. It's where they live, survive, and thrive.

But a 21-year old lady who lives near tombs is out to prove that hope can be found in this gloomy place. If only we look deeper.

Khay Ann Igle has just graduated with a bachelor's degree in tourism from the Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology.

SELLING SAMPAGUITA TO SURVIVE

"Ang buhay po ng pamilya namin sa sementeryo ay sobrang hirap. Kailangan po araw araw kumayod at magbenta ng sampagita para may makain kahit papaano. Minsan wala talaga. Minsan, yung pagkain po namin ay hihingiin ng iba at ibibigay po namin (Life at the Manila North Cemetery is very difficult. Every day, we need to sell sampaguita so we can buy food. Sometimes, we don't earn anything so we don't eat at all. Sometimes, we share the little we have to those who are hungry)," Khay Ann said.

Besides scarcity of food, there was also a lack of water and electricity. At the cemetery, it can really go dark.

At three years old, Khay Ann was already roaming around plazas, stores, and churches around Metro Manila to beg. At five, she started selling sampaguita and walked under the grueling heat to go to different churches in Cubao, Quezon City to España and Dangwa Flower Market in Sampaloc, Manila so she can bring food for her family.



Khay Ann's parents struggled to provide for the family, and their earnings were not enough to send her to school. Khay Ann understood the family's situation. As the eldest of five siblings, she knew she had to persevere to help her family, and at the same time pursue her dream of getting a good education.

"Nung nag umpisa akong mag aral sa elementarya nagtitinda pa din ako ng sampagita. Tinda sa umaga pasok sa school sa tanghali o kaya naman pasok sa school sa umaga at tinda naman sa tanghali. Ganyan lang kung umikot ang aking buhay (I was still selling sampagita even when I was in elementary school. I juggled selling sampagita in the morning and going to school at noon and vice versa. My life revolved around that routine)," said Khay Ann.

"Minsan kahit walang baon o pagkain, pipilitin ko pa rin pumasok (Sometimes, even with little or no food and money, I still go to school)," she added.

HOPE IS NOT LOST

The struggle is real for Khay Ann. At times, she thought she could not make it. She felt the financial and emotional challenges were too much to bear.

“May mga panahon po kasi na down ako at feeling ko hindi sapat ang ginagawa ko. Pero mahal ko ang nanay at tatay ko, and ginamit ko ang mga salita nila bilang inspirasyon at motibasyon. Ang sabi ko sa sarili ko balang araw makakapagtapos din ako at matutulongan ko sila (I was down because I felt my efforts and sacrifices were never enough. But I love my parents, and I tried to challenge myself and I used their words as inspiration and motivation. I told myself that someday, I will prove to them that I can help them by finishing school),” Khay Ann said.

Khay Ann found another opportunity for learning through Childhope Philippines’ street education program. At nine years old, she started attending sessions led by street educators. While on the streets, she was learning about her rights and responsibilities as a child, proper hygiene and basic health care, and values like hard work and determination. While still selling sampaguitas and going to school, she managed to actively participate in Childhope’s activities.

Khay Ann was chosen by Childhope to be a Junior Health Worker (JHW) when she was in second year high school. As a junior health worker, she helped fellow street children in basic first aid and proper hygiene. Childhope saw Khay Ann’s leadership potentials, and honed her skills.

“Every meeting, assembly, at iba pa umaatend po ako para may mas matutunan. Mas lumakas ang loob ko, mas nagtiwala sa sarili (I tried to actively participate in every meeting and assembly to learn, to trust in myself, and to build my self-confidence),” Khay Ann said.

One of Khay Ann’s biggest breakthroughs came when she was in third year high school. She was chosen to be a beneficiary of Childhope’s Educational Assistance Program (EAP). Ann said.

Under the program, generous donors supported her schooling so she could finish college.

“Ang saya ko po kasi hindi ko po inaasahan na makakapag aral pa ako lalo na po na makakapagtapos ng college. Sinikap ko pong pahalgahan ang pag aaral at huwag sayangin yung pagkakataon hangat may tumutulong, sumusuporta. Natuto akong mangarap hindi lang po para sa akin kundi para po sa pamilya ko (I was very happy because I thought I would not make it to college. I was all the more motivated to pursue a good education because of the kind people who supported me. I learned to dream not only for myself but also for my family),” Khay Ann said.

WILL TO SUCCEED

Still, Khay Ann was caught in financial struggles. What she earned from selling sampaguita was often not enough to pay for her expenses in school and her on-the-job training. Sometimes, she had to make do with only fifty pesos (P50.00) in hand to fulfill her OJT requirements in Quezon City and Paranaque City. But Khay Ann is proud of her poverty.

“Masaya ako sa ganitong buhay ko kasi dahil sa paghihirap ko nagkaroon ako ng pangarap sa buhay, hindi lang para sa akin kundi para sa pamilya ko at sa mga taong nakapalibot sa akin. Nagawa ko yung misyon ko sa buhay — ang makapagtapos (Because of the hardships I experienced, I learned to dream not only for myself but also for my family and the people around me. I was able to fulfill a mission in life — to finish school and get a good education),” Khay Ann said.

More than anything, Khay Ann’s will to succeed and positive attitude empowered her to achieve her dreams. She is overflowing with gratitude to all those who made this possible. She aims to return the kindness and pay it forward by helping her siblings go to school, and helping other people in need.

FROM STREET TO SCHOOL: daughter of buko vendor finishes college

What keeps Arlene going is her positive outlook and determination. Her circumstances did not stop her from actively pursuing a good education.



Arlene Pagamocan has not yet lived in a place she can call her own home. She has been used to staying on the streets and open spaces around Metro Manila.

What keeps Arlene going is her positive outlook and determination. Her circumstances did not stop her from actively pursuing a good education. Now, she makes her family proud as a college graduate with a degree in Human Resource and Operations Management from the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

“Kahit sobrang walang wala ka, dapat maghold ka sa dreams na makakatapos. Buksan mo ang sarili mo sa mga opportunities (Even without money, you should hold on to your dreams of finishing school. Open yourself up to opportunities),” Arlene said.

SEARCHING FOR HOME

The 21-year old recalls her early days living with her family at a parking lot near the CCP Complex in Pasay City. Arlene’s parents did not have stable jobs, and at a young age, she had to help sell goods in a cart to earn for the family. Things got worse when their makeshift home at the parking lot was demolished by police.

“Napunta po ako sa isang center para sa mga bata. Pero tumakas po ako at hinanap ko po yung pamilya ko sa kalye (I was brought to a center for abandoned children. But I managed to escape and find my way back to my family on the streets),” said Arlene.

As the eldest of three siblings, Arlene knew early on that she had to be strong for her family. Her father found a small room for rent along Roxas Boulevard. But they were also asked to leave because her father had arguments with the caretaker. It seems Arlene and her family were not lucky in looking for a place to stay.

But they persevered while on the streets. Arlene’s father sold ‘buko’ (coconuts) in a cart and walked along Roxas Boulevard. The caretaker of the warehouse where the coconuts are stored took pity on Arlene and her family.

“Naawa sa amin yung caretaker kaya pinarenta niya yung likod ng bahay niya sa amin. May natutuluyan na kami (The caretaker allowed us to rent a small place behind his home for a cheap price. Finally, we had a place to stay in),” Arlene said.

LEARNING AND SURVIVING

Even without a permanent home, Arlene was able to learn and go to school. She joined Childhope's alternative education sessions around Manila. She was drawn to the program because she was fascinated by the street educators and their teachings. Also, the street children are given free food during the sessions.

“Nung una, saling pusa lang ako. Pero bigla na lang lagi na akong nag-attend ng sessions. Yung mga natutunan nagagamit ko sa buhay. Nalaman ko yung karapatan at responsibilidad ko, at natutunan kong pangalagaan ang aking kalusugan (At first, I was joining the sessions inactive. But I found myself taking the lessons and applying them in everyday life. I learned about my rights and responsibilities as a child, and I learned how to take care of my health,” said Arlene.

Soon, Arlene was leading other street children by becoming a Junior Health Worker. Childhope trained her how to treat wounds through First Aid, and how to help other street children to practice proper hygiene and basic health care. Through Childhope, she was able to develop her potentials.

“Dahil po naging active ako sa mga activities, at sa kagustuhan kong makatapos, awa po ng Diyos at naging beneficiary po ako ng Educational Assistance Program. Sa tulong po ng mga sponsors, nagkaroon po ako ng pagasa na makakatapos ng pagaaral (Through my active participation in the activities, my desire to go to college, and with God's mercy, I became a beneficiary of Childhope's Educational Assistance Program. With the help of generous donors, I found hope that I will be able to finish school),” said Arlene.

PERSEVERING THROUGH CHALLENGES

Arlene eventually went to college. With the outpour of opportunities came the non-stop challenges. Sometimes, the family and financial problems were too much.



“Minsan po wala talagang kinita at isang basong kape lang ang pinagsasaluhan namin sa buong araw. Minsan yung natirang kanin ng kapitbahay na binibigay sa amin, yun na yung ginagawa naming sangag sa gabi (Sometimes, when we really had no money, we had to make do with sharing one glass of coffee to last us throughout the day. Sometimes, our good neighbors would give us left over rice and we would use this as fried rice for dinner,” Arlene said.

But Arlene chose not to give up. She used the challenges, and the sacrifices of her parents as motivation to work even harder. Arlene says she couldn't have done it without a support system. “Hanggat may gustong tumulong sa iyo, kunin mo at pagbutihin mo ang pagkakataon. Pero huwag mong hintaying bumagsak sa yo ang mga blessings. Kailangan maging aggressive sa pagtupad ng pangarap (As long as there are people willing to help, grab and make the most out of opportunities. But don't wait for blessings to pour. You have to be aggressive in chasing your dreams),” Arlene said.

It is this drive that keeps Arlene set on achieving her goals to give her family a permanent home, and ensure a better future for them.

Childhope and Citi Philippines empower street youth through skills training

Through the partnership, more street children will be given opportunities to develop their skills, build their character and confidence, earn income to support their families, and get higher chances of landing decent jobs.

Childhope and Citi Philippines open a new chapter to their decades-long partnership. The two organizations are working together to ensure street children and youth are geared up for employment.

Under the Vocational-Technical Skills Training Project, street children are taught to live independently and responsibly. They attend sessions on values, skills for life, and financial education. They undergo on-the-job training and practice the value of saving.

More than the financial support, the project aims to empower the street children by building their character and confidence. The street children are able to support their families and earn income, while also working on their goals and achieving their dreams.



VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SKILLS TRAINING:

Opening up opportunities for a better future

Despite the hardships, three beneficiaries of Childhope's Vocational/Technical (VocTech) Skills Training project still find their jobs as rewarding and fulfilling. More than anything, it has opened up opportunities for them to lead better lives.

A fast-food worker's job can be as difficult as it can get. It requires skills and patience to overcome the day to day challenges that come with the work. Besides the physical stress, workers also go through a lot of emotional dilemma because of discrimination and abuse.

Despite the hardships, three beneficiaries of Childhope's Vocational/Technical (VocTech) Skills Training project still find their jobs as rewarding and fulfilling. More than anything, it has opened up opportunities for them to lead better lives.

Marston Venigas, Ramil Clutario, and Ariel Narosa earn a living from being service crew at fast food chains and restaurants in Manila. The three are all in their early 20s. They started out as street children with no direction in life, and just survived daily through begging, selling, and most of the time, luck.

"They were street kids who were dirty, hungry, desperate, neglected, and without proper guidance from adults. To escape from life's harsh realities, they got into sniffing solvent," said Christian Undajare, facilitator of the Voc Tech project. Even though there were many uncertainties, Childhope saw potentials in the three street kids. "We give a chance for every child," Undajare said.

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SKILLS TRAINING

Childhope's street educators and social workers reached out to Marston, Ramil, and Ariel through the Street Education Program.

They came from different areas in Metro Manila -- Kalaw, Sucat, and Divisoria, respectively.

The street educators engaged them in alternative education that involved lessons on basic health and hygiene, values, and child rights and responsibilities. The sessions also involve counselling -- social workers help street children to realize the consequences of being addicted to vices.

It was difficult to get the street children's attention at first, but street educators and social workers are motivated to help the children to find a sense of purpose. Soon, they saw Marston, Ramil, and Ariel's potentials to do well in skills training.

"The three were not pretty good in academics, but they had a strong set of skills and desire to help their families. We decided to develop their abilities in hotel and restaurant services," Undajare said.

Under the VocTech project, street children are taught to live independently and responsibly. They attend sessions on values, skills for life, and financial education. They undergo on-the-job training and practice the value of saving.

HOPE FOR A BETTER LIFE

More than financial support, the project aims to empower street children so they can have a positive outlook in life. Step-by-step, the street children are able to support their families and earn income for their basic needs. Slowly, they are able to have goals and are more motivated to achieve their dreams.

Ramil Clutario

Ramil, for instance, used to run away from his home in Laguna. He then lived at a makeshift house along the railroad tracks in Sucat, Metro Manila. Days went by and he struggled to survive through sniffing solvent and being with his peers.

But through the street education sessions and training under the VocTech project, he found his way back home. After finishing his training and after some unsuccessful attempts, he was able to land a job at McDonald's. The struggles honed him and helped build his confidence, and pushed him to work harder. He was even awarded Best Employee.

Through his determination, Ramil was able to put up a simple sari-sari store business for his mother. His earnings and savings over time also gave him the opportunity to pay it forward. He is now able to help his nephews and nieces by funding their schooling. Ramil has been with McDonald's for six years now, and he is inspired more than ever to help his family and to save for the future.

Ariel Narosa

Ariel, for his part, earns a living from being a service crew member at a hotel in Makati City. Ariel used to live near a railroad track in Binondo, Divisoria but through his earnings, he was able to rent a home for him and his family. He is focused on his work but still dreams of going back to school to finish his studies.

Marston Venigas

Marston is also a service crew member at Chowking in Sta. Mesa, Manila. From being a solvent addicted boy in Kalaw, Manila, he is now focused on doing his best at what he does. Through his efforts, Marston and his family were able to rent and stay at a house in Kalaw, Manila.

Starting out was hard for Marston because he experienced being bullied. He persevered through the challenge and kept an optimistic mindset. Marston dreams of becoming a seaman someday so he can better support his family.

Marston, Ramil, and Ariel still have a long way to go, but they take hold of opportunities that come their way and make the most out of these. They are using the skills they learned under the VocTech project to earn income and help themselves and their families. More importantly, they want to pursue lives away from the streets to carve a better future ahead.



Nurturing Divisoria's street children

Life for street children in Divisoria continues, and each child has their own story to tell. The street children's lives are marred by problems, suffering, and abuse.

Divisoria is home to some of the busiest streets in Metro Manila. It is the go-to place for those looking for clothes, accessories, gadgets, and all sorts of cheap bargains sold in bulk. People flock to the area not only to shop, but also to try out different kinds of food and adventures.

But behind the hustle and bustle of Divisoria lies the grim reality of children living in poverty. Hundreds of homeless children fill the streets — begging, or working to earn money, to eat and survive. Some take a break from the heat by bathing under a fountain near the Binondo church. Many street girls as young as 13 years old are already mothers, trying their best to take care of their children. If you look more closely, you will see street boys, girls, and even their parents sniffing solvents and other drugs to escape their hunger and desperation. Some of them are also inclined to steal, while most street girls are prone to being victims of prostitution to survive.

Still, there is hope in endeavors to help the poorest children and get them off the streets for good. Some of Divisoria's street children are participating in Alternative Education sessions and activities conducted by Childhope Asia Philippines. A typical session takes place in an open area or parking lot.

Street Educators and Social Workers go to different areas in Divisoria — Sto. Cristo, Binondo, and around the Divisoria mall — to gather the street children and facilitate activities among them. At times, the street educator and social worker develop a partnership with a nearby fast-food chain so the sessions may be held there for security purposes.

HARNESSING STREET KIDS' POTENTIALS

One Saturday afternoon, around 20 street



children beneficiaries of Childhope in Divisoria participated in activities conducted at a fast food chain near Divisoria mall.

The children, most of them girls, were very excited and eager to participate. They came from different areas in Divisoria, and they brought with them curious minds and hungry hearts.

Twelve-year old Emily (not her real name) was one of them. She was taking the lead, guiding her friends and making sure they followed instructions. The street children were noisy and naughty at times but Emily was in control and was able to pacify them.

Once seated, the street children were asked to behave and wait for food to be distributed. Emily, along with two other children, took charge in giving out the food. The social worker reminded the street children about good manners. One child led the group in prayer.

The street educators, social workers, and interns started with an energizer by encouraging the kids to dance and sing. The street children were all in smiles as they moved to the tunes. Some of them got easily distracted, but they all managed to participate.

The street educators and social workers taught the children the song entitled “Welcome to the Family.” They guided the street kids in reading and interpreting each line so they can understand the words.

“Pahalagahan ang pamilya, lagi silang nandyan para tulungan kang maging matibay (Value your family, they are always there to help you to be strong),” said one street child as he was asked to explain his interpretation and understanding of the song.

The street educators and social workers asked and examined the street kids to find out who among them took a bath, brushed their teeth, cleaned their nails, and wore slippers and clothes. The children were motivated to practice cleanliness because the street educators rewarded them with stars stamped on papers. Street children usually neglect cleanliness because they are used to living in slums, but the social workers encouraged the children to stay healthy through proper hygiene.

“Social workers use a number of approaches to engage and help street children. You really have to know the street children on a deeper level so you can help them effectively. You must have an open mind and lots of patience and understanding,” says Vince Balza, Childhope social worker for the Divisoria area.

CLINGING TO HOPE, ASPIRING AMIDST UNCERTAINTY



These street children in Binondo are achievers in their own right. At first glance, Emily may be your usual young street girl, but a deeper look reveals she has been battling epilepsy. She is taking maintenance medicines provided by her generous donor.

Emily has been a beneficiary of Childhope’s Educational Assistance Program (EAP) and is now at Grade Seven (7). Despite her affliction, she is doing well in school and her extra-curricular activities. She is also a child leader and Junior Health Worker. She helps the street educators by administering First-Aid and encouraging her street children friends to actively participate in the learning sessions.

Jaymar and Ana, also street children in Divisoria, are scholars of Malayan Insurance, a partner of Childhope Philippines who has been supporting the NGO’s programs and services. Through the scholarship, Jaymar and Ana are able to go to formal school. This gets them a step closer to receiving a good education that may be their only ticket out of poverty.

Life for street children in Divisoria continues, and each child has their own story to tell. The street children’s lives are marred by problems, suffering, and abuse. But amidst uncertainty, there is hope — that through opportunities, street children will be able to learn, to be happy and optimistic in facing challenges, and empowered to do good while helping themselves and their families

Former street child strives for father to come ‘home’

Besides running a hotel of his own, Dick has one other dream. He hopes he can finally convince his 65-year old father to leave the streets and stay at a place they can call home.

“Mahirap gawin, matigas kasi ulo ni Papa. Ayaw niya umalis sa Luneta kasi nakasanayan na niya (It’s difficult because Papa is hardheaded. He does not want to leave Luneta because he is used to staying there),” said the 24-year old Dick.

“Mas gusto niya tumira sa Luneta, kahit na walang permanenteng tulugan doon (He prefers to keep Luneta as his home, even without a permanent place to sleep on.),” he added. Dick is currently renting and staying with a relative in Manila.

Dick said his father works hard as a carpenter to provide for the two of them. When the old man could not take up the cudgels, he took his son to an orphanage. Dick stayed at the Asilo de san Vicente de Paul for most of his childhood. He left when he was already in fifth grade.

Dick and his father managed to survive the streets through wit and grit, one day at a time. His father was always out during the day, looking for work.

Dick, for his part, tried his best to stay in school while managing the challenges of living on the streets. He was very independent and took care of his own — ironing and washing his clothes, finding food to eat, and looking for a place to study.

“Kailangan makipagkaibigan ako sa mga caretaker ng Luneta para makapag-aral ako doon sa tinatawag namin dati na kweba, ngayon Senior Citizens Garden at Luneta park (I learned how to befriend the caretakers of Luneta so I can study at the place we called ‘cave.’ Now, it has been turned into a Senior Citizens Garden,” said Dick.

“Bawal kasi yun so tatakbo na lang kami pag may gwardya na. Pag umuulan, panangga mo kariton (That was prohibited so we had to run when the guards caught us. During stormy weather, we used cardboards to protect ourselves from the rain),” Dick said.

THE STREETS AS HIS TEACHER

Despite the hardships, Dick has learned to love the streets of Manila. It is also here where he got the inspiration and drive to pursue and finish his studies.

“I saw Kuya Jessie teaching street children in Luneta. I was very curious. My life turned for the better since then,” said Dick.

More than the basics of reading and writing, Dick had a firm grasp of his rights, responsibilities, and values — through Childhope Philippines’ street education program.

“Childhope’s street educators and social workers assist children through an alternative learning system — giving them pointers on how to protect themselves from the different kinds of abuse,” said Dr. Harvey, Executive Director of Childhope.



“The main goal is to guide and motivate the children to pursue dreams and a life outside the streets,” Harvey added.

“Natuto ako makisalamuha sa ibang tao, natuto akong humarap sa kanila. In my simple ways, natuto akong maging lider (I learned how to deal with different kinds of people, and handle myself around them. In my simple ways, I learned how to be a leader),” Dick said.

By consistently participating in Childhope’s programs, Dick became an active junior advocate and junior health worker. He was very passionate about sharing his experiences to other street children like him.

“Bilang junior health worker, natuto akong manggamot ng sugat ng mga bata. Bilang junior rights advocate naman, namulat ko sila sa kanilang mga karapatan at responsibilidad (As a junior health worker, I learned how to treat wounds of children. As a junior rights advocate, I was able to educate the children on their rights and responsibilities,” Dick said.

Dick was consistent and persistent in attending the sessions that slowly built his self-confidence. He eventually found himself in college, as a beneficiary of Childhope’s educational assistance program. It was a rough journey, though, juggling different jobs while trying to maintain high grades. At one point, he thought he could not make it.



“Pero lagi akong kinumbinsi ni Nanay Gerney na bumalik at tapusin ang pagaaral ko,” said Dick of his social worker Gerney whom he fondly calls “nanay.”

“Nung nasa ospital ako at kailangang operahan, di alam ng tatay ko. Si Nanay Gerney ang kasama ko. Kung wala ang Childhope, pilay ako. Di ako gagrgraduate (My father did not know that I was hospitalized and had to undergo surgery. It was Nanay Gerney who was with me. Without Childhope, I would be crippled. I would not be able to graduate,” said Dick. At one point, Dick had to undergo surgery because of the disease hernia. He relied on help from his Childhope family.

DREAMS, FAMILY

Dick plans to take on a number of jobs and earn money, so he can help his father and his family. He has not seen his mother and siblings for a long time since they were separated when he was young, but he hopes to be reunited with them.

Dick wants to improve his skills as a graduate of a bachelor’s degree in human resource management (HRM). He says he could not believe that he was able to finish, considering his worries on finances and expenses.

“Nagawan ng paraan ng Childhope. Ngayon, gusto kong ibalik ang tulong sa pamamagitan ng pagtrabaho ng mabuti at pagangat. Gusto ko magsimula sa baba pataas. Balang araw, gusto ko maging manager (Childhope found a way to help me finish my studies. Now, I want to give back by working well and succeeding. I want to work my way up — I want to be a manager someday,” said Dick.

Dick says he believes that the best way to get through things is to have a mindset of not giving up even when it’s too hard and hopeless. He says it’s important to hold on to your faith because God will always make a way.

Children help children stay healthy

Thousands of street children in Metro Manila are in dire need of medical services. The children live in unclean environments and engage in hazardous activities, making them more prone to getting sick or wounded.

More often than not, the street children remain ill and unhealthy. Their parents could not afford hospital treatment for the children. Besides, hospitals may even be too full to accommodate them.

It seems the problem is getting worse by the day. But a group of young health advocates from the streets, albeit a small one, are trying to help their little companions in protecting themselves against disease.

MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC

Junior Health Workers of Childhope were actively engaged in reaching the targets of the Mobile Health Clinic project. Under the project, a team of doctor, junior health workers, and volunteers reach out to street children and their families and provide health care and medical services for free.

“Last year, we were able to help around one thousand two hundred and thirty eight street children in around 10 areas in Metro Manila. Most of the children examined were from the 11 to 17 years old age bracket, followed by the 7 to 10 years old age bracket,” said Dr. Josefina Pamela Carpio, head physician of Childhope Philippines. “Most of the children suffered from upper respiratory tract infections, dental caries, wounds, systemic viral illness, and allergic rhinitis. The diseases are primarily attributable to the street children’s environment and lifestyle,” Dr. Carpio said.

JUNIOR HEALTH WORKERS

Childhope believes that training street children to be junior health workers is the best way to empower them and protect them. Moreover, children are able to relate more with their fellow children and learn more comfortably.

“The Junior Health Workers’ presence in various areas lead to greater availability of first aid and primary care services, as well as better compliance to treatment protocols, especially among the sick, abandoned, and neglected street children,” said Dr. Carpio.

Being a junior health worker is not as easy as anyone may think. The street children go through rigorous screening process, training, and workshops. The sessions during trainings include pointers on leadership, effective communication, first-aid, and disaster preparedness. JHWs also attend various activities of Childhope to provide first aid and to assist the staff in organizing their fellow street children.



HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT, LIFESTYLE FOR STREET CHILDREN

More than their tasks, the Junior Health Workers take their mission to heart. For the young advocates, being able to help treat the wounds of their fellow street children, and teach them the basics of proper hygiene and health care goes a long way in empowering and protecting them.

“I get happy and humbled at the same time when the street children thank me whenever I am able to treat their wounds, or give them health tips. I feel like a little doctor,” Mary, one of Childhope’s junior health workers, said.

Mary has been a Childhope Junior Health Worker since 2009. The 17 year old continues to pursue her dreams. She is passionate about advocating for child rights and well-being, and hopes to continue taking care of street children the best way she can.



Medical students help protect street kids through environmental health

The Mobile Health Clinic aims to keep street children healthy by educating them and instilling in them the values of proper hygiene and basic health care.

It is a difficult task, since street children have been used to growing up in dirty and hazardous environments. They do not prioritize taking care of their health, as they are more concerned with the struggle to survive daily.

Still, efforts are underway to empower street children and urge them to better take care of their health and maintain a healthy lifestyle. A group of medical students from the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health (ASMPH) are supporting Childhope in endeavors to make health services more accessible to street children and their families.



The students are in the thick of finalizing and fine-tuning their module through trials and research. It will cover several topics including food safety, noise, air, and chemical pollutions, and the like. They want it to be very specialized and applicable to the street children's urban setting and lifestyle.

The challenge is translating and simplifying theories into concrete action. They want to ensure that street children understand the topics well so they can readily apply their learnings in their daily routine.

"We realize that there is a need to strengthen foundations in terms of educating street children on health. The Mobile Health Clinic opens opportunities for street children to better take care of themselves," said Jerson.

"It is humbling to be given the chance to know more about street children's plight. We hope the module will help them understand their bodies, diseases, and their environment so they can better protect themselves. We hope that in our small ways, we help address the gaps in health care for street children," he added.



MODULE ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The medical students from ASMPH are developing an Alternative Education Module on Environmental Health and will help train the Street Educators on how to implement it.

"Our advocacy is to promote health, and health does not simply mean the absence of diseases. We want to help Childhope by making a module that is sustainable, that the street children can apply well in their daily lives," said medical student Jethri.



MORE THAN JUST A MEDICAL MISSION

The medical students' engagement with Childhope is under their Learning Experiences in Communities (LEC) — a part of their medical education curriculum. They are grateful for the opportunity to go beyond the four walls of a classroom. They are able to see underprivileged communities for what they really are, and are more inspired to make changes and help in every way they can.

“We are happy to be able to do more than just medical missions. We hope to make the module simple yet interactive and deep. We hope that through the module, street children will be empowered and be more proactive in taking good care of their health and their environments,” Rainier said.

The medical students are now working on completing materials, graphic representations, simplifying terms, and activity sheets. They plan to implement the module and train the Street Educators starting February 2018.



Volunteers, street kids enjoy health care fair day

Health is wealth --- and what better way to practice cleanliness than to learn it in a fun, creative, and collaborative way!

More than 100 street children of Childhope Philippines participated in a Health Care Fair Day --- made possible through a partnership with the Trade Coin Club (TCC).

Childhope Philippines and Trade Coin Club welcomed a new partnership with a special treat for the street kids. Volunteers, street educators, social workers, and junior health workers were on site to guide the kids in practicing a healthy and clean lifestyle by following simple steps.

Dr. Josefina Pamela Carpio, Childhope's Physician and Head of the Mobile Health Clinic project, says education is a powerful tool that will help street children stay clean and healthy. Carpio emphasizes that if the street children are equipped with the right knowledge and tools to live clean and healthy, they will be more empowered and motivated to improve their lives.

Junior health workers, Childhope staff, and volunteers manned booths to guide the street children in properly taking care of their bodies. Street children learned step-by-step the basics and importance of washing their hands, cutting their nails, brushing their teeth, and cleaning their hair, face, and body.

The street children were also warned against the negative consequences of smoking and having intestinal worms.

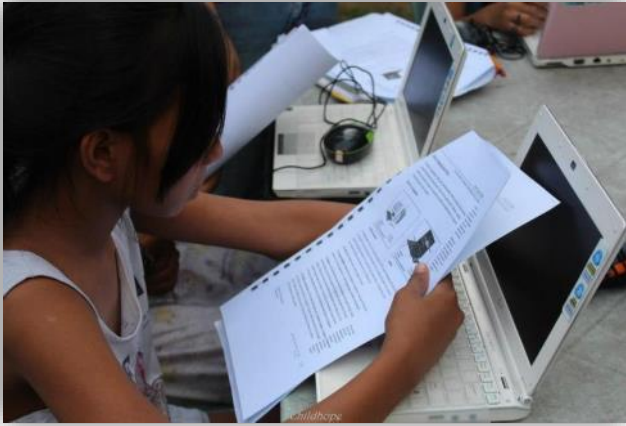
Dr. Carpio emphasizes that more often than not, the basics of proper health and hygiene are neglected by street children and their families. This is because of the nature of the environment that the street children grew up in. That is why it is important that street children are given the proper guidance.



Through the Mobile Health Clinic project, and through the support of donors, Childhope is able to help nurture and develop healthy habits among street children.

From street child to tech savvy

Nieco still has more to learn, but he has gone a long way. He used to be a street child who would go to PISO-NETs (computer shops where people can use a computer for a peso) around Pier 15 South Harbor Manila just so he can use a computer.



Ricky Nieco is getting used to formatting laptops. The 21-year old already knows his way with operating systems, software, and key combinations. He has been one of Childhope's go-to persons whenever its laptops needed fixing.

Nieco is on his 3rd year pursuing a degree in Information Technology (I.T.). He continues to be fascinated with how computers work and the different data and software. He is very determined to explore how he can use technology to his advantage.

Nieco still has more to learn, but he has gone a long way. He used to be a street child who would go to PISO-NETs (computer shops where people can use a computer for a peso) around Pier 15 South Harbor Manila just so he can use a computer.

"Tumitingin tingin ako dati sa mga piso nets kung paano nila ginagamit yung computer, yung mouse. May mga nakikita akong gumagawa ng resume at nag-Youtube. Doon ako natuto (I just wandered around piso nets to look at how people were using the computers and the mouse. I saw people doing resumes or watching Youtube videos. That's how I learned to use the web and the computer)," Nieco said.

The curious young Nieco had no idea then that he will soon be working on computers and the internet for his career goals.

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING OPENS OPPORTUNITIES

Nieco grew up as a street child in Pier 15 South Harbor Manila. He and his grandmother, father, uncle, and cousins got by even without a permanent place they could call home. His father tried his best to provide for the family with the little he earned as a cigarette vendor. Nieco never knew his mother since his parents have been separated since his birth.

"Nakatulong din po ako sa mga bayarin sa bahay kahit papaano nung nirefer po ako ng Lola ko sa kakilala niya at nagtrabaho ako bilang baby sitter. Nagaaral po ako nang 3rd year high school pero kinailangan ko pong tumigil dahil nagkasa-kit po si Lola at hindi kakayanin ng budget ("I was able to help pay some of our expenses when I worked as a baby sitter after my grandmother referred me to someone she knew. I was already in 3rd year high school but I had to stop attending school because my grandmother got sick and we had to pay for her medicines)," Nieco said.



Nieco was invited by one of his cousins to join and attend Childhope's mobile education van sessions in Ermita, Manila. Nieco was hesitant at first, but was convinced when he found out that there was a feeding program and they will be given groceries. He was happy for he had something to bring home to his family.

Since then, Nieco was drawn to Childhope's alternative education sessions. He learned from Childhope's street educators the importance of his rights and responsibilities as youth, the basics of proper hygiene, and important values like friendship, team work, determination, and patience. The street educators saw Nieco's potential, and guided him in becoming a child leader and an active participant in the sessions. Soon, he was part of the batch of Childhope beneficiaries attending the alternative learning system classes.

"Ang damping modules na tinuturo sa ALS, minsan parang mas marami pa sa school. Na-expose kami sa maraming topics tungkol sa pagkatao (There were a lot of modules in the ALS sessions, sometimes more than what they have in formal schools. We were exposed to different topics on holistic development)," Nieco said.

"Pero gusto ko talagang makatapos ng pagaaral. Hindi pwedeng pakalat kalat lang, kailangan ko ayusin ang buhay ko (I really wanted to finish my studies. I realized that I could not just go on wandering around, I had to change and fix my life for the better)," said Nieco.

Nieco finished all the ALS sessions. But when it was time for him to take the exams to know if he can move forward to college, he had a lot of doubts and fears. He was not planning on taking the exam, but his cousin was bent on persuading him and gave him PHP 100.00 just so he can go to the testing center.

Out of the 10 street children participants of Childhope who took the ALS examination, only Nieco was able to pass the level for high school. He was qualified to go to college.

TECHNOLOGY AND DREAMS

"Halo halo yung naramdaman ko. Masaya at hindi makapaniwala na nakapasa. Pero kinabahan ako kasi ano na ang susunod na mangyayari, wala naman kaming pera na pang-college ko (I had mixed emotions. I was happy and I could not believe that I passed the exam. But at the same time, I got scared. I wondered what will happen next. I knew we did not have enough money for me to go to college)," Nieco said.

Through his hard work and the help of generous sponsors, Nieco became a beneficiary of Childhope's Educational Assistance Program. He continues to maintain good grades in Access Computer and Technical College while being an active child leader, giving back in his small ways by assisting in teaching fellow street children like him. Nieco describes his schedule as 'hectic,' as he and his batch mates are already working on their thesis. If not for the Dell laptops he has been using, Nieco says he could not imagine how he would be able to finish all his requirements for school.

"Ang Childhope, sa partnership nila sa Dell, ay nagpapahiram sa aming mga EAP beneficiaries ng laptops na maaari naming gamitin sa school. Ang laki ng tulong niya kasi lahat ng files, programs na ginagamit ko ay nandoon. Minsan nagtataka yung mga kagrupa ko, saan ko daw nakuha yung laptop (Childhope, through its partnership with Dell, lends EAP beneficiaries the laptops they can use for school. It helps us a lot because all the files and programs I need are there. Sometimes, my classmates wonder how I was able to get a laptop)," Nieco said.

Nieco's top priority now is to finish his studies, and hone his skills in programming and information technology. He also plans to gain skills and knowledge in all types of designing — from web design to fashion and interior design. Nieco believes that in the long run, his education will enable him to provide a better life for his family.

Dell and Childhope: Bridging the technology gap among street children

Street children on a computer or laptop. Well, that's something you don't see everyday. They are left behind in this age of technology due to lack of access to the latest gadgets.

But Dell and Childhope Asia Philippines are working to bridge the technology gap, by allowing the street children to experience what it's like to go digital. Since 2010, more than 400 underprivileged children and out of school youth have gained access to training and basic computer literacy — through the street education program.

BRINGING THE TECHNOLOGY TO STREET CHILDREN

Childhope and Dell believe in education without borders, and reach out by serving the children where they are — on the streets.

“Giving street children access to learning opportunities and knowledge will help them defend their rights and protect themselves from the harsh realities of life on the street,” said Dr. Herbert Carpio, Childhope's Executive Director.

“By allowing them to use technology, street children are able to discover new possibilities and have a new outlook. They realize that there's more to life on the streets, and start to unleash their true potential,” Dr Carpio added.

Browsing the internet, making documents and presentations, and even basic photo-editing tasks: these are some of the things street children get to do in Childhope's computer lab. They use Dell desktops during sessions on basic and advance computer literacy so they can familiarize themselves with different programs and harness their new found skills through practice.

The street children are also taught about internet safety, especially how to protect themselves when accessing social media sites, or when doing internet research.

They also learn from a program called The Amazing Edu — which allows them to use logic and critical thinking in analyzing the questions in the exercises. The sessions hones their abilities to discern the task at hand during problem-solving exercises, and then apply sound reasoning and judgment in solving these problems.

NOT JUST YOUR ORDINARY VAN

Street children also get access to the laptops through Childhope's mobile education vans. These vans look plain on the outside. But on the inside, it is equipped with tools and education software to tickle the imagination of the street children, while also allowing them to hone skills they need in life.



“We want street children to actively participate in the learning process. Videos and documentaries aid street educators in telling the stories better, and allow the children to appreciate the lessons more,” Carpio said.

Besides the A, B, Cs and the 1, 2, 3s children are also taught the values they need so they can grow up to become caring, confident, responsible, and resilient men and women. The street educators empower the street children by teaching them about their rights and responsibilities, ways to protect themselves from different kinds of abuse, and ways to plan and act on life goals.

UPGRADING PROGRAMS

Through technology from Dell, street educators are able to effectively monitor the progress of the street children. A database program helps them keep track of records, progress notes, and sessions --- to better evaluate the services.

The data generated by the database helps stakeholders in critical decision-making so they can make adjustments to the program to serve the children better.



10th Hope Sports Festival for street children

Nearly 300 street children participated in basketball, volleyball, futkal (football on the streets), and badminton.

The 10th Annual Hope Sports Festival was held from April 25 – 29, 2017 at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Pasay City.

The Hope Sports Festival has been one of Childhope's biggest events throughout the years. In partnership with High Five Hope, Childhope holds the sports competition among its street children beneficiaries to develop their sports skills and talents and to teach them important values in pursuing their goals and passions.

Nearly 300 street children participated in basketball, volleyball, futkal (football on the streets), and badminton.

The street children were ecstatic during the opening ceremony. Highlights of the event include the inspirational talks given by Childhope's Educational Assistance Program (EAP) beneficiaries who recently graduated from college. They are: Khay Ann Igle (BS Tourism graduate; former volleyball player), Arlene Pagamocan (BS Human Resource and Operations Management graduate; former volleyball player), and Andrew Sumaway (BS Criminology graduate, former sports fest volunteer).

They shared their own experiences of working hard to pursue their aspirations, and motivated the street children participants of the sports fest to never give up on their dreams.

Samuel "Chips" Guevara, head of Childhope's Board of Directors, opened the ceremony by telling the street children to never forget the value of sportsmanship and to play and have fun while looking out for their team members.

The U.S. Embassy Club showed its support for the Sports Fest by gracing the event to turn over donations of sports equipment.

For five straight days, the street children gave their best in the games. Some were out to defend their titles, while most were determined to win the championships. The 16 street educators and social workers served as coaches -- guiding the street children while reminding them of the importance of their endeavors.

Throughout the friendly competition, the street children were given opportunities to hone their skills. Often, the games were intense because the scores were close. The street educators and social workers pushed the children to their limits, but also emphasized how they need to take turns, work in a team, and be patient in reaching their goals. For teams that did not win, street educators instilled in children that there are also values in losing, and that there is always hope to try again next time.

The Sports Fest also helped to keep children away from different vices like substance abuse and illegal activities, among others.

During the closing ceremonies, Dr. Herbert Q. Carpio, Executive Director, told the street children that the Sports Fest will be held every year so more street children will be given opportunities to celebrate friendship and fun while harnessing skills.

CHILDHOPE

In Photos: MusiKalye 2017—Musikang handog ng mga kabataan



Kapuso and Kapamilya stars reach out to street children through Childhope Philippines

Ms. Lovi Poe



"I believe that children should be off the street. They should be holding a pen and paper learning how to write and read. Everyone has room for a brighter future," - Ms. Lovi Poe, gmanetwork.com

Ken Chan



Addy Raj



Justin Alva



Stakeholders strengthen partnership with Childhope to empower vulnerable children

Children's Hour



GenPact



US Air Force



Mrs. Tourism International



Citi Philippines (Global Citi Day)



9th Avenue School



Harvard University



Stakeholders strengthen partnership with Childhope to empower vulnerable children

TUKLAS Advocacy Fair



Philippine Olympians Association



Dell EMC



Stakeholders strengthen partnership with Childhope to empower vulnerable children

Atlassian Philippines



Rotary Club of Lahaina (Hawaii)



Telus Philippines



#igivehope brings Christmas cheers to Metro Manila street kids

More than painting t-shirts and gift-giving, the activity was made more meaningful because the volunteers and children exchanged stories that allowed them to learn from each other.

In 2017, Childhope launched its Christmas campaign called #igivehope. The program encourages partner corporations and organizations to allow their volunteers to interact with street children through t-shirt painting and gift giving activities.

“We noticed that many of our company donors schedule outreach activities with us during the holidays. We thought of trying something new to advance volunteerism this year. We offered them an early Christmas treat through specially designed activities to make it more engaging for the volunteers and the kids,” said Childhope Executive Director Herbert Carpio.

Initially, the simultaneous activity happened from December 8 and 9, in eight different areas where Childhope conducts its street education program. But many donors signed up and the activity was also conducted in December 15, 16, and 21. To date, 285 street children in the metro have joined 291 volunteers in T-shirt painting activities. The children also received holiday packages from the donors.

SHARING STORIES OF HOPE

More than painting t-shirts and gift-giving, the activity was made more meaningful because the volunteers and children exchanged stories that allowed them to learn from each other.

Most of the street children painted Christmas trees, stars, and presents to symbolize the Yuletide season.

The volunteers were eager to help them, and were humbled to find out that most of the children actually do not get to put up a Christmas tree, nor receive presents, during the holidays.

For his Christmas message, Randy Tivar, a volunteer from Microsoft Philippines shared to the street kids: “Kahit saglit na oras napasaya ninyo kami ang puso namin. Pero para sa amin, mas mahalaga at importante na makita namin na successful kayo.”

“Kami naabot namin yung pangarap namin. Naniniwala kami na maabot niyo rin ang pangarap ninyo,” Tivar added.

Dr. Carpio emphasized that spending time with volunteers boosts the street children’s morale, and gives them a more positive outlook on life. “Through these simple interactions, the street children are able to share their lives and get pieces of advice from people who want to understand their plight.”

Childhope’s first-ever #igivehope volunteer activity was made possible through the involvement of partner companies and organizations: Accenture Philippines, Adobo Magazine, Cheil Marketing Services, Inc., Deutsche Knowledge Services, GHD Transport, Inc, Hinduja Global Solutions, Integra Financials, Mauve Inc., Microsoft Philippines, MSCI, and NTT Data Services Philippines, Inc.

In Photos: #igivehope volunteer days



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