



25



YEARS



Where commitment lives, learning grows



2024

ANNUAL REPORT



About the Cover

In 2024, we at Cartwheel Foundation marked 25 years of walking alongside Indigenous communities across the Philippines.

For a solid 25 years, we've held close to our mission: making culturally relevant education a lasting path for Filipino Indigenous Peoples. We're deeply grateful for every step of this shared journey.

The cover reflects the spirit that has guided us through the years: where commitment lives, learning grows. Together with communities, we've shared hopes, listened closely, and helped shape spaces where children learn, parents are heard, and futures begin to brighten.

It's a journey still unfolding—with hearts full, roots deep, and commitment stronger than ever.

Our Vision

A Philippines where Indigenous Peoples enjoy their rights to quality education, self-determination and active participation in community life amidst a thriving heritage.

Our Mission

Cartwheel Foundation, Inc. (CFI) exists to empower Indigenous Peoples' communities by harnessing self-sustaining capacities through culturally relevant education.

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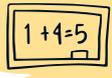
Wilbert B. Sajulga
**Community Coordinator -
Kasanyangan, Zamboanga City**

Numbers that Matter, Inc- NTMI
Accountant



Our Impact by the Numbers

IP Children and Youth



53 young students in partner learning centers



4 IP Groups (est. 557) indigenous community members supported through in-kind donation drives



47 ECD Program completers move up to Kinder



3 indigenized children's stories printed in book form - illustrated and written out in 3 languages



1 solar power installation in a learning center with 127 beneficiaries

Family and Nuclear Community



7 IP groups engaged in culture-sharing



22 learning facilitators trained in culturally relevant, rights-based & resilience-focused approaches



35 culture bearers involved in Cultural LINKS story-sharing circles

Wider Community



5 groups (est. 206) individuals engaged in IP culture awareness learning exchanges

2024 Community Highlights

TEACHERS' DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

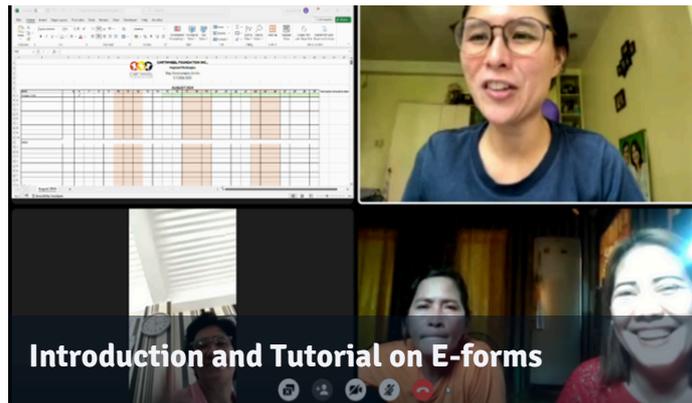
JANUARY-DECEMBER



Throughout the year, Sama-Bajau teachers from both Parañaque and Zamboanga City met at least once every month. CFI Team facilitated the meetings with the usual flow of a short check in activity, a review of relevant learning topics, and sharing of updates from both areas.



JULY



On July 26, the CFI team conducted an introduction and tutorial on E-forms for community teachers in their partner areas in Parañaque and Zamboanga City, with the goal of helping them enhance their computer literacy skills and supporting them in efficient record-keeping. The session covered essential digital forms in the classroom, including Learners' Profile and Health Assessment, Daily Attendance Sheets, and Pre- and Post-Test forms.

OCTOBER



-On the week of October 21-25, CFI, with funding from Metrobank Foundation, Inc., organized an in-person training for the Daloy ng Karunungan Series for Early Childhood Education Teachers of Indigenous Learners. A total of 22 child development workers and teachers serving six indigenous communities across the country gathered for the training. Learning sessions were anchored on the ECCD Competency Standards set by the ECCD Council of the Philippines, with emphasis on cultural integration.



NOVEMBER



-On November 29, CFI team, along with ECCD Consultant Raquel Cabrieto, kicked off the first Kita Kita Kumustahan online follow-up session. It is part of the ongoing Daloy ng Karunungan training series, which started with a five-day in-person training last October. The sessions are designed to support the teachers in their personal and professional development, revisit concepts shared during the training.

LEARNERS' DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

JANUARY-MAY



Learning Exchange with High School Students

From January to several days in February, April, and May, Sama-Bajau learners of the Sama-Bajau Activity Center in Parañaque City engaged in a community interaction with Grade 12 STEM students from Elizabeth Seton School (ESS). The ESS students facilitated various learning activities, including storytelling sessions, dental health lessons, drawing, reading and writing exercises, and tie-dyeing. These interactive sessions created opportunities for learning and meaningful exchanges between the students and the community.

JANUARY-DECEMBER



Supplementary Feeding Initiative

Regular supplementary feeding support has been provided at the Activity Center in Parañaque since the start of School Year 2024-2025. Every second and fourth Thursday of the month, learners and their families receive essential food items, including fresh vegetables, rice, eggs, and biscuits.

APRIL-DECEMBER



Daily School-based Feeding from Thrive

Since April 2024, CFI has partnered with Thrive as its feeding program partner at the Sama-Bajau Activity Center in Brgy. San Dionisio, Parañaque City. This partnership provides fresh, nutritious meals to Sama-Bajau learners, to ensure proper nourishment while in school. The initiative aims to support their physical well-being and encourage regular class attendance.

MAY



Thrive Team Visit and Community Engagement at Sama-Bajau Activity Center

For school year 2022-2023, a total of 13 Sama-Bajau learners in Parañaque City and 29 learners in Zamboanga City completed the program and were recognized as ready to move up to the next grade level. They were honored with special awards to celebrate their numerous accomplishments in the past year.



I'm happy and grateful because there's an opportunity for the kids to have their meals and eat first before we start our classes.

Teacher Marilyn
Teacher, Sama-Bajau
Activity Center

JULY



Implementation of Education and Child Development (ECD) Program

For School Year 2023-2024, a total of 53 Sama-Bajau learners in CFI's partner communities in Parañaque and Zamboanga City (12 in Parañaque City and 42 in Zamboanga City) completed the Education and Child Development (ECD) program and were honored with special awards to celebrate their numerous accomplishments in the past school year.

JULY



Sama-Bajau Learners' Mind Museum Field Trip with Sun Life

On July 6, Sama-Bajau learners from the Sama-Bajau Activity Center, along with CFI's community teachers and some parents, spent the day on a special tour of The Mind Museum with the Sun Life Foundation team. The visit was a meaningful way to celebrate the learners' recently concluded Recognition Day.

AUGUST



Opening of Classes for School Year 2024-2025

CFI welcomed a new batch of learners in its partner communities for School Year 2024-2025—on August 5 for Angiskul Ma Bangka in Zamboanga City and August 7 for the Sama-Bajau Activity Center in Parañaque City.

AUGUST



Big School Enrollments

Five graduates from CFI's Early Childhood Development (ECD) Program at the Sama-Bajau Activity Center in Parañaque successfully moved up and enrolled in Kindergarten at a DepEd School for School Year 2024-2025.

AUGUST-NOVEMBER



School Supplies Donation Drive for Indigenous Students

Indigenous learners from CFI partner communities received much-needed school supplies through generous donors and volunteers. On August 2, Insight Manila provided school supplies and slippers to Subanon learners in Zamboanga. In October, Talaandig students in Bukidnon received donations through a drive led by Sheila Deconlay. By November, Mangyan Hanunuo students in Mindoro benefited from an initiative led by Anya Postma, with support from CBK Hardware Inc.

OCTOBER



Gift-Giving Activity with Sun Life Claims Team

On October 19, Sama-Bajau learners and parents residing in Brgy. San Dionisio, Parañaque City participated in an engaging interaction and gift-giving activity with the Sun Life Claims Team with support from Sun Life Foundation partners. The activity was an opportunity for the learners to share stories, express themselves, and build friendships.

NOVEMBER



Children's Month Engagement Activity with BNI Elite

On November 29, Sama-Bajau learners residing in Brgy. San Dionisio, Parañaque City gathered with some of their parents in celebration of National Children's Month with members of BNI Elite, led by Bambi Gamban, CFI's Vice-President and long-time champion for the cause of Indigenous Peoples. BNI Elite members pooled resources together to gift partner Sama-Bajau families grocery packs filled with essential supplies. Materials such as gallons of paint for their classroom and other school supplies were also shared to support the education program for the learners.

DECEMBER



Donation Drive for Sama-Bajau Families of Wawa, Batangas

CFI acknowledges Aysha Barahim of the Sama-Bajau tribe for initiating an in-kind donation drive for around 100 Sama-Bajau families in Wawa, Batangas, after their stilt houses were damaged by heavy rains and flooding. With support from BNI Elite - Taguig, Philippines, and Sun Life Philippines, families received grocery packs, toiletries, food items, and pre-loved clothing.

SAFE LEARNING SPACE DEVELOPMENT

MARCH-MAY



MAY



Completion of Painting of Angiskul Ma Bangka Classroom

From March to May, the Angiskul Ma Bangka (AMB) Child Development Center classroom in Brgy. Kasanyangan, Zamboanga had its interior and exterior fully painted, which helped create a better learning environment for AMB learners. This was made possible through the support of Capitol Steel Corporation.



Solar Power Installation and Gadget Donation in Patalon, Zamboanga City

From May 24-27, CFI completed its third round of solar power installation and gadget donation at Monte Central Indigenous Peoples Elementary School (MIPES) in Brgy. Patalon, Zamboanga City, as part of its Tech Capacity Building initiative for Indigenous Peoples (IP) Schools. The project aimed to provide a means for the teachers to better facilitate a better learning experience for 127 Subanon students from Kinder to Grade 6 through access to electricity and gadgets such as a laptop, printer and projector.

JULY-AUGUST



Classroom Improvement at the New Sama-Bajau Activity Center

From July to August, additional electric fans and new cabinets were installed at the new Sama-Bajau Activity Center through the generosity of various donors to create a better learning environment for learners. Earlier in March, the Barangay Local Government Unit (BLGU) relocated the center from San Dionisio Gym to Palanyag Gym due to renovation work at its previous site.

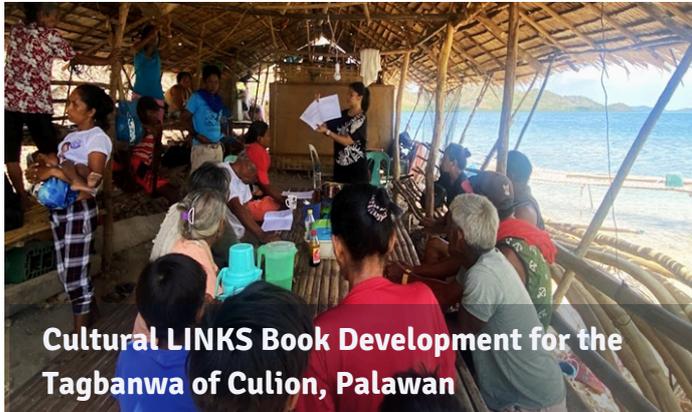
I'm happy that we now have solar power that we can use, especially the students. Even other mothers and parents like me whom you helped, I am very thankful, I'm delighted that you helped us.

Geraldine Ustalan
Monte Central Elementary School
Educational Council (MSEC), President



LEARNING RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND INSTRUCTION

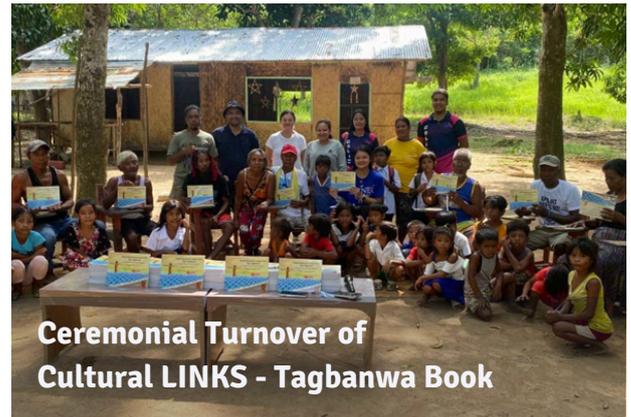
FEBRUARY-JULY



Cultural LINKS Book Development for the Tagbanwa of Culion, Palawan

With support from J. Kawakami Memorial Trust, CFI developed an indigenized children's storybook as part of the Cultural LINKS (Leveraging Indigenous Niches through Knowledge sharing and Storytelling) Project. It features stories and cultural narratives from the Tagbanwa gathered through cultural conversations. The first validation took place in March, followed by a final validation in May. Succeeding months were required to further edit, refine, illustrate, translate, and layout the stories. Finally, 150 copies of the storybooks were successfully printed in August.

DECEMBER



Ceremonial Turnover of Cultural LINKS - Tagbanwa Book

On December 6, CFI turned over *Tung Kapupuluan yang Culion, May Tagbanwa* ("In the Island of Culion, the Tagbanwa Dwell"), a collection of three short stories from the cultural archives of the Tagbanwa of Culion, chosen by their great elders, narrated in their native language, and thereafter translated into Filipino by the Community's culture-bearers.

NOVEMBER



Big Book Development for the Sama-Bajau of Parañaque

On November 25, CFI's partner Sama-Bajau parents in Parañaque City participated in story-harvesting circles led by members of the UP Education Society and Professor Ched Arzadon. This marked the first phase of the group's big book making which will feature the community's personal journeys in travelling from their homeland in Mindanao to Manila and their innate closeness to the sea. The group will return in 2025 to validate the translated stories in the Sinama language and illustration drafts, and then eventually present the final big storybook they have co-created with the community.



It is exciting to see our stories illustrated this way. This will help us keep our stories alive for our grandchildren and they will realize, 'Ah, so this is what it's like to be a Tagbanwa.' We are grateful to all of you [who made this happen]."

Bae Gloria Apolinario
Cultural bearer, Tagbanwa



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION

JANUARY-NOVEMBER



Parent Engagement Sessions

CFI team members visit the Sama-Bajau Activity Center every second and fourth Thursday of the month to meet with the parents, conduct check-in activities, discuss topics of interest raised by the Sama-Bajau parents, and coordinate additional ways CFI can support their children's education. This is also an opportunity for the team to hear valuable insights from them—listening to partner communities is a means to recognize their strengths, and shape programs in a way that truly make sense for them.

JULY



Cleanup and Preparation of Classrooms

On July 29, CFI's community teachers in Zamboanga City, along with Sama-Bajau parents devoted their time and effort to the Brigada Bulilit, an annual clean up and classroom preparation activity prior to the official start of the new school.

AUGUST



Enrollment and Parents' Orientation

Prior to the start of the School Year 2024-2025, CFI teachers in partner communities Zamboanga and Parañaque City worked closely with Sama-Bajau parents to facilitate the enrollment of learners to ensure a smooth transition to a new school year. This was followed by an orientation session aimed to strengthen parent engagement and support for their children's education.

SEPTEMBER



Learning Session on Children's Health

Sama-Bajau mothers gathered on the morning of September 28 for a learning exchange on children's health, led by Dr. Rainbow Sarmiento, a pediatrician. She discussed children's common health issues and inquired about ways the mothers usually address these. She also gave very practical tips on how to monitor symptoms, what may be done from home, and when to take the children to the nearest health center or hospital in case of emergencies.



Our children are able to go to school and receive the support that they need many thanks to your program

Christina
Parent, Sama-Bajau
Activity Center

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CULTURE ADVOCACY

JULY



CFI was among the non-profit organizations that was given the opportunity to present and share about its mission and exchange ideas on social change with other like-minded organizations in "Foundation of Advocacies," an introductory webinar on non-profit organizations in the Philippines organized by FairBuilding Network.



JULY



On July 11, CFI's Vice-President Bambi Gamban gave a feature presentation about Cartwheel's mission with 130+ business owners and representatives from around Metro Manila. This was part of BNI's weekly online gathering of its vast network of members with diverse fields of expertise.

JULY



CFI was honored to be among NGO partners of Sun Life Philippines that joined the Sun Life Foundation Fair on November 27-28. The fair provided a space for connection, where the team was able to share CFI's mission and advocacy and engage with Sun Lifers.



OCTOBER



About Cartwheel Foundation

Cartwheel Foundation, Inc. (CFI) is a non-stock, non-profit organization founded in 1998. Cartwheel Foundation focuses its efforts towards giving the marginalized and disadvantaged communities of indigenous peoples the chance to enjoy their right to an education. Working hand-in-hand with generous partners and sponsors, Cartwheel's effort is to bring education to the indigenous people who need it most.

[SEARCH MORE](#)

776

229

64



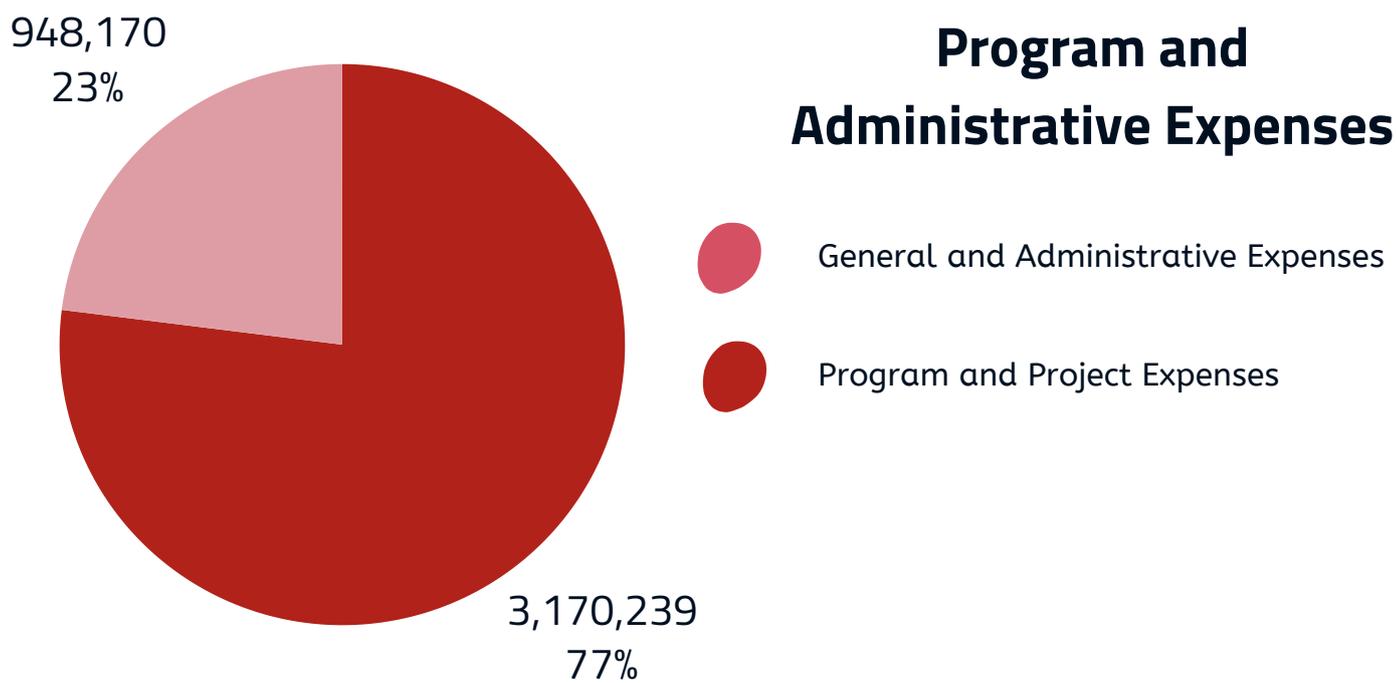
CFI Website Revamp

CFI launched a website revamp project with Rocketship Designs to make its platform more user-friendly and accessible, aiming to expand reach and amplify advocacy. The project is set for completion in 2025.



Financials

In 2024, we maximized our budget to ensure the continuous implementation and growth of our programs.



Financials based on CFI's 2024 Audited Financial Statements

Making progress together

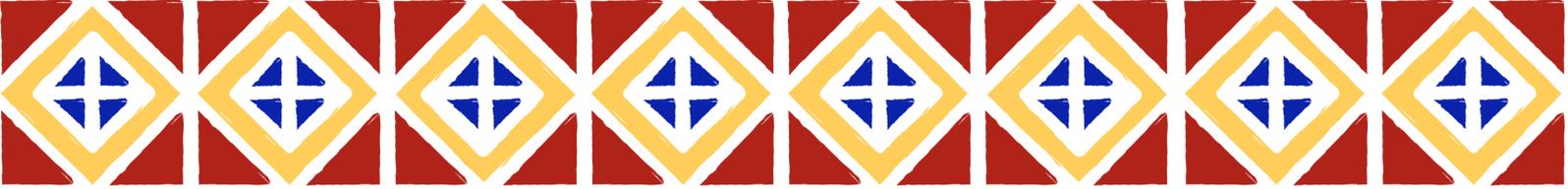
Our deepest gratitude goes out to you!



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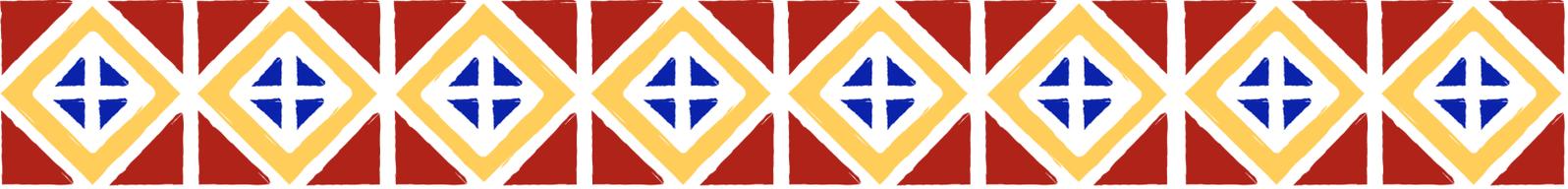
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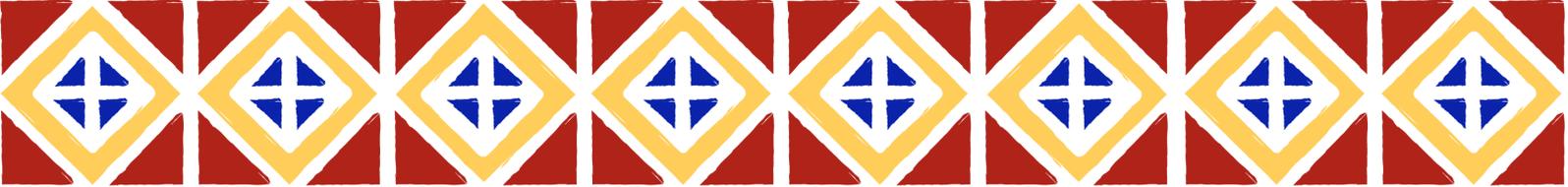
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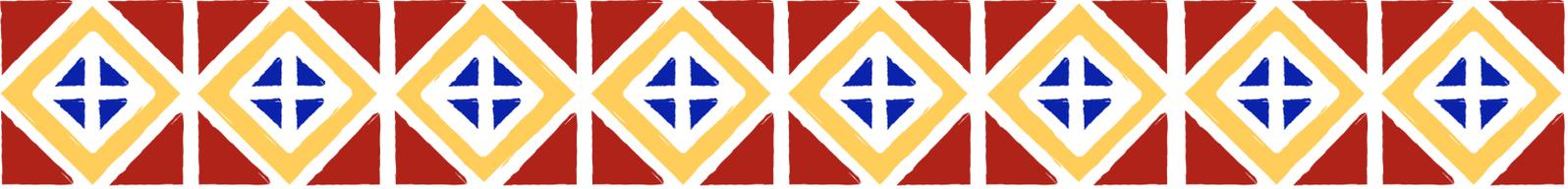
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Even without anything in return, we're happy here because Cartwheel is helping us in our children's education. My daughter Salmarita is now in Grade 1 and is continuing her studies. She can already write her name and ours, her parents' too.

Ate Lita
Parent, Sama-Bajau
Activity Center





Let's continue to carry our commitment forward and let learning keep growing!



DONATE

Help a child grow in culturally relevant learning! Be a sponsor and match our partner communities' efforts in educating their children. Course your donations to: BPI Account (SA): Cartwheel Foundation Inc. 0203-2322-92



INITIATE

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



ADVOCATE

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

Contact Us



218 Unit F, Malinao Street
Barangay Highway Hills
Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines
action@cartwheelfoundation.org



+632.8429-9562



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