



# 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](mailto:help2philippinechildren@yahoo.com)

Founder: Keith W. Hooper



## MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER



The year 2021 and the first half of 2022 have been one of the greatest challenges I have ever faced. Even though we were not able to travel, my staff in the Philippines has done a yeoman's job of holding things together until the Pandemic passes. Ironically, as most of the rest of the world consider COVID now as an endemic, the Philippines still has strict quarantine rules. Masks are mandatory; COVID tracing mandatory with QR codes required upon entry into any establishment; body temperature mandatory; and presentation of vaccine record mandatory. I trust that these requirements will change in the next few months but the people faithfully comply with the requirements without demonstrations, rallies,

etc. I visited one of our remote micro-loan sites in late April; all were wearing masks. I asked how many residents had experienced a sickness because of COVID – the answer was zero but they still complied with the COVID mandate.

After an almost 2 year absence, we finally made it back the Philippines. Pat arrived on February 23 and I arrived on March 16. I had an issue with my Passport which delayed me. I felt it was important for Pat to go ahead of me but that may have not been a wise choice. At my age, I tend to forget minor things so I made a list of what I thought was vital to bring – passport, COVID tests, vaccinations, etc. But I forgot to put on my list my cellphone which was a monumental mistake! In this day and age, one cannot operate without a cellphone! When you receive this newsletter, we will hopefully be back in Kansas but considering my past performance in travelling, we may be on a remote island somewhere in the Pacific!!

There are several issues that you need to know about. First, I decided to stop my mail in Topeka and had it sent to my daughter, Melanie Williams, in Huntsville, AL. Let me tell you, that was a mistake. The USPS let me down bigtime! I have received several emails from donors asking if the HELP Foundation is “caput” because their donation was returned. **If you fit into this category, please resend your donation to HELP Foundation, 3125 SW Finsbury Ave., Topeka, KS 66614.**

I am concerned about our ability to continue our charitable work without downsizing. In the past 18 months, we have lost 11 of our generous and faithful benefactors, many who sponsored students. Inflation is causing tremors here just as it is in the rest of the world. Needless to say, **WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED HELP!!!**

Now some good news. By the time you get this newsletter, we will have a website, thanks to a Filipino businessman who is designing it for us at no cost.

Our new web address is– [www.helpbighoopcharities.com](http://www.helpbighoopcharities.com).

You are making a huge difference in this little corner of the world! Thanks again and God Bless each of you!

## 2021 SUMMARY OF EXPENSES

	2021	2020
A. School Sponsorship (202 HS, 13 Elem)	P 1,585,340.50	1,505,007.31
B. College Scholarship, 47 students	1,227,414.70	664,220.10
C. CITE Technical Institute, 15 students	520,681.00	442,380.00
D. Feeding & Health	78,677.13	188,995.75
E. Micro Finance Project	980,000.00	1,668,000.00
F. Admin/OPS	564,262.18	576,893.60
G. Building & Grounds	304,414.42	266,707.65
H. Agricultural Project	122,864.00	90,315.00
I. Covid 19 Assistance/Training Center/VM	0.00	88,829.50
	<b>P5,383,653.93</b>	<b>P5,491,348.91</b>

## Congratulations to our College Graduates!



**Marielle Abaton**

Bachelor of Science in  
Information Technology

**Sponsored by:**  
Carol Brown



**Novie Jean Acala**

Bachelor of Science in Early  
Childhood Education

**Sponsored by: Alvie &  
Willa Lavery**



**Bashemath Aawayan**

Bachelor of Science in  
Criminology

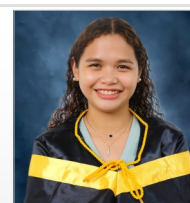
**Sponsored by:**  
Patricia Basel



**Marjun Escobal**

Bachelor of Science in  
Criminology

**Sponsored by:**  
Patricia Basel



**Cheri Gaviola**

Bachelor of Science in  
Business Administration

**Sponsored by:**  
Fr. James Grennan



**Romelito Himalao**

Diploma in Mechanical  
Engineering Technology

**Sponsored by:**  
Sherrill Daniels



**Leynard Lihayan**

Diploma in Mechanical  
Engineering Technology

**Sponsored by: Chuck &  
Judy Nielson**



**Rio Mae Innocent  
Labiaga**

Bachelor of Science in  
Management Accounting

**Sponsored by:**  
Carol Brown



**Rekim Pacana**

Bachelor of Science in  
Business Administration

**Sponsored by:**  
Geraldine Maiatico



**Roger Palma**

Bachelor of Science in  
Business Administration

**Sponsored by: Keith &  
Pat Hooper**

### CITE UPDATE

Five years ago when I was in Cebu City, I accompanied a Rotary District contingent from Canada on a tour. We visited the Center for Industrial and Technology Enterprise (CITE). I was absolutely amazed at the professional conduct and educational curriculum of both the professors and the students. Although the tuition cost is somewhat higher than local universities, the end result is a first class technical education and a 100% guarantee of an excellent engineering tech. job after graduation. CITE uses a “dual system” of education – 50% academic studies and 50% OJT with their assigned company. The HELP Foundation currently has 15 students enrolled in CITE (8 sponsored by donors to HELP and 7 sponsored by a Rotary Global Grant). Two of the students sponsored by HELP graduated in April and 4 students will graduate in November. All have jobs once they graduate. The HELP students and their sponsors are as follows: **Jabes Ocio (Mechanical Engineering Tech., 4th Year)– Roger & Diana Brown, The Villages, Florida;** **John Lloyd Sacay (Computer Engineering Tech., 4th Year) – Doug & Nancy Brown, San Antonio, TX;** **Romelito Himalao (Mechanical Engineering Tech., Graduate) – Sherrill Daniels, Mankato, KS;** **Deonilo Sulindao (Electronic Engineering Tech., 4th Year) – Doug & Sharlene Gardner, Monument, CO;** **Leynard Lihayan (Mechanical Engineering Tech., Graduate) – Chuck & Judy Nielson, Baton Rouge, LA;** **Leonard Peligro (Computer Engineering Tech., 4th Year) – Cary & Phyllis Tucker, Lebanon, KS;** **Divert Pabayos, (Electrical Engineering Tech., 2nd Year) – Keith & Pat Hooper;** and **John Mark Escobal (Mechanical Engineering Tech., 1st Year) – Chuck & Meg Wilson, Great Bend KS.** These students come from small remote villages, sometimes without electricity or running water. They are shy, somewhat introverted, but extremely intelligent. A month after leaving their village and are studying in the “big city”, their whole personality changes – they are conversant, confident, and outgoing. I asked each one of them why they wanted to be engineers – everyone answered “ I want to help my parents and family”! **WOW– I hope my children read this!!!**



CITE STUDENTS (From left to Right: Cristony John Muelo, Ephraim Joshua Flores, Divert Pabayos, Kent Deconlay, Razel Balamban, John Lloyd Sacay, Romelito Himalao, Keith Hooper, Clefford Talatao, Leynard Lihayan, Retchan Ayao-ayao, Harold Plaza, Jabes Ocio & Leonard Peligro)



CITE Parents' Meeting with Faculty and Staff



## TRIBUTE TO THE FOUNDERS & DONORS

Volume 20, Issue 1



We are young professionals and products of the School Sponsorship Program of HELP Foundation. We organized a tribute to the founders and to all our donors as gratitude for the greatest opportunity offered to us. In the past, our lives were tough. Many were raised by a solo parent, and some of us at very young age worked for other families as house helpers. One working student spent his spare time in selling rice cakes, fruits, vegetables, and other marketable products. Most of us were accepted in the scholarship program in our elementary years. Indeed, it was a life-changing moment to us and to our families as well. Imagine, the used to be innocent children are now service providers, license holders, and of course, proud and loud PROFESSIONALS! We are proud to say that we have accomplished our main goal of getting a college degree and now we are able to extend financial help to our families. All these were made possible because of your generous support. Currently, I am employed in this respectable institution (BigHoop Charities) as a Registered Social Worker; I am attending online classes for my master's degree; and I am helping with our expenses at home and sending my younger brother to college. Again, thank you so much for being our light, hope and strength. Our success would never have been possible without you all.

—Rosette Yasol

Giving tribute to our beloved founders, indeed, was an unforgettable moment. I belong to a marginalized family in the society and I considered myself as an empty bottle. When Mr. and Mrs. Keith and Pat Hooper came into my life, that empty bottle was filled with love and hope. The HELP Foundation played a huge impact in my life. It helped us in becoming who we wanted to be in future. It's hard to imagine my life without the help from this institution. I will be forever grateful. My heart is full of grace and gratitude for everything and for the overflowing love from my sponsors, **Phyllis & Cary Tucker**.

I am glad that there are more students who have become recipients of the HELP Foundation School Sponsorship Program. There are quite a number of college scholars who have become professionals already. Some are teachers, social worker, police officers, businessmen, and many more. Currently, I am the bread winner of the family since my father passed away three years ago. I am helping my mother send my other 4 siblings to school. I thank God for Mr. Keith and Paterna Hooper. Thank you so much to our kind and generous founders.

—Anthony Yaganon



The YP's dedicated a variety of presentations to the founders.



Living in poverty is never easy. I am 4th among 10 siblings and my parents' source of income is backyard farming. In our family, I am the only one who finished a college degree. I graduated with a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering Technology. I am honored to be one of the recipients of HELP Foundation. To my sponsors, **Chuck & Judy Nielson**, thank you so much for your generosity, kindness and love. Honestly, the scholarship opened my mind to concentrate on my studies and helped me focus on my goals which made me realize the importance of education. Indeed, the scholarship has proven me that **"POVERTY IS NOT A HINDRANCE TO SUCCESS."** The scholarship filled in many "gaps" through provision of our tuition fees and monthly allowances which our parents and family could not afford.

Currently, I am a regular employee, working as a Production Technician at Minebea Mitsumi, a major producer of machinery components and electronic devices. Hopefully, I will be able to take up 1 more year of engineering course, take the board exam and be a licensed engineer.

—Leynard Lihayan



Each YP delivered a thank you speech.



## CARING THROUGH SHARING II

In 2021, barangay (village) San Antonio had the highest malnutrition rate among the 29 barangays in the Municipality of Talakag. The HELP Foundation, in partnership with the barangay officials and health volunteers, identified 48 malnourished children. We instituted a 3 month program of providing health and nutrition training to the mothers and an actual feeding program consisting of nutritious dehydrated food packets, vitamins, that were donated by a pharmacist in Kansas, and milk products when recommended by the public health nurse. After three months, twenty one of the children achieved their normal weight. The other twenty seven children continue to receive vitamins and food packets and their progress is being monitored by the barangay health workers.



The faculty and staff of Colawington Elementary School extended their heartfelt gratitude to our local donors who donated slippers, work books and assorted school supplies. The school has 200 enrollees with 8 teachers including the school head.



It was a pleasure visiting our local farmers in the village of Lapok, who were harvesting carrots and broccoli. Young and old, family related or not, they enjoyed each other's company wherein unity and perseverance of every individual was warmly observed. Farmers were also very grateful for the simple gifts they received.

Lantud is one of the remote and indigenous villages in Talakag, Bukidnon with a population of 2, 809 as determined by the 2020 census. Majority of the residents are Muslims and Talaandigs (a Bukidnon ethnic tribe), who are working as farm laborers and plantation workers. Their income was greatly affected due to the economic effects of the pandemic. The HELP Foundation distributed food packs consisting of rice, vitamins and groceries to more than 100 low-income households.





## PROJECT KASALIGAN

Keith Hooper visited the centers which won Founder's Choice Awards.



Center 4 - Barangay Liguron



Center 26 - Barangay Cosina



Center 15 - Barangay Lingi-on

Our microfinance project, Project Kasaligan, was not spared from the effects of the on-going global crisis caused by COVID-19. We encountered 3 major challenges brought now by the pandemic. First, center meetings which were conducted every week were cancelled due to the nationwide restriction of face to face interactions. Second, we experienced difficulties in collecting payments. Since 2020, all public and private schools were closed and many of our clients are dependent on the income from snack vending, sari-sari stores, and public transportation has been limited. Third, delay in releasing new loans as disbursement was highly dependent on the amount of the collection of payments.

In the midst of the crisis, we have shown resilience. To restore financial stability, our priority was to decrease the number of our portfolio at risk (PAR), recruit new clients, and launching new centers. In 2021, surprisingly our total collection has increased by P 1,516,302/ \$ 30,944.00, an 8% increase compared to the total collection in 2020.

We were able to launch 2 new centers in the villages of Liguron and Dagdalahon. These villages are very similar. Population in 2020 was 1,594 (L) 1,540 (D). Each represented 2% of the total population of Talakag, Bukidnon. The new clients were able to receive 5,000 pesos loan for the first cycle which is payable in 3 months. The majority of the women were engaged in small business enterprise such as in-house mini variety store, snack vending, farming, and vegetable gardening. The year 2022 looks brighter. Slowly many of the government restrictions have been lifted, businesses are starting to re-open, public and private schools are mostly open 5 days every week. We remain hopeful and optimistic as we continue to help low-income women build their small business operations by granting loans with minimal interest rates.

## LIVELIHOOD & AGRICULTURE

These two projects are, for the most part, self-sustaining. Our livelihood projects, especially the bayongs (baskets) have gained popularity over the past 6 years. Our basket weavers are now making an exportable project. As you can see from the pictures on the next page, we have added new designs and added the letters, KSU and/or KU. The KSU baskets will be sold during football season and the KU baskets will be sold during basketball season! You will also find a bookmark enclosed-this is a small gift to you. We also make greeting cards, floor mats, and other products that are mostly sold in the Philippines.

As I shared with you in previous newsletters, we have basically decreased the number of goats in our agricultural inventory because of the cost of feeds, medicine, gestation period (22 weeks), and number of offspring (1-3). The only advantage is milk production. We are now focusing on swine production which has several advantages: Gestation Period (16 weeks vs. 22 weeks for goats), number of offspring (8-12), grow faster than goats, more disease resistant, and more marketable. In the year 2021, our gross sales were PHP 403,180 in feeder pigs and only PHP 20,500 in kid goats.

The Mike Charles Memorial Fruit Orchard is in its 3rd year of growth, We anticipate full production of exotic fruits in two more years. We did harvest a limited quantity of rumbutan, dragon fruit, and avocados. Any profit gained from our livelihood and agriculture projects is funneled back into the foundation.



Swine Project



Fruit Orchard Project

## The HELP Foundation

c/o Keith W. Hooper  
3125 SW Finsbury Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66614



We continue to innovate and make new designs for our bayongs. These are some of the most popular designs.

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Website: [www.helpbighoopcharities.com](http://www.helpbighoopcharities.com)

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