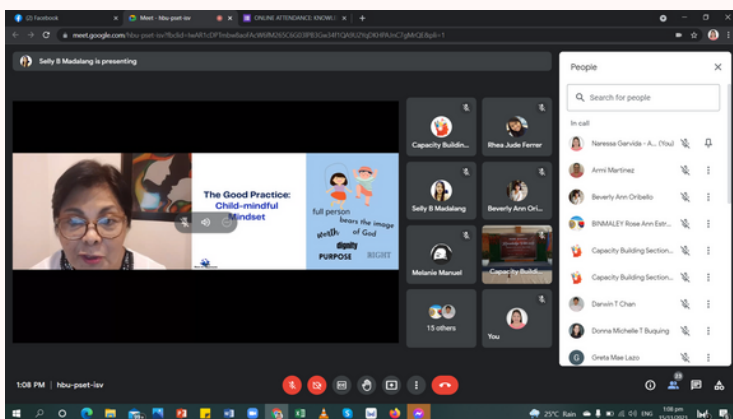


SAO WINS TOP DSWD AWARD FOR GOOD PRACTICE AMONG SWDAS IN REGION 1

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in Region 1 has chosen the entry of the Share An Opportunity (SAO) Philippines-Pangasinan area office as the best among the Good Practice Documentations (GPDs) submitted by various social welfare and development agencies (SWDAs) in the region.

In a letter from Ms Marie Angela S. Gopalan, DSWD regional director, dated November 9, 2021 and addressed to the SAO PH executive director, Ms Armi Martinez, it said, “please be informed that your GDP has been selected as winner in the said search (Social Welfare and Development agency category).” hence, you will be asked to share the overview of your agency’s good practice and testimonies from your beneficiaries during the activity.” Ms Gopalan was referring to the Knowledge Fair 2021: Search for Good Practices held at Plaza de Castiel Resort and Spa in San Juan, La Union last November 15.



During her talk via Zoom, Ms Martinez explained that Makabata “intends to build the competencies and resources of families and the community as a whole to be responsible and child-nurturing duty bearers.”

The SAO framework, she said, proposes to bring together adults and children as partners in making their communities safe for children.

Earlier, SAO submitted its GPD to the DSWD. It was entitled, “A Child-Mindful Paradigm to Community Development: Children as Key Players in Social Change” and was written by Junel S. Chavez, Juniper A. Bibiolata, Ms Martinez, and Fort Nicolas.



The entry explained that the Makabata program was implemented in communities where residents are officially classified as “indigents.” It also documented the journey of transformation of a child-recipient named Jemimah Fabro from a painfully shy girl into a confident and empowered young woman.

Aside from Asingan, Pangasinan, SAO PH also implemented the program in: Roxas, Mindoro Oriental; Concepcion, Iloilo; Valladolid, Negros Oriental; and Polomolok, South Cotabato.

“It is acknowledged in this framework that children, who are the most vulnerable members of the community, will always be affected directly or indirectly by the decisions adults make,”

she told the event participants. “Likewise children can also influence the decisions adults make or even affect adults with their decisions but only when adults allow them.”

Ms Martinez emphasized that the participation of children “is THE unharnessed potential” that may serve as a game-changer that will direct communities to the development that they seek.

In an interview after the event, the SAO executive director said the DSWD recognition

“It made me reflect and appreciate the work that God has entrusted to us,” Ms Martinez said. “Some things became clearer and even helped me shape the next Makabata version.”

The program, which was funded by the Transform Aid International (TAI) of Australia, ends after this year, 2021. SAO PH, according to Ms Martinez, is in the middle of coming up with a levelled-up version of Makabata program for its next phase of implementation.