



The H.E.L.P. Foundation

Humanitarian Effort to Lessen Poverty of Underprivileged Children in the Philippines
HELP is a nonprofit 501 (c), 509 (a)(1) organization under the United Charitable

Providing Hope And Opportunity

E-mail: help2philippinechildren@yahoo.com

www.thehelpfoundation.com

Founder: Keith W. Hooper



Founder's Corner



New college graduates: Rosette Yasol (left) and
Kathleen Levanta (right)

Warm summer greetings to all of you! We, in the Midwest, have been blessed with an abundance of rain and for many of you, much more than required! Mother Nature is totally unpredictable! The climate in the Philippines remains constant - eight months of the rainy season and four months of the dry season! This year was no exception - rain was limited from March-June and now we are in the rainy season where it rains almost every day. Because of our proximity to the equator, the sun rises at 6:00 a.m. and sets at 6:00 p.m. The folks here set their schedule around the sun.

I am pleased to report to you that the HELP Foundation is flourishing because of our excellent staff in the Philippines and the generosity of you, our donors. I will give you a macro-

look at the foundation. Since January, our major expenditure was for the education of elementary, secondary, and college students - \$27,374.00 (54%). For the first two quarters, we have budgeted \$9,100 (18%) for our Micro-credit operation but we have received \$63,440 in loan payments and re-loaned a similar amount. The swine project is self-sustaining. In the first six months, our income was \$3,600—expenses \$3,000. The “profit” goes to subsidize our feeding program for malnourished children. Many of you have received our “famous” calendars, our baskets, and greeting cards. This again, is a self-sustaining project. These products are sold in the U.S. and the Philippines. We employ seven ladies year around to make these quality products. The “testimony” of some of our beneficiaries will verify the importance of our work.

As you may know, I am an active Rotarian serving as the president of the Heart of America Rotary E-club. We received a Rotary Global Grant of \$101,000 to send 300 students to Production Technology training (one year) and 6 students to Engineering Technology training (three years). These courses are offered by The Center for Industrial and Technology Enterprise (CITE). The beauty of this program is that every student, after graduation, is guaranteed employment.

Pat and I are in our 17th year since founding the HELP Foundation. We don't solicit as many other non-profits do. We hope that your trust in us stems from a belief that our work is worthwhile and legitimate. The following pages will add credibility to our belief. **THANK YOU!!**



Rotary Global Grant MOA signing



Production Technology Students

2019 GRADUATES OF H.E.L.P. FOUNDATION

Elementary School Graduates



Gerlie May Gayong



Azalea Grace Alison



Claire Enloran



Rocel Joy Guialan



Mary Grace Orsal



Lily Gela Fabricante



Lawrence Fallega



Kent Brylle Mayagting



Saint Joseph High School
senior high graduates



Talakag National High School
senior high graduates



Rosette Yasol

Bachelor of Science in Social
Work

Lourdes College, Cagayan de
Oro City, Philippines

"DREAMERS, that's what we all are. I have been dreaming for a brighter future. A better life to live where EDUCATION plays the most essential part to become achievers. I am one of these young dreamers raised in a marginalized family who became one of the privileged because of the opportunity through HELP Foundation to continue and finish my degree. On behalf of the sponsored students of HELP Foundation, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to all who constitute this organization, most especially to the donors who have continuously shared their blessings and have given us another chance to education. I have been a sponsored student since I was in 3rd grade and words are not enough to describe how thankful I am for all the support my donors have given me. Thank you to my sponsors **Patricia Basel, David & Karlun Callanan and Darrel Miller**, for being an instrument for me not to limit my capabilities but rather widen my knowledge and use it to fulfil my desires. Thank you for instilling hope in the lives of many. I will be forever thankful for your great help to me and my family. Currently, I am reviewing for the board exam in August, and my desire is to work at the Department of Social Welfare and Development, a government agency responsible for social protection of the poor, vulnerable, and disadvantaged."

-Rosette Yasol



Kathleen Levanta

Bachelor of Science in Ele-
mentary Education

Bukidnon State University,
Talakag Extension Campus

"I can still remember when I was in 2nd grade in elementary, I was offered the greatest opportunity and became one of the recipients of the scholarship program of HELP Foundation. The one chance which became my ticket to achieve my dreams. Starting from my 2nd grade in elementary until my last day in college, I was a scholar of HELP Foundation.

Last April 10, 2019 was my most awaited day of being a student and a pupil for almost 16 years. I graduated with Scholastic Awards and with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education at Bukidnon State University Talakag satellite campus. I am currently working as a Pre School teacher at Christian School for Life in Cagayan de Oro City. I am grateful for all the help that you offered and gave me. You are all a part of my success. To Mr. and Mrs. Keith Hooper and to his family, to all my sponsors **Mr. Alvie and Willa Laverty, Mr. Tom and Judy Jenkins, Ms. Carol Brown**, and to all the staff of HELP Foundation, thank you very much for your unending support. I am very blessed to have all of you and so much blessed to have supportive people behind my back. I will never forget your generosity. I received an excellent education because of you. "It only takes a moment to say thank you – but your thoughtfulness will be remembered a long time." Thank you very much! May God bless you all."

-Kathleen Levanta

Distribution of donated school supplies from Jeannet Lim



San Isidro Elementary School



San Antonio Elementary students



Talakag Central School students



Dave Awayan



Jennica Bibohan

“Healthy Young Ones”

One of the challenges the School Sponsorship program encountered during the school year 2018 to 2019 was the increase in the drop out rate due to teen age pregnancy. In the past years, we have conducted counseling to our students who opted to stop school, fled their homes to be with their partners. This month of June, we have a total of 194 sponsored high school students in our roster. In schools, different strategies are being discussed to tackle social issues associated with teenage pregnancy. To help the families of these teenagers address this emerging issue, we approached the Department of Health to assist us in educating these students on teenage pregnancy.

The Health Young Ones seminar was materialized last May 28, 2019, conducted by the registered nurses from the Department of Health. Reproductive system, puberty, menstruation, gender and health, reproduction and responsibility were among the important topics discussed during the lectures. The participants, Grades 8-12 students, were very responsive in the group activities, and open forum discussion.

The students were very grateful for the knowledge they acquired. The following are the positive feedbacks we received from them.

“It gives us information and helps us understand how to be physically responsible and learning the consequences when we enter into a relationship at an early age.” – **Clinton Gania, Grade 12 student.**

“I am delighted for what I learned from the lecturers and I came to the realization that teen age pregnancy can ruin my future. I promised myself to pursue my studies, find a stable job before I engage into a serious relationship.” – **Jan Keinneth Babeda, Grade 10.**

“I enjoyed learning the myths about menstruation and the physical changes during puberty.” – **Sophia Munalem, Grade 10**

“The lecture inspired me to be wise in my decision making and to become a responsible teen-ager.” – **Judy Ann Dacut, Grade 11.**



Our speakers were presented with certificate of appreciation: (L-R) Dinah Abayato, Earl Rew Palparan, and Elvis Canlit with BigHoop staff and DOH Talakag representatives.

Dengue Prevention



The village of San Isidro is situated approximately 3 kilometers from the main town of Talakag, Bukidnon with a growing population of 7,280 people.

Dengue disease remains a concern because the village experienced high dengue cases for the last 2 years based on disease surveillance survey. Despite vigorous health education to raise awareness on the significance of the disease and various management and intervention techniques, cases were still visible. Mostly school-aged children had fallen ill with dengue virus. Additionally, they were also considered to be more vulnerable. As cliché as it sounds, “An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.” Before the onset of rainy season and as the first day of school commences, preventive strategies to combat vector-borne disease were established. As a Public Health Advocate of the aforementioned village, I am greatly privileged to have a collaboration with HELP Foundation. We share a common goal which is to render quality service to others. A significant contribution was made by donating 113 Vectron and 33 Victor insect killers to schools and to the community as well. We are very thankful to Mrs. Jeannet Lim of Cagayan de Oro City for the said donations which has been a great help to the community most especially to the school children. We were able to prevent the possible widespread of dengue disease and maximize success of vector control measures. Consequently, together with the undying support of the barangay officials, midwife, and volunteer health workers, we administered successfully the insect killers to schools with 45 classrooms and to some susceptible households.

Truly, every act of service we perform can be an influential force in the lives of others.

Jeana M. Bigcas
Public Health Advocate of the Department of Health
Talakag, Bukidnon

Project *Kasaligan* 7th Foundation Day

"Controlling Finances for Sustainable Entrepreneurial Growth"

Our microfinance project is continually growing, we are present in 15 villages in Talakag Bukidnon and some areas in Cagayan de Oro city. The year 2018 ended with a total of 7 centers launched in different villages of Cosina, Basak, San Rafael, and Tignapoloan. This year, due to the demand of the community, we opened another center in Tignapoloan with 45 new members. There are 7 more groups that are waiting for the project to launch a center in their area. Many of our clients prefer to grow their business with us because of the minimal interest rate and loan deductions. And they enjoy the benefits they get from the livelihood and financial literacy trainings that we provide annually.

Every November, the founding month of this project, we conduct a general assembly where we gather all our micro finance beneficiaries. For our clients this is one of the most awaited events of the year. During the assembly, we give recognition to the best performing centers based on payment and attendance rates. Individual awards are also given out to those with the highest savings incurred. The center chief, as well of the best-performing centers, are recognized for their support and leadership for co-members.

The following are pictures taken during the 7th PK Foundation Day. We have added a few success stories of our loyal clients who have been with us through these years.



Mr. Keith W. Hooper with the center chiefs



Center #26, one of the Best Performing centers



Marilyn Escobal, recognized for accumulating the highest personal savings.



Mayor Vergito Factura and Mr. Keith W. Hooper with some members from Center #24, Basak .



PK staff helped prepare the raffle draw.

Raffle Draw Winners



Analie Bayantong
(Consolation prize winner)



Jeanniros Damit
(Consolation prize winner)



Emeliana Lozano
(3rd prize winner)



Michelle Pacumio
(2nd prize winner)



Corazon Caña
(Grand prize winner)

SUCCESS STORIES



Mary Jane Damit

Business: In-house variety store, gardening, and wholesaling garden vegetables

Mary Jane is one of our good paying clients who was able to receive a Special Loan of 50,000 pesos (\$ 1,000). Clients who are offered this type of loan are obligated to maintain at least 20% of the proposed amount on their savings account. Mary Jane has 6 children which she aimed that all six will finish and earn a college degree. She juggles her time between her responsibilities as a Barangay Health Worker (BHW) and her small business operation.



Evangeline Delante

Business: In-house variety store (*sari sari* store), hog raising

Evangeline is the center chief of Center #26 in the village of Cosina with 55 active members. This center is one of the best performing centers with 100 percent attendance and return rates. Evangeline is a house wife and thru her small business operation she is able to help her husband, who works as a farm laborer, support their 11 children. Their house is strategically situated in front of the elementary school which is ideal for selling snacks and other food items. She earns between 2,000 to 3,000 pesos every week from her in-house variety store. She is on her 6th loan cycle and was able to loan 20,000 pesos (\$400) which she used to buy piglets, and expand her *sari sari* (variety store).



Marilyn Escobal

Business: Farming

Low-income mothers with entrepreneurial skills are the target beneficiaries of Project *Kasaligan*. One client who stands out among the rest is Marilyn Escobal, an active member since 2016 of Center #15 in the village of Lingion. We have witnessed how she was determined to increase her business operation from her initial loan of 3,000 pesos (\$60). She started with her in-house variety store, ventured into buy and sell of fruits and vegetables, and eventually she engaged into buy and sell of hogs. She has not missed a payment and always pays off her loan on or before her due date. At present, she was granted a 150,000 peso loan (\$3,000) to support her farm where she planted corn.



Marissa Abisado

Business: Pedicure and manicure, dried fish vending, and gardening.

Marissa is a beneficiary of Project *Kasaligan* and an active member of Center #7 since 2017. Three years ago, she attended a community based training on beauty care sponsored by TESDA (Technical Education and Skills Development Authority). After the training, she applied for a 3,000 peso (\$60) loan which she used to purchase supplies and materials to start her own home service manicure and pedicure. Marissa and her husband work hard to provide for their growing family. She is very proud to share that their hard work paid off when her oldest son graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology last 2018. Currently, Marissa was approved to loan 20,000 pesos (\$400) which she utilized to expand her business in dried fish vending and vegetable gardening. She is very thankful for this opportunity to borrow money with minimal interest rate and zero collateral for a larger loan.

Livelihood update

Department of Trade & Industry assistance Trade Fair



Mr. Chris Gomez (*right*), a known designer from Cagayan de Oro City, exclusively designed a tote bag for us made of nylon straps. In the picture with him are DTI representatives, Yvonne Mata and Dianne Pimentel.



It was a privilege to join the Kaamulan trade fair held at Malaybalay City, Bukidnon. Through the efforts of the Department of Trade and Industry, recognized products from all over Bukidnon were showcased. H.E.L.P. Foundation was able to display some of its products such as tomato jam, tote bags, and bayongs (baskets) made of recycled polypropylene.

THE H.E.L.P. FOUNDATION

c/o Keith W. Hooper
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HELP Foundation staff help baked cookies using the Solar Oven.



Free cookies were given out during the town fiesta celebration.



Sponsored students received Christmas presents from their donors.



CITE Technical Institute faculty with HELP Foundation staff hosted a family day for the engineering students and their families.

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