



MIRACLES OF SOLIDARITY

STORIES OF HOPE & SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Poverty interlocks with and fuels the many challenges we face as a nation. Issues like corruption, climate change, conflict, maternal and child health, hunger, drug dependency and human trafficking, to name a few. These are headlines that our nation and the global community of nations continue to face.

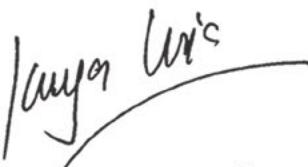
Economic and political solutions seem inadequate. A more fundamental change has to happen. Gawad Kalinga believes that citizen-driven change and values transformation are platforms where hope can fuel heroic responses from ordinary citizens. We need ordinary citizens to take action against issues that challenge the collective, and to peacefully transform institutions to be more responsive and relevant to change.

This 2016 Annual Report captures the many facets of how Gawad Kalinga is building the platform where no poor will be left behind. This is our humble attempt to share the miracles that have become solid templates for the on-ground transformation taking place in our communities.

The miracles of GK year 2016 and our resolve to make happen our vision of *ending poverty for 5 million families* are products of the heart work of GK's partners and volunteers. They refused to give up despite the many disturbing and disheartening events in our daily struggle to make better the life of one poor family at a time.

Miracles of Solidarity is a simple reminder that big dreams supported by hard work anchored on prayers will not disappoint the builder.

May the Lord continue to bless the works of our hands and the dreams that we have for our country and our people, especially the poor.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JLuis Oquieno".

~ JOSE LUIS OQUÍÑENA
Executive Director, Gawad Kalinga





MISSION

Ending poverty for 5 million families by 2024

VISION

Gawad Kalinga is building a nation empowered by people with faith and patriotism; a nation made up of caring and sharing communities, dedicated to eradicate poverty and restore human dignity.

TENETS

Walang Iwanan

I commit to leave no one behind

Una sa Serbisyo, Huli sa Benepisyos

I commit to serve rather than to be served

Bayanihan

I commit to challenge the impossible in solidarity with others

Padugo, Tataya Ako

I commit to bleed for the mission

Para sa Diyos at Para sa Bayan

I commit to love God and my country

Peninsula-GK Village
Brgy. Maribis, Tanauan, Leyte

CONTENTS

09 Rajah Buayan
Building peace in a sea of conflict

13 "Busog"
Hunger ends where caring begins

17 Barangay Walang Iwanan
Building a grassroots platform for solidarity

21 Hope is in the Building
Three years after Super Typhoon Haiyan

25 GK Munting Pamayanan
Enabling the differently-abled differently

31 We Call Him Buknoy
Fueling dreams with every kick

35 GK Dubbo
Will GK work in the first world?

41 Social Business Summit 2016
What has love got to do with business?

43 GK x Microsoft's Hour of Code
Empowering the youth to code a future full of hope

47 The Lasallian Scholars
Practicing a culture of leaving no one behind

51 The GK Enchanted Farm
A Social Impact Report

53 First Harvest
Caring comes first

55 SEED Graduation Day
Welcoming a new generation of entrepreneurs





In quiet moments,
I find myself constantly asking:
What explains the global trust and
credibility that Gawad Kalinga's
ragtag army of heroes
has gained through the years?





“Where others see slums, Tony Meloto and Luis Oquiñena see individual people just like you and me – and they see massive potential,” said Sally Osberg, President and CEO of Skoll Foundation (Skoll) when she presented Gawad Kalinga (GK) with the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship back in 2012. GK has been recognized by prestigious institutions within and outside the Philippines for its efforts in making a difference in the lives of the poor. Other distinctions include the Nikkei Asia Award for Regional Growth (2011), Ernst & Young’s Social Entrepreneur of the Year (2010), and Schwab Foundation’s Social Entrepreneur of the Year (2010).

Social entrepreneurs are *“society’s change agents: creators of innovations that disrupt the status quo and transform the world for the better”* (Skoll). GK’s unconventional approach to development seems to have resulted in concepts and models that can scale impact on ending poverty. But for GK, the most powerful affirmation it has ever received came from a GK resident who said, *“Gawad Kalinga’s biggest impact on us was in how GK never gave up on finding solutions to make our lives better.”*

Skoll World Forum
March 28-30, 2012
Oxford, England

gk1world.com/skoll-world-forum-2012

Presence

To many, what makes Gawad Kalinga's (GK) work extraordinary is the thousands of ordinary, everyday heroes who believe in the power of presence among the untapped human wealth at the bottom of the pyramid and in the abandoned fertile land in the countryside. GK is about the most privileged in degree, pedigree and opportunity who, while traditionally disconnected from the least fortunate, are genuinely caring and generously sharing their competencies and resources with the poor – all the while learning from their genius in resiliency and generosity.

Last July 2016, we brought the power of presence to Rajah Buayan, as Human Nature (HN) set out to build 50 homes (in addition to Federal Land's first 20) for the most marginalized families in this remote town in Maguindanao. Meanwhile, the Kusina ng Kalinga (KnK) team, the growing arm of GK that aims to help end hunger, was busy setting up the kitchen to conduct its feeding of 2,000 malnourished children in nearby Parang. This daily effort started after the Mamasapano massacre that killed 44 soldiers and displaced many local residents.

This trip to Maguindanao for the historic groundbreaking led by Luis Quinena (GK's ED) and Dylan Wilk (HN's COO) was reminiscent of their many daring adventures to dangerous and hazardous calamity and conflict areas, to give immediate relief and comfort to victims. The Commanding General of Southern Mindanao warned it would be unsafe, but nevertheless, showed consent by providing them with two truckloads of heavily-armed soldiers – just in case. True enough, an encounter happened just hours after they passed a particular area.

What might be foolish and unnecessary in the eyes of "normal" people is a necessity to many "fools" in GK, who consider the neediest as family, whose suffering and despair must be attended to with urgency. Love for the poor because they are family is a great source of courage and strength even to the once faint-hearted.





GK Fridays. GK Fridays is a campaign for Presence, which is the beginning to a journey of seeing the plight and genius of the poor and establishing a genuine friendship with them. Starting May 2016, we have started to invite organizations, particularly corporations, to come build and spend time on-ground, be it in your typical GK community or in our Kusina ng Kalinga. Our first GK Fridays was held in DMCI Village, Brgy. Plainview, Mandaluyong City, and since then we have been welcoming family and friends into different Gawad Kalinga communities all over Metro Manila, at least once a month. To-date, over 350 foreign and local volunteers have joined us, and it continues to grow. Corporations like Human Nature, Globe, TIP-Manila and Allgemeine Bau-Chemie (ABC) Phils have hosted it as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility efforts. Want your company to join? Email info@gawadkalinga.com

GK Munting Pamayanang
Brgy. Escopa, Quezon City



RAJAH BUAYAN

Building peace in a sea of conflict

gkiworld.com/rajahbuayan-hn

"We are an island of peace in a sea of conflict," opened Datu Zamzamin Ampatuan, Mayor of Rajah Buayan Maguindanao, who spoke with conviction about transforming the landscape of Muslim Mindanao by building peaceful and productive communities with Gawad Kalinga. The media attention brought about by the killing of the Special Action Force (SAF) 44 in January 2015 in nearby Mamasapano helped unearth decades-long concerns – massive poverty, widespread hunger and a deep yearning for peace. Two months later, Mayor Zamzamin and GK leaders would meet and agree, on the spot, to pursue a partnership.

GK came in the only way it knew how – by caring and sharing. Beginning with *Kusina ng Kalinga*, GK fed Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who had to flee their homes due to the armed conflict between the military and rebels. From there, the kitchen operations expanded to prepare daily meals for 1,000 kids

enrolled in *Madrasahs* (Islamic Schools) in the municipalities of Rajah Buayan and Mamasapano. And as the relationships deepened, we unmasked more faces of poverty and likewise sought out more partnerships that can help us mend the disconnectedness that gave way to it in the first place.

Today, we are not just feeding children but also building homes for entire families in Rajah Buayan. In partnership with Federal Land, Human Nature, and the local government of Rajah Buayan, GK is completing two villages, Bayanihan-style, together with its future residents and those of nearby GK communities in Sultan Kudarat. During the project's groundbreaking ceremony (July 2016), Human Nature Co-Founder and Chairman Dylan Wilk shared about the process that led them there:



Sapakan (Pob.), Rajah Buayan, Maguindanao
July 25, 2016

"For the past 7 years, GK has been struggling to find a partner for Rajah Buayan because most people are afraid to come here. Then I remembered the words of Noel Griño, the head of GK ARMM, who once told me: 'If being brave means I do not feel fear, then I am not brave. But my love for God and my faith in Him is much, much larger than my fear.' I knew that this was the place for us."

A communal farm is also being set-up by the LGU to provide food security and livelihood. Before Rajah Buayan regressed into a 6th-class municipality after years of conflict, poverty and natural disaster, it was once a flourishing Sultanate along Rio Grande de Mindanao. More than the programs, however, Mayor Zamzamin believes that it is the spirit of community and caring that is helping transform his whole town, just as it had other towns in ARMM where GK is present.

The most promising development is that the young are starting to dream again. Also last July 2016, GK tapped local coaches and initiated a grassroots football program in 5 public schools.



With GK's Field of Dreams (football field), young Christians, Muslims and Lumads (indigenous people) are no longer waking up to the sound of bombs exploding but to balls being kicked into the air: a symbol of many dreams now taking flight. With your continued support, the promise of a progressive and prosperous Rajah Buayan and Mindanao can become reality altogether.



“ Conflict is born out of misled minds that flourish with disconnection from others. Through the daily contact and interaction of Muslim students with the volunteers of Kusina ng Kalinga, I am hopeful that stronger connections will flourish to put an end to misled minds and hearts. For the people of Rajah Buayan, Gawad Kalinga is a symbol of hope. You represent not only a flag that is being waved in the air, but a flag that has been firmly planted on land.

~ DATU ZAMZAMIN AMPATUAN

Mayor, Rajah Buayan
gkiworld.com/goodness-rising



“ Any conflict displaces relationships and disrupts progress for everyone. This is why GK goes to places like Rajah Buayan, and we honor partners like Human Nature and Federal Land, who have the courage to care and end poverty, which fuels conflict. Building these homes and feeding the hungry through Kusina ng Kalinga will help raise the peace generation, certainly something worth fighting for.

~ **LUIS OQUIÑENA**
Executive Director, Gawad Kalinga

“BUSOG”

Hunger ends where caring begins

gkiworld.com/kusinangkalinga

“Looking for sustainable solutions is a good default, but when it comes to hunger, caring should be the starting point. We would like to engage suggestions on livelihood programs. But the first step is to simply feed,” said Luis Oquiñena, GK Executive Director. This response was made in the context of El Niño (drought), but this is the same posture adopted by GK in tackling the issue of hunger nationwide.

Hunger, unlike typhoons that leave visible trails of destruction, is difficult to spot, but can be just as devastating. A kid could be smiling on the outside while his mind and body quietly seek nourishment on the inside. This became one of our first realizations in our journey to understanding hunger across the country’s poorest and most hungry communities.

“Minsan budo, minsan wa.”

Once we visited Danao Elementary School, one of 29 public elementary schools that our Kusina ng Kalinga (KnK) in the 4th class municipality of San Isidro, Leyte serves. We casually asked the kids what they would eat for lunch before our kitchen opened. And this was their candid reply “*Sometimes budo* (small dried fish), *sometimes none*.” Pressing further, we asked whether they have a hard time when this happens. Smiling, one kid replied, “*Sanay na.*” (We’re used to it.)

These kids walk 2 hours of mountain trail, one-way, to school. On the days it becomes unbearable, they simply just don’t go. According to teachers, most come back in the next day or two, but always, there are a few who will stop going to school altogether.





In our kitchens nationwide, we see a boost in attendance and a better school performance.

“Tutong”

Our goal is to make our operations as efficient as possible, so that with every peso shared, more children can eat. One of the first challenges every new kitchen has to face is reducing the quantity of “*tutong*” (burnt rice). By our kitchen standards, it is wastage; some studies say it's cancerous.

Our volunteers, mostly parents of children we serve, however, will say that *tutong* is a blessing. At the end of the day, *tutong* is food for the family – and for the pigs in their backyards.

With KnK, “*tutong*” is a distant memory, with delicious and nutritious rice meals served every day.

“Busog”

This year, KNK made another landmark initiative: establishing a kitchen in conflict-laden Maguindanao.

In partnership with DepEd-ARMM, we are now serving meals to the children of Sarmiento West Elementary School in Parang, Maguindanao. This development is a breakthrough for two reasons. First, it provides a public-private model for implementing the government's budget for school-based feeding. Second, it begins to tear away at the walls of violence, which largely interlocks with the hunger issue.

On the day of the program's formal launch, however, Principal Tarhata powerfully pointed out to us the real breakthrough: “*Salamat sa pagdala ng programa, dahil may mga bata dito na ngayon lang nakaranas na mabusog.*” (Thank you for bringing the program here, there are kids who have never experienced being full until now.)

Today, Kusina ng Kalinga fills the hearts and stomachs of ~18,252 children (from 2,000 in Feb 2014) in school and on the streets. We will do all that we can so that no child is left hungry. And again, the first step is none other but to simply feed. Hunger ends where caring begins.



Partnerships

How does GK achieve scale and sustainability when it is not dependent on government funding or international consultants to run its operations?

GK thrives on Miracles of Solidarity, the faith journey of a growing global army who believes that we can end poverty together. It is about collaboration, not competition – about competence anchored on compassion and justice to make the world kinder and safer.

GK partners with and brings together in its community platform local government units (LGUs) nationwide and hundreds of humanitarian organizations, universities and business corporations worldwide. *Bayanihan* (Solidarity) and *Walang Iwanan* (Leave no one behind) succinctly capture the spirit of partnership within Gawad Kalinga, in every village built, and in every Bayani Challenge to come after each major calamity – Ondoy (Ketsana), Sendong (Washi), Pablo (Bopha), and recently, Yolanda (Haiyan). This is how vibrant colors of hope and exuberance of life have managed to replace the doom and gloom in the hearts of the survivors.

And the work continues in many non-Haiyan areas in our persistent effort to make Barangay Walang Iwanan a nationwide standard of community life. In GK Munting Pamayanan Village in Quezon City, the handicapped go beyond their perceived limitations as they participate in building their future homes. Way down south, Governor Tyron Uy is building a total of 5,700 homes in all of Compostela Valley's 11 towns as a way of continuing his father's legacy: institutionalizing the "GK way" of volunteerism in the province.





A conversation with the Lumads
May 6, 2015
Brgy. Margues, Esperenza, Sultan Kudarat



Operation Walang Iwanan: El Niño (April to May 2016). *"Life has been extremely difficult here, having had no rain in the last 6 months. We are grateful there is a feeding program like Kusina ng Kalinga – if not, we will be forced to eat kayos again."* Kayos is a poisonous rootcrop that becomes edible when properly prepared. Lumads eat it as the last option. Meanwhile, in Maguindanao, the Teduray mothers talked about how they only had coffee as their meal so that their kids can eat whatever root crop or banana. El Niño has dried up our fields and ponds, causing widespread hunger in 19 provinces across the country, especially in Mindanao. GK responded by activating OWI: El Niño, using Kusina ng Kalinga as the platform for feeding our farmers and the most vulnerable – the children, pregnant mothers and the elderly. We served the areas of Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Zamboanga del Norte, Lanao del Sur and Bukidnon, and saw the breathtaking beauty of the places and of the spirit of *Walang Iwanan*. See more at gkworld.com/elnino-relief

BARANGAY WALANG IWANAN:

Building a grassroots platform for solidarity

gktworld.com/bc-2016

In November 2013, Super Typhoon Haiyan claimed thousands of lives and left destruction in the Philippines, in a scale we had not seen before. This is not the only disaster (natural or otherwise) to happen in recent years; across the globe, threats to the safety and security of humanity are becoming more felt. This prompted Gawad Kalinga to review how we should organize ourselves in a way that can mitigate the effects of disaster, yes, but more importantly, truly shape a more promising future for all of us, especially the poor.

Connecting with the first five million poor

Making an impact is sure to be difficult if we do not know and have a direct line with the poor we want to help.

GK invested its first ten years creating this direct line through the communities it built. At the same time, by organizing the poorest families into empowered and cohesive neighborhood associations, we are enabling them to collectively act and interact with different institutions. These communities also became the “motherboard” for GK’s values transformation and other poverty reduction interventions.

Creating a culture of caring within every barangay

GK had always believed that at the heart of poverty is a crisis in values with economic consequences. In April 2014, GK presented the country with a challenge to “*engage 20,000 barangays to feed the hungry, provide land for the landless,*



build homes, care for the environment, fix schools and unleash the potential of the poor to be our partners in driving true inclusive growth." This was the beginning of Barangay Walang Iwanan. "Leave no one behind" became a promise not only to our GK communities, but to every barangay, the most basic unit served by Philippine government.

The campaign continues until today. Recently, during the Bayani Challenge from April 9 to June 12, we gathered an estimated 16,000 volunteers, local and foreign, to participate in health missions, sports programs, clean-up drives and other initiatives in the provinces of Bukidnon, Eastern Samar, Nueva Ecija, Camarines Sur and South Metro Manila. This coming BC 2017, we look forward to focusing in Mindanao.

Building solidarity through technology-based platforms

Real impact transpires when we are able to identify and link the poor's needs and potentials to available opportunities for decent and sustainable productivity. Granted that the Philippines is an archipelago of 7,000+ islands and ~100M people divided into 42,000 barangays, GK is forced to look to technology-based platforms that can consolidate critical information towards cooperation.

In partnership with a California-based NGO, GK embarked on an audacious endeavor to cover and map data for an initial 3,000 barangays, which we have successfully met this August 2016. Our next goal is to conduct a robust profiling for the following, high-potential sectors: blue-collared workers (GAWA), farmers (Bayan-Anihan), fisherfolk (Balangay) and most importantly, the youth (GK Youth).



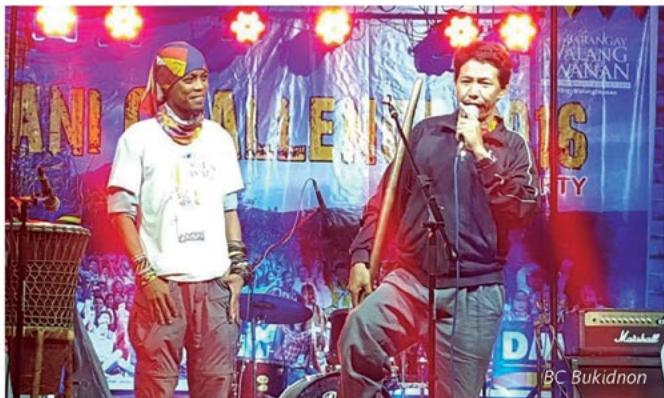
Unity Dance during Bayani Challenge 2016

May 24-28, 2016

Brgy. Kabulacan, Sta. Catalina, Negros Occidental

BAYANI CHALLENGE (BC) 2016

Read more at gktworld.com/bc2016



“ I am Maranao, and I am part of the bigger Moro (Muslim IP) ethnic group. I do not know you, and you also do not know me, but I am here because I want to know you all a little better. I may be Muslim and we may be different but we can all work together.

~ **USTAD IBRAHIM BALABAGAN**
GK Wao Darussalam, Wao, Lanao del Sur

“ We have been divided during the past months but now we are one in serving our beloved city. I would like to thank the volunteers who are most generous with their time and talents. The little things you did — the homes you built, the schools you refurbished — will have an enormous impact on our future. You are all miracle workers, you are all heroes, Silay is proud of you.

~ **HON JOSE L. MONTELIBANO**
Mayor, Silay City, Negros Occidental



“ I met my wife in a #bayanichallenge and ever since then, we have not stopped volunteering. We have two daughters, Sining and Diwa, and we always bring them with us. They are growing up in a Bayani Challenge of their own, they are growing up as volunteers, they are growing up as heroes for this country. Our job as parents is to raise them to be good and with fear of the Lord. We need to be the generation who will raise their children to be the best Filipino generation there has ever been.

~ **MARK LAWRENCE CRUZ**
GK full-time worker, Quezon City, Metro Manila

“ What's striking about the Filipinos is their will to help each other in times of need. They have a word for this – **"Bayanihan"** – and this has many interpretations depending on whom you talk to. But one theme runs true and that is, ***no matter what you have, what your situation in life is, you should always be willing to lend a hand to your fellow countrymen.*** I'm under the sticky heat as I stand in between farmers, graduate students, bankers and bloggers, all of which have volunteered their time, and I can't help feeling *Bayanihan*. Although I've been told its translation, ***it is something that must be felt to be truly understood.***

~ **RICHARD RIGBY**
Volunteer, United Kingdom
BC Camarines Sur



“ There are people from all walks of life. We may have different views and different dreams but I realize that we can unite and stand together for a common goal: to help.

~ **RICK JAYSON**
GK Youth, Tanay, Rizal

“ Just seeing the excitement and the happiness on their faces actually left me quite emotional. It's gonna be really hard to leave. #BayaniChallenge in one word is touching! I'm gonna go back to Australia and be thinking about what I can do to join the another Bayani Challenge, contribute to GK and spread the work back home.

~ **XAVIA**
Volunteer (Optus), Australia

HOPE IS IN THE BUILDING

Three years after Super Typhoon Haiyan

"I thought I'd never be able to fish again," said Kuya Johnny. Kuya Johnny Baroba is a fisherman based in Brgy. Punta Buri, Ajuy, Iloilo. A father to three sons, it was a legitimate fear that resonated with thousands of other fishermen in the Visayas. *"But we just lifted it all up to God. We are grateful to GK for giving us the chance to stand up and recover."*

For nearly three years now, GK has carried its share of both the burden and privilege to be front and center in the rebuilding work after Supertyphoon Haiyan (Yolanda). With nothing short of heroism from partners and volunteers, we were able to deliver results that, even with our 10 years' worth of disaster response experience, bordered on impossible at the start. We built 3,000 homes across 9 provinces, distributed 800+ boats to fishing communities, and continue to address the hunger of ~20,000 kids through the Kusina ng Kalinga program. All these in 3 years – probably more work than we have done in our first 7 years of existence combined.

Today, we ask ourselves: How are the communities? What have we learned and where do we go from here?

How are the communities? Have they recovered?

"Our GK communities are somehow at an advantage, because of our programs and our partners who really make an effort to spend time with them," said Kevin Caballero, our Area Coordinator for Eastern Visayas. *"Generally, the people are still in recovery stage. But the disposition of the people is happy."*

The reality is that our communities will never gain back everything they have lost. Until today, they are in still varying levels of recovery: some may have roofs above their heads but not their boats; some may have gained their livelihood back but are still trying to rebuild their houses; others may have both or neither. But the good news here is that our communities have found their footing. And that they no longer feel hopeless and helpless.



“Initially, our struggle really was how to convince them, how to make them believe that they have to work for their houses, despite being victims of disaster. Because that is the GK way,” Kevin continued. *“But with a little help from us, and with their families as their main motivation, many of them found the strength to persevere.”*

One such community is the Peninsula-GK Village (Brgy. Maribi, Tanauan, Leyte), which houses 75 families with newfound hope starting last January 28.

What have we learned?

Our Kapitbahayan (KB) would reassure our area teams, *“Bro, okay lang naman eh. Kaya pa.”* (Bro, it's okay. We can still manage.) On the ground, this was what everyday heroism sounded like.

Some of our Kapitbahayan (GK homeowners) spent 2-3 months away from home, rebuilding other peoples' homes, even when their own are in need of repairs. Countless times, our Kapitbahayan (KB) were willing to *“miss a turn”* in getting their houses because they feel that another family needs it more. They all need it. But despite this, they still chose to be generous and show goodness towards their fellow poor.

Our learning is that our biggest and strongest partners throughout this rebuilding work are the communities themselves. When Haiyan hit, the first responders wasn't GK – it was our KB leaders who rose to the occasion.

Where do we go from here?

“The impact of each disaster is different – and we know that, from Sendong (2011) to Pablo (2012) to Yolanda (2013). With every disaster, maybe our capacity to respond increases and is improved. But the moment we start really empowering – as in really empowering the communities – that's the time we can say we have done our best to prepare for the next storm,” says Kevin.

The Philippines, given our location, is among the most disaster-prone areas in the world. But while no disaster is ever the same, it always brings to light the same striking truth: the poorest are always the most vulnerable. Organizing them into empowered communities will build resilience. Ate Evelyn Caratao, a homeowner in GK Cadiz Viejo, Negros Occidental agrees: *“Now we feel safer and more confident that no matter what disasters may come, we need not fear because we are in a GK community, a place where people do not leave their fellow residents behind.”*



Glimpse of Hope GK Village Turnover Ceremony
July 14, 2016
Brgy. Quezon Jr., Ormoc, Leyte



Hope for the fishermen.

ABB Philippines and its international counterparts cooperated to facilitate the distribution of 50 Balangay boats (14 in Merida, Leyte; 36 in Guiuan, Eastern Samar) and the building of 32 houses (EB Magalona, Negros Occidental) in response to Haiyan. Their cooperation helped 82 families gain a much needed level of stability to start over.





*LBC-GK Village Turnover Ceremony
August 31, 2016
Brgy. Gabuc, Pontevedra, Capiz*

Heroism among the living. A day after National Heroes Day, 20 families in the island of Gabuc (Pontevedra, Capiz) moved into their new homes. Gabuc means “marupok” in Filipino or feeble in English, but the people in the community are just the opposite, given the resilience they showed in the aftermath of Haiyan. Read more at gkiworld.com/lbc-gabuc2



*Bloom-GK Village
Brgy. Mansahaob, Matag-ob, Leyte*

“We celebrated Heroes’ Day yesterday, but I cannot find better heroes than the people of Gabuc. It is LBC’s joy to help bring back color to your lives. But you must remember that the houses were built because of the hope you carried. The simple gestures of breaking the ground, passing hollow blocks and even mixing cement – all of these mean that you are all committed to help each other rise again,” said Lawrence Santiago, Panay Area Head of LBC Express.

Welcoming walk-in help. Category 5 Typhoon Haiyan gave rise to many new partnerships, including one with Bloom Foundation, a London-based charity organization that focuses on poverty relief in developing countries. Early on in the activation of GK’s reconstruction work, Bloom Foundation simply arrived at GK Headquarters and came out as a walk-in donor that promised to build 3 villages across Leyte. Helping a total of 66 families in Palompon, Matag-ob and Isabel, Bloom proved that their aid truly goes beyond borders.



GK MUNTING PAMAYANAN

Enabling the differently-abled differently

gk1world.com/bayanahan-for-pwd-gk-village

“Here in Gawad Kalinga, our disabilities are a cause for admiration, not embarrassment,” says Kuya Danny, future homeowner of GK Munting Pamayan.

Based on the 2010 census, there are around 1.5 million Persons with Disabilities (PWD) in the country. In 2007, Republic Act of 9442 granted the PWD community similar privileges to that of senior citizens – 20% discount on medical and dental services, travel, restaurants and recreation centers and other places of culture, leisure and amusement. But this 20% discount does not apply to our community-building efforts in GK Munting Pamayan Village, Brgy. Escopa, Quezon City.

“My biggest challenge in organizing the community here is that they are so used to pity,” says Justine Cruz, GK Head of Quezon City.

“When we initially told them that they needed to complete 3,000 hours of sweat equity, one of them inquired for a discount of 600 hours because of their condition. But through our values formation, we were able to reverse this perception and help break the mindset that they can’t, especially when they haven’t even tried yet.”

This only proves GK’s belief that poverty is less about a lack of resources. In this small community of 66 families, with at least one member suffering from a disability – mostly blindness – the real work begins in making them see a kind of life beyond the one they live through daily today.

Blindness and poverty is a one-two punch that can very easily knock the hope and dreams out of anyone, but experience tells us that only a few things cannot be overcome by the strength of solidarity.



This community's story of solidarity started to unfold this January, when the local government of Quezon City and the National Vocational Rehabilitation Center (NVRC) under the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), sought the help of GK to provide shelter for them. For 20 years now, these families have been living in scraps of wood and metal outside of NVRC's Katipunan center. In response, Tito Boyet Cabubas of Team GK QC showed up every Wednesday to share the values of Gawad Kalinga.

Today, Tito Boyet no longer comes alone; nearly every two weeks, he finds himself building houses side by side with a growing group of volunteers from Allgemeine Bau-Chemie Phil, Human Nature, RTL, TIP-Manila and many more.

DMCI and Golden ABC (Penshoppe) have generously committed to build a total of 99 houses, which will help establish GK's first PWD community in Luzon, and the second one across the country.

Should we paint their houses colorful? GK Munting Pamayan's Kapitbahayan will not be able to see their colorfully-painted houses, but surely they will be able to feel its concrete walls. More importantly, they are already feeling the most care they have felt in years. This sends a message more powerful than any set of bright colors can.



OTHER GK COMMUNITIES



“ We looked at GK's values and their people, and we are just so inspired by this organization.

It's nice to see an organization put so much emphasis on community and the people that make it a reality. In line with what we value, this is a perfect match for us.

~ SCOTT WILKINS
Marketing Director, World Housing

“Walang iwanan” is about consistency. Since 2007, Unilab has been a consistent partner of GK in getting in indigent communities on the road out of poverty. This 2016, Unilab has helped build houses for 70 families spread out in the provinces of Cavite, Iloilo and Quezon City. What makes the partnership special is how Unilab's employees have personally embraced the *Walang Iwanan* spirit, as seen in their active participation and presence in builds and other community activities.



Real estate groups for mass housing. With mass housing as part of government's investment priority, Board of Investments-registered housing developers are required to allocate ~20% of total registered project cost or area to build low-cost housing. More and more, starting 2013, GK has been looking to real estate groups as partners in ending poverty. Just for 2016 alone, GK was able to raise funds for ~750 houses coming from DMCI (526 units), Federal Land (121 units), Century Properties (63 units) and Horizon Land Property (41 units). The houses will be built across at least 15 provinces, cultivating progress even in the most remote of areas.



Passion

Clearly, GK thrives on passion, not just compassion. This accounts for the energy of a movement that does not seem to grow old or cold, making it more massive, inclusive, visible, quantifiable and replicable over the years. It also focuses on nurturing relationships, not on promoting a “project mentality”, which talks about an exit strategy before it even begins, and ends when the funds run out.

A passion for football and for cultivating the young — this is how *SipaG*, GK's sports development program led by volunteer Kevin Goco, has come to make an impact in the lives of about 1,000 kids, whose determination to reach for their dreams is fueled by every kick.

Amidst great difficulty, we do not easily quit or exit from the poor because they are family. Love of country and the poor has no term of office or expiration date or exit strategy. And it is the same spirit everywhere

It is the same strategy adopted in GK Indonesia by Arif Rachmat with Governor Pak Ahok of Jakarta, in providing better quality of life to 6,000 families, former slum-dwellers now living in colorful and peaceful medium-rise communities.

The same hope in our partnership with GK Australia to help improve the self-image and quality of life of the aboriginal community in Dubbo (New South Wales), where GK worker Butch Ozarraga with his wife Mona spent three weeks to understand the needs and aspirations of the local residents and volunteers.

The same dream as we organize GK Malaysia with key partners Tan Sri Dato Vincent Tan (Berjaya Group) and Shirley Maya Tan (Pavilion Group) to eventually build thriving GK communities in Sabah and help improve the lives of both Malaysians and Filipinos living there.



Build hope with GK Mabuhay. "As a GK volunteer, my most unforgettable experience was getting to meet the people. The employees and volunteers of GK, as well as the residents of the GK communities, were very loving, motivated, and passionate. It was truly inspiring to see so many people come together for a common cause. I believe that the spirit of GK and its focus on actually helping to improve the lives of others is extremely evident in its actions. The amount of love and hope that GK shows the world is a standard that all people should strive for!" This was what Ana, a volunteer from USA, had to say about her volunteer experience with GK Mabuhay. GK Mabuhay is a social enterprise that showcases the beauty of the Philippines and its people through immersion in our GK communities. It also arranges meaningful celebrations for corporate groups and private individuals. Book a date with us: gkmabuhay.com



Singapore volunteers visit Cabiao (March 2016)
Cabiao, Nueva Ecija



WE CALL HIM BUKNOY

Fueling hope with every kick through SipaG

gkiworld.com/fieldofdreams-maguindanao

"There's this one kid. We call him Buknoy. He is one of those kids, one of those little rascals, who would come join the practice even if he was younger than everybody else. It was very evident early on that he has talent. The boy comes from a complicated family – he doesn't get much of his parents' support, and I think he was verbally abused, which probably explains the negative behavior he has manifested a lot of times. But through football, and by being in a structured and disciplined environment, his behavior improved over time.

Last year, he had to stop school because of financial circumstances and we stopped letting him play. We have a general rule in SipaG wherein we don't allow any player to take part in the program unless they are enrolled in school and/or are doing something productive. I remember seeing him in one activity in Barangka Drive Mandaluyong; I asked – how's everything – and he just broke down in tears because he was so distraught and just really wanted to play. He told me that he should be playing soccer.



So I told him, 'It's simple, you enroll in school. Cause you can't go far with just soccer. You have to have a foundation, a degree or an education to back you up.' So he decided to work things out with the help of his parents and enroll in school. We allowed him to play, and this past summer, he (as member of the Kaya Football Club) won MVP in the United Football League (UFL), which is a premier youth football competition in the Philippines. For him to be MVP against thousands of kids is an amazing accomplishment. What really got me was when I saw his parents watch his championship game for the first time and support his playing. Moreover, seeing that their son has talent, they are now very supportive of him going to school versus before when they were just encouraging him to work and do chores in the house.

Buknoy is just one of the many kids whose lives are being transformed by SIPAG. Every person involved in this growing family of 900 inspires me, but I would say that our six coaches are key—Nico, Avin, Zarah, Chester, Jopeth, and Jester. If you knew where they had come from and saw how they had leveled up in terms of confidence, organizing things, and basically running the program on their own, you would be inspired yourself. Seeing seemingly ordinary people just take that next step towards the development of their skills, and then committing to share those skills with others—this is what inspires me to keep on doing this.”

~ MICHAEL KEVIN GOCO
Program Head (Volunteer), GK SipaG



“

The hardest part I would say is in multiplying yourself. You really have to mentor people – teach them how to organize things, how to be responsible and how to run the program. Developing the team. That part of mentoring where you try to make them better than you, it's not easy. It takes a lot of work, and you simply can't do it alone.

~ MICHAEL KEVIN GOCO
Program Head (Volunteer), GK SipaG

Q: How did SipaG come to life?

A: GK already had a Child and Youth Development (CYD) Program, which was then handled by Kevin Caballero, Paolo Rivera and Aysa Oquiñena. Danny Moran, former owner of Red Ribbon and former national football team player, was already a GK partner at that time. He wanted to promote football to the masses and use it as a tool for character and values formation, so he approached the GK CYD team. That's when I came in. Promoting a sport I love through GK was something I really wanted to do. When I look at our GK communities, it reminds me of the slums in Brazil and Latin America, and really, some of the best and most successful players come from impoverished backgrounds. Football in the Philippines was then very underdeveloped, so I felt that the best way to promote it was through GK. SipaG became a side project during my days as a fulltime worker, along with Myra, now my wife, and with the full support of Luis (GK's Executive Director), who is a big football fanatic. We started in one community, GK Tatalon, and eventually branched out to different GK communities. We organized a league for the kids and more GK sites joined. That was basically how it started and grew organically—from the passion of GK workers and volunteers.

Q: When did it officially become “SipaG”?

A: It was called SipaG in 2011. Before, it was just about getting kids to play. But we wanted to formalize and add more structure to the program, with proper objectives and guidelines. Since the CYD program already had Sibol, Sagip, and SIGA, we added another one called SipaG. The kids we worked with got scholarships, and they weren't the brightest but they succeeded because they had one trait that really stood out: masipag sila. They were really persevering and hardworking, and we wanted to highlight this. Always sipag, sipag, sipag. And also, SipaG has *sipa*, the Filipino word for “to kick”.

Q: Who formed part of your core team?

A: Friends and volunteers who were passionate about the same things. Myra, my wife, was also helping out. But then it got to a point where people couldn't stay because they had other things to do. I realized that they couldn't be there forever, and that those who would be there, are the kids who grew up in the program. Those who really lived, breathed and believed in it. So the next step was mentoring the kids to run it, and that's where we are right now.

Some of them are getting older, so we're giving them more responsibilities and I think, it's running on its own.

Q: What are the regular activities?

A: We have the occasional tournaments that we join monthly and the liga where the GK communities play with each other weekly. It also serves as their values formation. Training the coaches, because the values formation is through them. Monitoring the scholars. We are blessed that Kuya Luis allowed us to hire somebody fulltime to really manage it, Dennis. I don't have to be on top of it daily. It's just more of giving guidance and direction to them.

Q: Is there a message that you always tell to the kids?

A: It's not about winning. It's not about the trophy, the medal, the result. It's more about: did you give your 100%? Once, they won first place but their attitude was so bad. They were late to the pickup point, they were “*magulo*” (unruly). I told them, ‘You guys won but I don't see this as a victory.’ And then there are times they don't win anything but I am extremely happy and I treat them out to dinner. Sometimes they wonder and I have to explain to them, ‘It's because you gave your 100%. You gave your best to yourself, to each other. You respect each other and if you do all that, the by-product is the trophy. But do not make that the goal.’





GK DUBBO

Will GK work in the first world?

gkaustralia.com

Gawad Kalinga (GK) is a Philippine-based movement that aims to end poverty. The GK model of sustainable transformation can be seen in thousands of poor Filipino communities, and is now being replicated in a few other developing countries like Indonesia. But will GK work in a country like Australia?

It's easy to assume that poverty doesn't exist in the land down under. In this first world country, the underprivileged are not homeless, and the government gives them everything they need materially. But a visit to Apollo Estate, a government housing project in Dubbo, Central New South Wales, reveals a different side of poverty.

Last March 2016, upon the invitation of 'Riverbank Frank' Doolan, one of Appolo Estate's Aboriginal community leaders,

Tony Meloto (GK Chairman and Founder), Andrew Chalk (GKA Director of Domestic Programs) and several volunteers all traveled to Dubbo to plant the seeds of caring and sharing. Butch Ozarraga (GK Area Coordinator for Northeastern Mindanao), who has built communities for and with Indigenous Peoples (IPs), and his wife Mona also went there and stayed for weeks to apply the GK model. They formed the local caretaker team and shared the basics of community organizing. Apollo Estate looks nothing like the slums and shanties in the Philippines, but this intimate visit brought to light a community that is infamous for problems like criminality, violence, alcoholism, and drugs. Because the residents of Apollo Estate are mostly aboriginal, some members of the larger Dubbo community think that this problematic culture is aboriginal culture.



This feeds into the residents' feeling of being disrespected, ostracized, and left out by society. In this first world country thousands of miles away from the poorest Filipino communities, the same thing lies at the core of poverty: the loss of human dignity.

"The root cause of poverty, whether in a rich or in a developing country, is the same. It is the lack of sincere caring for others, the need for people to make their presence and kindness felt by those who need care. With people who want to do Gawad Kalinga and journey together in building lasting friendships, making Dubbo a more united community is already a dream come true," said Butch Ozarraga, Area Coordinator.

Riverbank Frank first heard about GK during the 2011 GK Global Summit in Sydney. Curious about how the GK model works in the context of IPs, in 2013, he immersed in the Mindoro and Tarlac GK communities, home to the Philippines' Mangyan and Aeta tribes. It gave him a different sense of hope. In this third world country, thousands of miles away from his

aboriginal community back home, he found the answer to sustainable, community transformation: presence. Building relationships. Leaving no one behind.

With people like Patricia Doolan, Johanna Leader and her Apollo House teammates, caring for the community has already started. With people like 'Riverbank Frank' Doolan, Nicole Edwards, Michael Ferres, Alan Parker, Leah McKinney, Vic Avila, and the others who committed to become GK volunteers, the healing of whatever brokenness in relationship has already taken root. Today, many from within and outside the Apollo Estate community believe that there is much to hope for. From the residents, there is a desire to take more active control of their situations and participate in decisions regarding community programs and activities.

That said, negative perceptions and long-standing prejudices still exist, and these won't disappear overnight. But this is exactly why GK is there.

Satu Hati (One Heart)
March 5, 2016
Jakarta, Indonesia



GK Indonesia Chairman Arif Rachmat with Jakarta Governor Pak Ahok. The Jakarta government partnered with GKI to facilitate community organizing in about 6 Rusanawa sites with ~3,750 families. Rusanawas are low-rent, relocation housing complexes built for underprivileged families living in flood-prone areas. Awaludin, a GK resident, said, "After living here, we realized the value of a clean, safe and healthy living environment." Read more: gkindonesia.org.

“

In GK Indonesia, we truly believe that a person can be transformed into someone who is useful and capable, who can serve the country he lives in. Besides infrastructure, there are four other pillars that our program focuses on: health care, education, productivity and community development. The Rusanawa project is really good and is moving our programs much faster.

I hope that this effort will continue so that there's no one left behind. And my wish is that other cities will adopt the good example from here in Jakarta. Today, we've only touched about 3,000 families, when there's a whole lot of poor people in Indonesia in the millions. I invite everyone in the public and private sectors: If we become the change agents, the driving force behind these improvements, then we can achieve making our country very strong in this global landscape.

~ **ARIF RACHMAT**
Chairman of the Board, GK Indonesia

Poveda-GK Village
Taguig, Metro Manila



The work Gawad Kalinga has done in building homes for the poor is truly amazing and it can serve as a great model for other nations in mobilizing private investment, and in driving investment in socialized housing. I have committed to give GK PHP 300M, and I told them to build faster because many want to give more. I believe our collaboration with them will definitely improve our efforts to address the needs of the poor in Malaysia. The Malaysian Prime Minister was brief about GK — he said to make GK happen as soon as possible.

~ **TAN SRI DATO VINCENT TAN**
Founder, Berjaya Group of Companies



In an evidence-based, risk-averse world of Millennials whose game-changing ideas are often found on social media and not on the ground, GK continues to draw a stream of enthusiastic interns and volunteers from top universities in Europe and North America. This 2016 alone, France accounts for nearly 300 of them with 50 coming from HEC, 45 from ESSEC and 21 from Polytechnique, deployed mostly to GK Capiz (short-term) and GK Enchanted Farm (long-term).

This is proof that GK, particularly the *Farm Village University* (FVU) in Bulacan, has become a top destination in Asia for bright foreigners who are looking for a grounding in social innovation and inclusion, and a possible future vocation, career, or business with a purpose.

SEED Philippines, GK's college for social entrepreneurs in Agri-business and Rural Development, draws global curiosity and support in its short time of existence due to its radical disruption of traditional education and business. Using an bottom-up approach, it trains the bright and striving poor, mostly children of farmers and laborers, to be wealth creators and job-givers in the countryside.

It brought the President of Microsoft International Jean-Philippe Courtois to the Farm for three days with his wife and two daughters. For the past three years, Microsoft has been a strong enabler for the GK organization to innovate and scale, and for the GK youth to aspire for bigger dreams. After his visit, he wrote: *"We are going home, not only inspired by the time spent at the Farm, but driven to do good with our lives..."* His presence was a great inspiration to the SEED students because of his generosity and graciousness in sharing his thoughts with them on many occasions.

In parallel, as we build up SEED in Angat Bulacan, youth from various GK communities across the country prove their courage and competence. Thirteen scholars graduate from De La Salle University this year, including Danica Adis GK Amparo, who is the first to graduate as *Magna Cum Laude*.





APEC Youth at GK Enchanted Farm. On November 15, 2015, amidst the backdrop of devastating recent events around the world, APEC youth leaders representing 17 member economies (Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taipei, Thailand, United States of America) joined GK's own global network as we presented our template of ending poverty by building intentional and inclusive communities and businesses that do not leave the poor behind. From James Soh PBM MBE, Co-Chairman of the APEC Leadership Council, *"It is very refreshing to be here compared to Manila, everything is so environmentally-friendly. I now understand why the Enchanted Farm is so highly recommended by everyone we met, including your Department of Foreign Affairs. We are so happy to be here and excited to learn from all of you."* Schedule your own learning experience at the GK Enchanted Farm: info@gkenchantedfarm.com



SOCIAL BUSINESS SUMMIT 2016:

What has love got to do with business?

"I'm here to turn my dreams into reality. And I'm here to help others do the same," said Franz Trajano. Franz is a scholar at SEED (School for Experiential and Entrepreneurial Development) and a member of Agri-Nation, a start-up that envisions to create more opportunities for countryside development and end poverty for farming communities. Together, he and four other SEED scholars proposed a 1-hectare farming model that would allow farmers to maximize land use throughout the year, and therefore, gain better profits. Born to farmer parents themselves, no other student group — not even the ones coming from the country's top universities — came close to displaying the kind of conviction this team had, making them the runaway winner for the first-ever social business competition in this year's summit.

For three years in a row now, the GK Enchanted Farm has been hosting the Global Social Business Summit, which gathers in one dynamic platform local and foreign entrepreneurs, corporate and government partners, impact investors and students to explore collaborative and work in progress solutions towards inclusive growth. Held January 15-17 this year, 500+ delegates hailing from different parts of the globe and of various backgrounds were challenged to examine the Business of Kindness — a business paradigm that combines competence with compassion, excellence with kindness, hard work with heart work. More businesses that lift others up, much like Agri-Nation, is a concrete expression of what every Social Business Summit and the bigger GK Enchanted Farm Village University ecosystem hope to achieve.

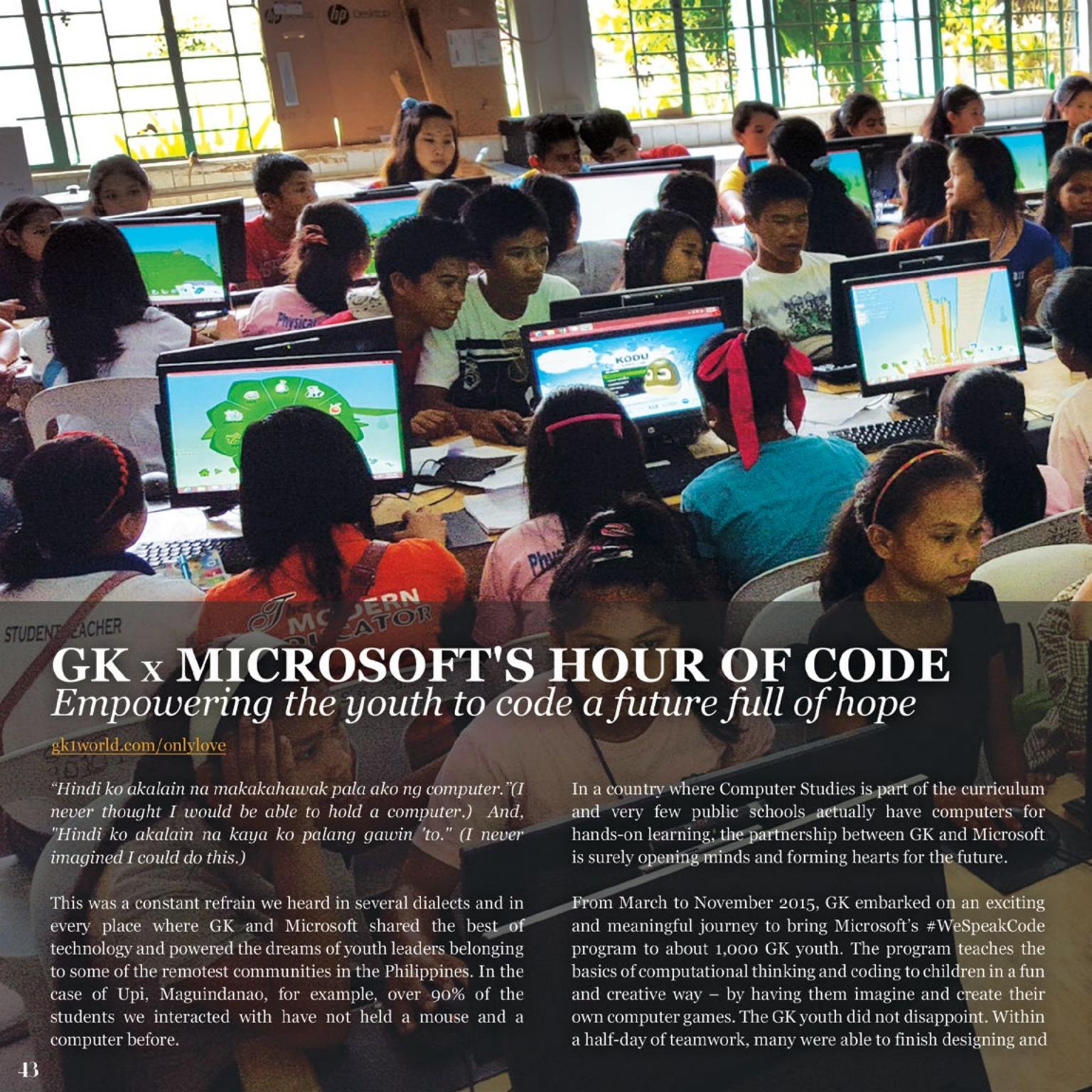


Setting the context for the Summit was GK's Executive Director, Luis Oquiñena: *"If we want to be inclusive, first, we have to understand who is excluded."* In the plenary sessions, business leaders such as Paul Soo (Berjaya) and Tony del Rosario (Coca-Cola) and social entrepreneurs like Dylan Wilk (Human Nature) and Reese Ruiz (Rags2Riches) reinforced this message and shared about their journeys marked with its own sets of challenges, failures and victories, yes, but continuing, nonetheless. On the other hand, the breakout sessions gave participants the chance to explore how they can turn areas of personal interest – whether education, public health, agri-business, or even fashion – into avenues for doing good and impacting the world. Like how Tom Graham, Co-Founder of MAD Travel, and his team are doing it, for example: *"Most young travelers want to travel deeper, to travel with purpose. Through tourism, we hope to connect poor communities to the market."*

Our biggest takeaway is that building businesses anchored on kindness is possible, sustainable, replicable, scalable, and most of all, sensible. In a world where “the richest 1% has now accumulated more wealth than the rest of the world combined”, the Social Business Summit is slowly proving to be a powerful, relevant yet exciting response to the call of the times. Gone are the days we can turn a blind eye to the fact that the rich are getting richer, while the poor remain poor. Too much is at stake: our future. Inequality and poverty make a nation vulnerable to divisiveness, distrust and conflict.

The silver lining is that we have a starting point. Somewhere in Angat, Bulacan, a growing global community is ambitious and courageous enough to build a platform that will transform this so-called ‘Economy of the 1%’ into a ‘Walang Iwanan’ Economy. What has love got to do with business? The answer is, EVERYTHING.

Join the Global Social Business Summit this January 20-22, 2017: socialbusinesssummit.net



STUDENT TEACHER

GK x MICROSOFT'S HOUR OF CODE

Empowering the youth to code a future full of hope

gk1world.com/onlylove

"Hindi ko akalain na makakahawak pala ako ng computer." (I never thought I would be able to hold a computer.) And, "Hindi ko akalain na kaya ko palang gawin 'to." (I never imagined I could do this.)

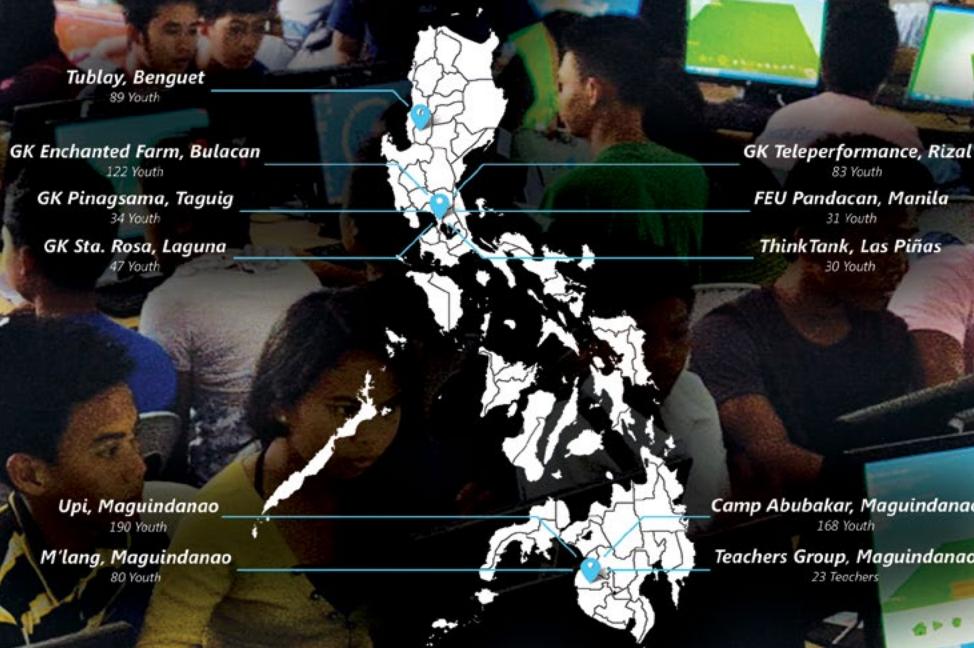
This was a constant refrain we heard in several dialects and in every place where GK and Microsoft shared the best of technology and powered the dreams of youth leaders belonging to some of the remotest communities in the Philippines. In the case of Upi, Maguindanao, for example, over 90% of the students we interacted with have not held a mouse and a computer before.

In a country where Computer Studies is part of the curriculum and very few public schools actually have computers for hands-on learning, the partnership between GK and Microsoft is surely opening minds and forming hearts for the future.

From March to November 2015, GK embarked on an exciting and meaningful journey to bring Microsoft's #WeSpeakCode program to about 1,000 GK youth. The program teaches the basics of computational thinking and coding to children in a fun and creative way – by having them imagine and create their own computer games. The GK youth did not disappoint. Within a half-day of teamwork, many were able to finish designing and

GK x Microsoft
#WeSpeakCode

Mar 2015 - Nov 2015



building their own Kodu game, each game allowing us to see the world from their eyes and teaching us the very lessons we had hoped to share.

Both Microsoft and GK believe in the power of technology to transform lives and form better leaders who will possess not only a heart to make a difference but also the skill to use technology to amplify good works. This is the reason we have been going to great lengths since 2009 to share technology to communities with very limited access and exposure to it. In 2013, we partnered with the local government unit of Tacloban to provide Entrepreneurship and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Training for SMEs. This year, we had the unique opportunity to bring it to the Muslim youth of Camp Abubakar and the Indigenous Peoples (IP) youth from the B'laan, T'boli and T'buray tribes of Maguindanao.

We noticed how natural it was for the older students to teach and share what they know to the younger ones. We realize then that even more foundational than the technical skill is the leadership component behind the program, encouraging young people to dream and challenge the impossible, to reflect on simple solutions to seemingly complex issues in their communities.

One young person from Upi, Maguindanao built a farming game that showed how we might get rid of pests and ensure a bountiful harvest. A student from Camp Abubakar built a game without any shooting, because he dreams of a world without guns and violence. With every game built, we see how young people are coding the future – and it is full of hope.

*Camp Abubakar We Speak Code
August 2015
Brgy. Tugaig, Barira, Maguindanao*



“ I came with my family: my two daughters and my wife, because I wanted this trip to be a family journey and a learning experience for a couple of reasons. On one hand, I am the Global Executive for Microsoft, which has a great and growing relationship with Gawad Kalinga. I am convinced that technology can play a big role not just at the GK Enchanted Farm, but also across the Philippines, Asia and the world. On the other hand, I came with my family, to learn how to create a an ecosystem like GK EF, where there was nothing 5 years ago. It has a very strong values system, which is one of the biggest strengths of GK.

Coming here, I also found a very strong connection between France, GK and Tito Tony himself. The way GK is enabling to the brightest poor to get out of poverty and stop it, or at least slow it down in the country is wonderful. Seeing it in action was really inspiring. So much energy comes out of here!”

~ JEAN-PHILIPPE COURTOIS
President, Microsoft International



*Afternoon bonding between
French intern Jade Tordo and
GK resident Marvic Bantug*

Building a kinder and safer world with the French

A few times too many this year, we found ourselves one with the French in their grief towards the terrorist attacks in their home country. But in far more times, we find ourselves one with them in building a kinder and safer world for the next generation, where no one is an enemy, a victim, nor a prey. Since the French MBA students started coming to Philippines 5 years ago, they have generously used their brains to plan, brawn to build and beauty to attract support for our social enterprises. In return, many of them discover their joy and purpose in serving the poor with GK. As Tito Tony likes to put it, the combined efforts from *“the best of the west and the best of the east bring out the best in the least”*.

We continue to pray for our family in France but also for all other countries who are suffering today because of poverty and conflict.



THE LASALLIAN SCHOLARS

Practicing a culture of leaving no one behind

"There were moments when I got really discouraged. At the start, my goal was to graduate without any failing marks. Unfortunately, I did have some, but I pressed on anyway. Giving up was not an option, because apart from my family, I know that many others believed and invested in me – especially GK," said Marvel, a resident of GK Sitio Ruby Village in Quezon City who also happens to be one of our scholars from De La Salle-College of St. Benilde (DLS-CSB). Marvel, along with 12 other scholars, finished their degrees this SY 2015-2016. His proudest moment to-date was when his concept and thesis, "Buttons", won Best Animation Film in the recently concluded 41st Metro Manila Film Festival (2015).

The odds were against our scholars. If getting in was half the battle, staying the course was the other, harder half.

Once, there was an aspiring scholar from GK Baseco who had to siphon off his mom to Samar, away from his violent dad. Our scholars also have to deal with coming to school hungry, being behind on their English, Filipino and Math skills, and navigating social circles to find friends who can genuinely accept them and their far-from-perfect journeys.

But these challenges came with opportunities for more hearts to take part in the mission. Students from the College of Education conducted review programs for our scholars to help them pass their subjects. As a way of bringing out the best in our scholars, the Office of Career Counseling Services guided them in choosing courses based on their interests and not on its popularity. Akaraka, a Singapore-based organization, comes every third Friday of the month to help improve the scholars' critical thinking, communication and writing.



Kristen Joy Atregerio, Dominic Medado III,
Mariefe Picid and Jhoanna Kate Sanchez
celebrate their Graduation Day
in Golden Bay Seafood Restaurant

Older scholars acted as “kuya’s” and “ate’s” (older siblings) so the scholars never have to feel they should bear their problems alone. Who knew it would take a whole community to produce a batch of graduates?

“We have many partners here. But one really important partner for us is the parents of the scholars. We can only do so much in terms of telling the kids to do their best. We also really appreciate those parents who worked extremely hard to provide for their child’s other needs – whether in the form of packed lunches or commute money,” says Carmel Puertollano, GK volunteer and Special Projects and Initiatives Coordinator (Office of the VP Lasallian Mission) of DLSU.

“That is one thing we are grateful to GK for – the parents and scholars have a mindset that their education is not all free, that they also have to pitch in their share. Moreover, because GK is there, we do not have to worry about them after they leave school. We cannot keep a close watch on all 100+ scholars all the time. We trust that GK is helping us conduct a continuing formation for them.”

GK’s partnership with DLSU and De La Salle College of St. Benilde has produced 59 graduates to date, and there will be more. Currently, there are 148 scholars who are in the midst of dreaming bigger dreams and realizing their potential. Moreover, the La Salle community is committed to raise to 25% their initial target of having 20% of their student population come from underprivileged backgrounds.

The next step is to engage the broader Lasallian family of 16 schools across the country – and more alumni and donors – to open this opportunity up in more rural areas. *“It’s a family thing for us. We’re committed. It’s a matter of, on a school level, how do we do it.”* Faith, service and communion in mission – these are the values that the La Salle institution stands for, and the scholars are proof that they are living up to it.

Profit

The Farm Village University continues to count milestones and social impact.

Our SEED scholars are learning to fly. Twenty-nine from the pioneer batch all have placement in various social enterprises, following their graduation last Independence Day June 12. Showing they know commitment, our entire batch of 47 incoming sophomores decided to forego two months of summer break and daily “love the land” at the Farm instead – plant rice and vegetables, landscape the gardens, and dig the fishpond, among others. Thirty incoming freshmen from remote areas in Mindanao, Visayas and Northern Luzon joins 20 other classmates from Bulacan to do two years of intensive academic training and character building.

After they graduate, they will go back to their provinces and spread GK's strategy for inclusive growth. The goal is to create 25 FVUs nationwide by the end of 2024 to raise 500,000 social entrepreneurs.

Gain the world, keep your soul. This is the bottomline for social business start-ups at the Farm – profit with a purpose to do good. And they are thriving.

Bayani Brew is now being distributed in nearly a thousand outlets, and served in cafés, restaurants and AirAsia flights. Plush and Play toys have become the first Filipino stuffed toys to enter Toy Kingdom. New social enterprises are sprouting, initiated mostly by SEED students and Gappies (first batch of graduates on their gap year). Ubebe, Clean Ice Cream (a spin on Dirty Ice Cream), Oh My Goat (OMG), Buy Gulay, Putohan (the best “puto” in town), Duturkey (turkey burger) – these are just some of the exciting brands and products from the rising poor who now have a better grasp of profit and value chain with a conscience than many from the privileged set.

This is just the start. By giving the gift of excellence to the most disadvantaged, the last shall be first, the least will get the most, the lost will be found.





Plush and Play in Toy Expo 2016 (Aug 19-21). Plush and Play made history for Filipinos and the social enterprise sector by bringing the first and only Filipino stuffed toys to Toy Kingdom and its Toy Expo 2016 with a hit Farm to Market concept. Toy Kingdom is the country's largest toy retail chain store, proving that this enterprise led by Fabien Courteille together with his community partners Kim Barcelon, Lanie Lazarte and Rosalie Barrite, is serious in creating profit just as much as it is in developing sustainable livelihood for our mothers at the GK Enchanted Farm and in the greater area of Bulacan. Since its establishment in 2012, it has grown to provide jobs from 5 to 20 mothers, who make these wonderful toys, *"handstitched with love, stuffed with dreams."* Want your customized toy for events and corporate needs? Check out plushandplay.com

THE ENCHANTED FARM VILLAGE UNIVERSITY: *A Social Impact Report*

The past several years have been an exciting time for the realm of development work. Social entrepreneurship and impact investing emerged as new fields in contributing to it; social media and technology continue to step-change our habits and practices – even in giving, receiving and storytelling. Most of all, the world seems to be of one mind that it is time to do more good and take better care of ourselves, the communities around us, and the planet.

The Philippines is not behind on these developments. In Angat, Bulacan, a young community has gone through lengths to build a platform that will help shape the country's social entrepreneurship landscape. Known to many as the GK Enchanted Farm, it began a movement that would challenge our agricultural status quo, ways of doing business, and definition of who can actually become social entrepreneurs.

This May 2016, it hit its six-year mark. That makes this year an opportune time for the Enchanted Farm Village University (FVU) to try and measure the impact it has so far created on the community living and/or making a living within the 35-ha farm. Francois Dabin and Cesar Vargas, two French interns from ESSEC (a business school in France), conducted the impact study. Their goal was to compile significant proofs of created social value, in order to help rally more support for the FVU platform and the objective to replicate it in 24 other provinces.

*Tito Tony mentors the SEED students
Bamboo Villa, GK Enchanted Farm*





This is the Farm Village University in 15 numbers:

40,279	PHP in ave annual income/household (up from PHP 28K)
8,300	visitors in the past 9 months alone
200	jobs created (144 full time, 56 part-time)
180	interns in the past year alone (14 nationalities)
116	scholarships granted to Bulacan high school (HS) graduates
100	% with access to health care (from 64%)
91	% who can enroll kids to HS (from 64%)
82	% who no longer consider themselves poor
80	% of SEED scholars who feel more confident vs when they started
48	% of applicants accepted into SEED Batch 2
29	graduates from pioneer batch of SEED students (out of 45)
17	incubated social enterprises to date
9	% of families not eating 3 “normal” meals/day (down from 32%)
4.5	current poverty rate – gov’t standards (down from 27%)
2	household members employed within the FVU (on average)
	SEED scholars accepted into ESSEC

This is only the beginning. As the Enchanted Farm Village University continues to learn and grow, it also hopes to further deepen its impact and become better in capturing this more extensively and holistically. The FVU's increasing relevance is not a question as the Philippines tries to tackle challenges in inclusive growth, food security and persistent poverty.

The first six years has been about building the platform, getting the fundamentals in place: investing in physical infrastructure, forming core teams of people, achieving a level of expertise through experience, and creating a momentum for scale. Now that these are in place, the Enchanted Farm Village University is optimistic that the coming year will be defined as the year it replicates in other key areas across the country.

Come visit gkenchantedfarm.com

FIRST HARVEST

Caring comes first

First Harvest, which started in November 2013, is one of the social enterprises that grew its roots in Gawad Kalinga's Enchanted Farm (GKEF). One of its founders, Tajen Sui, used to be a full time mission worker for GKEF's Grassroots Kitchen. With operations starting at 5 am daily, it was there that he witnessed the commitment and hard work of the community partners. In the kitchen too, was where the mothers creatively whipped up food, relying purely on intuition, and without any cookbooks.

Starting with two mothers from the community – Tita Cora and Tita Aida, First Harvest made its initial samples of Peanut Spreads, which only needed a few tweaks before being the much-craved products they are now today. To reach more people, they've joined popular food competitions, and have won in Yummy Magazine's Food Expo and the Ultimate Taste Test.

To date, First Harvest already works with 12 community partners, is available in 50 outlets in the Philippines, and has sold over 50,000 jars.

Standing where the gap is

First Harvest's dream goes beyond the farm in Bulacan. Tajen shares, *"Just imagine the Tita Aidas and Tita Coras living in the rest of the Philippines. They only need a platform to share their talent, and be given an opportunity. They are just really hardworking, and they even are willing to juggle jobs."*

First Harvest is fervent in their mission of creating opportunities in rural areas, to stand where the gap is between Filipino farmers and the consumers yearning for healthy products. When GK Enchanted Farm will expand in more regions in the future, First Harvest also hopes to plant their seeds there.



As the mothers are already reaching their senior years, the team is now mentoring SEED scholars and the farm's youth to ensure of the continuity of the social enterprise and its impact.

Caring Comes First

Catherine Sui, Co-Founder of First Harvest, shares that the brand was envisioned to be exportable and world-class. She adds, "Because it uses premium ingredients, it is patronized by clients who are willing to pay more, for a high quality product. Yet we also felt that as a food brand, we needed to participate in the solution to hunger."

An anecdote from GK full-time worker and Program Head for Kusina ng Kalinga (KNK) Mark Lawrence Cruz urged the team to start a campaign:

One of the students passed out while the Ateneo Center for Educational Development (ACED), GK's KNK partner, was distributing meals. When he regained consciousness, they asked the child what happened. *"Thursday po kasi ngayon, toka ko po sa pamilya namin hindi kumain."* (It's Thursday, it's my turn in the family not to eat.)

First
arvest

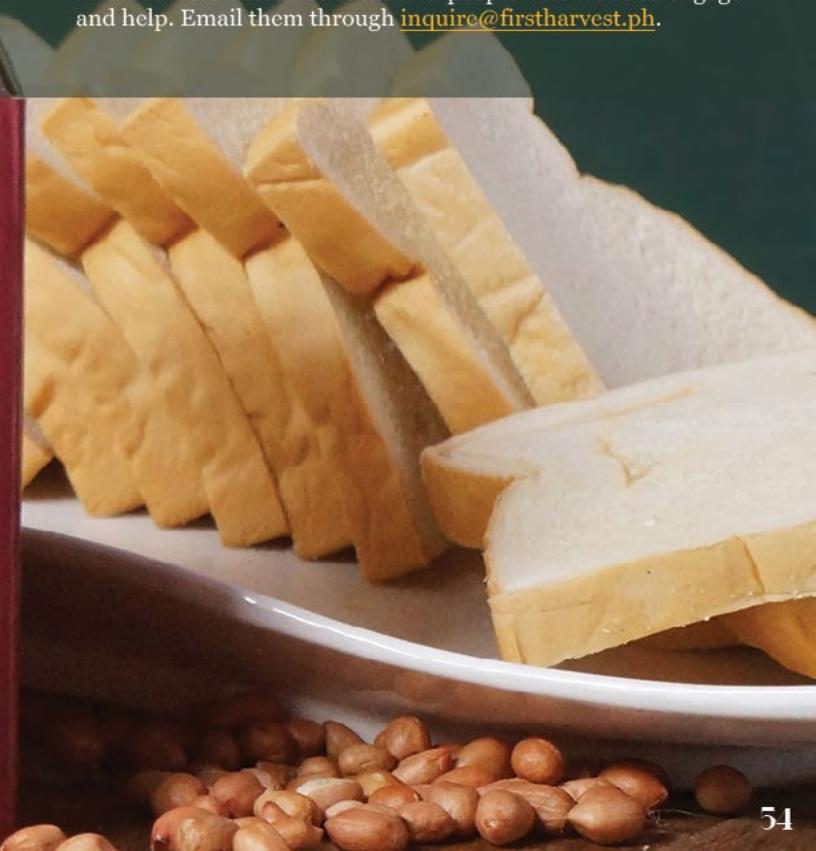


First Harvest wasted no time. Starting last September 2015 to March 2016, First Harvest committed to sponsor a meal for every jar sold of their best-seller, the Peanut Spread. Their target was to raise funds for at least 10,000 meals.

Catherine shares the experience, *"It wasn't an easy decision because the money we raised could have been used for our expansion. Many even argued that feeding programs are not sustainable, but we felt compelled to do it anyway. We wanted to share the enabling feeling that our everyday decision to do good is aggregate to the change we hope to see. Be it through a purchase of a jar of a Filipino product or that loose change of 15 pesos – the bottom line is always to decide to do good."*

The team recalls, they were initially nervous and thought that they would not reach the target, but through the support of outlets such as Human Nature and Balai Pandesal, and even suppliers like FAS Development Corporation, they were able to sponsor 11,289 meals. More so, the campaign raised the consciousness that everyone can help end hunger. Supporting social enterprises can help end poverty.

First Harvest welcomes ideas and people who want to engage and help. Email them through inquire@firstharvest.ph.





SEED GRADUATION DAY

Welcoming a new generation of entrepreneurs

gk1world.com/seed-graduation-2016

"I remember my elementary graduation; I was probably the saddest one there. Because, one, I knew that I would not continue studying. That's the cycle in our family - you stop so that your younger siblings can study – until they learn how to read and how to count - and that's enough. The other reason was because I was the only graduating student in that batch who didn't have a parent marching with him. My mom arrived late, and I was so angry at her at that time until I asked her why. 'Naghanap pa ako ng pera para mabayaran yung graduation fee mo'. She said that she still had to find money to pay for my graduation fee and other debts we still had with the school. And I realized how hard it is to be poor," said Ron Dela Cruz, SEED Graduate and Class Speaker.

"But Gawad Kalinga opened this huge opportunity for a person like me. To all our guests, our mentors, our parents and everyone else who have been with us on this journey, thank you for joining with us on this day. This is a very special day in our lives as students and as citizens of this country. I see my batchmates here, but not as regular classmates or friends. I see them now as a batch of hope."

Last June 12, 2016, Philippine Independence Day took a profound meaning for many who were at the GK Enchanted Farm, beyond the usual flag-raising and out-of-town holiday.

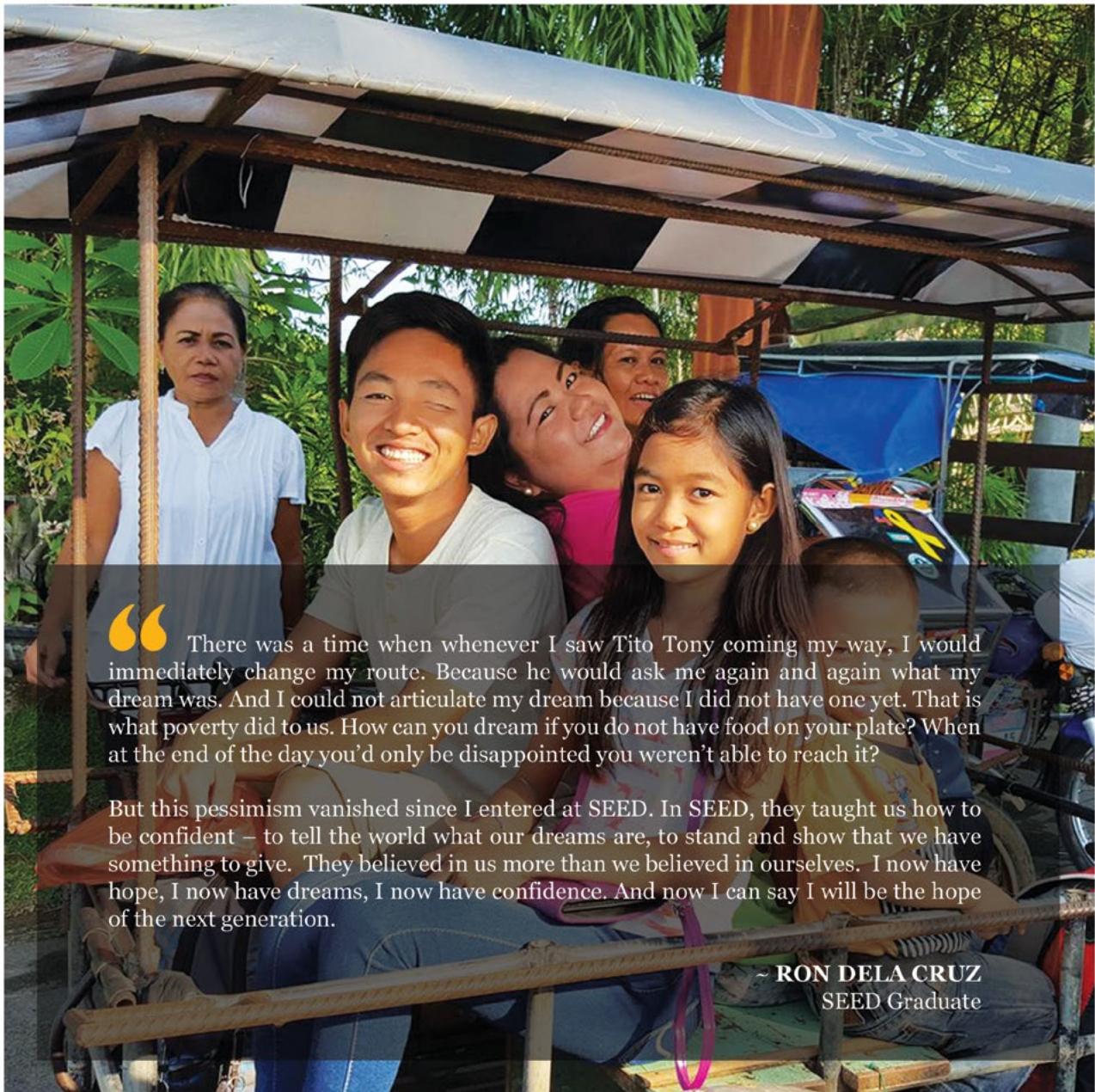


The pioneer batch of graduates of the School for Experiential and Entrepreneurial Development (SEED Philippines), the first in the country, and quite unique to the world, received their certificates as Social Entrepreneurs in Agri-business. Mostly sons and daughters of farmers, Ron's is a story that could not get more real and familiar to them.

For about two years, the graduates had to tend free-range chickens under mango trees, raise Peking ducks beside tilapia ponds or process lemon grass and citronella into essential oil while wrestling with cost accounting, environmental science, project management and English and French lessons. It was extremely tough at the start for them, almost to the point of quitting; there was a lot of catching up to do in subject fundamentals they should have learned in their prior years of education.

But they persevered, and with the support from family, friends and the Enchanted Farm platform, they became holders of a diploma recognized by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and therefore, the country.

Today, they are ready to venture into their "gap year," where they will take on key roles in various social enterprises inside and outside the Farm. In them we see an army growing in strength and skill to help us convert our vision for shared prosperity into reality. In as much as GK has given the scholars hope and a second home in the Enchanted Farm, the SEED graduates have returned the favor by bringing in a new wave of inspiration for all of us who believe in the mission. Truly, the work will take on greater heights, and the future is bright for all of us.



“ There was a time when whenever I saw Tito Tony coming my way, I would immediately change my route. Because he would ask me again and again what my dream was. And I could not articulate my dream because I did not have one yet. That is what poverty did to us. How can you dream if you do not have food on your plate? When at the end of the day you'd only be disappointed you weren't able to reach it? ”

But this pessimism vanished since I entered at SEED. In SEED, they taught us how to be confident – to tell the world what our dreams are, to stand and show that we have something to give. They believed in us more than we believed in ourselves. I now have hope, I now have dreams, I now have confidence. And now I can say I will be the hope of the next generation.

~ **RON DELA CRUZ**
SEED Graduate



Rina and Gab make it to ESSEC

Two graduates from the pioneer batch of SEED Philippines made it to the top French Business School, ESSEC. Rinalyn Pagao and Gabrielle Rabino, both 18 years old, are making history as the first graduates of public high schools in Bulacan to make it to this prestigious school on a full four-year scholarship for a degree in Business Management. They will spend the first two years in the ESSEC Singapore campus and the last two years in Paris, France. Both are now undergoing intensive training in improving their communication skills and preparing for a very demanding academic program and a totally different environment and lifestyle abroad. Coming from their normal world of jeepney and tricycle rides, both are overwhelmed by the new world of possibilities and surprises awaiting them, including travel by plane as all the 84 students in their school have never traveled by air. Four of their classmates have also been invited abroad for speaking engagements, one in France and three in Malaysia. And this is just the start.



SEED takes in second batch of scholars

This year, SEED Philippines welcomed a new batch of 55 scholars, strengthening the school's credibility as a real option for graduating high school students in Angat, Bulacan. Like the first batch, they balance a mix of learning inside and outside the classroom. As a way of connecting them to SEED's roots – Gawad Kalinga – the incoming batch of sophomores participated in Bayani Challenge last May, and the SEED Boot Camp in June, especially designed for them. Our ED Luis' words to them: *"You are in a very precious spot. Where you are seated today, that is probably the spot that 2,000 or more young people see as their way out of poverty so value this opportunity. It is important that you are connected to Gawad Kalinga's history so you'll know the value of where you are and what you have today. God placed you right there, right now, do not waste it."*

Our gains this past year, and in the past 13 years,
can only strengthen our resolve to continue
this work of building a better, kinder and safer world
for all of us and our children.

To all our friends, partners, volunteers,
benefactors and supporters, thank you for showing
the world that together we can make miracles happen.



TONY MELOTO
GK Father and Founder





Tito Tony dreams with the people of Togo, Africa (December 2015). "Every moment here in Africa is a touching moment for me. I have a deep affinity with the dreams of the young people of Togo to find their soul and shape their destiny amidst the threats of local wars and Ebola in their neighboring countries and HIV in their everyday life, which is making orphans of many of their friends and classmates." Last December 2015, Tony Meloto, our GK Founder, was invited to Africa by Fondacio, a local non-profit founded in Benin, for them to learn how to create a platform such as

the GK Enchanted Farm where rich and poor combine compassion and competence to create inclusive wealth together. During this tour, Tito Tony spent time with like-minded individuals who experimented on ways to help the homeless and the hungry, and just added Antoine Dzamah of Sichen Village, Gabriel Amouzou of Ange Foundation and Belgian Ria Etienne to his list of living African heroes, after the great Nelson Mandela. This is how it should be - sharing the good to make the world better. Read more at gkworld.com/africandreams.



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Website	GK USA
Social Media	GK USA is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization.
Tax Exemption	



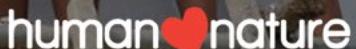
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Online Giving	GK is accredited by the
Tax Exemption	Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC), Subject to regular renewal. Donors are entitled to an Official Receipt and Certificate of Donation (BIR Form 2322 for Philippine-based corporate donors).

To view our previous Annual Reports and Financial Statements,
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**GAWAD
KALINGA**
ANNUAL REPORT
JUL 2015 - JUN 2016

