Growing in Service of Filipino Indigenous Communities

2014 Annual Report
**VISION**

A Philippines where indigenous children and adults, with no access to basic services, enjoy their right to quality education and active participation in community life.

**MISSION**

Cartwheel exists to empower indigenous peoples communities by improving self-sustaining capacities and increasing access to resources through education.

Beginning in 1999 with the building of a schoolhouse for indigenous Talaandig from M iarayon, Bukidnon, the programs of Cartwheel Foundation, Inc. (CFI) have grown in breadth and depth across Filipino communities. We are thankful for 15 strong years of bringing culturally relevant education to where it is needed the most.

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Our Partner Communities

- **Early Childhood and Elementary Education Program**
  - Lucena, Quezon (Bajau), Culion, Palawan (Tagbanua), Esperanza, Agusan del Sur (Higaonon), Miarayon, Bukidnon (Talaandig), Mampang, Zamboanga City (Bajau)

- **Adult Capability Building Program**
  - Culion, Palawan (Tagbanua)

- **Young Indigenous Peoples Leaders Program**
  - Liwanbaay, Abra (Binongan), North Cervantes, Ilocos Sur (Kankana-ey), Cordon, Isabela (Ifugao), Naujan, Oriental Mindoro (Mangyan Alangan), Capas, Tarlac (Aeta Hungoy and Aeta Mag Antsi), Valencia City, Bukidnon (Talaandig), Maramag, Bukidnon (Manobo), Talakag, Bukidnon (Talaandig), New Corella, Davao del Norte (Mangguangan), Asuncion, Davao del Norte (Dibabawon), Caraga, Davao Oriental (Mandaya), Upi, Maguindanao (Teduray), Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao (Teduray), Siayan, Zamboanga del Norte (Subanen), Carmen, Surigao del Sur (Manobo), Kiamba, Sarangani Province (B’laan), Pigmawayan, North Cotabato (Arumanen-Manobo)

- **Project RISE: Re-Igniting Community Strength through Education**
  - Culion and Coron, Palawan (Tagbanua)
Growing in Cultural Identity

Early Childhood and Elementary Education (ECEE) Program

Indigenous young learners from partner areas continue going to school with much support from their local communities.

Culture-sharing among young and old is growing to be a regular practice, especially in Esperanza (Brgy. Sinakungan) and Culion (Sitios Alulad and Cagait). The Tribal Education Councils (TEC) of these partner communities gather weekly and are able to coordinate for small projects like schoolhouse improvements, communicate regarding pressing concerns like evacuation plans during typhoons, and together celebrate their unique life ways as Indigenous People.

Through regular teachers’ training and monitoring visits, relevant instruction specific to each of the communities’ cultures is ensured. The indigenized curricula they use as guide have been drafted through the successful collaboration between program staff, teachers, and the community members with whom they nurture friendship and trust.

The strengthened commitment of more local partners made possible the program’s recognition from the Department of Education (DepEd), and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). In Sitio Alulad, Culion, teachers started handling Grades 1-3 classes under DepEd’s Alternative Delivery Mode.
Growing in Reach

Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program

**Reaching Out to More: Mampang, Zamboanga**

Angiskul ma Bangka (Classes in Bancas) was opened in October with 96 Bajau children of pre-school age as learners. With Ateneo de Zamboanga University’s Center for Community Extension Services (ADZU-CCES) as implementing partner, this collaboration aims to help the Bajau children learn in a safe environment and to provide them with education that integrates their indigenous life ways. The program’s modules are based on the principles of Peace Education given the unique context of the learners being displaced from their original homes due to conflict.

**Returning to Our Roots: Miarayon, Bukidnon**

The Baidan Hu Katatao (Sharpening the Mind) Miarayon Community Preschool was launched in July with 33 children as enrollees. As CFI’s pilot area 15 years before, engaging again with the Talaandig for the education of their youngest learners becomes a meaningful homecoming. Together with the learners’ parents, the Talaandig alumni of CFI’s Young IP Leaders Program committed to contributing funds and pooling other available resources to sustain the preschool’s operations. With technical assistance from CFI, all efforts to implement the ECE Program was initiated and followed-through by the Talaandig community members themselves.

Vilma started as a shy little girl who seldom went out to play with other children. She could barely walk as she suffered from mild polio. Her family was among the many who fled after their homes were set on fire during the Zamboanga Siege in 2013. She joined Angiskul ma Bangka with support from her parents who would take her to school every day.

Vilma showed that she was a determined little one in class! She now is able recognize the alphabet and write her name. She gained confidence in interacting with her classmates. And happily, she already learned to walk on her own.

With support from family like her grandmother (left) and Angiskul ma Bangka Teacher Relinda (right), children like Vilma (center) are motivated to overcome challenges and pursue learning in a safe environment.
Adult Capability Building (ACAP) Program

Tagbanua adult learners continue to grow in functional literacy as they attend classes and directly apply lessons in their day-to-day activities. In Sitio Chindonan, 87.5% of the learners acquired basic reading and writing skills from having low to zero literacy at the beginning. Though the learners still experienced difficulty in passing DepEd’s Alternative Learning Systems (ALS) Equivalency Exams, teachers in Sitio Alulad doubled their efforts to equip learners with knowledge and skills to continue onto formal education.

Erratic attendance among learners in Sitio Cagait posed a challenge as they were involved in rebuilding efforts after Typhoon Yolanda and other livelihood projects. This was addressed by adjusting their class schedule to match the days most of the community members were available.

Arnilyn has never gone to school. She did not know how to read when she began as an ACAP learner. Teacher Andy, who is Tagbanua himself, says that Arnilyn is one of his most hardworking students. She retains most of what is taught in class and is now functionally literate. Asked why she is motivated to keep on learning, Arnilyn says she desires to teach her young children especially once they are old enough to attend school.
Young Indigenous Peoples (YIP) Leaders Program

Indigenous college grantees from all over the country are growing in leadership as they take on responsibilities within campus and in partner communities too. Pamulaan’s bi-annual practice of Community Service Learning where students are deployed to do research and contribute to on-going development projects opened opportunities for direct application of strategies and theories learned from school. The on-the-job training experience of graduating students enriched their exposure all the more; many are assigned to IP areas most in need of assistance in community organizing.

Recognition of YIP grantees’ leadership has gone national as well. Normindo Mosela, 4th year indigenous Teduray grantee, responded to Bro. Armin Luistro, Secretary of the Department of Education, at the National IP Education Forum in Manila on December 17. Normindo spoke on behalf of IP youth, sharing perspectives on IP rights and various related issues.
Project RISE: Re-Igniting Community Strength through Education

One year after Typhoon Haiyan hit Tagbanua islands in Culion, CFI still grows in collaboration with community members and many other equally dedicated partners. Combined efforts address the immediate and psychosocial needs of those affected in Sitios Alulad, Cagait, and Chindonan as all agree to contribute through innovative ways to the steps towards recovery.

“It was beautiful how we came together to learn from each other, especially about the culture passed on to us by our ancestors. And it is a beautiful thing to continue for as long as we live.”

-Toledo Abella (rightmost) is congratulated by Cultures in Harmony musicians after their first musical exchange with Tagbanua communities at Sitio Cagait, Culion, Palawan.

TRAINING
Skills-building on psychosocial support facilitated by trauma and mental health experts
15 participants from Culion local government, church, and schools

CONSTRUCTION
Preparing to build safe and disaster-resilient multi-purpose evacuation halls
Plans drafted for 3 multi-purpose evacuation halls

DEEPENING RECOVERY
Reinforcing pride in cultural lifeways through music and cultural exchange
5 Tagbanua communities

HEALING AND RECOVERY
Practicing art therapy activities led by psychosocial experts and volunteers
2 Tagbanua communities
Growing in Advocacy

Building on a strong partnership since 2006, Cultures in Harmony (CiH) musicians from America came to the Philippines from August 13-21 to again collaborate with CFI. The goal was to contribute to post-Typhoon Yolanda healing and recovery efforts for the Tagbanua of Culion, Palawan, encouraging them to regain strength through the richness of their own traditional music and life ways.

After a series of learning exchange workshops between CiH musicians and the Tagbanua, the collaboration culminated with an advocacy concert at Ayala Museum. The show also featured esteemed local musicians from Manila Symphony Orchestra (MSO) and MSO Junior. This was made in commemoration of CFI’s 15 years of nurturing Filipino heritage through culturally relevant education.

AWARDS RECEIVED

Bayaning Pilipino Award 2014

Lilia Diaz, Adult Capability Building Program teacher, was conferred with the Bayaning Pilipino Award 2014 by Gawad Geny Lopez on June 10. She dedicated more than 35 years as a teacher in Loyola College of Culion and continues her passion for service in working presently with Tagbanua adult learners of Sitio Alulad, Culion, Palawan.

Education for International Understanding Best Practices Award

For the program on Early Childhood and Elementary Education for Indigenous Learners of the Higaonon community in Brgy. Sinakungan, Esperanza, Agusan del Sur, the Education for International Understanding Best Practices Award was conferred to CFI through its Education Coordinator Bricks Sintaon. Representatives from UNESCO’s Asia Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) visited the CFI office on December 1 to learn more about the education innovations practiced in Sinakungan.
With your dedicated support, the good change that grows with our partner communities is made possible all the more.

FUNDING PARTNERS

PROGRAM AND PROJECT PARTNERS
Ateneo de Zamboanga-Center for Community Extension Services | Ateneo Disaster Response & Management (DReAM) Team | Community Members of Miarayon, Bukidnon | Cultures in Harmony | Indigenous Peoples’ Apostolate-Diocese of Butuan | La Inmaculada Concepcion Parish, Culion | MAGIS Creative Spaces | Manila Symphony Orchestra | Mary Mediatrix of All Grace Foundation, Inc. | Pamulaan Center for Indigenous Peoples’ Education | Payatas Orione Foundation, Inc. | Peralta, Anne | Simbanghang Lingkod ng Bayan | Toshiba Philippines, Inc. | UNESCO-Asia Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding | University of Asia & the Pacific-Arts Department | Velhagen, Katrise

DONORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

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FUNDS UTILIZATION
According to Major Funding Programs
Based on Audited Financial Statement December 31, 2014

- Project Re-Igniting Community Strength through Education: P 1,000,000
- Adult Capability Building Program: P 62,000
- Early Childhood and Elementary Education Program: P 1,031,000
- Young IP Leaders Program: P 1,800,000
JOIN US IN OUR GROWTH!

DONATE

INITIATE
Start a project to support indigenous learners in a thousand creative ways! Your bright ideas can contribute much to the education of partner communities.

ADVOCATE
Tell others about our shared IP advocacy and the urgency of work with Filipino culture-bearers. Or you may invite the Cartwheel Team to speak at your organization – we would very gladly oblige!

Get in touch with us via email at action@cartwheelfoundation.org and tell us how you would like to help.