

2013: Looking Back

IP-inoy Night May 2013



Cartwheel's Education Coordinator Bricks Sintaon leads symbolic opening ritual as volunteers gather round

Cartwheel's volunteer arm was revived in a gathering organized by Volunteer Head, Francis Coronel.

Attended by both veteran and new Cartwheel team members, presentations consisted of program updates, volunteer orientation, and simple getting-to-know you activities.

Special guest speaker was Lilia Diaz, 70-year old dedicated teacher to the Tagbanua of Culion, Palawan.

IP Knowledge workshop at The Learning Child School August 2013

As part of new campus's inaugural celebration, The Learning Child School at Ayala Alabang Village has renewed its partnership with Cartwheel, recommitting to sharing the advocacy for Indigenous Peoples' (IP) education.

Learning from IP Knowledge Workshops, with Cartwheel staff as facilitators, were conducted for all teachers and advanced graders of the school. With lecture and lively activities, participants discovered that there is so much to learn and even imitate from the indigenous way of life.



Teacher Bambi Gamban co-facilitates the IP Learning Workshop, shown here with Grade 4 students as participants

"Sining Alamin Para sa Guro" at CCP October 2013



At the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Bricks Sintaon shares a lecture-workshop on Philippine Indigenous Arts with teachers from all over Metro Manila

On its second year, Sining Alamin Para sa Guro 2013 was organized by the the Cultural Center of the Philippines. With 200 teacher-participants from schools around Metro Manila, this whole-day event was set up as a special tribute to local art educators in celebration of National Teachers' Month. Cartwheel was one of the partner organizations that set up an exhibit booth and facilitated a lecture workshop on Indigenous Arts, featuring the works of partner IP communities Ichananaw, Umajamnen, and Talaandig.

New partner community: Badjaos in Lucena, Quezon

Cartwheel and the Payatas Orione Foundation, Inc. (PAOFI)-Dalahican Chapter have forged a partnership to provide Early Childhood Education to 65 Badjao children at Brgy. Dalahican in Lucena City. In 2011, the elders and leaders in their community asked that their children be taught to read, write, and count. Thus, the literacy program commenced. Cartwheel assists the community through the indigenization of the curriculum and teachers' training.

Throughout the school year 2013-2014, Cartwheel's Education Coordinator Bricks Sintaon has been closely monitoring Teacher Sally Resullar, ensuring all lessons and educational materials fulfil both practicality and cultural relevance. In the teaching of basic literacy and numeracy skills, most materials used to complement instruction are sourced from around the area in an effort to facilitate better learning by using familiar elements from the Badjaos' own life ways.



Teacher Sally Resullar and the Early Childhood Education learners of the Badjao community in Lucena, Quezon

CFI organizes disaster response operations for Typhoon Yolanda survivors

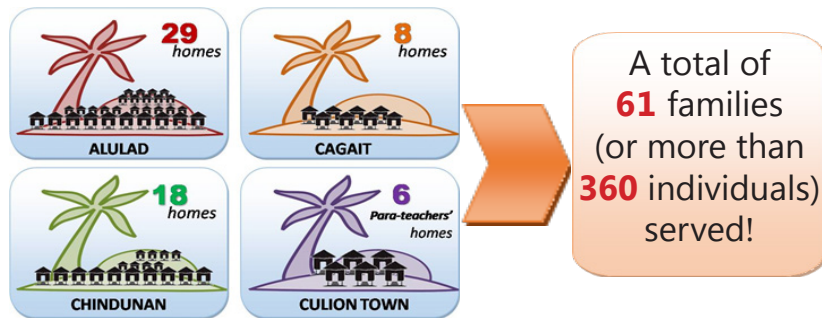


Figure 1. Number of homes built or repaired in Culion, Palawan

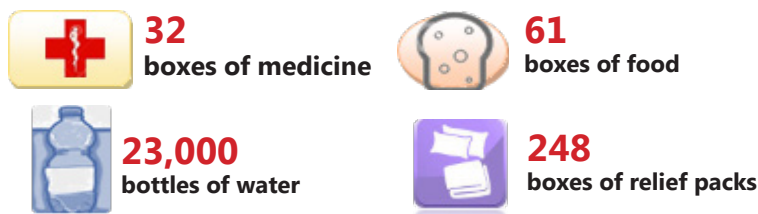


Figure 2. Relief goods deployed to Typhoon Yolanda-affected communities

In response to the immensity of the need from calamities that affected the nation in the Year 2013 such as *Super Typhoon Yolanda* (internationally known as *Haiyan*), Cartwheel—fueled by the outpouring of help from its supporters within the country and overseas—mobilized relief and rehabilitation efforts for communities that need it the most, as in the figures to the left.



One of the homes being rebuilt by Tagbanua families in Sitio Alulad, Culion, where structures were severely damaged

2014: Continuing the Journey

Rehabilitation work for the Tagbanuas of Culion, Palawan

To provide a conducive learning environment for Cartwheel's learners and ensure a secure place where families can evacuate to in times of calamity, the construction of disaster resilient multi-purpose halls (MPH) in the island communities of Alulad, Cagait and Chindonan has been identified as a priority project by Cartwheel and other development partners working in Culion, led by La Inmacuda Parish, Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan, and Ateneo DReaM Team.

Together with OCB Architects and Solar Solutions, visits were made last May 13, 2014 to the three partner areas to hold community consultations for the design of the MPH to be built in each of their sitios.

CFI goes international with its 501-c3 status

Made possible through the passion and hard work of its Board members, Cartwheel International has secured its tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) of the United States. Under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, contributions given to the Foundation will be exempt from Federal income tax as Cartwheel International is now officially recognized as a public charity.

Here's to more opportunities to do good work through the efforts of Cartwheel International!



Lilia Diaz with ABS-CBN Corporate President & CEO Charo Santos-Concio (left) and Anton Mari Lim (right) of Yellow Boat of Hope Foundation

Bayaning Pilipino 2014: Lilia Diaz, Teacher to the Tagbanuas

Cartwheel is mighty proud to have on its team Lilia Diaz, Bayaning Pilipino 2014 awardee. She has dedicated more than 35 years as a teacher in Loyola College of Culion, and has continued her passion for service working presently with the indigenous Tagbanua of Culion, Palawan.

"Nanay Lilia," as she is known to the Cartwheel Family, is edifying as she is humble. Her unrelenting determination amidst life's challenges have touched many lives through the years. May her stories of generosity, courage and hope inspire many more!

Cartwheel Manila Team members Bricks Sintaon and Bebie Rose Tacal (both in the middle) pose with Cartwheel International Board members Helen Garcia and Robert Llames



CFI organizes psychosocial support training for volunteers in Culion

In coordination with the La Inmaculada Parish of Culion, Palawan, Cartwheel organized a five-day training workshop entitled, *"Community-based Psychosocial Support for Disaster Survivors"* last May 5-9, 2014 held at the Loyola College of Culion. This is the first in a series of initiatives under Project RISE (*Re-Igniting Community Strength through Education*)--Cartwheel's long-term Psychosocial Support and Rebuilding Program for Tagbanua communities in Culion. The main facilitators were Dr. Carmen "Titay" La Viña, trauma expert from the Emmaus Center for Psychospiritual Formation, and Gina Alfonso, education specialist, board certified art therapist and mental health clinician. The training focused on basic orientation on psychological first aid and disaster mental health, as well as arts-based approaches to providing preventive and rehabilitative long-term psychosocial support in post-disaster or post-conflict areas.

Aside from Cartwheel's teachers to the Tagbanua, other participants were representatives from the Social Action Group of the parish, partner barangays, local private and public schools, and Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan. Actual area visits to the Tagbanua communities of Alulad, Cagait, and Chindonan were conducted on the last day of the training week to check up on how their families were recovering six months after Typhoon Yolanda.



Left: Training participant, Kagawad Leona Spad, interviews Mary Jane Gugma of Sitio Alulad during the community visit



Above: Training staff and participants pose with the symbolic mural they collectively created at the end of the workshop

Our sincerest thanks to all who contributed to our relief, recovery & rebuilding efforts for those affected by Super Typhoon Yolanda:

Abeya, Edwin | Acezat, Gemma | Aggalut, Jonalyn | Agoncillo, Sallie | Aguilar, Daniel & Deborah | Aguirre, Nahomi | Akiyama, Kazu | Alcantara, Vina | Alfonso, Andrea | Alfonso, Mary Anne | Ang, Peggy | Animo, Daniel | Aragon, Anne et al | Arenas Corleto, Tina | Arias, Archie | Asian Institute of Management | Banal, Jazmin | Banal-Silao, Duchess | Baoya, Berna | Barcelona, Fr. Roberto | Baskiñas, Tricia | Bollina, Paul Patrick | Bower, Colleen | Brook, Braden | Brown, Philip | Bungubong, Norman | Candoy, Teta | Carel, Meelah | Carewell Community Foundation | Carlstedt, Eric & Cristina | Castano, Carlos | Celdran, Brenda | Cenica, Justin | Centenero, Joaquin & Lizia | Cerky, Kathryn | Chadwick International School Students | Cheng, Berck | Cheng, Walter | Chioco, Chuo | Choy, Carl | Christ the King Youth Choir | Clarence, Sushil | Clement, Kathy | Community of Learners Foundation | Coronel, Francis | Cultures in Harmony | CuUnjieng, Maria Antonia | David, Rica et al | Dayao, Noah & Andie | De Verna, Rob & Lynne | Del Rosario, Aida & Tony | Del Rosario, Benny & Fely | Dela Paz, Adriano | Dela Paz, Tony & Myrna | Dizon, Javi | Domingo, Jeanna | Domingo, Mara | Donors via youcaring.com | Eickhoff, Katherine | Enriquez Family | Enriquez, Bea & Yanna | Enriquez, Trina | Espino Family | Eugenio, Abner | Fagar, Milo | Falconer, Diane | Fernandez, Dely | Fernandez, Yvette | Filart, Cayetano | French, Philip | Galicha, Nez | Galluci, Joanne | Gamboa, Inez | Garcellano, Diday | Garcia, Marito & Helen | Garcia, Sam & Rianna | Garret, Anne | Gokongwei-Cheng, Lisa | Gonzales, Candido | Gonzales, Kimmy | Heneghan, John | Heneghan, Kevin | Hermoso, Ram | Hildegard Lash Foundation | Hill, Everett | Hill, Patricia | Hinlo, Paul | Hizon, Maria Sarah | Hodgson, Hone & Mandy | Kane, Kyle | Land Rover Club of the Philippines | Largoza, Nyra | Laurel, Gretchen | La Viña, Carmen | Lina, Olivia | Llames, Roberto | Lorenzo, Romeo & Teresita | Luna, Shanti | Maceda, Gerardo & Margarita | Madrid, Mark & Caren | MAGIS Creative Spaces | Magis Deo Johns Group | Maiquez, Hermie | Manila Symphony Orchestra | Manning, John | Mendoza, Ghel | Mirchanda, Dilip | Mirchansani Family | Nañagas, Vitaliano | Narvaez, Evaresto | Operation Blessing | Pascual, Patricia | Paz, Kathleen et al | Peng, Micheal & Virginia | Perez De Tagle, Victor | Philippine Horn Society | Philippine Jesuit Foundation | Philippine Navy | Philips | Pineda, Jobee & Tata | Ponce, Tess | Pooley, Wayne & Aren | Pua Nocom, Joanne | Puno, Tina | Quibilan, Ady | Quintos, Louisa | Quipr | Rags2Riches | Ramesh, Dhruvaa & Raghav | Ramirez, Vicente & Julieta | Rauner, Ryan | Regis Grace Montessori School | Reloza, Asuncion | Rivera, Peter | Rivera, Tes | Rivera, Zenaida | RMR Electric Corporation | Rojas, Col. Chito | Rourke, Ana | Russell, Jonathan & Princess | Sagado, Betty | Salanga, Fr. Vic SJ | San Jose Seminary | Sanchez, Annabs | Sangalang, Sebastian | Schumer, Eric | Shah Family | Siguenza, Janelle | Siguenza, Maribeth | Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan | Subia, Gabe | Suntay, Robert | Tacastacas, Camille | Tan, Zoe & Dani | Tetris Realty and Development Corp. | The Learning Child Teachers & Staff | Torralba, Norma | Tronqued, Marlon | Truong, Lac Khanh | Truong, Lem | University of Asia & the Pacific Art Department | US-Philippine Society | UST-Medicine Class '63 | Uy, Danny & Margie | Vargas-Baron, Emily | Velhagen, Katrise | Velhagen, KC | Velhagen, Kimmy | Ventigan, Yet & Noel | Vidmar, Teresa | Villanueva, Suzzane | Villaruz, Cecilia | Watson, Glyn | Weiss, Margaret | West, David & Cathy | Yguico, Sandro

Beyond building structures, your generosity helps build communities too!

Pamulaan Center for Indigenous Peoples' Education ~ Graduation Ceremonies

Cartwheel Comes Full Circle

Gina Alfonso, Founder of Cartwheel Foundation, shares how Pamulaan Center's 2014 Graduation Ceremonies truly became a celebration of the dynamic cycle of giving and receiving, in more ways than one.

The commencement exercises started with all graduates in circle formation, witnessing a fitting ritual of gratitude by a Talaandig elder who facilitated the pouring on each graduate, blessings from the heavens. Together, some members of the Cartwheel Team celebrated with all of the Pamulaan community, represented by over 25 tribal communities in the Philippines. Pia Ortiz-Luis (Cartwheel Executive Director), Celia Jurado (Programs Officer) and Bricks Sintaon (former Cartwheel scholar from the Talaandig Community and now Education Coordinator) were particularly thrilled to honor the 10 Cartwheel college scholars who just completed four-year degrees in Education, with support from their generous and committed sponsors.

It was a festive day; certainly a time for thanksgiving and celebration. They thanked us for our presence and support; we reminded them that the thanks should first and foremost come from us--for giving us the chance to learn from and share in their journey!

"Their one yes completely affirms the journey of the past decade and a half."

And just when I thought my heart had its fill of blessings for the day, I was greeted by something completely unexpected. Five non-graduates, some of whom are current college scholars of Cartwheel, introduced themselves as students from that first pre-school class in Bukidnon 15 years ago. I could hardly contain my shock and joy; I could hardly believe I was in the company of these kids whom I had known as toddlers, but whom I had lost track of all these years! Literally staring me in the face, ripe and ready for life, were the fruits of the birthing process I shared with their elders so many years back! It was absolutely priceless. I was bursting with excitement and pride. How true it is that experiencing the joys of parenting can come in so many different forms; just as coming to have children can happen in multiple ways.



Cartwheel Founder Gina Alfonso (center) with graduates from Sta. Teresita Pre-School of Miarayan, Bukidnon who are now college students at the Pamulaan Center for Indigenous Education (March 28, 2014)

Through what has been just a few short years of half my lifetime, I have always kept these kids in heart and mind; hoping they are doing well and considering them my own, despite the distance and time apart. The other day, I finally had the chance to let them know this, and to officially ask them to adopt me--as one among their parents as well. And it was my greatest joy to hear see them respond with big, bright, beautiful smiles, and a hearty YES! Their answer, little do they know, is a gift I receive with deep gratitude.

Their one yes completely affirms the journey of the past decade and a half. The one yes, along with the image of their big bright smiles, is all the inspiration we need, as their partner parents, to continue spiralling forward; to staying committed, with a steadfast love, to this incredibly fruitful dynamic cycle of giving and receiving we have all these years called a Cartwheel.



Cartwheel Foundation, Inc. (CFI) is a non-profit organization that seeks to nurture Filipino Indigenous Peoples' heritage through culturally relevant education



cartwheeling

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