



July–December 2014 Issue

cartwheeling

The Official E-Newsletter of Cartwheel Foundation, Inc.

New horizons in 2014

Community Daycare opens for the Talaandig Children of Miarayon



Bricks Sintaon (rightmost, front row) with young Talaandig learners and their parents at the opening of the Miarayon Community Daycare (July 2014)

Fifteen years after Cartwheel's first pre-school was established for Talaandig children in Miarayon, Bukidnon, the cycle of *sowing* and *reaping* continues to nurture young minds in the land where its journey started.

With local stakeholders taking on the programs together with the Talaandig community, Cartwheel has been happy to fully transition ownership to them in recent years. For school year 2014-15, the **Miarayon Community Daycare** was opened through the initiative of community members, with technical assistance from Cartwheel.

Together with the learners' parents, the Talaandig graduates of Cartwheel's Young IP Leaders Program—led by Bricks Sintaon and Bebie Rose Tacal—have committed to contributing funds and pooling other available resources to sustain the Daycare's operations on their own. With this collective effort, Cartwheel's journey with the Miarayon community has come full circle, indeed.



Community members of Sitio Chindonan represent their own safe place through an arts activity (July 2014)

activities for the Tagbanua were conducted by volunteers from the University of Asia & the Pacific Arts Department in July 2014.

Furthermore, with the finalization of the design of the MPEH, the construction of the structures is expected to commence by January 2015 in the three aforementioned Tagbanua communities, through the generosity of US Philippines Society and various donors.

Angiskul Ma Bangka Program begins classes for Bajau and Tausug Children of Zamboanga

As a contribution to multi-sectoral efforts toward helping communities displaced by the Zamboanga Siege of September 2013, Cartwheel and Ateneo de Zamboanga University's Center for Community Extension Services (CCES) came together to establish **Angiskul Ma Bangka** (Classes in Bancas)—an alternative education program for indigenous Bajau and Tausug children currently residing in Brgy. Mampang, one of the designated transitory sites for the Siege evacuees.

The collaboration aims to help ease the vulnerable situation of the children by providing them with opportunities to learn in a safe environment, and to access relevant education that integrates their indigenous life ways. Given its unique context, a culture-based and peace-based curriculum is being implemented for this initiative.

The program was launched in October 2014, with a total of 93 enrollees, ages 3-11 years. Two classes are conducted daily by Teacher Relinda Montimor, who herself is from the Bajau ethnic group.

The Angiskul Ma Bangka initiative is made possible through the generosity of TELUS International Philippines, Zamboanga's City Social Welfare and Development Office, and various individual donors and supporters.

Right: Teacher Relinda Montimor leads the class in an interactive lesson (Nov 2014)



Project RISE continues for the Tagbanua of Cullon, Palawan

In response to the need for a sustainable rebuilding program for the Tagbanua of Cullon, Palawan who were affected by Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan), Cartwheel—in cooperation with MAGIS Creative Spaces, Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan, and various other partners—has intensified the implementation of **Project RISE** (Re-igniting Community Strength through Education). The Project is focused on the provision of psychosocial support and the construction of disaster-resilient Multi-Purpose Evacuation Halls (MPEH) for over 100 Tagbanua families in Sitios Alulad, Cagait and Chindonan.

As part of this initiative—and as a follow through to the Disaster Mental Health trainers' training workshop attended by teachers and community workers of Cullon in May 2014—expressive arts therapy

Cartwheel receives UNESCO-APCEIU Best Practices Award

For the program on Early Childhood and Elementary Education for Indigenous Learners of the Higaonon community in Sinakungan, Agusan del Sur, the *Education for International Understanding Best Practices Award* was conferred to Cartwheel, through its Education Coordinator Bricks Sintaon.

Representatives from UNESCO's Asia Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) visited the Cartwheel Office on December 1 to learn more about the education innovations practiced in Sinakungan.

With this recognition, Cartwheel acknowledges the many others who have come together for the past five years in bringing relevant education to Higaonon young learners. *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

Right: UNESCO-APCEIU's Yeonwoo Lee awards the Best Practices honors to Cartwheel's Bricks Sintaon (Dec 2014)



Cartwheel collaborates with Cultures In Harmony to Inspire Hope through Music



Left: CiH and Tagbanua musicians make beautiful harmonies together during the interactive musical presentations in Culion, Palawan. Right: CiH musicians are joined by the Cartwheel Board & Staff at the culminating concert in Ayala Museum. (Aug 2014)

Building on a strong partnership since 2006, Cartwheel collaborated once more with Cultures in Harmony (CiH)—a US-based organization that forges connections across cultural barriers through music—to contribute to the healing and recovery efforts for the Tagbanua of Northern Palawan, post-Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan).

On the week of August 13-17, four Julliard-trained classical musicians conducted musical exchange workshops with a select group of Tagbanua instrumentalists from Culion and neighboring Coron. Together, they toured the islands in a series of interactive musical presentations for indigenous communities and townsfolk alike.

To culminate the collaboration, and in celebration of Cartwheel's 15th anniversary, a concert entitled "*Cultures in Harmony: Building Structures of Hope with Filipino Indigenous Communities*" was presented by Cartwheel, CiH, and Manila Symphony Orchestra on August 21 at the Ayala Museum. The event was made possible through the cooperation of the Ayala Museum, DAKILA, MAGIS Creative Spaces, La Inmaculada Concepcion Parish of Culion, as well as sponsors Park N' Ride, Inc. and Brightlight Interior Design.

Our warmest thanks to our donors & partners who made 2014 a fruitful year for Cartwheel!

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May your generosity return to you in abundance throughout 2015!



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

contact us! 218 Unit F Malinao St., Brgy. Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines
(+632)584.1532 | action@cartwheelfoundation.org | www.cartwheelfoundation.org