Share An Opportunity
PHILIPPINES

2019-2020
ANNUAL REPORT

ARISE!

ABOUT THE COVER

Stumps are sometimes able to regenerate into new trees. Something seemingly old or useless can actually arise and have a new purpose. Despite its age and threats of closing shop, SAO Philippines receives a new wind. ARISE! is a collection of stories and testimonies of regeneration in the midst of lost hope and apprehension not just in the lives of children and families we serve, but of the organization as well.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

04 Message from CEO

06 Message from the BOT Chairperson

07 Areas of Operation

08 Impact Numbers

10 Central & Northern Luzon

14 Southern Luzon & Mindoro

18 BCCR

20 CAPIN

22 Higlights & Milestones

24 Panay, Romblon & Guimaras

28 Negros Province

32 Mindanao

36 14-Day Challenge

38 2020 National Staff Conference

40 Board of Trustees

42 SAO PH Policies on Moving Forward

44 Staff Traffic

45 Financial Statement

Message from the CEO

“Don’t be afraid, just have faith.

This was Christ Jesus’ calm yet firm assurance to Jairus, the leader of the synagogue whose daughter just died in the story from Mark 5 of the Bible. It is the same marching order we received at the beginning of the fiscal year which gave us so much hope for a better year. We had a couple of humps and bumps with the leadership transition the previous year and many reasons to be fearful that we thought it is apt to be intentional about “arising”-- to embrace that mindset to rise above and overcome the challenges, confident that God will enable us as promised.

Right away, we received what to us was part of what it means ‘to arise’ – calls from organizations we don’t know of reaching out and interested to partner with us; project proposals that were short-listed; completion of staff complement and having forged a partnership with Consuelo Foundation. These gave us much encouragement.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic.

Though it certainly felt like a setback, we soon saw how God enabled us to ‘arise’ in this global pandemic. The staff quickly adjusted to the new work arrangement and adapted new ways of keeping in touch and engaging our community partners. Coaching and mentoring key community partner-influencers both among adults and the youth, is now the primary strategy. This fast-tracks what we already identified in the exit strategy and phase over plan. The story on the 14-Day Challenge gives you an example of a program adaptation to keep families engaged, positive, and safe. Families had fun using theskills they gained and even discovered new capacities as they hurdle each challenge. It became a time to bond--creating memories that would strengthen relationships within the family.

With the Makabata Program at its last phase, to hear then timid adult community partners rising to respond to the needs of their communities is heartwarming. With increased capacities and confidence, they heeded the call of the local government units to help out in food distribution and in implementing government health protocols and border control during the community lockdown. Their stories of solidarity and volunteerism is included in this report.

The youth also have demonstrated active roles in their respective communities. They are taking the lead in pursuing their own development agenda and collaborating with other existing community structures not only among the youth but also with the adults. But what stood out during the pandemic is their sense of responsibility in supporting their parents to put food on the table and help siblings use time productively. This demonstrated resilience, a desired impact of our program.

Through the confusion and chaos, God in various ways enabled us to ‘arise’ and have ideas and concepts of new ways, new projects, and new collaborations. The COVID 19 pandemic not only gave us and our community partners the opportunity to ‘arise’, it also challenged our images of what it means for SAO PH to ‘arise’. To arise is not going back to what we used to do rather, it is giving birth to a new thing. And God is defining that for us. He is calling us to trust him with what to ‘arise’ would mean. To this God asks us to have faith.

And as the Lord continues to define for us ‘arise’, he has commanded us to be ‘agile’ moving forward. Not to be afraid but to have faith in Him.

Message from the Board of Trustees

Chairperson IVANNA DELA PEÑA

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

ISAIAH 60:1-2

Many may consider the Covid-19 pandemic as a blanket of darkness that has covered our communities, our country, the world. It has cast dark shadows over big and small nations, with the number of infections worldwide reaching beyond 28 million and the number of deaths inching towards 1 million. Almost all countries are experiencing economic difficulties because of the pandemic and our lives have significantly changed to a 'new normal'. The Philippines had the longest lockdown but still infections continue to rise, including among our family, friends and churchmates.

Yes, it seems that darkness has enveloped the land but as people of the Living God, we can count on Him to show His glory in the midst of this darkness. His is an everlasting light and darkness cannot extinguish it; in fact, the brightness of His glory is more evident in the midst of the darkness that we are experiencing.

In SAO Philippines, the pandemic has prevented us from undertaking our usual activities: travel restrictions prevent us from going to the field, providing no option but to go online to minister to our partners; working from home has been the norm; and with the reduced budget, we had to streamline our operations and reduce costs.

While these adjustments may be considered as lingering shadows of darkness that we have to contend with, God's assurance for us His people is that "the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you."

Our task is to "arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you."

We do so by recognizing that:

1. The work of the Lord is not restricted by human constraints and boundaries. The Spirit's work is not fettered. In fact, it has continued and is flourishing during this period. Yes, there are travel restrictions but where feasible, we have shifted our ministry online. It was also an opportunity for our partners to shine forth by providing leadership in their respective communities.

2. The Lord is accomplishing His will and purpose through these developments. We did not anticipate that the virus would drastically change our lives. We all were taken by surprise – but our God never is. He is the Lord of history! In the midst of the uncertainties and the adjustments in our operations that we have to undertake, let us hold firm to what is certain: our God is sovereign and He is in control!

3. His people will overcome and emerge victorious. Yes, at times we feel discouraged, we have our questions. But God's word assures us that we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us! We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who are called according to His purpose. We have the assurance that nothing and no one can separate us from His love expressed in its fullest -- in Jesus' death on the cross.

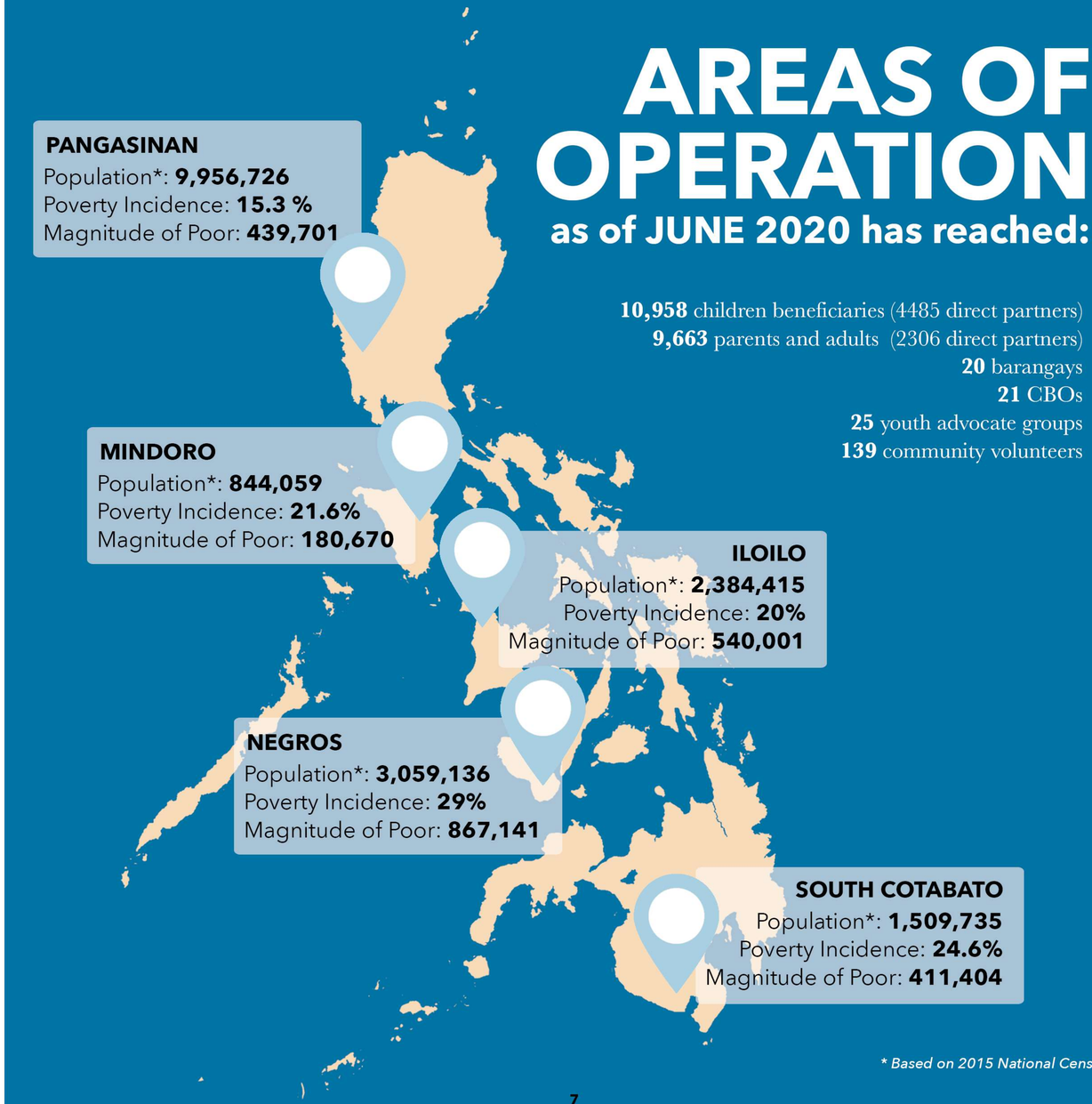
Yes, we have been locked down by the quarantines imposed by the government; knocked down by budget constraints; but we are not knocked-out because God is with us and He is fighting the battle for us. As children of the light, let us not stay under the shadows of uncertainty and doubt. Let us arise and allow the radiance of the Lord to reflect through us, illuminating our families and our communities with His glory as we claim the victory that is in Him.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

AREAS OF OPERATION

as of JUNE 2020 has reached:

10,958 children beneficiaries (4485 direct partners)
9,663 parents and adults (2306 direct partners)
20 barangays
21 CBOs
25 youth advocate groups
139 community volunteers



** Based on 2015 National Census*

2020 IMPACT NUMBERS

Fiscal year 2019-2020 began with promising figures. Along with the entire humanitarian world, Share An Opportunity (SAO) Philippines faced enormous challenges in program implementation due to COVID towards the fourth quarter. We only have to thank our faithful partners in the communities. These numbers would have not been possible if not for them. For such success, we owe the **2019 children partners**, their parents who actively participate and the 2306 parent and adult partners along with the **21 community based organizations (CBOs)** SAO is engaged with. We are equally thankful to the **25 youth advocate groups** organized, the **139 community volunteers** mobilized and the **20 barangays** strengthened where we operate all over the country. It is them we celebrate as we inch forward towards our vision of children enjoying their rights, being protected, and being confident in their God-defined identity while participating in kingdom and nation-building.

Children are HEALTHY

1924 Children practice good hygiene habits

625 Families eat nutritious food

Children are SAFE

959 Families that manage their vulnerabilities

250 Adults participating in mangrove rehabilitation program

18 Hectares of mangrove restored

6000 Mangrove trees planted

95 Percent survival of mangrove trees planted

Children are DRIVERS OF CHANGE

5 Functional AKTIB

10 AKTIB members represent the children in barangay-based institutions

Children are SUPPORTED BY ADULTS

11 CBOs championing children's welfare

22 Group enterprise established where member-families have increased income to provide for children's need

Children are EDUCATED and are RESPONSIBLE

260 Families make it a priority for children's potential to be actualized

514 Parents increased their understanding of children's rights, capacity, and potential conducted

206 Children are part of interest groups based on a talent or newly acquired skill.

CENTRAL & NORTHERN LUZON

Asingan is a second class municipality, partially urban town in the 6th congressional district of the province of Pangasinan with a population of 56,353 people in 10,499 households. It is politically subdivided into 21 barangays, including San Vicente West, Sobol, and Macalong which serve as MAKABATA target areas. Main economic activities are farming and livestock raising, with rice, corn, and vegetables as main crops.

SAO ALUMNI HOMECOMING

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! - Psalm 133:1

SAO Philippines in the Central and Northern Luzon (CNL) area held the first alumni homecoming on November 12-13, 2019 in Alaminos, Pangasinan dubbed as "Celebrating Nurtured Children, Parents, Leaders, and Partners Serving Their Communities." The two-day thanksgiving event with sponsored children, graduates of the MAKABATA program, current program partners and stakeholders, and former staff culminated in sharing of testimonies.

Used to be known as Support An Orphan back in the 80's, the organization started as a child sponsorship program from partners in Australia coursed through several churches in Metro Manila and some parts of the country. Some of them were interviewed by the staff. Among those interviewed were the Protected Areas Management Board (PAMB) Director and Pastor Ronald Astronomia, Brgy. Kagawad Virgie Bielza, Brgy. Kgwd. Lanie Viray, three (3) teachers Robie Ann Ginez, Charlie Rabago, and Richard Bryan Buenaflor. The staff also recorded testimonials from Association of Barangay Captains (ABC) President and City Councilor Raul Bacay, Alaminos City Homeowners Association President and Pastor Daniel Alcantara, and Tourism Consultant Apple Joy Bacay.

Each child is a gift of new possibility, of hope, of a bright future. Who would have known that some of these children will grow into some of the most beautiful people with a heart to serve others. Despite the change in name, SAO Philippines has put the child in the center of community development for more than thirty (30) years now. From child sponsorships to developed communities fit for children – the organization continues to champion the Filipino child. We remember each one and celebrate their successes. They, who did not stop dreaming, they, who held on to hope, they, who now share their blessings so others may also be blessed.

We are so proud of you #SAOPHAlumni!

MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY:

Tiffany Jane L. Oriente

Fourth grader Tiffany Jane Oriente goes to San Vicente West Integrated School. A girl scout, Tiffany actively participates in the Samahang Bata (SB) program of SAO Philippines. She participates in school dance presentations and she also attends Sunday school in a Christian Bible Church near her home.

Marcelo, Tiffany's father, works as a carpenter, a fisherman, and a farmer. Thelma, his wife, does laundry to help provide for the schooling needs of the Oriente children. "We're so glad that we are part of the MAKABATA Program. As husband and wife, we learned how to handle basic relationship conflicts when we attended the couple's activity for members of the SB Parent Groups. Our children also learn a lot of new skills and proper values because of the program," Thelma shared.

Tiffany used to be very shy and timid. Regularly attending SB training, she now has gained the trust of other children. She also learned how to protect herself during earthquakes and being responsible at home by doing basic household chores. Although both her parents have no permanent work, they work very hard and make it a point to provide for the needs of their family. The Orientes dream that their children complete schooling and have a good future.

RESOURCEFULNESS DURING THE PANDEMIC

SAO PH Families in Pangasinan creatively copes with livelihood challenges during pandemic

CBO leader Myrna Paredes and her family are thankful that despite the community lockdown in San Vicente West, Asingan they have secured food sources for daily consumption. Her husband, Romeo, collects 'benek'– a local snail found in streams or areas around water irrigation. The family saves some money to buy rice by helping their neighbors with their laundry. The small backyard garden they have grown, thanks to SAO Philippines' training and encouragement, has been a constant source of vegetables and fruits – daily sustenance for the entire family.

SB Parent Group leader, Thelma Oriente, on the other hand, gathers 'saluyot' and 'kakalunay' – both local leafy vegetables she, along with other parents, have grown in the community garden. They sometimes catch small fishes from the nearby water irrigation area.

Another SB Parent Group leader, Marichu Secretario, resells food products from a local bakery brand. Both unable to return to their work, she and her husband were quick to find another source of income. Her husband Arthuro delivers orders for bread and other food products around their community.

NATIONAL ABSNET PRESIDENT & SAO CNL AREA MANAGER AWARDED

Here's cheering one of our own. Congratulations Pastor Junel Chavez for being recognized by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office 1 for your service as the Cluster Chair of Area-Based Standards Network (ABSNET) Pangasinan - Asingan Cluster for two (2) consecutive terms! The award was given on February 2, 2020 during the 69th DSWD Anniversary Celebration in San Fernando, La Union. Pastor Junel also concurrently serves as the National ABSNET President. *Mabuhay po kayo!*

SOUTHERN LUZON & MINDORO

Roxas is a second class partially urban municipality in the Oriental Mindoro. The 2010 census pegs the population at 49,854 people making it the smallest municipality in Oriental Mindoro. Located 180 kilometers from Calapan, it is the center of socio-cultural activities in the southern part of Oriental Mindoro. The town is agricultural in nature with rice, banana and coconut as primary agricultural crops.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY:

Edmalyn T. Saron

Ninth grade Edmalyn Saron dreams of a more functional Barangay Council on the Protection of Children (BCPC) for her community in San Mariano, Roxas, Oriental Mindoro. She wishes that there are enough sources of livelihood for every family in her barangay and that they become truly able to protect themselves from disasters. Nobody would imagine this outspoken teenager was once painfully shy. Attending Gelecio I. Yason Foundation Family Farm School, Edmalyn is not only a scholar and an honor student, she's also an AKTIB facilitator and an SB leader.

Her father Edward is a labor-worker, while her mother Marife takes care of her and her three other siblings. "As an older sister I usually help with household chores. My parents and my sisters actively participate in most MAKABATA activities," narrates Edmalyn. Her younger sister Margie teaches younger children every Saturday, while her other younger sisters attend. They are always attending SB meetings and other activities of the program.

People usually take it for granted, but opportunities are hard to come by in rural areas. To be provided an avenue to discover one's potential, such as becoming program partners can be life changing. "I feel grateful to be a part of the MAKABATA program because it helps me hone my talent, learn new skills, and be confident around people. As a child facilitator, I improved my communication skills, learned how to plan and organize children activities," expressed Edmalyn with renewed passion to do better.

Her parents are proud of their first-born. They hope she can fulfill her aspiration of becoming a teacher, along with her hope for other young people to participate in community activities. That way, everyone can have a more comfortable life, and a safe and peaceful community.

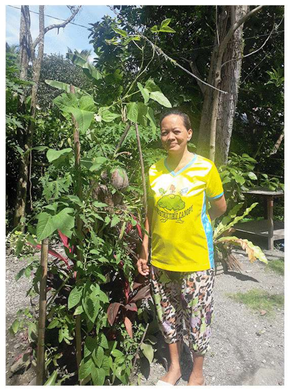
MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY:

Bebilita Martinez Anfone

Mother of five (5) Bebllita Martinez Anfone first became interested in the CBO activities of SAO Philippines because of the livelihood training and seminars we provide the community. Ate Baby as her neighbors call her, makes sure that she provides her family nutritious food – something she learned from attending the meetings.

With children still in school, she needs an additional source of income to help her husband Sofonias, who works as a public school teacher. It is just providential that managing the soya production of the San Mariano Share Group Association (SMSGA), she receives an honorarium. "I'm a simple housewife taking care of my husband and children. I am quite shy around people, and because I have many chores, I hesitated to join community activities," began Ate Baby. "I really like gardening because it augments our budget for our food expenses. It helps a lot to know that we can grow food for the family in our backyard. We can save money at the same time," she concluded.

The Anfones are thankful to SAO Philippines for giving them the opportunity to be involved in the MAKABATA program. The family hopes that they can grow more as a family and be able to help their community generate income for other families. Not only that, they know that children need to be included in the planning. Genuine and lasting development can only come when children are protected and are allowed to participate in the process.



GI SHEETS DISTRIBUTION

Typhoon Ursula Response

Typhoon Ursula battered the southern part of Oriental Mindoro hitting the town of Bulalacao with strong winds and heavy rains on Christmas Day. Around 90% of houses were destroyed affecting 40,000 residents in the municipality of Bulalacao. Three people were recorded dead. The municipal council declared Bulalacao under state of calamity. Government and private entities almost immediately distributed food relief to affected families and community members.

SAO Philippines in Southern Luzon and Mindoro (SLM) conducted inquiry sessions with the Mangyan leaders and their members on how best to bounce back from this natural calamity. Mangyans from Barangay Cambunang, Barangay Balatasan and Barangay Nasucob voiced their concern regarding rebuilding their sources of livelihood right away. They also needed support in sourcing housing materials since the cogon grass, anahaw, and nipa leaves they can use to cover the roof of their houses are scarce. They still have their bamboos and a few good lumber with them, but they would appreciate receiving something more sturdy for roofing protection.

Apparently, they were marginalized in the earlier distribution of housing materials by the government since they were not able to complete basic requirements such as: inclusion in the list submitted by the barangay council, identification card, residence certificate or cedula, barangay clearance and a picture of the damaged house. Most of these requirements are difficult to comply with especially for indigeneous peoples since traveling alone to and from government offices takes long hours on foot, much less having cameras or phone cameras to take pictures of their damaged homes.

Partly because of these stories of marginalization and that we have 33 former Mangyan partners in two barangays, the team in Mindoro decided to cater only to these minority groups. On February 25, SAO Philippines SLM team distributed 1176 pieces of GI sheets and 504 kilograms of nails to 168 Mangyan families from sitios Cambunang, Sta Maria, Quipanglao, Pawikan, Banti, Balatasan, Sinayaran and San Roque. They also attended disaster preparedness and disaster management seminars and were given "Kaya Kong Bumangon" booklets and "Mga Dapat Gawin Pag May Bagyo" brochures. Community members were happy and thankful. "*Mas maganda po ang ginawa ng SAO sapagkat kami ay nabigyan hindi lamang yero at meron pang pako. Higit sa lahat, kami ay nagkaroon ng bagong kaalaman tungkol sa paghahanda sa mga kalamidad gaya ng bagyo,*" shared Elisa Pagang of Sitio Camonang.

SLM Area Manager Oscar Alcachupas shares, "The municipal link (ML) officer together with the Mangyan leader assisted us in identifying the beneficiaries. We did not demand for an identification card anymore because the majority of them had none. We prepared a signature sheet where the beneficiary could sign indicating that he attended the session, receive seven pieces of corrugated GI sheets, three kilograms of nails, a laminated DRR preparedness reminder and a booklet on resilience. We also prepared a stamp pad for Mangyan beneficiaries who cannot write because the ML officer told us that not all Mangyans are able to write but we allowed some of them to write their signature in their own Hanunuo writings. They were thankful, and said that they received much and really appreciated the DRR session."

In Sitio Quipanglao in Barangay San Juan, the people were a bit emotional because they thought they had been forgotten and no assistance was coming to their place. The community is still cut off from most people because the bridge was washed by flash flood during typhoon Ursula. Seeing their faces makes traveling for an entire day all worthwhile. After all, hope is a gift that gives back. It is us who are indeed blessed!

BUILDING COASTAL COMMUNITY RESILIENCY (BCCR) PROGRAM

BEST PRACTICES in DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
towards RESILIENCE of the BCCR Partner-Communities

Typhoon Tisoy made landfall on December 3, 2019 and Typhoon Ursula 22 days later on Christmas day devastating the wider portion of the 4th and 5th districts of Iloilo province. Mainly from coastal communities, our partners were thankful to skills learned during their evacuation management simulation exercises (SIMEX). The Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction Committee, chaired by the barangay captain activated their preparedness plan and alerted the community using an early warning system (signs identification, information dissemination, and communication).

Focal persons in nearby villages responded with hand-held radios to report the status of the typhoon as it progressed. Adult-volunteers trained in emergency response and providing basic life support gathered and prepared their rescue equipment and medical kits. 'Batang Listo' or children and youth trained in early warning system assisted parents to prepare for evacuation.

Community folks enhanced their sense of accountability as duty-bearers as they pooled community resources. The barangay hall became the venue for emergency meetings and planning. Ambulance, patrol cars, and fire trucks for rescue, school facilities and buildings for evacuation were made ready for use. Local government officers facilitated evacuation and other emergency protocols. Active government personnel included the mayors, rural health officers, firefighters, MSWD officers and the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Officer (MDRRO).

Regular DRR preparedness activities became the community's best practice. Conduct of said exercises developed our community partners' capability to respond immediately to crises brought by natural disasters. Our partners in Iloilo proved that community resilience is achievable with collective intentionality and working towards a common goal of overcoming climate change crises.

listo.
adjective

- an alternate spelling of the word **alisto**
- this word means **alert; quick; nimble**

batang listo.
noun

- translates to **alert child**
- what SAO calls chilren or youth trained in **early warning system**

CHILD-LED DRR ACTIVITIES ROLLED OUT IN 13 BANATE SCHOOLS

Batang LISTO members conducted DRR advocacy activities in 13 schools in the municipality of Banate. Around 39 trained child facilitators led the training of other school children. Batang LISTO manuals for child-led DRR advocacy were distributed. Each school fielded at least three child facilitators who were tasked to roll-out child-led DRR activities.

Banate Mayor Carlos O. Cabangal, Jr. highlighted how child-led DRR advocacies strengthen the functions of the Municipal Council for the Protection of Children (MCPC) during his 2019 State of the Children's Address on November 29, 2019. He reported that children and youths participated in a series of dialogue regarding the role of children in DRR preparations, which were included in the 2020 council action plans. The municipal government also endorsed a resolution mainstreaming children's welfare in DRR through the social accountability approach (score cards) to be included in the municipal Children's Code. The practice of child-led DRR gained recognition not only by the municipality but also by the Department of Education District of Banate. The latter showed interest in training other pupils of 10 other schools in their district.

ZUMMER

"I dream that more children like me become informed and empowered on how to be safe in time of disaster. I also want to become a child advocate by sharing how to be prepared and be safe in time of disaster with other children."

WADE

"I dream to finish my studies and become a seaman so I can help my family to have a better living. And also, to help other children participate in making our community a better place to live in."

ALEJAH

"I dream that the mangrove forest will be restored in our community in order for my father and other people in my community will have more fish to catch. Also for the mangrove forest to become a tourist destination."

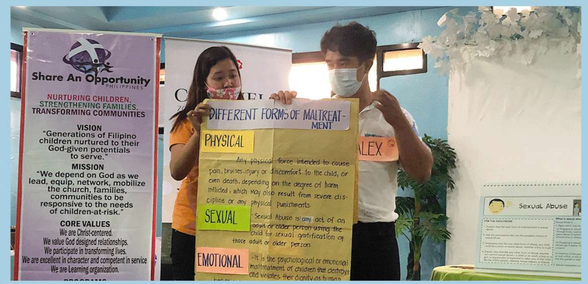
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION NETWORK (CAPIN) PROGRAM

CELEBRATING NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Consuelo Foundation (CF) promotes the well-being of at-risk children and families to prevent their abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Because SAO Philippines shares this mission, we collaborated with CF in implementing strategies and providing services that aid in protecting children and women, empowering families, and transforming communities. We began implementing the Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Network (CAPIN) program, a community-based initiative that adopts child-sensitive practices in preventing and managing child abuse cases. CAPIN aims to bring together all stakeholders in child protection and encourage them to work as a team.

Our team based in Iloilo distributed 3240 Kontra COVID protection kits (hygiene kits with child protection info cards) to the municipalities of Concepcion, Lemery, and San Dionisio in Iloilo province in July. In addition, 48 Barangay Child Protection Committee (BCPC) members attended advocacy sessions on child abuse, neglect and exploitation or CANE. Around 342 partners were engaged in child protection advocacy in nine (9) barangays. The numbers are quite impressive having exceeded the initial targets. Community Development Worker for CAPIN Rogina Chua shares, “It is rewarding to know you made a difference by helping organize the network. What an experience to witness how the hearts of our partners in the LGUs and the families in the barangays grew with concern towards children.” Although on its third year of implementation in the communities, this is the first time SAO PH has directly involved itself in CAPIN. We look forward to doing more despite the setbacks brought by the global pandemic.

The CAPIN program promotes best practices for a child-friendly system in the management of child protection issues. Case conferences, intra and inter-CAPIN meetings involving the BCPC will be conducted. Community CAPIN members and other stakeholders go through CANE training for the youth and Community-based Trauma Informed Care Training. After gaining traction, we hope partners take active part in enhancing policies and crafting new one that support child protection.



HIGHLIGHTS AND MILESTONES

We were really crushed and overwhelmed, and feared we would never live through it. We felt we were doomed to die and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God, who alone could save us, for he can even raise the dead. And he did help us and saved us from a terrible death; yes, and we expect him to do it again and again.

2 CORINTHIANS 8-10

PANAY, ROMBLON & GUIMARAS

The municipality of Concepcion is a third class coastal municipality in the province of Iloilo. In 2010, the population reached 39,617 with most people residing along the coastline. Fishing, farming and mat-weaving are the main source of income. Concepcion was one of the most ravaged towns in Iloilo, where Typhoon Yolanda (International name: Haiyan) made its fifth landfall. Subdivided into 25 barangays, four (4) of which are MAKABATA target areas.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY:

Liezel Marie Deysolong

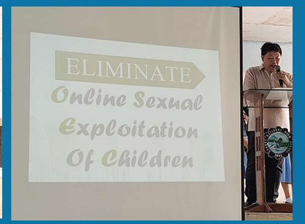
Quite the cheerful and perky student, Liezel Marie Deysolong enjoys participating in different clubs in her school, including the Girl Scouts. Seventh grader Liezel is a class officer and was chosen as muse to represent the school in the recent town fiesta. Her family is simple yet happy. Her oldest sister is a teacher, while her other siblings also work to help with family expenses. Her father Leo is a fisherman, while her mother Marlyn is a fulltime housewife. The family raises swine as their primary source of livelihood.

Her parents are supportive of her taking an active part as a child partner of the MAKABATA program. Liezel used to keep to herself and rarely joins other children for play. The family noticed the huge difference in Liezel after her joining MAKABATA activities. She became more confident and excelled in her academics. Her grades improved so much that she received recognition as an honor student.

Becoming more aware of her rights as a child, especially her right to protection, Liezel hopes there will be less cases of bullying among students like her. "The change that I want to see in my community is to stop bullying. There are children who suffer due to neglect. They are even afraid to participate in community activities because other children make fun of them. I just want my community to be more progressive and peaceful," Liezel said. Liezel is thankful to SAO Philippines. She hopes that the project will continue for other children to enjoy and learn from the program themselves.

EOSEC TRAINING ROLL-OUT IN BANATE HIGH SCHOOL

On December 5, 2019, youth advocates from Banate National High School conducted a symposium on Eliminating Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (E-OSEC) with around 1,100 junior high school students in attendance. Supervised by the school's Guidance Counselor, Kenith Cavanaugh Villaruel, this activity is purely voluntary on the part of our youth advocates after attending the mainstreaming camp hosted by the Philippine Children's Ministries Network, Inc. (PCMN), Mission Alliance Philippines and Lilok Foundation on October 22-24, 2019 at the Christian Development Centre (CDC) in Tagaytay City. The camp dubbed as "Youth Camp on Safety of Children Online and Mentor's Training on Assisting the Youth Advocates," was an active response to felt needs regarding awareness on online sexual exploitation of children.



Using the Safety of Children Online Curriculum, organizers walked the participants through issues such as valuing one's self, children's rights, how OSEC happens and how to stay safe, types of OSEC and who are the targets, how to resist, who to trust, and how to report. Another aspect of the training dealt with facilitation which is most helpful to mentors. Topics included were: Jesus as Facilitator (Teaching Techniques for Youth and Children), Learning Styles (Visual, Auditory, Kinesthetic), and Safety: Listening, Processing Skills, and Difficult Situations.

There was also a workshop on curriculum-making and demo facilitation which was most useful in simulating the youth advocates' delivery of training modules. On the last day, mentors were trained on assisting youth advocates in handling disclosure protocols from different organization, why children are not disclosing, responding to disclosure and role playing and intervention process.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY:

Nino Community Association

Nino Community Association or NICOA was first established as a CBO for savings groups on August 16, 2006. Today, it is composed of 11 savings groups namely: Savers1, Savers2, Savers3, Savers4, Savers5, Paglaum Savings Group, IBC Children Sunday School Savings Group, Soong Children Savings Group, Soong Adult Savings Group, Shell Savings Group and NIFFA Savings Group with around 100 adult members and approximately 100 children and youth members. Most members are from Barangay Nino but there are a few that come from neighboring communities. NICOA currently has more than a million pesos worth of total savings and caters to more than a hundred loan clients.

NICOA officers regularly meet every Sunday and conducts a feeding activity every last Saturday of the month for children in the community. They also conduct a community clean-up activity, which they call "Limpiyo Iloilo" whenever a dividend sharing or patronage refund distribution is scheduled. Even the onset of the pandemic did not stop them. "Despite being under enhanced community quarantine (ECQ), our CBO was able to help our barangay by providing a community kitchen, where we prepared hot meals to all households of our barangay for a day," related Eunace Barbo, who serves as NICOA Chairperson.

Being under community lockdown poses a lot of challenges for the CBO. For example, there were many loan applications but the group was not able to respond due to travel restrictions, which made them unable to pull out cash. Collection of savings and loan payments was also halted, leaving them without income. The livelihood of the entire community was greatly affected and government aid took a long time before being distributed. As a response, NICOA officers decided to release the group's disaster fund amounting to more than 50,000 pesos with more than a hundred individuals benefiting.

Even though little, the cash aid NICOA released for its members was timely and well-appreciated. The members immediately bought food supplies. The members also appreciate that the group suspended collecting loan payments and implemented a freeze on their loan interests until a later date. Not many families in rural Philippines are able to send their children to college, but a small savings group such as NICOA was able to assist families achieve their dreams. "They are able to send their children to school because they have somewhere to go to and ask for financial help," Chairperson Eunace quips.

Many of the members improved their way of living with the financial assistance they have received from NICOA. Some purchased motorcycles which they turn into a for-hire service, and at the same time use for running family errands. "The barangay officials were also grateful for having a partnership with NICOA. They took notice of how the group was able to extend help to the community during the ECQ by giving food to the families," Chairperson Eunace proudly concluded.

SAO Philippines in Iloilo is likewise proud of the achievements of NICOA as a community based organization. Still, there are goals to be reached. One that is shared by NICOA's members is that everyone in the community will be able to save, including children. Despite the presence of numerous microfinance groups in the area, the members hope that they will continue to thrive. Perhaps some of the children in Barangay Nino can follow in the footsteps of their parents and become active members of the savings group themselves and become bigger, stronger and able to help yet many others.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

GARDENING

CBO members were given vegetable seeds for their communal and personal garden. Now they enjoy the fruits of their labor. Not only can they eat nutritious food grown in their own backyards, and they can also earn money by selling some of their harvest.

LETTER WRITING

Child partners write their letters for their sponsor with the help of SB volunteers and SAO staff.

REFRESHER COURSES FOR BCPC's

Review of the BCPC mandate for children, crafting and lobbying workshops for child safety policies and mapping of children's issues are some of the topics that were discussed during this activity. This was attended by 22 BCPC members of Brgy. Macalbang on November 4, 2019.

NEGROS PROVINCE

Valladolid is a fourth class municipality in Negros Occidental with a population of 36,416 people according to the 2010 census. Dubbed as the "food basket" of Negros Occidental, it boasts of hog and poultry raising, fishery, rice, and sugar production as main industries. Valladolid is subdivided into 16 barangays, three of which are MAKABATA target areas.

CBOs distribute relief in their communities

Three community based organizations (CBOs) in Negros island initiated a relief distribution to 103 families in three barangays namely Bagumbayan, Tabao Proper, and Central Tabao. Composed of 149 members, Central Tabao Vendors Association (CENTAVEA) and Bagumbayan Service to Progress Association (BASEPROA) delivered relief packs on March 27, 2020 while members from Tabao Proper Community Association (TAPROCOA) distributed relief packs on March 30, 2020. Despite meeting challenges with the community quarantine themselves, CBO members gathered around 20,000 pesos of their combined interest income to purchase rice, noodles, coffee, and hand soap for distribution. They even shared an additional 3,500 pesos worth of emergency loan to several community members.

CBO leaders namely Bernard Sildora of BASEPROA, Theresa Estampa of TAPROCOA, and Novilla Dagohoy of CENTAVEA deserve a huge pat on the back for rising above the call of duty and being proactive in times of crises. "I'm very thankful for the group. Even though we do not have income due to the lockdown, we agreed to support each other and give out relief goods. It is not a lot but it was our way of expressing love – to make them feel that their association is ready to help them in one way or another," shared Novilla Dagohoy. It is worth mentioning that Mayor Enrique R. Miravalles recognized members of the Bagumbayan Central Proper (BCP) for serving as front liners in manning the checkpoint. Using their own motorbikes, they even paid for their own gas and food. How heartwarming it is to see our CBOs' selfless acts during this pandemic! May God continue to strengthen you as you strengthen others.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY:

Geovani Monterola

BASEPROA Vice President and Valladolid Agri-Natural Farmers Association (VANFA) Treasurer Geovani Monterola thinks it is a great privilege to take part in the MAKABATA program because, "I learned how to handle our finances and learned basic principles in enterprise management," he began. This gave him a sense of accomplishment and joy saying, "It made me happy that we earn while growing our own business instead of working more than eight hours a day, six days a week for somebody else. It helps to know that the community benefits from our business. Through the program, I have seen how someone like me can create an impact in the lives of the children in our community!"

Geovani is blessed with a loving wife and two sons who are both in their junior high school. Their family runs a small carinderia or community restaurant that is more like an extension of one's own kitchen, where they sell hot meals for breakfast and lunch. His wife Mary Grace is in charge of cooking. She also bakes rice cake and other sweet snacks that are requested in advance by some friends.

"My old job required me to travel a lot leaving me with little or no time for my family. It is very difficult for me to attend important family occasions, which put strain on our relationship as a family," he recalls. The sad part is, even when he was working full-time, his income is still not enough to provide the needs of his family. He also neglected farming the little land they have due to busyness. Worse, he was always stressed and unapproachable, not being able to be a good father to his sons thinking, "Since I am feeding them, it should be enough. I felt guilty not being able to bond with them but could not do anything about it."

"My life changed when I joined the program," he acknowledges. He credits the training on farming and seminars on good parenting and couples enrichment he and his wife attended. "I learned how to manage our small business and earn more from it and was able to provide for my family. Our food business flourishes because we learned enterprise development and simple bookkeeping. I was also able to get a loan from our CBO and has since repaid it," Geovani continues to narrate.

His wife is also a BASEPROA member while his two sons are members of the SB Group. He treasures becoming a better father to his sons, something he credits the program as well. He recognizes to be someone worthy of respect, he needs to model it, and become a better son to his own father, "I acknowledge that I have to respect my father because my children are looking up to me, and take note how I treat him. My father is older now but, I still have the chance to make things right with him." The Monterolas are thankful that through the MAKABATA program, they can envision a community that values children and does its part in unleashing their full potential. He values seeing fathers spending more time at home and taking charge as the God-ordained provider in their family.

In conclusion, Geovani shares his aspiration for his children to finish their studies and become active participants in the development of their community. They understand that the program needs to come to an end, but they promise to continue what SAO Philippines helped them start – creating a lasting community transformation that begins in strengthening the families. In the heart of it all, are children who are protected, have complete sense of identity, and are empowered to participate.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY:

Joseph Barbosa

Joseph Barbosa and his wife Jonah are ambulant fruit vendors. Blessed with two daughters and two sons -- all in school, the Barbosas live a simple yet happy life. The happy smiles on their faces used to be filled with anxious grins not knowing where the father of the household is or when he will come back to them. You see, 'Nong Joseph used to be a drug dependent; it was so bad he was even incarcerated for violating the drug act. That time, his wife Jonah needed to work twice as hard to provide for the needs of the family and visit him almost daily in prison. Her devotion to their family moved him, and his heart began to soften. He learned that his wife has been participating in the activities of the MAKABATA program. He heard about this group before, his children are members of the SB group, and his wife is even actively volunteering. Little by little he noticed changes in her, she seldom curses now. She can still get angry and raise her voice, but you can hear her genuine concern now.

God has been moving in his heart around the same time. He realized how he misses his family and regrets not being there for them when they most need him. He sincerely prayed and his prayers were answered. Four years later, he received his parole. "I have been exposed to religious practices before but I never lived my life for God's honor. I began to have a personal relationship with the Lord, and became His follower inside the prison. The jail officers saw the positive changes in me and recommended my parole," intimated 'Nong Joseph. Soon after, his case was dismissed and he was released to the joy and excitement of his family.

They usually position themselves near the provincial bus stop to engage with passengers as potential customers. 'Nong Joseph makes it a point to board and alight buses just to sell fruits, which is tiring and can sometimes be dangerous. Although they have no permanent jobs, nor do they have a fruit stall, the Barbosas remain cheerful. "My wife enjoys her volunteer work since she's able to attend various seminars. My children are diligent with their studies and two of my children are in college now. Earning enough for school fees can be challenging but I have learned to acknowledge that apart from the Lord we cannot do anything. As a family, we trust that God is able to supply our needs," he confesses. "Despite my not-so-good past life, my children have so much respect for me now that the Lord has changed me. I initiate prayer at night and even before meals. We make sure that the Lord is the center of our family," he reiterates.

Family strengthening activities such as Father and Son Day, Mother and Daughter Day, Couples Enrichment program and Good Parenting seminars were very helpful to many of our community partners. Such activities are effective in making family members appreciate the different roles and responsibilities of each member – husbands and fathers, wives and mothers, and children. 'Nong Joseph is now actively involved with the MAKABATA Parents Group. He offers his services whenever there is an activity held in the area. The staff even assigned him to assist in their community group meetings. He credits the program for the new person that he is, "The program was truly a big help to me. I am happy because even despite my misgivings as a husband and father, my wife and my children still respect me. Our family relationship has grown deeper," he enthused holding back his emotion.

COURAGEOUS IN PRAYER

Ivy Lorenz Sun

Samahan ng mga Bata (SB) Youth Federation Chairperson Ivy Lorenz Sun, our youth partner in Valladolid, Negros Occidental, captures the heart of why SAO Philippines exists. The news of discontinuation of scholarships for youths like Ivy came like a storm surge on top of a tsunami-warning on a bright sunny day. Ivy, feeling the nudge of responsibility, mustered her courage to seek an audience with re-elected Mayor Enrique R. Miravalles. Moved, the mayor immediately ordered the reinstitution of her scholarship. Her joy should have been complete, except she knew the rest of her scholar-friends are still unsure of being able to go back to school. Mouthing a silent prayer, Ivy explained how she is thankful for the mayor's positive response and how she humbly asks again, on behalf of the entire group of scholars, for the Office of the Mayor to reconsider reinstating all of their scholarships. Her prayers were answered.

"I fully believe that education is very important so it motivated me to be courageous. I am so thankful when our mayor right away approved the budget to continue the scholarship. I was crying in front of him. I was overjoyed thinking of my co-scholars – that we can all continue with our studies! This made me realize that being a leader in our community means being bold to speak on behalf of others so that their voices will be heard. This confidence I know I got because of my involvement with SAO Philippines and the MAKABATA program. I was encouraged to speak for my right and also to be mindful of the needs and concerns of others," Ivy shared enthusiastically.

Also involved in the Youth Council in their barangay, Ivy engages fellow youths in decision-making at home and in the community. She spearheads developmental activities and makes it a point to model good leadership to her peers. Ivy is a trained facilitator and an experienced tutor. Her father is a fisherman, her mother does laundry for a living and both of them are members of the MAKABATA parent groups. She is in her second year studying Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education when the pandemic disrupted schooling in the country.

MINDANAO AREA

The town of Polomolok is located at the southernmost portion of South Cotabato and is around 300 meters above sea level. Located at the base of Mt. Matutum, it is a first class agro-industrial suburban municipality. It has a population of 138,273 people in 31,416 households according to the 2010 census. Out of 23 barangays, MAKABATA serves two, namely: Silway 8 and Glamang.

RICE PACK DISTRIBUTION

Transform Aid International (TAI) builds lasting solutions to global poverty, through life-changing community development projects and disaster relief. Working in 18 countries, including the Philippines, they deliver 82 projects that address the root causes of poverty and create opportunities for children and families to thrive. SAO Philippines has partnered with TAI in the last three decades, as they share our heart for children and our vision for stronger families and transformed communities.

As part of TAI's commitment to our communities all over the country, around 220 officers and members of our CBOs were able to reach out with rice packs to 615 families or approximately 3000 individuals in the five provinces we are in operation. Families of senior citizens, widows, 4Ps members, persons with disability, and those who were non-SAP recipients received five to six kilos (6 kgs) of rice from May 15 to 23, 2020. We want to acknowledge and encourage our CBO officers and members for putting their communities first and organizing the purchasing, repacking, distributing, and reporting for the activity. Some of them have done it for the second time, as they have organized themselves at the onset of the pandemic and conducted a relief distribution back in April. *Huwag po kayong magsasawa! Hanggang sa uulitin!*

MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY:

Darlene Yedda Marie Ochavo

Darlene Yedda Marie Ochavo is in 12th grade. The eldest of the siblings, she is very active in school activities. She's a member of the girl scouts excelling in camping, and a great Sepak Takraw player -- her team even competed at the provincial level. She began an on-the-job (OJT) training this year, mainly encoding documents, printing certifications, and doing office admin tasks.

Serving as youth president in their purok and AKTIB project manager, Yedda has grown leaps and bounds not just physically, but in leadership stature and disposition. "I was not aware about my responsibilities and rights as a child. I did not know why it is important for children to have their voice heard, nor the fact that there were laws protecting them," said Yedda as she opened up. "I became more respectful towards my elders. I began being aware to keep myself neat. I enjoy dressing up now because I have grown more confident and more sociable in school and within our community," she intimated.

The Ochavos pride themselves with being a joyful family. They are probably not rich, but they certainly aren't poor either because Michael and Emma, Yedda's parents, make it a point to always have food on the table. Her mother works in a milling corporation and her father works as a community sanitary inspector. There was a time when many people had put their hard-earned money in a too-good-to-be-true investment scheme, and her parents were tempted to join. Yedda convinced them not to believe easily because the scheme fails to make sense. It turned out that it was some kind of pyramiding scheme and was even illegal according to the government. Her parents were thankful that Yedda warned, and prevented a huge catastrophe from happening.

"When we are facing challenging situations as a family, we talk it over so that everyone will understand each person's opinion," shared about how their family has become stronger. Both her parents are members of the MAKABATA parents group, her brother is also a child partner, which means the entire family are members of savings groups. Seeing the value of savings, Yedda makes it a point to set some money aside in her piggy bank everyday. Full of dreams and filled with confident hope, may we be encouraged that MAKABATA is indeed making a difference in these young lives. "I'd like to see the youth as a model in our community, I'd like for the community to see us as right doers and respectful to the elders. I'd like to encourage other youths to participate in clean-up drives, sports activities and perhaps limit time with their gadgets so that we can become a positive influence in our community," Yedda concluded.

CBO INITIATIVES

Members of the Glamang Child-Friendly Association, SAO Philippines' organized CBO in South Cotabato took initiative and raised support from barangay councilors and from business establishments in their area. On July 18, 2019, they distributed groceries to less privileged families in neighboring Barangay Sinawal, held games for children and information campaign activities on disaster preparedness using the Batang Alisto booklets.

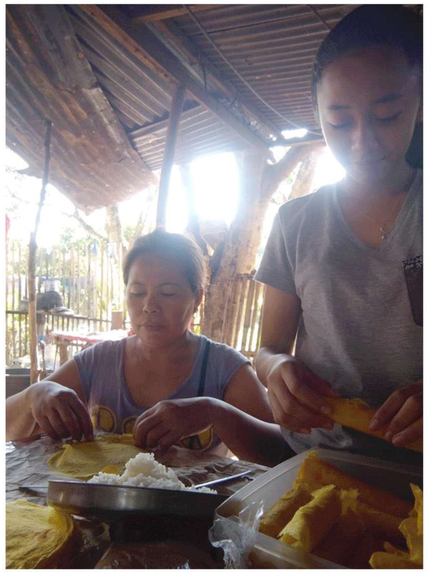
Initiatives by the communities such as these, where SAO Philippines has a presence, make the arduous task of community organizing all worthwhile! *Mabuhay po kayo!*

MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY:

Christine Joy Figura

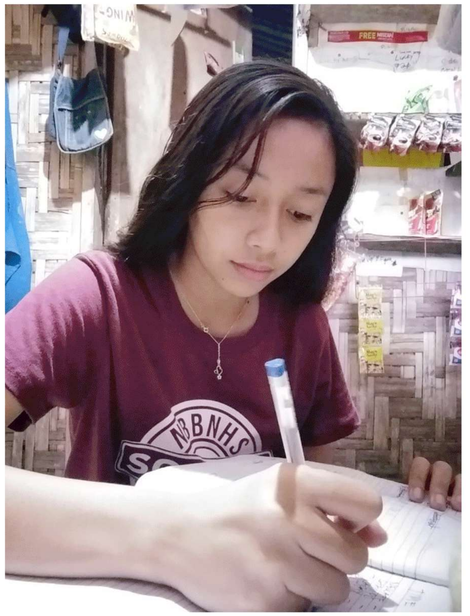
Sixteen year old Christine Joy Figura did not know she likes saving, at first. She quickly changed her mind and now saves after understanding its importance. Even when money is hard to come by, she makes sure to put money aside from her allowance. She earns some money from selling online and helping her mom sell banana fritters. Her family is thankful because the little she saved helped put food on the family table during this time of pandemic.

"Managing finances is not so hard because I don't usually spend on things young people my age want. I always ask myself whether what I am buying is necessary or not," shares Christine when asked about challenges. "Sometimes, when we completely run out of money, we cannot avoid borrowing money. I think it is not bad to borrow money when you really need it for food, education or other important things. But we have to be responsible to pay it back," she explains.



Edgar, Christine's father plants corn, bananas, and vegetables in their backyard. Julieta, her mother prepares banana fritters and other snacks to sell around the neighborhood. Making sure they put safety first, Christine reassures us, "When I walk around to sell, I make sure to wear my mask and have a coin purse to put my sales. I also bring sanitizer so that my hands are always clean." Her brother stays at home and helps their mom clean up after cooking.

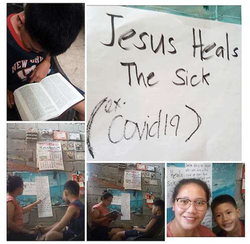
With school starting a few months late due to the health crisis, Christine will stay at home and study through a modular method given by the school. She will miss being with fellow youth group members attending training sessions, for which she is so thankful. "I was encouraged to be more participative in our community. I gained self-confidence and honed my leadership and management skills. Every meeting I learned something new, like financial management, program planning, taking notes or journaling, and budgeting," Christine narrated. "What I learned was put to practice when the youth group prepared the Children's Day program. It was a memorable and fulfilling experience," she recounted with excitement.



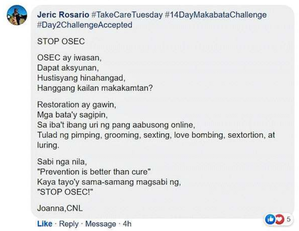
14-DAY MAKABATA HOME CHALLENGE

As the entire nation geared itself up to fight COVID-19, an enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) was declared in Metro Manila. Different areas of the country were placed under different levels of community lockdowns. Filipino families spent more time together at home. SAO Philippines launched a 14-Day MAKABATA Home Challenge on March 30, 2020 for its community partners to help them cope with the woes of community quarantine. Participating in the daily challenges gave them a chance to practice what they learned, and have fun with members of their families at the same time. Winners were announced the following day. Prizes were sent to the winners. The challenge ran from March 30 to April 5, and from April 13 to 20, skipping the week in between due to the observance of holy week and extending a day to accommodate our partners who were having trouble sending their entries online.

Here's a list of the challenges and the winning entries for the duration of the 14-Day Challenge:



DAY ONE
Theme: **Family Hour**
Winner: **Jerissa, MNA**



DAY TWO
Theme: **OSEC**
Winner: **Joanna, CNL**

DAY THREE
Theme: **Family Protection - PPE**
Winner: **Maricel, MNA**

DAY FOUR
Theme: **Proper Handwashing**
Winner: **Psymon, SLM**

DAY FIVE
Theme: **Vegetable Gardening**
Winner: **Edmalyn, SLM**

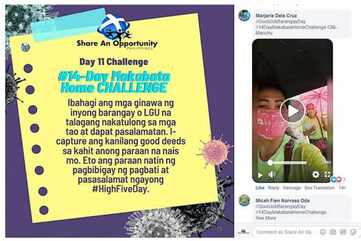
DAY SIX
Theme: **Supporting the Frontliners**
Winner: **Jenevieve, MNA**

DAY SEVEN
Theme: **Resiliency Building-Coping**
Winner: **Jeanine, NEG**

DAY EIGHT
Theme: **Domestic Violence - including verbal abuse**
Winner: **Jade, CNL**

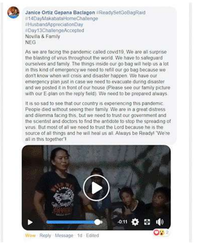
DAY NINE
Theme: **Father & Child**
Winner: **Joel, NEG**

DAY TEN
Theme: **Mother & Child**
Winner: **Myra, NEG**



DAY ELEVEN
Theme: **Barangay Initiatives**
Winner: **Marichu, CNL**

DAY TWELVE
Theme: **Church Initiatives**
Winner: **Sheila, CNL**



DAY THIRTEEN
Theme: **GO Bag & Family Emergency Plan**
Winner: **Novilla, NEG**

DAY FOURTEEN
Theme: **My 14-Day Challenge**
Winner: **Jenevieve, MNA**

Encouragement during COVID-19 Onset

Hello, this is Janice Baclagon. I am a Holistic Development Facilitator from Share An Opportunity Philippines. I work in Negros, in central Philippines. When the pandemic hit, our community turned to 'family' as its source of inspiration and strength. Working under community quarantine, we manage to keep in touch with our community partners through social media.

We have a group chat on Facebook. We also send them text messages, especially those with no internet access. Our partners suggested having an online challenge where they, and community partners from other areas in the Philippines, can participate. Share An Opportunity launched the 14-Day MAKABATA Home Challenge. This helps us cope with the hardship of quarantined life. We realized we have learned enough to tide us over this crisis. We are resilient. Thank you, program partners for helping us become stronger. Now it is our turn to encourage you. After all, *"We're all in this together!"*

"We're all in this toether."

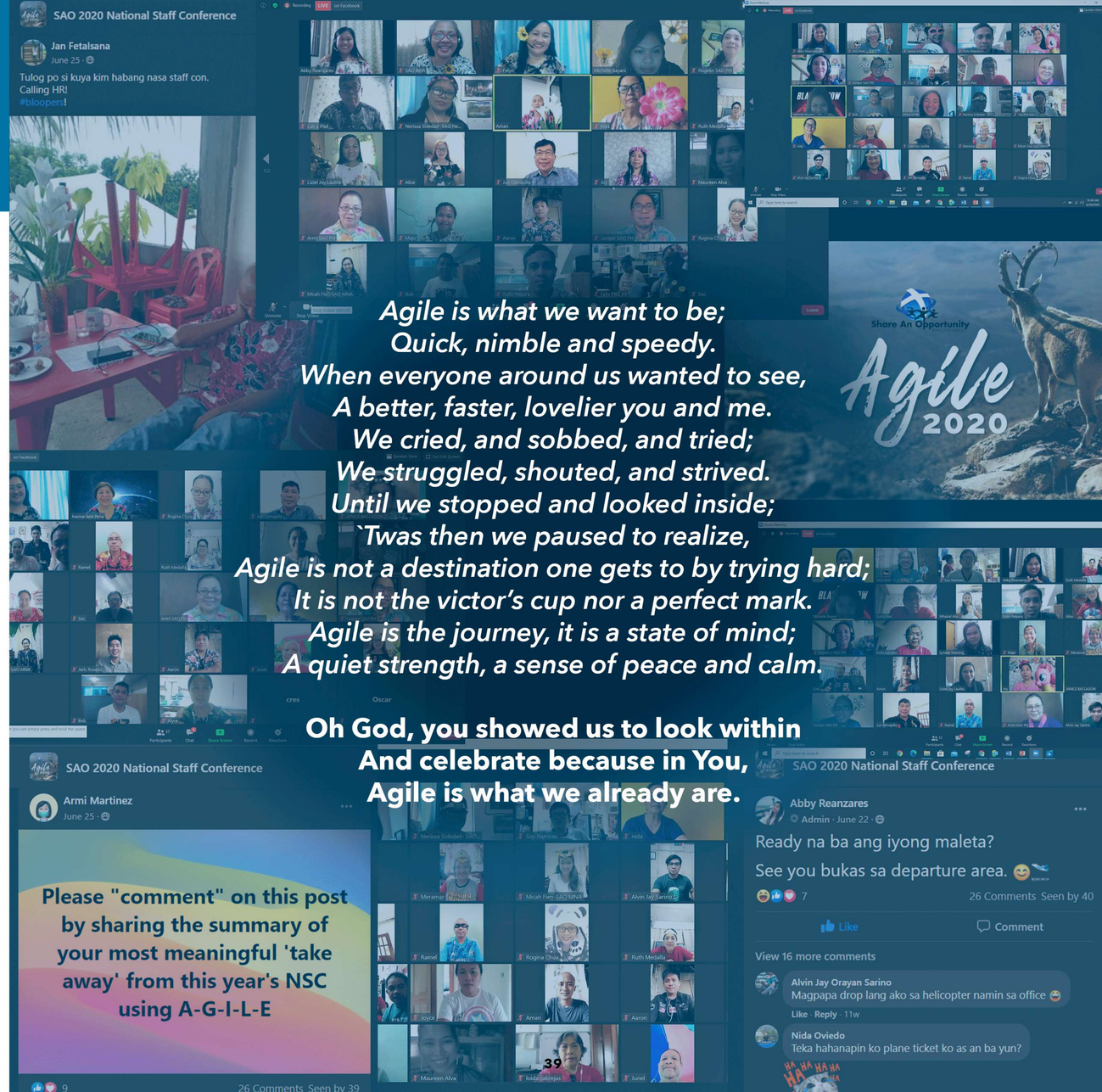
- Janice Baclagon

NATIONAL STAFF CONFERENCE

For SAO Philippines staff members, the once a year chance to meet up with fellow workers during the National Staff Conference (NSC) is an annual highlight. With the onset of the global pandemic, staff members could only hope the conference would still push through. And it did – albeit virtually! A four-day staff conference via Zoom went underway from June 23 to 26, 2020 with sessions beginning 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. TAI International Programs Manager Fiona Smith, members of the Board of Trustees (BOT) and former BOT officers also graced the event dubbed as "Agile." The scripture theme was taken from Habakkuk 3:17-19 (New Century Version) especially verse 19 saying, "The Lord GOD is my strength. He makes me like a deer that does not stumble so I can walk on the steep mountains."

Being agile and using a new meeting platform presented challenges. Connectivity was cited as one of the biggest hurdles during the conference. Who would have thought that for four days and eight hours each day, 40 staff members from all over the Philippines can pray, worship, have fun and learn together maintaining physical distances?!

The staff conference was very well received, with 36% of those surveyed saying it is excellent. When asked what they liked about the event, most indicated they loved the ECQ Challenge and the games. Despite the connectivity issues, 77% thought the event was very organized with remaining 33% rating it as somewhat organized.One great thing about virtual meetings is having instant feedback with the use of polls and survey tools. Lastly, when asked what they feel the Lord is telling them, they mentioned the need to be agile, to look up to the Lord for leading and guidance because He loves us… always!



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

IVANNA G. DELA PEÑA

President and Chairman of the Board.
Bachelor of Science in Statistics. Masters in Business Administration

Ivanna has over four decades' experience in the power industry. She was the First Vice-President and head of the Regulatory Management Office of the Manila Electric Company (MERALCO) until her retirement last June 30, 2018. Ivanna is also the Chairperson of the Board of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) of the Philippines, Treasurer and Member of the Board of Medical Ambassadors Philippines, Inc. and Member of the Board, Clark Electric Distribution Corporation (CEDC).

JONIEL HOWARD H. GICO

Vice President of the Board.
Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. Master of Divinity. Master of Theology

Reverend Joniel was in the pastoral ministry for 12 years before moving on to theological education as the President of the Convention Baptist Bible College in Bacolod City from 1998 to 2005. He was Vice-President for Administration of the Central Philippine University (CPU) in Iloilo City from 2005 to 2014, then as Vice-President for Student Affairs until his retirement on May 31, 2019. Reverend Joniel serves as Chairman of the Construction Committee of Iloilo Mission Hospital and Chairman of the Arbitration Committee of the Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches, Inc. (CPBC).

MARY ANN SOLOMON, MD

Treasurer of the Board.
Bachelor of Science in Biology. Doctor of Medicine.

Doc Annie is a volunteer pediatrician to orphanages and shelters for children-at-risk. She had her post-graduate internship at the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Medical Center, followed by her rural health and community pediatric outreach in numerous provinces. She completed her pediatric residency training at the Fe Del Mundo Medical Center and is now actively engaged in community-based socialized private pediatric practice in Marikina City. She is a diplomate of the Philippine Pediatrics Society.

ADONIS ADLAON

Secretary of the Board of Trustees.
Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering.

Adon is an inspirational and motivational speaker and a sought-after counselor and life coach. His passion is connecting with people and works as a freelance facilitator and trainer for government institutions, such as the Philippine National Police (PNP). He was SAO Philippines' former Admin and Finance Officer from 2003-2012.

JORDAN H. REYES

Member of the Board.
Bachelor of Arts. Bachelor of Laws.

Judge Jordan was in private law practice before he was elected mayor of the municipality of Polomolok, South Cotabato in the Southern Philippines. He served in that capacity for four terms or a total of 13 years. He was appointed Regional Trial Court Judge in 2009 and currently serves in that capacity. He is the current President of New Hope TV Christian Ministries Philippines, Inc., National President of National Alliance of Men Philippines and Member of the Board of Trustees of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Churches of the Philippines, Inc. (CAMACOP).

ZALDY V. BAROTIL

Member of the Board.
Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering.
Master in Development Management.

Zaldy is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Transforming Asia Pacific Inc., a Christian and Filipino research and consulting firm based in Cavite. He also manages the Wholeness Family Medical Center. Zaldy was Regional Director of the Medical Ambassadors International in Central Asia and also served as the International Program Director and Executive Director of the Asian School of Development and Cross-Cultural Studies (ASDECS) from 2004 to 2013.

RODERICK D. JACINTO

Member of the Board.
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.
Bachelor of Arts in Theology.
Master of Arts in Ministry

Pastor Rick is the Mission and Community Outreach Pastor of the International Baptist Church of Manila in Makati City, a position he held since January 1, 2010.
He leads in the development and implementation of the church's missions and outreach ministries and supervises missionaries and church planters assigned across the country and in other parts of Asia. He also sits in the Boards of Two-Thirds World Network, Inc., Asia Pacific Mission Institute, Inc., and Southern Baptist School of Theology, Inc.

BOT LEARNING EXPERIENCE

SAO Philippines as a learning organization always seeks opportunity to improve and grow through constant gathering and hearing of stories from each area. This fiscal year, some members of our Board of Trustees (BOT) had their Learning exposure in the area to experience firsthand SAO's work on the ground, to better know how wide SAO's reach, and see rooms for improvement.

Common shared experience of the Board of Trustees is the impact of SAO in transforming families in each of the areas. They were able to witness what a strong family can do in a community and how helping and providing a safe and enabling environment benefits the children. The only challenge for this year's learning exposure is that not all of the BOTs were able to push through with their scheduled learning exposure because of the pandemic.

Nonetheless, the learning exposure is a success. Now that the BOT has seen what happens on the ground and how SAO Philippines works with the community, this would help them form informed decisions that will be beneficial for the community, staff, and for the organization as a whole.

Outgoing member of the Board of Trustees and her replacement

Former SAO Philippines CEO Leah Genita vacated her position as a member of the Board of Trustees (BOT) to focus on her personal recovery and healing. In her place, Pastor Roderick Jacinto was elected member to continue serving the remainder of Ms. Genita's term which ends in December 2020. He was nominated and duly elected during the Annual General Assembly held on December 7, 2019.

Ms. Genita was the Chief Executive Officer of SAO Philippines from 1996 to 2014. For 23 years, she has been involved in organizing community organizations, mentoring and training leaders, serving diverse organizations and networks both in the Philippines and abroad. Pastor Rick, on the other hand, was a SAO Child partner of what was then known as Support An Orphan, the precursor of what we now know as Share An Opportunity (SAO) Philippines. He joined the program around March of 1979 and attended his first camp on May 1, 1983, where he first learned about the love of Jesus Christ. As a member of the BOT, he admonishes the organization to keep fanning the flames of its purpose, "That is to be a guide to bring children to the Light. Not only meeting their physical needs but by providing children an opportunity to be light bearers themselves to other less fortunate children in our nation."

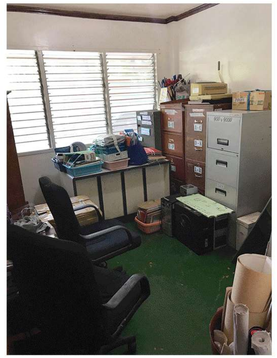
ORGANIZATIONAL POLICIES ON MOVING FORWARD

Like most organizations affected by the global pandemic, SAO Philippines released a work-from-home and skeletal workforce memorandum during the different stages of community quarantine. The guidelines are in compliance with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Department of Health (DOH) directives to control the spread of COVID-19, and to be observed in all of our six (6) offices around the country. The Human Resource Office released several interoffice memorandum addressing mechanics of the work from home scheme to be implemented which included the safety and protection of all staff members and their families, staying functional, and being spiritually aligned to God's leading.

A moving forward guideline was also released on July 6, 2020 outlining blended work arrangements that remain heavily dependent on regular online team meetings, instructions for office decluttering, and cost-cutting measures including a no-hiring policy and a directive to transfer offices to secure cheaper rent.

As part of said organizational plans, three areas completed their office transfers. It is an answered prayer for the **National Coordinating Office (NCO)** to find a place to move to within the same building -- that means saving on cost, and ease of transfer. Not to mention, difficulty faced if it moved to a different postal code. The transfer from old Unit 3A to a smaller one in **Unit 2C, The West Wing Building, 107 West Avenue, Barangay Bungad, Project 7, Quezon City, 1105** was done for almost a month and finally completed in July. NCO saves almost half of the rental expenses. Office disposal of old assets has started this August and is targeted to be completed in September. The team is indeed grateful for the effort and perseverance of Abegail Reanzares, EA/AS, and Emmanuel Lugay, OS, for making it all possible.

Mindanao Area (MNA) has transferred office from #18 Salvani St, Blk. 8,Brgy. City Heights, General Santos City to their new address in **Door #5 Bing Posadas Bldg., Aparente St., Quennie's Love Village, Brgy. City Heights, General Santos City**. The monthly rental expenses will be cut by more than half starting September 2020. MNA Area Manager Liziel Joy Laulita shares, *"We already signed a one-year contract with our lessor which will start in September 2020 and end in August 2021. The team's preparation for transfer was done the whole month of August. We scheduled days for sorting, packing, transferring, and cleaning. All office equipment and documents were transferred to the new office on August 19. The new office is like an apartment with a smaller space compared to the previous but it is just right for the team considering the work arrangement and number of staff."*



Negros Area (NEG) has given up the their office space to save almost 50% monthly rental expenses compared to having the team stay. The team moved to the new office on August 2, 2020 with all the staff members working together. NEG Area Manager Nerissa Soledad mentioned, *"that the transfer took almost a week because decluttering and sorting of files was also done simultaneously. The old office is temporarily being used as storage of office assets for disposal with approval by the lessor until all assets are disposed of. The new office is currently being arranged to maximize space and ensure comfort of the staff members."* The Negros office is now located at **Rm. B2 Magdalena Esteban Bldg, Hernaez Street, Barangay 16, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental 6100.**

Celebrating Seasons of Grace

Long-time SAO worker Grace Andes Domingo officially retired on December 30, 2019. SAO Philippines celebrates 27 years of having her dedicated service and valuable contribution initially as Early Childhood Education Program Specialist, then as Bookkeeper, as Area Manager of Southern Luzon and Mindoro area, as National Sponsorship Coordinator, then lately as Administration Officer at the National Coordinating Office and Child Partner Administrator. For her loving effort from 1992 to 2019, the organization is truly thankful. We love you, po, 'Te Grace! Blessing on your new endeavors!

For all things are for your sakes— in order that grace, having increased through the more people, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God. -- 2 Corinthians 4:15 Disciples' Literal New Testament (DLNT)

STAFF TRAFFIC

INCOMING STAFF MEMBERS

Fe Adobas
(NCO)

Loida Cabrejas
(NCO)

Lyndee Senining
(MNA)

Rogina Chua
(PRG)

OUTGOING STAFF MEMBERS

Fe Adobas
(NCO)

Jamnard Milgar
(MNA)

Abigail Dela Cuz
(CNL)

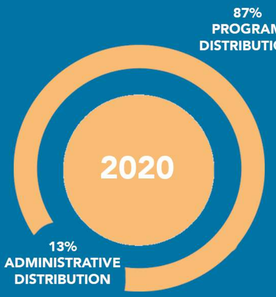
Grace Domingo
(NCO)

Jeric Rosario
(CNL)

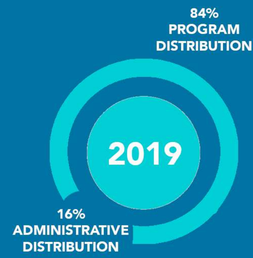
Rhoda Matabang
(MNA)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

All figures in 2020 are based on the Tentative Financial Statement as submitted to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) on October 30, 2020. Amended Financial Statement will be available upon request.



DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENSES FOR THE YEARS ENDED



COMPARATIVE TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED

COMPARATIVE TOTAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEARS ENDED

PARTNERS

Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation

Mission Alliance

Transform Aid International

AFFILIATIONS

Micah Global

Alliance of Christian Development Agencies

Philippine Children's Ministries Network

ACCREDITATION

Department of Social Welfare and Development

Share An Opportunity PHILIPPINES

VISION STATEMENT

Generations of Filipino children nurtured to their God-given potential to serve.

MISSION STATEMENT

We depend on God as we lead, equip, network, mobilize the Church, families, communities and partners to be responsive to the needs of children at risk.

Share An Opportunity
PHILIPPINES

Nurturing Children.
Strengthening Families.
Transforming Communities.

Unit 2C, The West Wing Building, 107 West Avenue, Barangay Bungad,
Project 7 Quezon City, Philippines 1105
(02) 8745 4428 | share@saophilippines.org