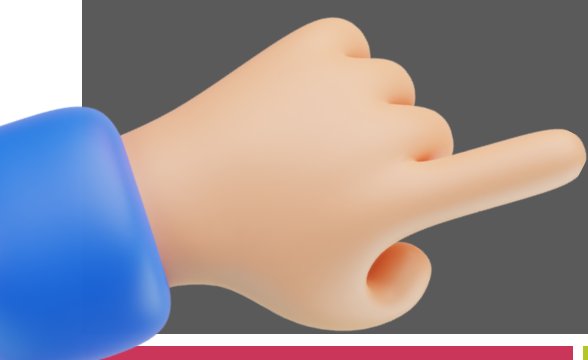


# KLIKme NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023



Hello! Thank you for subscribing to the KLIKme newsletter. In the month of July, we are celebrating International Friendship Day worldwide. We are grateful to be able to step back and take this time to be thankful for our friends around the globe as KLIKme promotes and encourages peace, hope, and love.

In this month's edition you will find stories about the friendships we are creating in our communities that are making an impact in all of our lives.



## Welcome Grace Pascual Nakar to KLIKme GLX!

(And Why Reunions Have a Reason)  
By Melissa Moran



## Madonna University Friendships

By Melissa Aquino



## Dreams Made Possible with KLIKme

By Aubrey Bocalan



## Caring for The Lost, Least, and Last

By Rose Cabrera



## The Filgrimage

By Aubrey Bocalan



## Upcoming Events (Kaibigan Chika Sessions)

### Being a Child of God

Aug 11:  
6-7PM US  
Aug 12:  
9-10:30AM PH

### Wealth in Nature

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### Our Unique Philippine Culture

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# Welcome Grace Pascual Nakar to KLIKme GLX!

(And Why Reunions Have a Reason)

By Melissa Moran



Look who's coming on board to KLIKme's Global Learning Exchange (GLX)! Grace Pascual Nakar, a U.S.-based Executive Coach specializing in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI), Succession Planning, and Talent Development Leadership—with a diverse background over 15+ years providing management and strategic consulting within multiple industries in the U.S. and Asia, serving small, mid-sized, and large organizations. Impressive credentials indeed!

But I know Grace best as my batchmate—along with her twin sister, Amy—from Kindergarten to High School at Maryknoll College in Quezon City! Having lost touch over the 48 years since high school graduation, we met up by chance at a reunion here in Manila early this year.

## From classmate to KLIKmate!

I guess the little I shared about KLIKme at that quick encounter must have struck a chord in Grace's heart. Because once she was back home in Arizona, she and I began exchanging emails where I slowly introduced the exciting and ambitious KLIKme Program components. She sat in a few Zoom KLIKme CHIKA Sessions and joined the breakout rooms with our learners. When she shared about her professional coaching and organizational background, I knew she would be an ideal addition to the GLX team of Tess Castro (California), Caleb Galaraga (New York), and Mirze Rey (London)!



## What drew Grace to KLIKme?

She had hurdled the challenges of being a student wife and mother herself at 19 years old while in college at the University of the Philippines, plus being a student activist, to still graduate cum laude. She then went on to be a UP college counselor and instructor, a volunteer for NAMFREL or the National Movement for Free Elections, an employee at the Dept. of Trade and Industry, and then moving on to the multinational corporate world. So despite living overseas for several decades, Grace's innate love of country and calling to help others must have found an echo in our work with Filipino high school dropouts.

A chance reunion after 40+ years led Grace to KLIKme! Here's Grace (center), with her twin Amy and me at our school gathering last January.



She admits, "Initially I had mixed feelings given how hopeless the poverty situation was..." but then she was reminded of that well-known story of the many starfish washed up on the shore. We may not be able to save ALL the starfish. But **"I can save THIS star fish."**

"And then I thought about all the young Kaibigans I've seen so far in Zoom, and realized... **there are so many in the diaspora, like me, who want to give back.**"



Grace's insight is that the benefits of being a KLIKme Kapatid are actually two-way and self-regenerating. "It's not about Kapatid have's helping Learner have-not's. We all have gifts to share and, in the space within our conversation, more blessings will appear." Now, that's the true GLX spirit.

## Welcome to KLIKme, Grace!

# Madonna University Friendships

By Melissa Aquino

Last June 23-24, GKONOMICS/KLIKme hosted a group of American educators and graduate students from Madonna University for two impactful days of Social Justice Excursions in the Philippines. GKONOMICS is a social enterprise platform that supports social impact investments for the poor, and KLIKme is its flagship program designed to break the cycle of poverty for millions of Filipinos.

The 29-day study program aimed to enhance the core curriculum through comparative studies between the United States and the Philippines. Dr. Connie Tingson-Gatuz, a second-generation Filipina-American and a key figure in the partnership, initiated this collaboration in 2015.

See "A Humbling Study Abroad Experience"

## Day I - First Half

On Day 1, the visitors explored the Payatas community, once known for extreme poverty, crime, and drugs. The area has improved over the years, in part due to the efforts of the Puso ng Ama Foundation (PNA), led by Fr. Paul Uwemedimo. The group interacted with KLIKme Payatas learners. The visitors engaged in small group discussions, allowing an exchange of perspectives and providing the learners with an opportunity to practice their English.



MADONNA UNIVERSITY Fulbright-Hays Study Abroad 2023: Dr. Shelly Tucker, Social Work/ Dr. Jodi Barta, Forensic Science, Biology, Anthropology/ Dr. Roxanne Roth, Nursing/ Dr. Karen Schmitz, Nutrition & Dietetics/ Dr. LaToi Smith, Social Work/ Dr. Sarah Twitchell, Social Work/ Colleen Curran, Nursing/ Erica Daniels, Education/ Abrianna De Bono, Nutrition/ Jessica Grima, Social Work/ Tavia Hill, Social Work.



## Day 1 - Second Half



The second half of Day 1 was spent at the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU), a leading academic institution in the Philippines. Fr. Ben Nebres, the longest-serving president of ADMU and his team shared about the university's initiatives to address poverty, like the Ateneo Center for Educational Development (ACED) and the Blue Plate Feeding Program, Pathways to Higher Education, Gawad Kalinga Ateneo, and the Masters in Entrepreneurship for Social Enterprise Development (MESEDEV) Program.

The visitors also heard from various social enterprises, including Chalkboard, an online tutoring edtech platform, and The PHL Hub, a digital platform of hope utilizing Web3 technology to help the Philippines and is part of KLIKme's efforts to ensure sustainability.

## Day 2 - GET & KLIKme

Day 2 began with a visit to Global Electric Transportation (GET), where the group met the founder, Freddie Tinga, and learned about the positive impact of the jeepney modernization program on former jeepney drivers. Later, they visited MINT College, the first academic partner of KLIKme, which has a progressive curriculum and offerings and supports a number of scholars from disadvantaged communities.



GET operates the COMET electric minibus which transported our Madonna U visitors during their time in Metro Manila. The COMET is a very comfortable ride!



The closing message by Dr. LaToi Smith encouraged everyone to continue their work in promoting social justice and empowering individuals to realize their full potential. Freddie Tinga emphasized the importance of building a better world, and he shared about the Rizal Global Project, an education initiative that aims to provide an immersive education experience for students in America, Europe, and Asia.

[Click to Watch Dr. LaToi's Powerful Message](#)

Overall, the Social Justice Excursions provided an enriching experience for both the American visitors and the organizations in the Philippines. The exchange of ideas and insights contributed to the ongoing efforts to address poverty and promote social justice in the region.

# Dreams Made Possible with KLIKme

By Aubrey Bocalan




**Victor**

**wants to be  
an engineer.**

A civil engineer  
specifically.





He had big dreams, but when he was in school, he did very little to reach those goals. In fact, he did very little at school. He would prefer to skip class and waste time with his friends than learn about math or science.

Though his father worked hard as a driver to pay for Victor's school, Victor would rather go out and drink with his buddies.

*"Mas pipiliin kong tumambay kaysa mag-aral, (I would rather hang out with friends than learn)," he said.*

Looking back, he realized he did not just waste his time, but also his talents. People would ask him why he let himself go, why he didn't work.

But the big catalyst, the wake-up call, came when his mom had a stroke.

*He remembers thinking to himself, "Sayang kasi kung nag-aral ako tapos na ako (What a waste. If I had just gone to school, I would be done already)."*

He has friends, cousins and other family members his age that have already graduated college, but he never finished high school. He offers himself as a cautionary tale to others. Don't waste time.

If you're in school, go to class.

# LEARN.

Take advantage of the opportunity to better yourself.

Though he didn't follow the same path and regrets it, he is grateful for KLIKme for helping him find his way again. Now, he is part of the KLIKme Pandi community in Bulacan and

## CAN TAKE A STEP TOWARD HIS DREAM.

# Caring for The Lost, Least, and Last

By Rose Cabrera

## Imelda Baculi or "Dang"

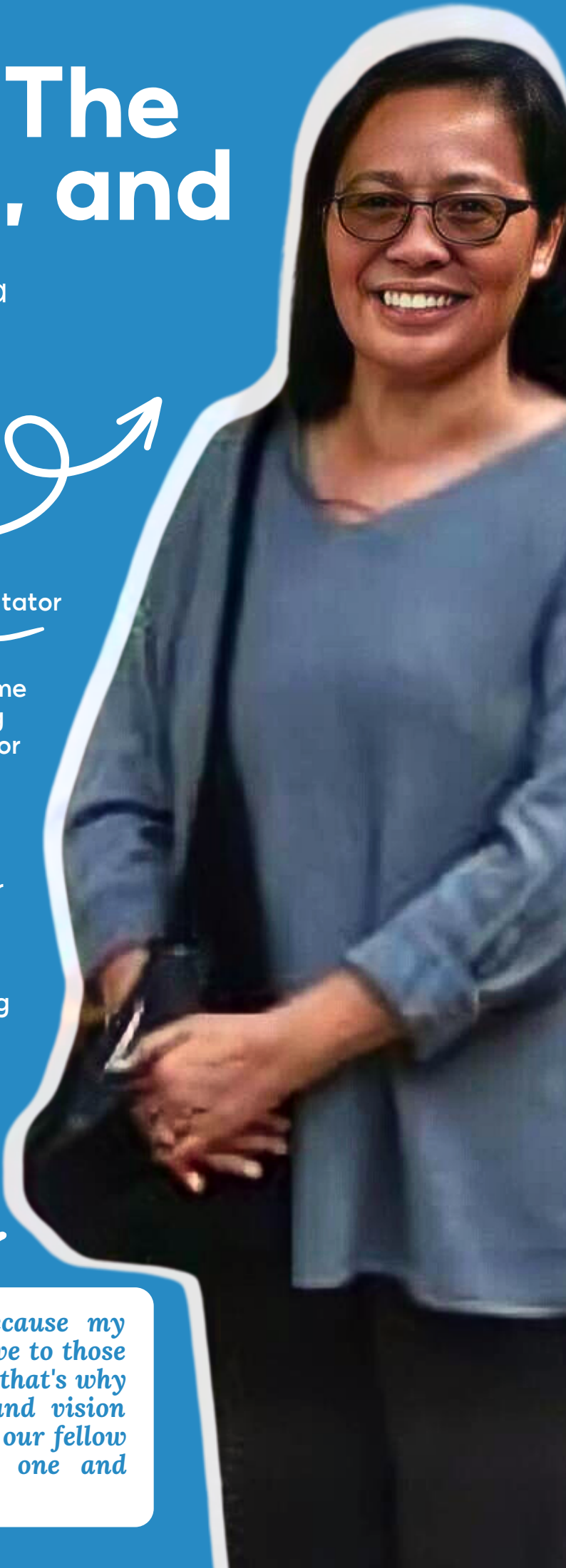
is the KLIKme Community Learning Facilitator in Pandi, Bulacan.

She has been patiently guiding the KLIKme learners in the last 12 months and helping them learn new skills to get them ready for work and a brighter future.

Born and raised in Bulacan over 50 years ago, Dang is the fourth of 10 children. Her parents were simple scrap workers who managed to send their 10 kids through school. Dang and her siblings had to sell ice candy and bananaQ to have spending money for school.


Dang had a successful career in marketing but in her early 30s, she got sick and it was then that she realized that her calling is for mission work. In late 2021, she was invited to be part of KLIKme by her friend Josie Carpio.

*She said yes, "I joined KLIKme because my purpose in life is to bring hope and love to those who are LOST, LEAST, and LAST and that's why I see myself in KLIKme's mission and vision working together to uplift the lives of our fellow Filipinos particularly the forgotten one and maramdam nila 'belonginess'."*





# Josie Carpio



Josie was at the KLIKme Pandi Assembly last July 10 and she was overwhelmed by what she witnessed. "I never imagined it would be like this," Josie told KLIKme CEO Rose Cabrera after meeting and hearing the stories of the more than 60 KLIKme Pandi learners.

Rose replied, "It is always amazing to see how God uses people and watching His work unfold. Thank you Josie to bringing Dang to KLIKme."



Learn more about the [Pandi community](#).

The KLIKme Program is so blessed to have Dang as one of the pilot community learning facilitators, and so are the learners that are under her wing, former high school dropouts who have now found hope and new life.

# The Filgrimage

By Aubrey Bocalan

There is something truly special about knowing where one comes from. The Filipino School located in San Diego, California is dedicated to just that. "It is designed for Filipino Americans, for Filipinos in the US who are seeking that kind of connection back to a country that they may not know in depth," Glenda Genio, executive director of the Filipino School, said.

In 2015, The Filipino School embarked on an initiative they call Filgrimage. It is an experiential immersion trip for Filipino-Americans who want to discover more about Being Filipino—the history, heritage, culture, and to see firsthand, the beauty of the Philippines and her people. In doing so, these young Fil-Ams were also about to discover more about themselves. This year's Filgrimage was held from July 6 to 16, 2023.

## The trip is divided into two parts.

The first is all about the country and her people. Participants get to see parks, monuments and museums to learn more about culture and history, visit the breathtaking spots that make up the Philippines, and get to enjoy the beautiful scenery and create their own adventures.



The second part pulls back the curtain and lets attendees see the bad and the goodness that make up the country. They tackle social issues and work with poor communities and nonprofit organizations to help inspire them to be part of the needed change in uplifting our people.



Being Fil-Ams, many live with a foot in both worlds. The Filgrimage experience is loaded with moments for participants to reflect on how that mirrors their own lives, as even more are yet to discover the Philippines first-hand.

*“America has played a big role in shaping our history as well as our people and our culture,” Glenda said.*



**In the end, it's all about the Filipino heart and bridging the gap between Filipinos in the Philippines and America.**

*“Filgrimage is a program for Filipino Americans who have somehow lost or have not found a connection to the motherland. We would like to invite anyone who is seeking just that.” Glenda said.*

**Learn more about The Filipino School [here](#).**

# Upcoming Events

Kaibigan Chika Sessions: Come and join our monthly interactive learning exchange sessions via Zoom.

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Please visit the following links for more information about the events above and register to join us:

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Retreat**

**KAIBIGAN  
Chika Sessions**

**KLIKme Primo  
Events**

**The Philippine  
Cacao Experience**

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