



2025 Summer Newsletter

THE H.E.L.P Foundation

HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS TO LESSEN POVERTY OF UNDERPRIVILEGED IN THE PHILIPPINES

Providing Hope and opportunity

EMAIL: help2philippinechildren@yahoo.com

WWW.helpbighoopcharities.com

Founder: Keith W. Hooper



Notes From the Founder



Keith W. Hooper with Senior High School Graduates

You know, when I started the HELP Foundation 24 years ago, my goal was a bit lofty – I wanted to help the less fortunate in the Philippines. I soon came to realize that there were millions of folks who fit into this category! I was trying to help all less fortunate and not doing a very good job. I would fly from Bukidnon to Manila; then to Cebu City and then back to Bukidnon. I was basically “going in circles” and accomplishing little! My Filipina wife of 57 years, whispered in my ear or maybe I dreamed this word three times – **Focus, Focus, Focus!** That led me to one of the most impoverished and one of the most beautiful areas in the Philippines, the Municipality of Talakag in the Province of Bukidnon. Coinci-

dentally that is where I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer 59 years ago. Since that time there have been so many positive changes to the way of life in the Philippines, especially in the urban areas. However, population increase has exacerbated the poverty issue. Since 1968 the population in the Philippines has increased 340% to almost 116,000,000 with a land area of 115,831 square miles. In comparison the population of the U.S.A. has increased 170% with a land area of 3,800,000 square miles. We are making a difference in our little corner of the world one person at a time. In the 2025/26 school year, we are sponsoring the education of 55 high school students (\$150/student) and 68 college students (\$500-\$1,000/student) depending on their major. **If you have sponsored a high school student who graduated and have decided not to sponsor a college student because of the additional cost, please consider donating to our “college fund” where we “pool” several donations to sponsor one college student.** Our microloan project continues to grow. We added 2 new loaning centers in 2024. In total we operate 22 centers servicing over 800 clients. Our livelihood, agriculture, and feeding projects are ongoing and doing well.

One of the major factors in our success in helping the less fortunate in the Philippines is the caring and generosity of Rotary (Individual Rotarians, Rotary Clubs, and the Rotary Foundation). In 2024 we received a \$ 11,000 District Grant from the Russell Kansas Rotary Club to establish a free dental clinic for children. We had our ribbon cutting ceremony on May 22 with Renz Sulatan, Mayor of Talakag, and Dr. Joseph Harrison, representing Rotary, formally opening the clinic by cutting the ribbon. We have plenty of potential patients, but we are limited by volunteer dentists. **If you know of any dentists who are adventure-some, who like challenges, and want to spend 2 weeks in Paradise, SEND THEM MY WAY!!!**

On a more somber note, so many of our faithful and longtime friends who believed in the humanitarian work that we do, have passed away in 2024. Namely, Dr. Thomas Weaver, (Rochester, IN), LTG James and Judy Link, (Huntsville, AL), Thomas Jenkins, (Mission Viejo, CA), Edward Mercer (San Diego, CA), Leland Rahjes, (Kensington, KS), and Loretta Beckmann, (Smith Center, KS). These wonderful people were longtime supporters of the HELP Foundation and accounted for 25% of our annual donations! However, many of these wonderful folks remembered the HELP Foundation in their estate plan! God Bless Them!!



CONGRATULATIONS Graduates of 2025!!!



Thank you donors for your generosity. Your continued support enabled these students to achieve their goals and help us fulfill our mission to help families break the bonds of poverty. We are grateful for your commitment to our cause.



Charity Agolito

Sponsored by: **Larry & Teddi Gardner**
Bachelor of Science in Accounting
PHINMA, Cagayan de Oro College
Cagayan de Oro City



Angely Bersabal

Sponsored by: **Dough & Sharlene Gardner**
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
PHINMA, Cagayan de Oro College
Cagayan de Oro City



Serchely Baguhin

Sponsored by: **Desiree & Kerry Ferguson**
Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education
Tagoloan Community College
Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental



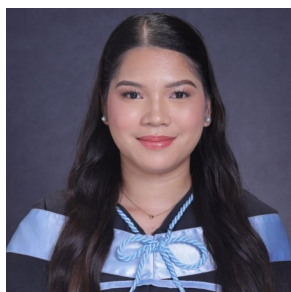
Michelle Brillo

Sponsored by: **Ben & Karol Finch**
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
PHINMA, Cagayan de Oro College
Cagayan de Oro City



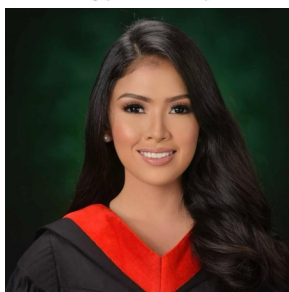
Maxine Victor

Sponsored by: **Lynn Devlin**
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
Tagoloan Community College
Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental



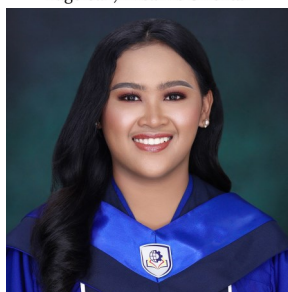
Sheira Jane Omreso

Sponsored by: **Jody Betts**
Bachelor of Technical-Vocational Teacher Education
University of Science and Technology Of Southern Philippines



Gellie Babe Romulo

Sponsored by: **Clayta Campbell**
Bachelor of Arts in English Language Studies
Central Mindanao University
Maramag, Bukidnon



Gemma Tumanda

Sponsored by: **Keith & Pat Hooper**
Bachelor in Elementary Education
Opol, Misamis Oriental
Cum Laude



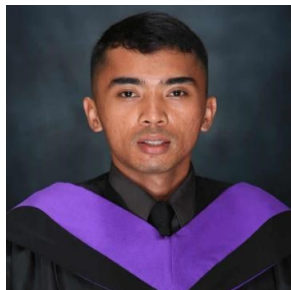
Ricris Lilangan

Sponsored by: **Frances & Colette Sweat**
Bachelor in Elementary Education
Opol Community College
Opol, Misamis Oriental



Steven Jay Rivera

Sponsored by: **Roger & Diana Brown**
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
PHINMA, Cagayan de Oro College
Cagayan de Oro City



Rolieto Luna

Sponsored by: **Tom Weaver**
Bachelor of Science in Criminology
Tagoloan Community College
Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental



Jonathan Bisoy

Sponsored by: **Tom Weaver**
Bachelor of Science in Criminology
Tagoloan Community College
Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental

2025-2026 College Scholarship Recipients



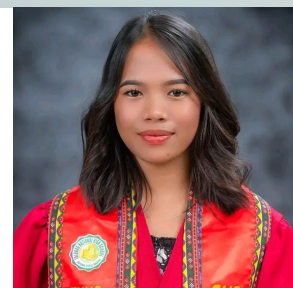
Aza Lea Grace Alison

Sponsored by: **Joe & Shiela Harrison**
Accountancy, Business, & Management
With High Honors



Merry Jane Ayao-ayao

Sponsored by: **Leroy & Marcia Heinrich**
Accountancy, Business, & Management
With Honors



Fredelyn Ladra

Sponsored by: **Michael & Bridgette Hooper**
Accountancy, Business, & Management
With Honors



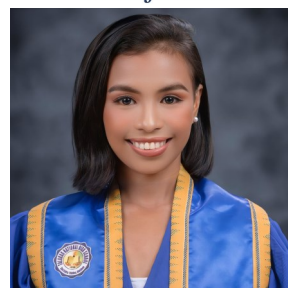
Romer John Dawogan

Sponsored by: **Roger & Diana Brown**
Accountancy, Business, & Management



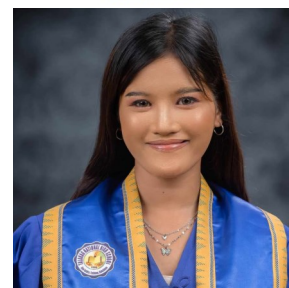
Mary Rose Amper

Sponsored by: **Kyle & Christa Schulz**
Humanities, & Social Sciences
With High Honors



Nikkie Bersabal

Sponsored by: **Karin Patton**
Humanities & Social Sciences



Janelle Kay Lanas

Sponsored by: **Mark & Jessica Hooper**
Humanities, & Social Sciences
With Honors



Flora Mae Pios

Sponsored by: **Arlene Weber**
Humanities, & Social Sciences
With Honors



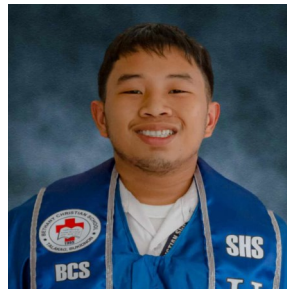
Gerlie Gayong

Sponsored by: **Amy Timmons** in
memory of **Diane Arment**
Humanities & Social Sciences



Melvy Joy Dela Cerna

Sponsored by: **Gary & Brenda Frieling**
Technical-Vocational-Livelihood



Kent Brylle Mayagting

Sponsored by: **Virginia Alexander**
Humanities & Social Sciences



Saidric Miguello

Sponsored by: **American Lutheran
Church Sunday School**
Humanities & Social Sciences



Rinjee Clyde Martizano

Sponsored by: **Ada Davis-Nouri** in
memory of **Naomi Mc Clendon**
Shielded Metal Arc Welding



Eric Jay Atuel

Sponsored by: **David & Karlun
Callanan**
Humanities & Social Sciences
With Honor



Mark Lawrence Fallega

Sponsored by: **David & Karlun
Callanan**
Humanities & Social Sciences



Jabes Ocio, a student sponsored by **Roger and Diana Brown**, who finished a degree in engineering from CITE in Cebu City, was invited to his Alma Matter as the guest speaker during the graduation ceremony at Talakag National High School. Jabes' story is an inspiration to many students who are going through financial difficulties. He emphasized the value of perseverance and motivated students to continue their education despite hardships.



An anonymous donation of P 50,000 enabled the school of Makabugwas Ta San Dionesio in the village of Indulang to construct a gate and prevent bystanders from parking in the school property. This school for indigenous children was once a recipient of our Dental Outreach Program. 230 children received a personal hygiene kit with toothbrush, toothpaste, bath soap, and face towel.



Dr. Joe Harrison meets with his sponsored student **Aza Lea Alison** and her parents. She graduated from high school with high honors. Dr. Harrison has agreed to sponsor Aza Lea during college years.

Building a Charitable Project from the Ground Up

A few years ago, two Rotarians from the Russell Kansas Rotary Club visited our humanitarian projects in the Philippines. One of our annual projects is a "dental mission". We typically have a couple of dentists who volunteer their time to see patients experiencing pain which always results in tooth extraction. After the "dental mission", these two Rotarians cornered me insisting that "there has to be a better way to provide oral care." I explained that "state of the art" dentistry exists in the Philippines but the people we work with have no access, nor can they afford proper dental care. One of the Rotarians, asked "If we provided the funding, would you be willing to take the lead in establishing a free dental clinic for the impoverished children that you work with?" Thinking she was just making small talk, I said "sure!" She wasn't just making small talk and I had just committed myself to a major project. The first thing they did was energize Rotary District 5680 to provide 2,088 toothbrushes, 196 tubes of toothpaste, and 82 containers of dental floss. After 5 months of planning, equipping, hiring, training, and budgeting, we officially opened the dental clinic on May 22, 2025! What started as an idea has morphed into a functional free children's dental clinic! Our philosophy is dedicated to promoting oral health and preventing dental diseases, especially among children in underserved communities. Through education, preventive care, and basic treatment services, we aim to raise awareness about the importance of oral hygiene as a vital part of overall health.



Rotarians Mark and Jessica Hooper, with Keith Hooper, visited the village of Cosina, the first recipient of the Children's Free Dental Clinic.



A demonstration on proper tooth brushing was conducted by, Marena Perdon RN, a volunteer from Malaybalay Bukidnon.



The Children's Free Dental Clinic was opened last May 22, 2025. Dr. Joseph Harrison and Mayor Renz Sulatan did the honor in cutting the ribbon.



Rev. Father Benjamin Rodriguez led the blessing of the dental clinic.



Dr. Gladys Cua performed dental filling, extraction, and cleaning to children from the village of Cosina.



Art's & Trade Project



Miss Talakag Candidates from different municipalities bought handbags during the town's celebration of the 108th Anniversary. BigHoop Charities was also invited to participate in the month long celebrations of the Kaamulan Festival held in Malaybalay City last March 21 to April 23, 2025. These events help the local community promote their local products and establish network from other participating organizations. As an example , BigHoop Charities sold P 239,386.00 (\$ 4,352.50) handcrafted handbags in 2024.

BMEG Seminar



A free seminar last February 25, 2025, about hog raising was conducted by Sheryl Dogon, the area manager of BMEG. BMEG is a feed product of San Miguel Foods Corporation, which supplies feeds for our Swine Project. The speaker emphasized the four pillars of successful breeding which are Breed, Management, Excellent nutrition and, good health. As of June 2025, we raised more than 70 market pigs. The proceeds help us pay administrative costs.

13th Foundation Day of Project Kasaligan



Project Kasaligan staff with the Board of Trustees and Guests



Center 4
Village of Dagundalahon



Center 9
Village of Dansolihon



Center 26
Village of Cosina



Project Kasaligan, a microloan project, was officially launched on November 28, 2011, with 2 centers strategically located in the town of Talakag Bukidnon. On its 13th anniversary, the project recognized the participation of 22 centers from Cagayan de Oro City, Baungon Bukidnon, and Talakag Bukidnon. 89% of our microloan beneficiaries report that their means of living has improved after joining the project. It provided a sense of security and support needed to maintain their businesses, feed their growing families, and endure future crisis. The highest amount of loan awarded was 130,000 pesos, approximately \$2,280.00. New members can initially receive a 5,000 pesos (\$ 90.00) loan and work their way up to higher amounts depending on their character , savings, and status of business. Among the centers which perform well in terms of payment collection are the centers in Cosina, Dagundalahon, and Dansolihon. The center chiefs were given recognition and a simple gift of one sack of rice as a token of appreciation for their contribution.

The HELP Foundation

c/o Keith W. Hooper
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Topeka, KS 66614

Agricultural Project



Market Pigs



Cacao Trees



Dragon Fruit



Eggplant

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HELP is a nonprofit 501 (c), 509 (a)(1) organization under

