

# KLIKme NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023



*"It is said that if you intend to do something, pray hard enough, and declare your intentions to as many people as you can, the universe will conspire to have your intentions fulfilled."*  
— Darwin Flores

## LEARNERS CORNER



MARISSA CATINDOY:  
Making Dreams Come True

## GLX CORNER



KAPATID Mentors & Learners Finally Connect

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ELVIE DELA PENA TAN:  
Cancer is No Obstacle



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Transcending Creativity

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When the Universe Conspires



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KLIKme Chika Sessions via ZOOM

CHIKA

**Our Unique Philippine Culture**

Oct 13:  
6-7PM US  
Oct 14:  
9-10:30AM PH

CHIKA

**Art as Joy of Life**

Nov 10:  
6-7PM US  
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CHIKA

**Tatak KLIKme**

Dec 8:  
6-7PM US  
Dec 9:  
9-10:30AM PH

**KLIKme Recollection Q4**

**KLIKme Primo Events 2024**

# Making Dreams Come True

*"Nangarap lang noon"  
(I just used to dream)*

**Marissa Catindoy, 33, from KLIKme Tacloban:**

*"Sister, thank you po. My family is proud of me. I can manage my time...a mom of 5 kids, a farmer, and a student. My brothers and sister cheers me (on) to achieve my dreams. They are happy for me. Nakaka-proud from KLIKme po, I can say to myself I am contented what I have learned. Before my English is in wrong grammar. Now I am enrolled in Conversational English, little by little my vocabulary is getting better. Nang dahil sa KLIKme at sa inyo pong effort, Sister, marami po kayong natutulungan na nangarap lang noon na makapag-aral, ngayon nakamit na. Isa na ako doon."*

In this thank you message to KLIKme Tacloban community coordinator, Sr. Helen Makabingkel, one of our learners expressed what we pray ALL KLIKme learners are experiencing: a chance to hope and dream again!



KLIKme Tacloban learners eagerly attend and participate in their training sessions.



KLIKme Tacloban's Sr. Helen Makabingkel and Facilitator Nenita Viñas in a Zoom meeting with KLIKme COO Lissa Moran and Implementation Director, Mara Salvacion.

# KAPATID Mentors & Learners Finally Connect

The dream of connecting KAPATIDS (mentors from the Filipino diaspora) with KLIKme Learners was finally fulfilled in a Pilot that started late July, 2023. The KLIKme Global Learning Exchange (GLX) is the aspect of learning that connects the Learners with mentors from outside their communities to help them in their learning journey for six months.

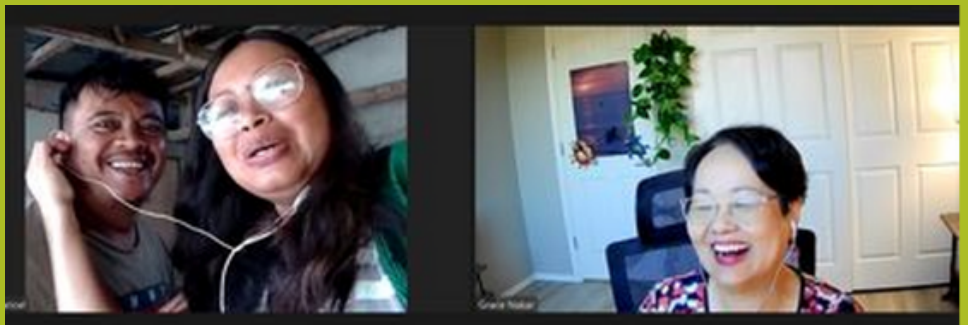
These meaningful connections encourage and support KLIKme Learners as they take the Digital and Life Skills training sessions and access learning materials that help them complete the DepEd ALS high school equivalency requirements.

While there have been some dropouts from the Mentor and Learner ranks, somehow God provided last minute additions. There are now 27 Kapatid-Learner pairs. We started with most Mentors not having a Facebook account, and Learners ONLY having Facebook accounts. With determination, both Mentors and Learners overcame technical difficulties to connect.

Here are photos of a few first meetings – you can see the joy in their faces! Presence, Hope, Love.



KLIKme Learner Jimmy of Bohol with his KAPATID Mentor Ramon of California.



EVEN A HUSBAND GOT ON THE SCREEN: KLIKme Learner Maricel of Bohol with her KAPATID Mentor Grace of Arizona. Maricel's husband joined a call too!



KAPATID Mentor from Las Vegas (Rose) with her KLIKme Learner-Mentee (Roselyn).



KAPATID Mentor VJ from Singapore with his Learner-Mentee Alan.

KAPATIDS got inventive in overcoming language barriers – Diane, a KAPATID Mentor from Singapore translated the welcome note into Bisaya for her Bohol Learner. And VJ translated into Tagalog the list of values for a “getting-to-know-you” activity which was shared with other fellow KAPATIDS.

As Ricelle, a KAPATID Mentor from LA, described it, “Learners have a strong drive to achieve, and are very honest with their struggles.” KAPATIDS with their own health issues or workload are making the most of the tiny window of jointly available time between Philippines and the U.S., Canada, and Singapore.

Despite challenges in Learners and the KLIKme work readiness training sessions, KAPATIDS are making it up as we go along. We’re realizing the fulfillment of just sharing our lives and encouraging one another. The simple truth is – the more you give of yourself, the more you receive back.

\*The KLIKme Global Learning Exchange (GLX) is a program that facilitates meaningful connections between Learners from disadvantaged communities in the Philippines with KAPATID Mentors and KAAKBAY Tutors from around the world.



# ELVIE DELA PEÑA TAN: Cancer is No Obstacle



by Cherie Woo

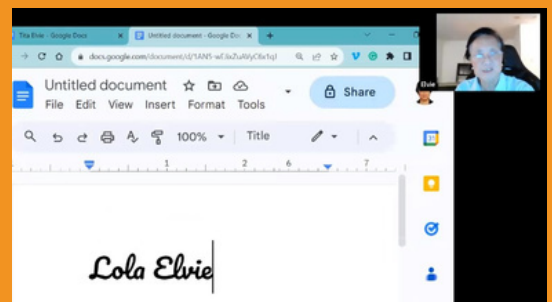
**Her cancer diagnosis more than a year ago didn't stop Elvie Tan from working on KLIKme's Word Processing Training. This week, even at her husband's hospital bedside, she's still thinking of KLIKme and how we can find someone to replace her!**



Being part of the KLIKme family is being blessed to know someone like Elvie. A year ago, a wonderful blog was written about her as the "Ultimate Kapalmuks" for her shameless and tireless advocacy for the poor. See <https://rosecabrera.com/f/%E2%80%9Ckapalmuks%E2%80%9D>.

I've experienced first-hand Elvie's unabated passion for helping others when she volunteered as a KLIKme Trainor and Session Producer in 2021. She used to be a Certified Microsoft instructor at a local community college in Toronto where she received accolades for teaching non-English speaking immigrants who became successful. She does the same today for our KLIKme learners. She frequently messages me about her eureka moments with Google Docs in the wee hours of the night.

She pursued the training materials until she became very sick last year. She regrettably told me she needed to focus on her health but her unwavering faith led to her amazing recovery, and by mid-summer this year, she wanted to teach again! With renewed enthusiasm, she pulled up her sleeves and got back to the Word Processing lesson plan. She even set up practice sessions with learners in Tacloban.



Elvie's practice training session with Tacloban KLIKme



Payatas visit of Elvie and Eddie Tan in Dec 2018.

As she now slows down to care for her husband, she says, "Rest assured I will be still active watching all your works and success. I truly believe in KLIKme. This is not the end-of- me. Lol."

**Elvie is irreplaceable. Cancer is no obstacle to her service. We can only follow in her footsteps and draw inspiration from her constant desire to help others fulfill their dreams just as she has reached her own fulfillment.**

# KLIKme Tacloban: Forming the Whole Person and Families, Too!

*“They learn and are formed, but they also need to have fun!”*

This is the approach taken by KLIKme Tacloban community coordinator, Sr. Helen Makabingkel, and community learning facilitator, Nenita Viñas, in augmenting the KLIKme Work Readiness Training program of Digital Literacy and Life Skills. Thanks to the extensive resource network of Sr. Helen, our Tacloban learners spent a truly enriching summer along with other members of the community and their families as well.



Learners got to attend talks on Organic Agricultural Production, conducted by Mr. Jose L. Catellijos, Jr., trainer from Pitahaya Farm, a registered school for organic farming.

Thanks to this training in partnership with Pitahaya Farm, 17 KLIKme learners are among those graduating with a TESDA NCII Certificate in Organic Agriculture Production.



They had hands-on practice in making organic fertilizer...



... and actual fieldwork in preparation for their training assessment.

That’s not all. As Sr. Helen remarked, *“We also need to form the children, not only their parents, brothers and sisters, aunts or uncles.”* So the children of KLIKme Tacloban learners, aged 5 to 15, were treated to a Sports for Fun event and classes in children’s ballet!



The trainer for the Sports for Fun was Mr. Christopher Javier, trainer for athletes in the Region.



The classes in basic dance and ballet were conducted by Mr. Edgar Campo, pioneer member and costume designer of the famous Kalipayyan Dance Group.

Just this month of September, interested KLIKme learners also underwent training in dressmaking, with their final exam being sewing of school uniforms.



Trainer for the dressmaking classes was Professor Margarita Brao from Eastern Visayas State University (EVSU) in Tacloban City.

Finally, underlying this wholistic approach to developing our KLIKme learners is Values Formation, a non-negotiable as far as Sr. Helen is concerned in forming the whole person along with their families into responsible, contributing members of Philippine society.

Kudos and our deepest thanks, Sister and Ms. Nenita! Our KLIKme Tacloban learners are so blessed to have all these opportunities.



# ASI Braces for KLIKme Primo Events 2024

A premier events company in the Philippines has partnered with KLIKme to mount KLIKme Primo events in 2024 which will not only generate awareness and resources for KLIKme worldwide, but will also promote the best of the Filipino.



ArtisteSpace Inc. aligns itself exceedingly with KLIKme's vision, mission, and goals as a company that always tries to fulfill its commitment to corporate social responsibility.

Artiste Space Inc. (ASI) is a full service multi-disciplinary creative and events agency with more than 20 years experience and has established an impressive track record of mounting world-class events for their clients that fulfill goals and advance missions.

Anton Magpantay, the Managing Director of ASI explains, "ASI has partnered with KLIKme because we see the organization's powerful impact on the welfare of out-of-school Filipinos and the state of Philippine education. ASI wishes to help KLIKme achieve all that it has set out to do by organizing meaningful and exciting events that will spread awareness of the issues that high school drop-outs face, as well as help offer and highlight the innovative solutions that KLIKMe brings to the table."

ASI will bring to life the creative events initially conceptualized by KLIKme that will be held in the Philippines and selected areas in the US, Canada and other parts of the world in 2024.



Through competent event management and adherence to proper processes, ASI plans to continuously support KLIKme in providing its stakeholders with opportunities to better their circumstances. ASI also provides creativity, imagination, and dynamic collaboration with a passion that can attract the support of other parties or individuals. By coming up with successful event experiences in the form of the Philippine Cacao Experience, Cookaloka, Create-Share-Care, and the Electric Dreams PHL Caravan, KLIKme is sure to be able to offer more in terms of its advocacy in the long run.

Thank you Patrick Naval for connecting KLIKme with Artiste Space and Anton Magpantay last March 10 at the ENIGMA Art Exhibit in Newport Resortsworld.



ASI's Anton Magpantay with KLIKme's Core Team

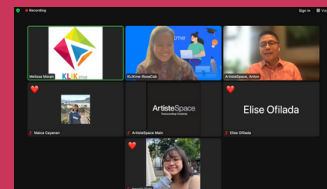
After many exploratory meetings, the ASI-KLIKme collaboration was firmed up.

"ASI is thrilled to have the chance to share its expertise in organizing events via our talented team for a good cause," says Gen Gamilong the ASI Project Manager in charge of the KLIKme events.

Promises Angela Cole, ASI Setup Coordinator, "We will give everything to ensure KLIKme's events are done well,"



KLIKme's Events Director, Jing Abrilla Chua, is excited about the collaboration and looks forward to the groundbreaking events that will result, "As we in KLIKme work hard to build a culture of caring and sharing, with Presence, Hope and Love, we are grateful to have such a creative and accomplished professional partner in ASI."



The partnership between the two organizations will surely be fruitful for everyone involved, especially the communities and sectors that KLIKme aims to help.

# When the Universe Conspires



*"It is said that if you intend to do something, pray hard enough, and declare your intentions to as many people as you can, the universe will conspire to have your intentions fulfilled."*



That's a quote from Darwin Flores as he shared about his historic trek of the Philippines' "The Last Great Forest" in the Sierra Madre Mountains with 18 veteran mountaineers for five days in late 2011. It was an almost impossible task – they did not have much time to prepare nor the necessary resources and expertise (budget, logistics, skills)- but their desire was there. "True enough, the universe conspired," as Darwin said and they were able to successfully complete the trek in five days and accomplished their goals!

The trek was also their way of honoring the memory of the late Leonardo L. Co, a well-loved outdoorsman and field botanist who had previously expressed the desire of having his ashes spread over his beloved Sierra Madre, the largest single bloc of protected area in the country and the richest in terms of genetic, species and habitat diversity.



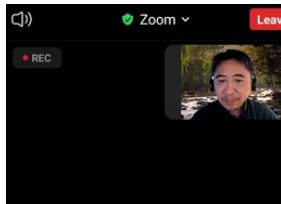
During that time in 2011, Darwin had just retired as a top executive of SMART Communications and somehow he ended up organizing the trek, "Despite being the trek convenor, I was the most unqualified to cross the unforgiving terrain of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park. I am a 51-year old hypertensive and am 30 pounds overweight. I have a weak right knee from a road biking accident in Thailand. I am not a mountaineer. My only claim to climbing a real mountain was back when I was a very fit 17-year old, and the last time I went on a serious climb through a rainforest was 15 years ago with Conservation International in the Solomon Islands. This trek was certainly going to be tough for me."

A super typhoon just hit the area (Super Typhoon Juan) so large portions of the trail had been wiped out and it was going to be at least 70% cold river crossings, across 47 kilometers of rugged virgin forest. Sites for camping are rocky and far in between.

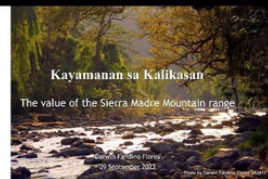
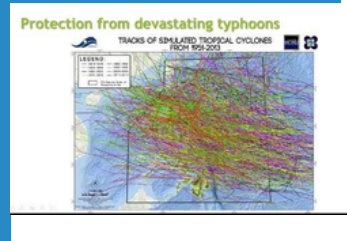
Well, after months of preparation and financial and logistics arrangements, the group successfully traversed thousands of miles of forest fulfilled their mission. Please see their inspiring detailed story: <https://darwinfandinoflores.blogspot.com/2011/11/last-great-forest.html?m=1>



Last September 10, Darwin shared with KLIKme Learners and KAIBIGANS in the monthly Chika Session about his amazing Sierra Madre trek experience and his insights about the role of the Sierra Madre mountains in (1) typhoon protection, (2) flood control, and (3) provisioning of potable water. He was also joined by Mr. JOSE "JOJO" DELES, an Environment and Indigenous People's Rights Advocate and Chairman, Angat Kalikasan Pilipinas, who shared about their efforts to protect and care for the environment.



The KLIKme Learners welcomed their sharings, especially those from Tacloban who suffered greatly after Typhoon Haiyan. Almost 10 years after, problems of hunger and lack of education remain but people continue to hope and work on solutions like KLIKme. As KLIKme learner Raymond Taganna said, "Isa tayo sa nakikinabang, maki isa tayo na pahalagahan ang KALIKASAN (We benefit, let us unite in caring for the environment.)"



Indeed, Darwin and Jojo's messages resonate with all of us. For us in KLIKme in particular, we prayed very hard and declared our intentions almost than 10 years ago as we started KLIK Eskuela and this journey to help the poorest Filipinos through innovative education and partnerships, and we are still here declaring our intentions to as many people as we can, whoever cares to listen. Despite limited resources, KLIKme has managed to pull off our pilot program and thrive in our pilot communities as the universe seems to have conspired! Yet still have a long way to go. We keep going. As Darwin said, "The universe does conspire for us to create that which is important to us."



# Upcoming Events

Kaibigan Chika Sessions: Come and join our monthly interactive learning exchange sessions via [Zoom](#).

## CHIKA Our Unique Philippine Culture



Oct 13:  
6-7:30PM US

Oct 14:  
9-10:30AM PH

## CHIKA Art as Joy of Life

Nov 10:  
5-6:30PM US

Nov 11:  
9-10:30AM PH

## CHIKA Tatak KLIKme

Dec 8:  
5-6:30PM US

Dec 9:  
9-10:30AM PH



## KLIKme Q4 Recollection

Dec 1:  
5-7PM US

Dec 9:  
9-11AM PH

## KLIKme Primo Events 2024

Philippine Cacao Experience

Create. Share. Care

Cookaloka

Electric Dreams: PHL Caravan



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

[Q4 Recollection Retreat](#)

[KAIBIGAN Chika Sessions](#)

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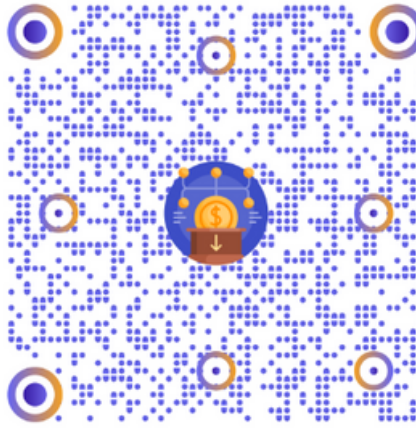
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