

# KAPATIRAN

*The Official Newsletter of Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc.*



## 2012 ANNUAL REPORT



AIMING FOR  
SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
THROUGH EFFECTIVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

# FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

KKFI:

## AIMING FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS THROUGH EFFECTIVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



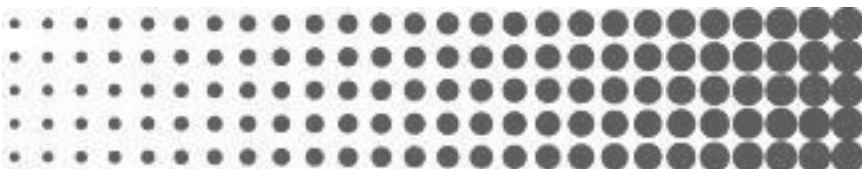
Well into the new millennium and after 62 years of existence, the KKFI, as a United Methodist Church-related social development foundation, remains committed to pursue its mission to serve the most underprivileged and economically disadvantaged members of our society.

The year 2012 saw KKFI refocusing its primary purpose from basically social welfare purposes to educational and training purposes in its Article of Incorporation. Our continuing objective is for sustainable social development program through effective resource management.

By refocusing our primary purpose, KKFI's earnings from its income-generating properties would be tax-exempt as long as these are "used actually, directly and exclusively for educational purposes," as per Article XIV Section 4 (3) and (4) of the Constitution of the Philippines.

The KKFI has rich historical and enough legal bases for being an educational and training institution since it believes that education is one of the most effective tools for breaking the cycle of poverty.

Over the last 62 years since it was founded in 1950, education and training have been the lifeblood of KKFI's programs and services. This is the main vehicle and methodology used to transform people, sectoral groups and whole communities, especially among the underprivileged and economically disadvantaged sectors of Philippine society.



KKFI remains committed to pursue its Vision, Mission and Goals

**Vision:** Transformed communities of people as Stewards of God's creation, living in a society where peace, justice, integrity of creation and abundance of life reign.

**Mission:** KKFI is an instrument of God that transforms marginalized individuals, communities and basic sectors with knowledge and skills so that they will succeed in their pursuit of genuine and total human development.

**Goals:** KKFI in partnership with other organizations and communities, aims to achieve the following goals:

Kindle thirst for knowledge among individuals and training participants by coming up with innovative programs in education

Keep and expand existing network with other development and people-oriented organizations and institutions with common development agenda

Facilitate implementation of programs geared towards people empowerment and accessibility of resources so as to become self-reliant and improve their quality of life.

Institute resource generation project for the purpose of sustaining KKFI's ministry of Service.

The Five Year Development Plan (2013-2017) of KKFI is aligned with its Vision, Mission and Goals. It likewise reflects its response to evolving realities, adoption to new innovative ways of doing things and establishing systems that are more effective, efficient, result-oriented and cost-effective. It contains plans for more resource generation system in order to pursue its breakthrough in educational program and implementation of more social welfare program and services to its beneficiaries.

The Foundation continues to implement its comprehensive program for total human development and social transformation focused on two major components: social services and capability-building/education and training. This year, we have developed new programs and funding proposals that were submitted to our partner agencies:

a) Capacity-Building on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) to Communities Vulnerable to Calamities (c/o UMCOR) - a training for community leaders on DRRM and initiate a systematized effort to manage the hazards faced by communities; thereby reducing vulnerabilities and enhancing the capacities of the community residents to manage disaster. Pilot Area: Tondo, Manila.

# THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT CONTINUES



b) Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence (c/o General Board of Church and Society of UMC) – approach is to train and consolidate local organizations and resources on how to address and deal with substance abuse and related problems from their local perspectives. Organizations and churches would be moved from simple awareness to concrete actions that would involve education, advocacy and structural changes and realignment of priorities and resources.

## Conclusion

Our task in Kapatiran is not yet complete. We're still a work in progress; but KKFI remains committed to its Vision, Mission and Goals of serving the poor.

We give back the glory to God for the chance to celebrate the challenge in working with our partner communities, who have helped us act and evaluate our mission as we move into the future.

To God be the glory!



David D. Gutierrez



# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## A LEAP OF FAITH

In many ways, the year 2012 was a turning point for KKFI.

Its Board of Trustees has been seeing for some time the rapidly changing socio-political landscape and thought Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc. (KKFI) must keep pace. It must strive to be relevant, as it has always been, even as it strives with equal effort to maintain its tradition and core values.

The members of the Board thought: We need to revisit and rethink the Foundation's vision, mission and goals. And we did.

Where others would have opted to keep the status quo for fear of making mistakes, the KKFI pushed on despite uncertainties and the understandable fear. It refuses to be intimidated by the fear of making mistakes because there will be some, perhaps many. But it believes that, at the end of the day, something good will come out of the experimentation. Faith is its guiding light.

It did not stop there. It realigned its program strategy with its new VMG as it likewise put it in sync with the context. After all, text without context is pretext, as a sage once said. It is important that the VMG is responsive to the emerging needs of the beneficiaries and communities The KKFI aims to help.

Hence, after it has examined its experiences, tested assumptions, gathered information and synthesized them, imagined and analyzed the future, the KKFI came up with a new five-year development plan that was designed to make the Foundation adaptable and innovative in the face of evolving realities.

Now comes the hard part—the implementation of the five-year plan. Still, we hold on to our faith. It is our rock. Its presence in our hearts make us ready and willing to swallow the bitter pill, to step out of our comfort zone, to take that leap of faith, and to face our fears.

We refuse to be paralyzed by them. Instead, we are willing to experiment different models and tools, adopt new paradigms, execute dizzying shifts, retool ourselves, improve our competency, and, with God's help, successfully overcome each and every challenge that is thrown our way.



*Nancy Caluya-Nicolas*  
Nancy Caluya-Nicolas

# PROGRAMS OF KKFI

## A. CHILDREN AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION PROGRAM

### I. THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

The Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) is a banner program of KKFI that was established during the term of the founder of KKFI, Ms. Madaleine Klepper. The KKFI believes that basic education is the most effective tool in battling poverty.

A strong economy, after all, must be supported by a backbone—literate, self-reliant and healthy citizenry. And it all starts with young children who appreciate education.

With the help of Community Chest Foundation, Inc., the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, and Hope RY, KKFI was able to implement Early Childhood Care and Development classes in two different areas for the entirety of the 2012-2013 schoolyear.

This program provides a holistic approach to early childhood care and development utilizing a curriculum founded on the observance and protection of child's rights. The well-being and protective behaviour that younger children are entitled to is taken into consideration at all times.

Young students are not only taught how to read, write and count; they are also made to appreciate Christian values as their

guidepost while navigating the treacherous waters of life.

For the schoolyear 2012-2013, there were officially 86 children aged between 4 and 6 years old who were enrolled in the two ECCD centers: 43 in the center on P. Paredes Street and 43 in Manila North Cemetery. To facilitate the classes for the Manila North Cemetery children, KKFI continued its partnership with the Sta. Mesa Heights United Methodist Church located on Mayon Avenue, Quezon City.

It is a 15-minute walk from the cemetery to the church. The proximity and time element may not be much of factors but the KKFI, nevertheless, took the initiative to arrange for a jeepney service to transport the children to and from their daily classes in order to minimize risks such as road accidents involving our precious young students.

Each day, supplemental feedings are provided to the Manila North Cemetery children to ensure their fitness to attend classes. Medical and health assistance interventions were also conducted in partnership with the Dimasalang Health Centre. Currently the health center acts in partnership with our program by providing vitamins regularly to our children.

The children are weighed regularly to monitor the effectiveness of the feeding program. So far we and our beneficiaries are pleased with the results.

Parents are invited to regular meetings where they share their impressions regarding the development of their children. They are made to share their observations regarding the mental aptitude and behavioral improvements among their children. Also, parents and teachers plan together school activities during these meetings.

The KKFI conducts parenting effectiveness seminars in order to equip parents with skills that will enable them to look after the development of their own children at home.

Teachers who work with children up close and personal reported that the latter have learned a great deal. The teacher likewise said it was obvious that children enjoyed school activities.

The parents, on the other hand, were very thankful to KKFI because they have seen substantial improvements in their children. Meanwhile, the teachers admitted experiencing a sense of fulfilment watching children develop physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

The KKFI intends to continue the ECCD program indefinitely. At this time we are even considering partnering with other churches and communities to set up other ECCD projects in their respective areas.

For more on CLC continue reading at page 17



Children of Sampaloc CLC class visiting the  
Philippine Bible Society in Manila



## II. LIKHARAL

The year's LikhAral had the theme "Climate Change, Lifestyle Change" and was conducted on May 7-11 at KKFI, May 14-18 at the Manila North Cemetery and May 23-25 at the Gilead Center. The Pastoral Concerns Department has spearheaded the implementation of the program together with voluntary assistance from KKFI staff and ALS students.

The children learned that as young as they are, there are many things that they can do to contribute in the global effort to save Mother Earth. For example, they are taught how to preserve the environment through recycling, reusing and reducing waste materials. Also during the activities, the children displayed their creativity by singing new songs, giving dance performances and creating works of art.



### Total No. of Students

KKFI	160
Manila North Cemetery	130
Gilead Center	91





### III. ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM

In August 2011, KKFI launched its Alternative Learning System program for the first batch of students from the Manila North Cemetery (42 students) and Sampaloc (15 students). Regular classes were held three times a week by instructional managers. Each session started with a short devotion wherein the participants shared their testimonies about their personal lives and their struggles and successes so far in their studies.



A total of 21 examinees (19 high school and 2 elementary students) took the Accreditation and Equivalency Examination on November 25, 2012. Mr. Juha Kauppinen, representative of KKFI funding partner Hope RY, has been visiting the students at the Sta. Mesa Heights United Methodist Church regularly and has expressed satisfaction with the progress of the program.

Among the activities of ALS students were the regular Monday clean-up drive at the Manila North Cemetery, the prom night held on February 24, 2012 at the KKFI Multi-Purpose Hall (attended by 80 ALS students, their parents and friends), and the formation of a student council and the election of its members.



Other activities included their participation in the youth camp of Megacity Ministries Inc. in Highlands, Iba, Zambales; anniversary concert of the Community Chest Foundation Inc.; Christmas fellowship at the Rizal Park; and the youth camp organized by Sta. Mesa Heights United Methodist Church.

#### IV. TEMPORARY SHELTER FOR CHILDREN AT RISK (GILEAD CENTER)

Gilead Center is a 13,949 - square - meter property located in Pulilan, Bulacan in which a residential facility for children and youth was built. It is situated on a farm which was planted with citrus, mango trees and a wide variety of vegetables. It is a perfect place for healing, renewal, training, and transformation of disadvantaged children and youth.

In 2012, the Gilead Center catered to 35 children in need of special protection. Most of the children at the center came from the Metro Manila. At the center, the children were provided with their basic needs, such as shelter, food, clothing and education. All of the children attend nearby public schools. At this point almost all of the children are doing well in maintaining high marks in school. Monrobie Salvador is the valedictorian in the elementary level, while Lois Tayam is a consistently one of the top 4 students in her high school class. Babes Adaptante and BonjoLagman also received honors in their classes.

The staff at Gilead Center implements a holistic program which teaches children their rights to survival, development, protection and participation as well as Christian values. Nightly devotions are conducted by the staff as well as a Sunday chapel worship service, which is conducted by the KKFI chaplain. To help ensure a happy and healthy childhood for each of the Gilead



Gilead Center staff and children after a Thanksgiving Celebration

children, life skills activities are conducted each Saturday.

The psychosocial needs of the children are met through individualized “treatment plans.” Each child’s case study is updated regularly in order to effectively provide the necessary assistance and interventions needed. The Gilead staff members are trained and are adept at innovative approaches in order to respond to the different needs and situations of the individual children.

The program also develops the leadership abilities of children. They organized themselves into a council that meets regularly to discuss their programs. They plan and conduct their own activities, like youth camps and Christmas fellowships. Affairs that affect them like behavioral concerns are also discussed in these meetings.

For more on The Gilead Center continue reading on page 18



## V. STUDENT MINISTRY



The TGIM (Thank God It's Monday) Weekly Praise and Worship Services was launched on February 6, 2012 in partnership with Central UMC, Knox UMC, Solid Rock UMC, Sta. Mesa Heights UMC and the KKFI dormitory council and staff. KKFI dormitory residents and the young people of the four churches attend this activity, which many described as “a blessing”. They specifically mentioned the joy the TGIM praise and worship group brings to them every time it performs.

Other activities for the dormitory are: the open house, Valentine's party, sports fest, spiritual retreat, acquaintance party and Christmas fellowship. The residents expressed satisfaction with their dorm life to the point that they encourage their classmates to move to KKFI dorms so that they, too, can enjoy the same kind of fun they are now enjoying.



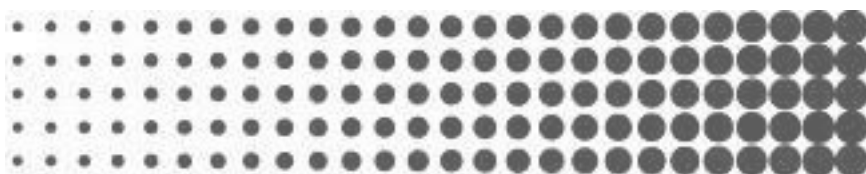


## A. CAPABILITY BUILDING AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

### I. MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

The KKFI continues to develop and train leaders from its partner-organizations. In 2012, the program staff and program consultant Dr. Angelito Manalili conducted 10 seminars participated in by 286 individuals. Most of these seminars were for the benefit of partners CBM-CBR and KASAMA-KA, both organizations working with persons-with-disabilities.

Venue	Dates	No. of Participants
Union Theological Seminary	January 24-26, 2012	24
Parola, Binondo, Manila in partnership with Sentro ng Kapatiran ni Ka Eddie Guazon	February 24-26, 2012	19
Harris Memorial College	April 19-20, 2012	36
Davao City in partnership with CBM-CBR, KASAMA-KA	April 24-26, 2012	18
Sta. Cruz, Zambales in partnership with CBM-CBR, KASAMA-KA	May 14-16, 2012	25
Cervantes, Ilocos Sur in partnership with CBM-CBR, KASAMA-KA	May 29-31, 2012	60
Candelaria, Quezon in partnership with CBM-CBR, KASAMA-KA	June 5-7, 2012	37
John Wesley Theological Seminary, Samal, Bataan	June 7-9, 2012	22
Bislig, Surigao del Sur in partnership with CBM-CBR	July 25-27	33
John Wesley Theological Seminary, Aurora	Aug. 9-11	12
TOTAL		286



## II. LIVELIHOOD SKILLS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The KKFI continues to be faithful in its mission to empower people through community-based livelihood skills training. In 2012, KKFI trained a total of 459 participants in the following courses:

Therapeutic Massage	Cosmetology	Dressmaking & Tailoring	Meat Processing	Total
143	210	64	42	459



We also conducted outreach services like free haircut and massage in various evacuation centers, churches and communities.

Based on data gathered, most of the graduates from these livelihood trainings are now earning from the skills gained through home services and acquired employment at spa centers and beauty salons.

For more on Capacity  
Building continue reading  
on page 23

### III. DAY CENTER FOR OLDER PERSONS

Between 10 and 15 members of the Day Center for Older Persons regularly attend the weekly Friday Bible study and fellowship sessions. There are times, though, when attendance reaches as high as 50 participants. Many of them say they look forward to Fridays because of this activity.

Our elders, whose ages begin at 50 years old, narrate how they are blessed by their participation in the Bible studies, lecture and forums that the KKFI regularly arrange for them. In addition to worship and Bible studies the participants also engage in fund-raising activities such as selling bead bracelets that they themselves make.



A similar day-center for older persons were organized in Smokey-Mountain Helping Aroma Organization (SMHAO) and Magsaysay in Tondo, Manila, where around 50 members regularly hold Bible studies and fellowship.

The KKFI conducted medical missions in both areas, where more than 100 elders were served by a team of medical professionals.



# C. DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT (DRRM)

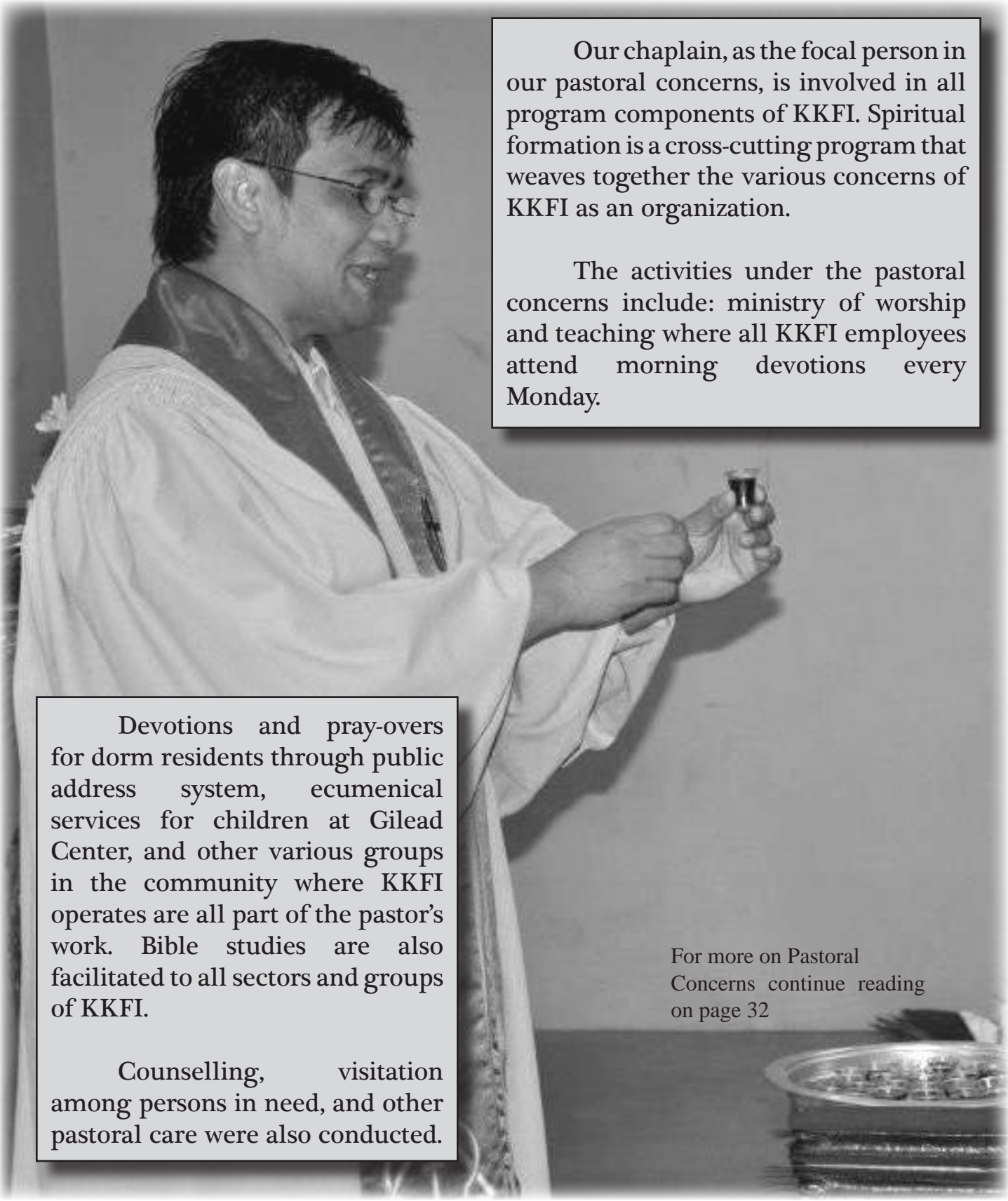
In August 2012, we conducted relief assistance efforts to 200 families affected by floods. The Board of Trustees, headed by the chairperson, immediately responded to the call for assistance in the form of funds, food items and clothing that were distributed to the victims.

A training-workshop on disaster preparedness and management is now on the drawing board. This is designed to equip community leaders with management skills during emergency situations that will help people in vulnerable areas avoid death and destruction.

This project also seeks to ensure safety of children and families in hazard zones by assisting the government agencies in relocating them to safer areas and instituting strategies and systems in order to manage calamities effectively.



# PASTORAL CONCERNS



Our chaplain, as the focal person in our pastoral concerns, is involved in all program components of KKFI. Spiritual formation is a cross-cutting program that weaves together the various concerns of KKFI as an organization.

The activities under the pastoral concerns include: ministry of worship and teaching where all KKFI employees attend morning devotions every Monday.

Devotions and pray-overs for dorm residents through public address system, ecumenical services for children at Gilead Center, and other various groups in the community where KKFI operates are all part of the pastor's work. Bible studies are also facilitated to all sectors and groups of KKFI.

Counselling, visitation among persons in need, and other pastoral care were also conducted.

For more on Pastoral Concerns continue reading on page 32

# RESOURCE GENERATION

The dormitories and commercial facilities of KKFI were established in order to finance and continue its social services and community development programs with or without aides from the foreign funding partners. However, since many parts of the buildings are dilapidated and need improvement, these have not been fully utilized in previous years.

Hence, in 2012, we focused on the repairs and improvements of facilities. We installed air conditioning units to several rooms to make them more attractive to tenants. We believe the efforts paid dividends since there was a reported increase in revenues this year.



A wedding celebration held in the KKFI Multi-purpose Building



The KKFI Dormitories underwent a “Make Over” during the 2012 Open House

The multi-purpose building at Gilead Center was inaugurated in April 2012 in time for its 11th anniversary celebration. The building is now being used for seminars, camps and training sessions conducted by KKFI and other groups.

The building aims to generate additional income to help sustain the programs for the children at Gilead Center.

For more on Dorm Life  
continue reading on page 30





# AIDING CHILDREN TOWARD BECOMING RESPONSIBLE ADULTS

BY JUDITH RAMIREZ

I consider being a teacher's aide at the Community Learning Center of the Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc. (KKFI) a blessing from God.

I should be working as one, in the first place. I did not study and finished my college with teaching as a profession in mind. I am a graduate of bachelor's degree in business administration. I should be working in a bank, perhaps, since I majored in the field of banking and finance.

I should be managing people for a company or, preferably, for my own business, making enough money for a comfortable life, maybe. Instead, I am here, helping Teacher Ana mould the young minds of young, innocent children, preparing them for the harsh reality of the world, equipping them with perspectives and skills in order to survive and succeed in life.

I must admit that I had a hard time

during the early stage of this endeavour. It is not a walk in the park, I'm telling you. I have not handled children for a long time.

Luckily, I took 18 education units in college and these helped me a lot. There were times when Teacher Ana would allow me to take charge of the class. It was a challenge every time, but I gradually got used to it. The more I was exposed to the challenge, the more I gained self-confidence.

As time passed by, my relationship with my young students became stronger. I can tell they have learned to trust me. They, in turn, became my source of pride and joy.

I am very happy with my experience at KKFI and I am as eager to learn and am willing to invest more time and effort in this noble task of guiding the children into responsible adulthood.

A  
HEALING PLACE  
CALLED  
'GILEAD CENTER  
FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH'

By Nitz E. Nicolas



WHEN you hear “Gilead,” what comes to mind?

“Never heard of it!” many might reply.

But to a number of street children and youth from Bulacan, Metro Manila and even as far as Southern Tagalog, the word Gilead once uttered conjures a place of peace, a sanctuary, a refuge to tired mind and body, a healing place for shattered dreams and wounded hearts.

In the book of Jeremiah 8:22, we read: “Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health

of the daughter of my people not been restored?”

The biblical Gilead was a “place rich in spices and aromatic gums that provide balm.” This balm, was said to be rare, fragrant and intoxicating ointment and was exported to Egypt, Tyre and Israel.

The healing properties of the balm of Gilead were known throughout the world. Thus, the Bible term “Balm of Gilead” got its name because Gilead was a well-known exporter of balm from the earliest of times.

The Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation, Inc., since its inception in 1950, has been pioneering programs for communities, especially the indigent children and youth. In May 2001, the Gilead Center for Children and Youth was constructed in Pulilan, Bulacan as a temporary residential facility for street children. It has more or less 13,949 square meters and is surrounded by trees, plants, shrubs, root crops, and vines.

Currently, the center is home to 26 children in need of special protection. Some of them have been abandoned and lived on the streets of Manila. Some are orphans.

The Gilead Center offers a balm to heal the wounds of these disadvantaged children. They were provided with services and activities like home care, educational assistance, medical and dental services, psycho-social, leadership and spiritual formation.

At the center, the children's broken dreams were renewed; their shattered lives were restored and recovered. At the center, they found Jesus as their Healer and see Him as the Spiritual Balm of Gilead.

Last April 10, 2012, during the 11th founding anniversary of Gilead Center, a newly built Multi-Purpose Hall was blessed and dedicated. The added facility gives hope that in the future, the center would become sustainable. This hope came to life in the form of various activities that were held at the Gilead Center.

In April, during the Holy Week season, 54 members of the Solid Rock United Methodist Church conducted their spiritual retreat at Gilead Center. The next month,



Children and youth helping on the Gilead Farm

35 young people of the Del Monte United Methodist Church gathered at the center for their annual youth summer camp.

"It was a nice place to hold a camp because it's surrounded by trees, plants and vegetables," one of the young campers said of the venue. "It even has farm animals like ducks and chicken."

He continued: "At night time you will hear the sound of crickets and 'tuko'. It may not be a modernized place, but I could feel the presence of God while we were there."

Another camper said: "My experience in Gilead during the camp was very enriching spiritually. I felt closer to God when I was there. It's an ideal campsite

*"home care, educational assistance, medical and dental services, psycho-social, leadership and spiritual formation"*



especially to the young people because it's full of God's creation and it's very peaceful. There was no distraction in the place, so you can focus on your spiritual growth."

Truly, Gilead Center is blessed with partners who are willing to support its endeavors. The center was built through the assistance of partners like the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/Philippines), and the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.

HOPE RY, a Finnish Foundation represented by Mr. Juha Kauppinen, provides monthly grants for the programs. Mr. and Mrs. John and Jean Davidson, former Peace Corps volunteers who were once assigned to Gilead, provided the funds which helped built the Multi-Purpose Hall.

Support to the Center keeps pouring in kind through the assistance of Pulilan Mayor Vicente Esguerra, Barangay Tibag Chairperson Restituto Esguerra, and other kind-hearted people in the area.

The Foundation envisions Gilead Center to be replicated by all the barangays in Pulilan, where there will be no more children begging for alms and food, where there would be no more abused and exploited children, where there would be no more young and innocent victims of violence.

Yes, Gilead Center will continue to be the balm that heals and restores the lives children and their families.



# The Reunion

By Maria Julia T. Dalanon

For years, sisters Margie and Christine Bagasala have hoped and prayed to see their father and siblings whom they have not seen for the longest time.

Margie was only three years old and Christine eight when their father brought them to an orphanage in Nueva Ecija in 2005. They never saw him again.

On May 28, 2009, they were transferred to Gilead Center of the Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc. They adjusted well in their new environment. They behaved well and helped in the household chores. The Gilead staffs have nothing but praises for the sisters, who even showed deep spirituality and faith in God.

But the Gilead staff knew Margie and Christine were not totally happy. They longed for their father and their siblings. On September 7, 2011, Gilead Center social worker Julia Dalanon and house mother Mercy Familara went to Parola , Area H, Tondo, Manila, the last reported address, to look for Ernesto Bagasala, the sisters' father. He wasn't there to be found.

But in October 17, 2012, Julia was successful in locating him at the Flovihomes, Letre Road, Malabon City.

Mercy contacted a relative of hers who was working for the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to help locate Mang

Ernesto. The latter, fortunately, was able to come up with an address.

The Gilead Center staff members immediately went to the area where the barangay officials confirmed that there was such a person with that name in the population list of the village. The barangay tanods accompanied them in locating Mang Ernesto, asking whoever they met along the way.

An old lady who heard them asking about the whereabouts of the orphans' father told them she knew Mang Ernesto. She showed them to a narrow alley, where they found a man whose face resembled Margie. The Gilead Center staff knew they found the person they were looking for.



On October 24, 2012 Julia and Mercy fetched Mang Ernesto and his son Ivan and brought them to the sleepy town of Pulilan, Bulacan where Christine and Margie were staying.

At the Gilead Center compound, the girls along with the rest of the resident-children and KKFI staff were waiting excitedly for them. Everyone cheered when Margie, Christine, Mang Ernesto and Ivan hugged tearfully for the first time after what seemed forever.

“Labis-labisangaking pasasalamat sa Diyos at sa inyo (Gilead Center staff) samgatulongnanaibigayniyosaakingmgaanak,” Mang Ernesto said. “Akalakotalaga ay hindina kami mulingmagkikita. Tilanabunutanakongmalakingtiniksaakingdibdib.” (I am very thankful to God and to Gilead Center staff for all the help you have given to my girls. I thought I would never see them again. The pain in my heart has been relieved.)”



### **HAPPY TO BE WHOLE AGAIN!**

After many years, Margie and Christine Bagasala are finally reunited with their father, Mang Ernesto, and brother, Ivan.

One can tell by the look on his face that the joy of the reunification was immeasurable.

Everyone thought that it was best for Christine and Margie to continue to stay in Gilead Center since Mang Ernesto's earnings as a construction worker was not enough to sustain his family's survival.

But they knew this is just a temporary arrangement. After all, Mang Ernesto and his two young daughters believe things are beginning to look up. It is a matter of time that, after the reconciliation, they will really, really live like a family again.

# **“Pasasalamat sa Diyos at sa inyo”**



# A Single Mom's Place in the Sun

I am Ana Martin, a single mom, and I belong to the first batch of massage therapy graduates of the training sponsored by the St. Peter United Methodist Church and the Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc.

Although I, indeed, decided to be trained on massage therapy at St. Peter UMC, it never crossed my mind to engage myself fully on it, half-hearted and hesitant on what positive change it may give me. I just decided to do it to break the boredom and routinely nature of being a single mom.

I have met Ma'am Lilia. I am moved when she said, "If you can do service to individuals without expecting anything in return, do so!" This also leads me into thinking, "Why am I going to provide free service when in fact my main reason for the training is to eventually earn money?" Said scenario in doing purely service to people without expecting anything in return is quite far from my norms and views about life. In short, I can't fully grasp her words, nor agree on it.

Immediately after graduation, Pastor Genesis, our assistant pastor asked me, and one of my colleagues, Jay, to help Ma'am Lilia in spearheading the massage training for the succeeding batch. Initially, I have turned down the idea, doubting if I can do it, or will I be able to accomplish the task. Ma'am Lilia in return said some encouraging words that made me believe that I am capable of doing things. This



Student Ana Martin and her Teacher, KKFI Community Development Worker, Lilia Bejer.

“ IF YOU CAN DO SERVICE  
TO INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT  
EXPECTING ANYTHING IN  
RETURN, DO SO! ”

moved me and allowed me to believe in my own capacity. Again, her words linger into my ear, "If you can do service to individuals without expecting anything in return, do so!"

I have realized that when you do outreach work, you get to meet a lot of individuals, learn from their perspectives about life and enjoy the benefit of thinking

that what you are doing is noble and important. At some point I have compared myself to them, while I am learning the skills in massaging. I usually encourage them to pursue the training since it may provide them sustenance in the long run. I have also handled the third and fourth batch training. In the absence of Pastor Gabriel, our outreach chairperson and with the assistance of Ma'am Lilia, I was able to provide training to all of them.

“ MY LIFE TOOK A  
DRASTIC TURN. FROM  
BEING A ROUTINELY  
OCCUPIED  
SINGLE MOM TO A  
PRODUCTIVE SERVICE  
ORIENTED WOMAN. ”

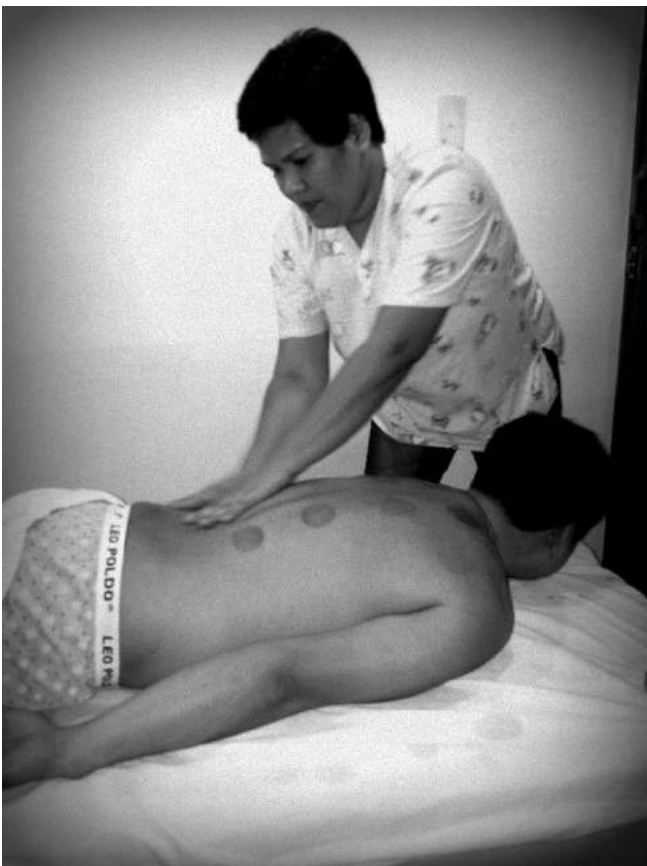
Ma'am Lilia and I had a share of community tours and outreach in Cavite, Pasig, Malabon, Navotas and Isabel. But one thing that I cannot forget is the opportunity to teach the skill in Bulacan City Jail. I have my own assumption of the place that it is dirty, chaotic and dangerous. I thought that I might not be able to go out once a riot occurs. But I was wrong. Prisoners are kind

and full of colorful stories about life. Surely you can learn from their wisdom, experience and philosophies. Even though they have committed a mistake, they have realized a lot of things and very much willing to correct it, repent and be able to live a normal and decent life even they are behind bars.

At present I am serving as the Livelihood Coordinator of St. Peter United Methodist Church. With KKFI and the Church as partners, we were able to enhance our skills by learning other forms of massage such as hilot, and the beauty care training provided by Sir Leslie.

My life took a drastic turn. From being a routinely occupied single mom to a productive service oriented woman. I am not receiving anything in return but seeing my learners achieve a productive life after training is more than anything the world can offer. I still generate income by providing services to my clients/patients and able to buy the needs of my child.

It feels good to find my place, my worth. Service might not give you the money that you need but it will provide you the opportunity to realize your worth as a human being.



# Making up for lost opportunities

Two persons find out that the KKFI offers more than skin-deep solutions to their problems

**“No more back-breaking work for Marvin!”**

Marvin Qutorio lives in the squatter area of Navotas City, Metro Manila. The breadwinner of a family of six, he washed and ironed clothes of neighbors for a living.

One day, his friends invited him to the skills training on cosmetology that the Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc. (KKFI) that was set to conduct at St. Peter United Methodist Church in Barangay Bagumbayan in Navotas City.

“I decided to attend the training because I surmised it can help me improve my chances of working abroad,” Marvin said.

To be able to have extra cash for the purchase materials required for the hands-on phase of the training, he needed to work harder and longer. Marvin accepted more dirty clothes to wash and iron. He didn't mind. He knew his sacrifice would pay dividends in the long run.

“All the knowledge and skills imparted by the trainer registered in my mind,” he said with pride. “And my dream to become successful after acquiring skills is coming true, as Sir Leslie told me.”

Marvin recalled his mentor's words: “Once you finish the course, you can be employed in a spa. So do not stop enriching and updating your skills.”

“Thanks to God I am now employed in a highly popular salon, the Fix Bench Salon, at SM Laza-ro,” he revealed.

Marvin has nothing but praises and expressions of gratitude to Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc. (KKFI), which he said gave him the opportunity to improve his life-situation.

“I feel very productive as a beautician,” Marvin enthused. “I now earn enough money to help my family without enduring the back-breaking work of washing and ironing clothes.”

**“This single mom is OFW no more !”**

I am Marichu Vasques, a single mom with one child. Before my cosmetology training, I worked abroad to be able to provide the needs of my child and to afford her good education.

I later learned that an NGO called Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation, Inc. was offering free cosmetology skills training in coordination with the Inclusive Education for the people with disabilities (PWDs). Since it was free, I decided to avail of this so that I would not need to work abroad anymore.

During our skills training, I made many friends and learned skills on how to make people more beautiful and attractive. I am very happy to perform the services for free while learning and developing the skills through practice. By offering free service, I was not only practicing and improving my skills but also I was actually promoting and marketing my services in the process.

After my graduation, I gained enough number of clients out of the friends I served for free to start my own home-based business. I now earn P1,000 per client who availed of rebonding services. Indeed, there are times when I earned P5,500 a week for rebonding only. That was aside from my manicure, pedicure, and haircutting services.

I am happy to share that I now have money in the bank.

I thank God for showering me with blessings. I also thank our KKFI trainer, Ms. Merlyn Aranez, who was very accommodating and sensitive to the needs of the participants.

Because of them, the realization of my dream of having my own salon business is nearer than ever.



# KKFI-SKK PARTNERSHIP: PRESENT AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

By Albert Otshudi Longe, KKFI Intern

Ministry with Sentrong Kapatiran ni Ka Eddie (SKK) on community capacity building moved well in most part of the year but ended with some unique challenges towards the end of 2012..

The Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc. (KKFI) has been very supportive of the work of SKK in various aspects. However, there came a point when it was already necessary to re-orient the relationship in the direction of building capacity for the organization so that it may continue with its ministry in the future without being dependent on KKFI.

The two partners engaged in numerous consultation sessions in order to better understand each other as well as the vision and plans the leaders have for the community.

This is necessary for KKFI to find helpful ways of assisting the people, especially in developing their capacity to meet their goals. This led to the re-formulation of the SKK's vision, mission and goals and an operational plan.

By providing this technical help, the KKFI has set the tone for a new dispensation of a focused ministry with the SKK. The operational plan looked at stages through

which the relationship would go in as far as developing the capacity of the local people intellectually, physically, financially and socially and the sharing of skills and knowledge that would suffice to the existence of an independent community organization that will provide leadership and training for the transformation of the community.

This came as a complimentary second step after the training on leadership which was conducted earlier.

It has indeed been a good relationship in which KKFI played a vital role in providing resources for the activities of the local organization and sought to do more in helping the organization break the cycle of dependence and use the available local resources for their needs and necessities as they go through a new phase.

As the relationship progressed a lot of things were gradually becoming clear as to the nature of our partner and which necessitated a clear re-look and understanding as it would have led to wasted efforts.

“KKFI played a vital role in providing resources for the activities of the local organization and sought to do more in helping the organization break the cycle of dependence”

The uncertainty arose with regards to the representative nature of the organization which only had members from one local organization and location of the Tondo area and was not actually constituted of members representing the whole Tondo area. This limited our efforts to a single organization and community which also was interpreted as a dole out program.

Given the nature of the circumstances, it was found fit to request the organization to redefine and reconstitute themselves in a representative manner so that the whole Tondo community can be part of this movement being developed to transform the community.

Being committed to the development of the community, we believe that SKK would truly understand the needs and circumstances of the time in the ongoing journey from dependence to self-sustainability and independence in the process of transforming communities with the people in mind for a long term vision.



Ana Martin, Pastora Charise Minguito from Parola Mission Church U.M.C. and Albert Otshudi Longe.

# Making Both Ends Meet

A mother's story of great struggles and small successes

"You know, teacher, I am now earning, although we are still in the middle of this dressmaking training," Gloria Madera, 35, told dressmaking trainer Carmela Isuela, beaming.

Gloria has every reason to be happy. Her many responsibilities included feeding a daughter and a young nephew and making sure they are provided with all things necessary for their survival.

"I sewed three pairs of shorts and sold them for P100," she proudly told her mentor. She also sells peanut butter at P120 per bottle.



Teacher Carmela holds up the fruit of her students' labor

Like thousands of mothers belonging to the urban poor sector, Gloria struggles every day to make both ends meet. She is one of the thousands of reasons why the Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc. (KKFI) continues to provide training opportunities for poor individuals in the hope of improving their economic situations. It's a good privilege to the poorest among the poor beneficiaries of KapatiranKaunlaran Foundation Inc.

In June 2012, the KKFI started the livelihood skills training on sewing in Malaria, Caloocan City. Single mothers, widows and out-of-school youth availed of the privilege. Last November, 23 women, including Gloria, finished the course.

Gloria was understandably excited! She was amazed with herself even, especially after learning how to make patterns for different styles of dresses, shorts, blouses, curtains, schools uniforms, garterized pajamas and skirts.

For the first time, she can now dream and expect it to become a reality. She long wanted to have a business of her own. After acquiring the needed skills, she's bent on putting up a dress shop of her own.



But the horizon wasn't always so bright. Challenges had presented themselves on a daily basis, especially during the period of the training. Often, she would attend the skills training sessions hungry. There was simply not much money to buy food for herself, her daughter and nephew.

“If we will not help ourselves, we will never be free to do what we want to do with our lives. We will never survive.”

But Gloria pushed on. Nothing fazed her. She was determined to do something about the poverty that has haunted her and her family throughout her life.

“Are you not feeling tired of doing lots of work?” Teacher Carmela would often ask Gloria, who would invariably reply: “No, teacher, I am happy with what I’m doing.”

The persistent student would add: “If we will not help ourselves, we will never be free to do what we want to do with our lives. We will never survive.”

Gloria was not able to achieve much in terms of formal education due to poverty. But she has demonstrated courage, industry and willingness to survive all the time. Now, she is more determined than ever.

“I am very positive that I can reach my goal. Someday, I will become a businesswoman,” she said with much conviction.

This single mother who received a special gift wished to pay the blessing forward to others. She plans to “transfer my skills to other people in our community.”

Gloria is thankful to God for the blessings she is now enjoying. She also expresses gratitude to KKFI, “for guiding me and others who are in need.”

# *A Home Away From Home*

By Eda Acierto



As we continue to provide a-home-away-from-home atmosphere for our dormitory residents, we continuously innovate our facilities in order for them to remain competitive even to newly constructed condominiums, dormitories, apartments, and other residential services in the University Belt area in the heart of the city of Manila.

We continue to conduct fun and interesting yet spiritually nourishing activities to help dormitory residents develop them socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually.

In response to the need to innovate, we visited some of the newly built residences within the area like P.

Campa Residences near the Far Eastern University (FEU), University of the East (UE), Philippine School of Business Administration (PSBA), Espana Grand Residences and Forbes Place near University of Santo Tomas (UST). A look-see to acquire information about them gives us ideas on how to always be on the cutting edge.

The average room rate of four-person room with two double-deck beds is P18,000 per month, excluding utilities, in these above-mentioned places we visited. In comparison, our rate for similar facilities (a room with four single beds) is at PhP 7,400. There is no question we offer the most cost-efficient residential facilities for our clients.

Our edge is a “campus-like atmosphere” within the KKFI compound wherein residents can freely find a place to study, do their projects or even practice a play or presentation in school. Most in the area do not provide such amenities.

The air conditioned library with its internet shop within is also a come-on for residents, especially the reviewees who find it very convenient to study and do their projects without worry of rushing back to the KKFI dormitory to beat the 10 p.m. curfew.

The safety of residents and a friendly atmosphere are the reasons why residents are coming back even after their studies. They even refer us to their families and friends.



“Thank you po at dito kami sainyo nag-dorm. We feel we are one big family here. Ire-refer kopoang dorm saibako pang kaibigan, God bless po,” texted a bar reviewee from Ateneo de Naga before checking out.

Almost 50 percent of our regular residents are referred by their families who were former residents. Stay-in house parents, guards who are in duty 24 hours a day, a drug test for every incoming resident, a chaplain who gives spiritual guidance and prayers to residents all contribute to the reassuring comfort of dormitory residents.

Around 30 percent of our incoming residents and reviewees told us they found out about the KKFI dormitory facilities through our website. The rest knew of us through referrals and ads, reviewees and transients from different schools, review centers and institutions were housed here.

Review Center continues to recommend the KKFI to its reviewees coming from their Iloilo, Cebu and Davao branches extending a month-long intensive review in Manila for mariners pursuing an upgrade of their career. These referrals dominate the number of all our reviewees that prompted us to rehabilitate a vacant space in the mezzanine for more accommodations.

Different planned activities were pursued for our residents’ physical, emotional, social and spiritual development. Among them were: the open house Valentine’s party, sports festivals, acquaintance party, and orientation for new and old residents.



# THE PASTOR'S NOOK

## 'BEAUTIFUL!'

"How do I look, Pastor?" asked Leonora Creo, a new member of the Day Center for Older Persons (Day C), as she proudly showed me her newly cut hair.

"Beautiful!" I exclaimed. She beamed. It was obvious she was satisfied with what Kuya Leslie, the Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation Inc.'s resident hair stylist and livelihood teacher, had done to her "crowning glory."

Aling Leonora and other Day C members did enjoy a special treatment on the anniversary day of the organization. On that occasion, the KKFI offered the elderlies free massage and haircut.

Even today when I reflect on that particular day and all I recall is how beautiful the Day C members can be.

I remembered telling Aling Leonora jokingly: "Ate, you are so beautiful! After all, beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder."

Somehow, my mind wanders off to Apostle Paul, who told the Christians in Colossae that they need to go through three phases in order to be worthy believers in Jesus Christ. He told them that: first, they must be rooted; second, they must be built up; and third, they must be established in Jesus.

To become worthy of our call, we must engage and involve ourselves in organizations that make a difference and that build bridges that create and strengthen communities. In doing this, we



Rev. Fernando R. Bawan. KKFI Chaplain

must understand these three principles:

The first is being rooted in Jesus' example and compassion. Jesus loves even those who sinned to the extent that He shared his life to them. This he did sacrificially and compassionately without expecting anything in return.

In this context, the verse 7 of Colossians Chapter 2 becomes more relevant: "Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."

The KKFI is boldly attempting to reach its vision, mission and goal in order to transform the lives of people who need help and compassion. This is the Foundation's response to the mandate of becoming rooted in Jesus' example and his

desire to enrich the lives of all members of the community—women, children, men and every trouble soul.

Jesus capacitated every unlearned spirit and moved them to follow His righteousness. He filled their souls with joy and their empty stomach with miraculous food from God. Jesus touched the lives of every living being with blessing and grace. Doing good things, blessing the lives of the poor, loving by empowering, empowering by transforming and transforming by instilling honesty to and trust of others, was what Jesus wanted to impart to us through his examples. Secondly, one must be built in Jesus' "philosophy." Jesus offered his precious blood so that the world may be cleansed. Colossians 2: 8 says: "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

The world has many views about each and every aspect of human existence: politics, economics, society, individual, culture, organization, etc. These views are many and diverse. The spectrum is endless. They change rapidly. Nothing is permanent.

But Jesus came saying, "I came to do the things that my Father has for me," and praying, "Not my will but thy will be done."

The KKFI, with its partners, desires to follow Jesus by reflecting His philosophy in its community-based development efforts. In Gilead Center, children are reared and nurtured in a way that they may see and understand God's kingdom.

In North cemetery, young people are taught how to dream and achieve their individual dreams.

The same philosophy is applied in livelihood trainings, in the community learning centers (CLCs), the dormitory management, the implementation of the Day C programs and all the other activities of the Foundation.

Jesus told His disciples: "Apart from me you can do nothing." The KKFI, too, believes that apart from Jesus, it can do nothing.

Thirdly, one must be established in Jesus by faith and justice. Hebrews 11:1 says: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Faith is not blind belief but a courageous trust. Jesus said to the woman who touched his garment and was healed: "Your faith has healed you. Go and sin no more."

We believe that KKFI, a Methodist institution, is established by God and anchored in faith. It is an instrument of peace by doing Holy Eucharist to children, youth, women and men inside and outside of its door. It is ecumenical and is open in partnering with other denominations and partner-churches.

The KKFI believes that "all things work together for good, to those who love God, and to those who are called according to his purposes." Romans 8:28

That is why when anyone would ask me how I see KKFI, I would proudly reply: "Beautiful!"

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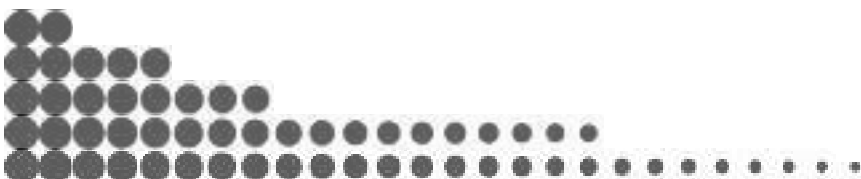
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