



THE H.E.L.P FOUNDATION

Humanitarian Efforts to Lessen Poverty of Underprivileged in the Philippines

Providing Hope and opportunity

E-mail: help2philippinechildren@yahoo.com

www.helpbighoopcharities.com

Founder: Keith W. Hooper



Message From the Founder

It is that time again to update our amazing supporters on the status of The Help Foundation and of our sister foundation in the Philippines, BigHoop Charities. One can sum it up in two words – Highly Successful! Our mission is to Provide Hope and Opportunity to the less fortunate folks in the Philippines and we have done just that as you can see from our staff's status reports on each of our projects. We have been fortunate to employ energetic, and intelligent young men and women, many whom we have sponsored since elementary school. This is not a career job for these folks but it is an excellent "resume builder"!

In a previous newsletter, I explained how we are modifying our school sponsorship program. We are now focusing on providing scholarships for college students. Three years ago, we sponsored 193 elementary and high school scholars. Next school year, we will sponsor 88. In 2028 all of our scholars will be college students. In the past 24 years, I have discovered that most students can afford to get a high school education, but the expense of a college education without financial assistance is well beyond their reach. If you are now sponsoring a high school student, you have the option to continue your sponsorship through college. If not, I would encourage you to donate any amount to our "college fund". We will combine several donations to support one college student.

As I also previously shared with you, several years ago a dear friend and fellow Peace Corps Volunteer, died accidentally. In his will, he remembered the HELP Foundation. In his honor we started the Michael Charles Memorial Orchard. We planted an assortment of exotic fruit trees that are starting to bear fruit. The orchard will be in full production in 2026. We recently planted 156 cacao trees which will start bearing fruit in two years. One of my main goals is for the foundation to become self-sustaining and the revenue received from these fruits will go a long way in achieving that goal.

Finally, our foundation has conducted many dental missions in the past. The only option for dentists is to extract teeth because we do not have the equipment to do reconstructive procedures. Therefore, our next major project is to set the groundwork for a sustainable dental program for indigent children in our area. We have teamed up with Rotary District 5680 for the funding. Our primary purpose is not about getting children out of pain – although that is a very meaningful and an added benefit. Rather, our primary purpose is to break the chain of ignorance about oral hygiene. 80% of the children in Bukidnon have serious teeth problems because oral hygiene has never been taught and has never been part of their daily hygiene regimen. The proliferation of "junk foods" laced with sugar has exacerbated dental health in children. The point is that diet has changed but dental hygiene has not! Children and also parents have no idea how to prevent tooth decay. Our methodology in this endeavor is to get to the root of the problem and change it from the ground up. Our approach will be a) to target villages and provide initial dental hygiene education; b) distribute toothbrushes, toothpaste, to selected villages; c) determine those children in the village who need immediate dental care; d) schedule them for a visit to our dental clinic; e) fill, extract, clean, and provide fluoride and sealants to the children; f) set up follow-up appointments to determine progress.

My wife, Paterna, and I and the people you help in the Philippines are so grateful for your support of our charitable work. God Bless!



Keith W. Hooper received a certificate of appreciation from **Kemberly Abio**, the School Head of **Makabugwas Ta San Dionesio**



CONGRATULATIONS Graduates of 2024!!!

Their determination and efforts to push thru these past four years has paid off. We are very thankful to all parents who provided encouragement and supported their children through out this journey. We take our hats off to all donors for their generous sponsorship that have made an important impact on the lives of each of these students.



Maria Rizza Wenna Radaza

Cum Laude

Sponsored by: **Thomas Jenkins in memory of Judith Jenkins**

Bachelor in Secondary Education
University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines
Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines



Nimrod Ocio

Sponsored by: **Doug & Marlene Lindahl**

Bachelor in Secondary Education
Major in Filipino
PHINMA, Cagayan de Oro College
Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines



Eunice Grace Salcedo

Sponsored by: **Hastings Sunrise Rotary Club**

Bachelor in Elementary Education
PHINMA, Cagayan de Oro College
Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines



Hazel Joy Plaza

Sponsored by: **Ken & Patricia Morgan**

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
PHINMA, Cagayan de Oro College
Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines



Marianne Jane Geverola

Sponsored by: **Keith & Valerie Stuessi**

Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology
PHINMA, Cagayan de Oro College
Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines



Clinton Gania

Sponsored by: **Sherill Daniels**

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
PHINMA, Cagayan de Oro College
Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines



Neil Patrick Sabelo

Sponsored by: **Karin Patton**

Bachelor of Science in Criminology
PHINMA, Cagayan de Oro College
Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines



Vialyn Cabañeros

Sponsored by: **Rhonda & Robert Mueller Phyllis & Cary Tucker**

Bachelor in Elementary Education
PHINMA, Cagayan de Oro College
Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines

2024-2025 College Scholarship Recipients



Faith Marian Love Abaton



July Ann Igloria



Clouie Antonette Lanas



Joy Grace Montes



Mylene Suguihan



Rosalia Echavez



Lujelle Kim Hinautan



Maica Abello



Elaiza Mae Gido



John Robertson Geva



Marky John Ypil



Pretty Bonghanoy



Flory Mae Raluto



Artvem Elayan



Joshua Natindim

Sponsored by: **Ken & Patricia Morgan**

Bachelor in Elementary Education
PHINMA, Cagayan de Oro College
Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines

The impact of college scholarship on students' academic achievement

In the Philippines, a college degree is recognized as a passage to success and to escape poverty. It can help provide some of the fundamentals in discipline, development, and accomplishment that every high school student is aiming for. Education now-a-days is expensive especially in private schools in the urban areas and finance is number one to hinder the dream of a college degree.

In 2018 when HELP Foundation had its first batch of college graduates, most of the parents were thrilled to have their first college degree holder in the family. Since then, our College Scholarship project has produced 20 young professionals working on their respective field of study. They genuinely break the bonds of poverty as they continue to help other members of their family pursue a college degree.

Here are updates of some of them now.

Jerwin Amuncio and Karen Gay Ureta



Year Graduated: 2018
Philippine National Police
Camp Suarez, Barangay 2,
Talakag, Bukidnon
Position: Patrol Man
4 years and 8 months
Married to: Karen Gay Ureta



Year Graduated: 2018
BUREAU of Jail Manage-
ment and Penology
Pal-ing, Pat-pat, Malaybalay
City, Bukidnon
Position: Jail Officer
3 years and 6 months
Married to: Jerwin Amuncio



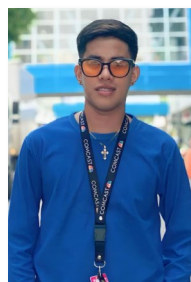
Kathleen Levanta

Year Graduated: 2019
Teacher
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Position: English Teacher
7 months



Queer Quiachon

Year Graduated: 2018
Position: Accounting Asso-
ciate
Manila City, Philippines
1 year



Anthony Yaganon

Year Graduated: 2018
Call Center agent
Teleperformance, Davao City
Position: Technical Support
2 years



Ronilo Fausto

Year Graduated: 2018
BigHoop Charitable Ins., Inc
Talakag, Bukidnon
Position: OIC, Arts & Trade
Project
6 years



Jabes Ocio

Year Graduated: 2022
Tsunieshi Technical
Services Inc.
Balamban, Cebu City
Position: Design Technician
2 years



Leynard Lihayan

Year Graduated: 2022
Minebeamitsumi
Danao, Cebu City
Position: Equipment Techni-
cian
2 years



Frendel Daumar

Year Graduated: 2023
Flash Express
Kibawe, Bukidnon
Position: Distribution Center
Officer
8 months



Rekim Pacana

Year Graduated: 2022
Teleperformance, Cagayan
de Oro City
Position: Technical
Support
1 year and 6 months



Jazz Khemry Sandigan

Year Graduated: 2023
BUREAU of Fisheries and
Aquatic Resources
Macabalan, Cagayan de Oro
City
Position: Vessel Monitoring
System Operator
10 months

Dental Outreach Program

`Makabugwas Ta San Dionesio is a public elementary school for indigenous people living in the village of Indulang. The school opened its doors in 2017 with 7 makeshift classrooms and educates students from Kindergarten to Grade 6. The school continues to strive to provide quality education and a safe learning environment for the students. Last March of this year, the faculty and staff requested Bighoop Charities to help provide 230 students with personal hygiene needs. In cooperation with the Department of Health, we conducted a lecture on personal hygiene emphasizing on bathing, oral, hand, food, and home hygiene. After the lecture we distributed personal hygiene kits with toothbrushes and toothpastes donated by Rotarians Gloria Homeier and Andrea Krauss. The feedback we received from the students is truly heart warming as some were proud owners of their first toothbrush ever. We are very grateful for the continued support we receive from Rotarians abroad.



Arts & Trade

The Municipality of Talakag has invited Bighoop Charities to participate in major events. This enabled us to promote our handmade bags domestically. The 107th anniversary of Talakag is a week-long celebration in March where local farmers and businesses are given free booths to display and sell their products. We also displayed our handmade bags during the annual celebration of the Kaamulan Festival held in Malaybalay City. The said event highly supports locally made products from all over the province of Bukidnon. Our handmade bags are always the highlight of the Talakag booth because of its vibrant colors and convenient, practical designs. Kudos to our designer Ronilo Fausto. The coronation of Miss Earth Philippines 2024 was held in Talakag last May 11, 2024. It was the first national event held in a small town such as Talakag. Bighoop Charities was given an opportunity to promote our hand made bags during the event. Truly it was a night to remember.



A few success stories of the beneficiaries of Project Kasaligan



Cheryl Gadian

Cheryl Gadian is 34 years old, married and has four children. She first joined Project Kasaligan in 2017 and received a loan of 3,000 pesos which helped finance her start-up business of snack vending. The income from her micro business operation helped her husband provide for their family. Cheryl established an excellent payment record and was able to loan a larger amount which she utilized to buy a cow. Since then, their means of livelihood began to improve. Slowly but surely, Cheryl expanded her business, saved up, bought a lot, and built a wonderful home for her family. In 2019, she decided to go back to school and graduated last 2023 with a degree in Public Administration. Cheryl is also active in her community working as a barangay (village) secretary. Today, she is more secure in her ability to provide for her family and their children's educational needs. Currently, she received a loan of 100,000 pesos. She remains grateful to Project Kasaligan which helped her achieve her dream of a better life.

Angelina Abaton is 62 years old, married with 6 children. Her lack of education gave her a strong motivation to send all her children to school. She has been a member of the project since 2014. Her first loan amount was 1,500 pesos which helped her start selling ice, iced water, and iced pop. Five of her six children finished a college degree and three of them graduated with honors. Her children bought her a car as a way of giving back for all her hard work. Currently, Angelina was approved for a 100,000 peso loan which she spent on improving, and renovating their home. For her, Project Kasaligan has been an absolute blessing, helping her improve their standard of living.



Angelina Abaton



Mary Jane Damit

Mary Jane Damit is 49 years old, married with 4 children. She became a member of Project Kasaligan in 2015 and received a 3,000-peso loan. She used it as capitalization for her buy and sell business of bananas. When she was given an opportunity to receive a higher loan amount, she used it to buy a small piece of land where she planted fruit trees, vegetables, and corn. Her income helped her in many ways. It helped her pay for her children's school tuition fees, renovate their house, fixed their old truck, and financed their small hardware business. Today, she has three professionals and two of them are licensed teachers working at a public school. Mary Jane and her husband are focused on their farm where they planted coconuts, bananas, coffee and falcata trees. For her, their farm is a reminder of how the project has helped them during their financial difficulties.

Evangeline Delante is 50 years old, married with 11 children. Six are married and five are still in school. She became a member of Project Kasaligan in 2018 with 3,000.00-peso loan which she used as an additional capitalization for her sari-sari (in-house variety) store. When she received an 80,000-peso loan, she used the money in a lucrative manner. Evangeline's house is strategically located in front of a public school, and she made sure to meet the needs of her customers. She expanded her sari-sari store by adding more rice in the inventory, ready to wear (RTW) items, frozen food, added snacks and more viand in the menu. A portion of her loan gave them an opportunity to purchase a small lot where they planted bamboo trees to supply her husband's woven split bamboo mat business. She is so pleased to show Project Kasaligan how far they have come which started from a 3,000-peso loan.



Evangeline Delante w/ Husband

The HELP Foundation

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

Agricultural Project Update



As part of the expansion of our Fruit Orchard, we planted 156 cacao seedlings, string beans, cucumbers, squash, and tomatoes.

Added 4 more gestating pens on our Swine Project facility to the existing 8 pens. Currently, we have 12 sows in the facility.

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

