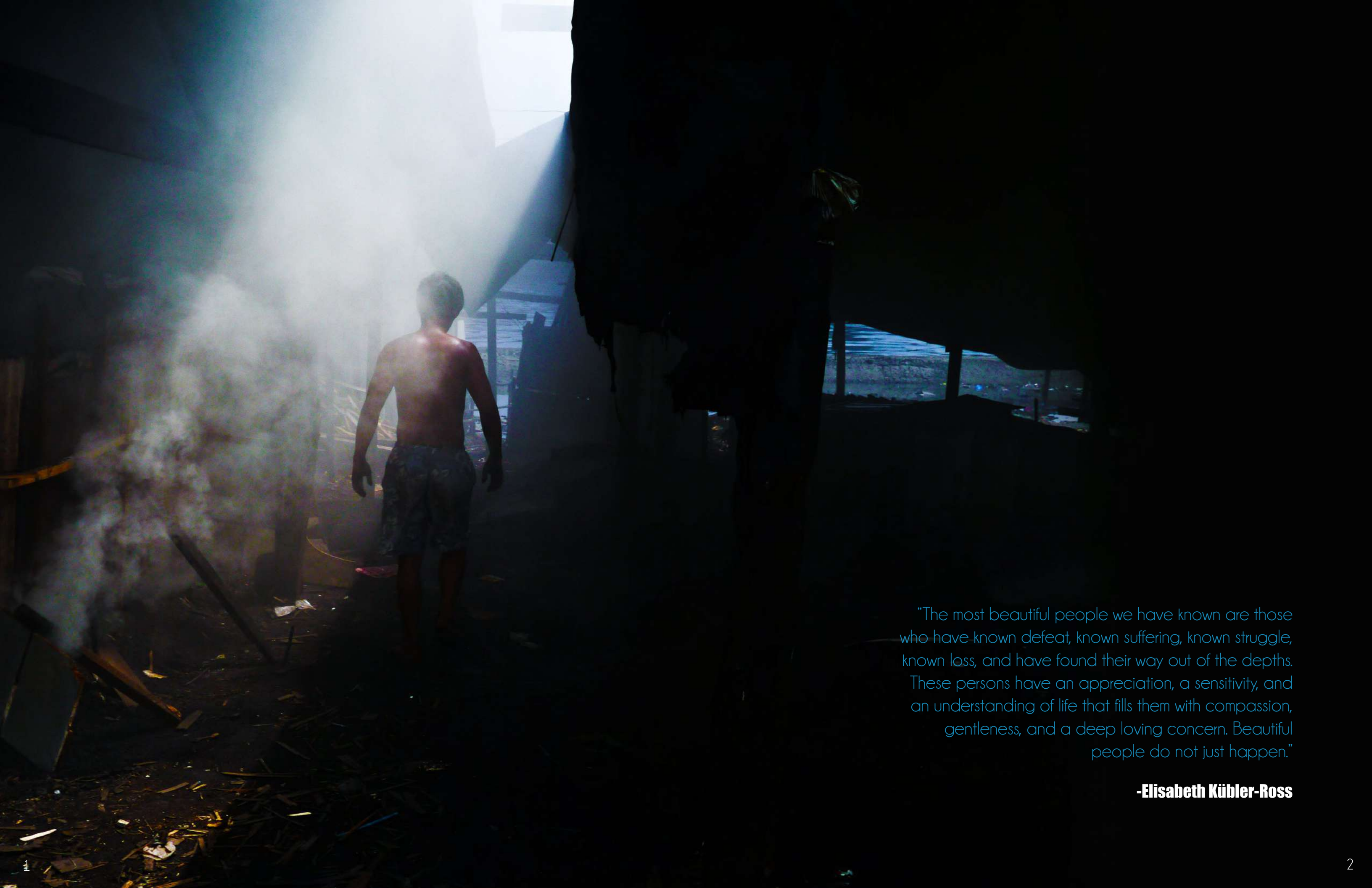


Encourage Families in Need and Care for Education

ENFANCE

Take Another Look at Tondo





“The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen.”

-Elisabeth Kübler-Ross



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Foreword

by Louie C. Montemar
President of the Board of Trustees, EnFaNCE

Walking into ENFANCE's areas of intervention makes one easily understand why the world is willing to forget these places: the smell, the sight, the noise, the filth, and even death that are often seen... Nobody wants to see that. Nobody wants to be there. It is so tempting to just walk away and never turn back. It is so tempting to justify one's inaction by 'believing' that the people in such places choose to live as they do and that they do not really want to change. The problem with this rationalization is that it is not true. These families DO want to change their lives; they just don't believe they can or do not know how to do it.

Here lies ENFANCE's very reason for being -- its belief in people, especially the downtrodden, the marginalized, the forgotten. And here also lies reason for working on a coffee table book on the work of this NGO and its partners who keep on struggling to achieve their dreams in the most marginalized communities in Tondo, Manila.

Each story featured in the central part of this book is a story of hope. This is not poverty porn, certainly, as this book does not depict the poor as helpless and merely in need of charity. Moreover, this work does not aim to simplify the complex issue poverty. It offers the reality that such complexity, with perseverance, can be managed and the poor can prevail. These are stories of empowerment.

I have been volunteering for ENFANCE by sitting in its Board of Trustees for almost a decade now. I have seen how its work has grown and how its goals have been given flesh by the dedicated personnel that it has. I was therefore honored to be the one asked to 'complete' this foreword for such a work of love about the partners of and the continuing challenge that is ENFANCE at the heart of Manila.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ENFANCE staff for their continued optimism, dedication, confidence, kindness, and for their humble approach and willingness to listen and to learn from the families. Above all, I am grateful for their capacity to face the unknown, to give every family the benefit of the doubt and to believe in their ability to make a difference in their own lives, no matter how dire the situation may seem.

Secondly, I would also like to thank the on-the-job trainees and volunteer health workers from the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health (ASMPH), who suggested and facilitated the production of this book. They were eager to learn and to help us improve the visibility of very poor communities.

Finally, I would like to thank all the families we are working with for their trust and willingness to work with us. I am always astonished by their capacities, their courage and their resilience. Compared to their efforts, ours appear trivial. They are, by far, the main actor of their success.



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EnFaNCE Foundation is a non-stock, non-profit, non-sectarian Filipino organization. It has been registered under the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) since August 2003 and has been recognized since November 2005 by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Vision: To encourage self-reliance and welfare among some of the most socially and economically depressed families through a community-based program aiming at improving their living conditions.

Mission: In a sustainable way, to work together for a dynamic family development towards self-reliance and community uplifting.



History

The Family Development Program was originally conceived and implemented in the 1980s in Brazil by Inter Aide, a French NGO, to fit the context of intermediate countries. Though such countries are developing rapidly, they remain characterized by an extreme income inequality. Poor urban areas contain pockets of extreme deprivation, and within these areas, about 10% to 30% of the population live in dire poverty, facing social difficulties (health, educational and economic issues) as well as psychosocial issues, such as violence, abuse and neglect. After identifying the families' needs in the Philippine context, EnFaNCE Foundation, with the technical support of Inter Aide, started implementing the Family Development Program (FDP) in 2003 with the objective of bridging the gap between the excluded families living in these depressed areas and the available public services and/or NGOs. Since then, EnFaNCE has developed two further complementary programs in response to identified needs: the Family Budget and Savings (FBS) Program an innovative social project with

a microsavings component developed for the poorest of the poor in 2007 (in partnership with Uplift, a local NGO) and the Community-Based Training (CBT) Program (aimed at disseminating the Family Development methodology and sensitizing (future) service providers).

Implementation of EnFaNCE's programs began in the port area of Baseco, Manila in 2003; followed by nearby Isla Putting Bato and continuing into Happy Land and Sitio Damayan (Dumpsite) in 2006. Over time, EnFaNCE withdrew from areas where its impact has reached its optimum so as to cater to more other needy families in other areas. In 2008 and then in 2012, EnFaNCE reached out to 2 other areas in Tondo, Manila, Aroma Temporary housing and Katuparan, where demand for their services remained high. From its head office in Delpan, Tondo, EnFaNCE currently works in six pockets of poverty within two main areas: 1. Tondo in Barangay 101 and 105 (Aroma Temporary Housing, Sitio Damayan and Katuparan) and 2. Baseco in Barangay 649 (Block 4, Block 5 and Casangan).

MOVIEHOUSE

Programs

Family Development Program (FDP)

EnFaNCE Foundation was created in 2003 to implement the Family Development Program (FDP). Target beneficiaries of this Program include the approximately 10% of “extremely poor” families (level 3 or 4 on our poverty assessment scale, corresponding to the poorest of the poor only above street families) who are not accessing services that are theoretically available to them and who are experiencing psychosocial issues (e.g. single parent families, stress, depression and anxiety due to dire living conditions, domestic violence, etc) hindering their progression out of poverty.

The core activity of this program is ‘family follow-up’ which involves Family Development Workers (FDWs) conducting regular and personalized 45-minute one-on-one weekly home visits to target families for a duration of six to nine months. They work with the families to set objectives based on their needs and then the FDW supports, empowers and enables the families’ to achieve their goals through counseling, psychosocial tools and referrals to relevant institutions (health centers, education institutions, malnutrition facilities, government offices for processing of legal document, etc). The overall objective is to strengthen families’ confidence in their abilities and encourage them to utilize existing public and private services to meet their needs and improve their situation.

Upon completion of the family follow-up, beneficiaries are encouraged to access help when needed by attending social guidance sessions conducted in the field offices every week and at community-based information sessions delivered in the area.

Objectives of the Family Development Program

- Building poor families’ capacities and resilience by empowering them and linking them to available services
- Fostering problem-solving skills and promoting family autonomy



Family Budget and Savings (FBS) Program

The Family Budget and Savings (FBS) Program is a social micro-savings project designed by EnFaNCE in response to the lack of an available, affordable and appropriate financial products and services for the poorest of the poor. To implement the Program, EnFaNCE partners with a microfinance organization - UPLiFT Philippines - that facilitates the financial transactions and brings financial expertise, while EnFaNCE conducts the necessary complementary social services to ensure the Program’s success. The financial product, Piso Pisong-Ipon (PPI), was specifically designed to fit the needs of the poorest families: 1 peso minimum balance, 1 peso minimum deposit or withdrawal, collection directly in the areas to mitigate transport costs, no fees, etc.

The provision of PPI savings accounts by UPLiFT, coupled with home-based visits and community-based financial literacy trainings conducted by EnFaNCE, encourages savings among the poorest communities in order to assist them with risk reduction for their family (facing health emergencies, rebuilding dwellings after calamities, etc.) as well as enabling them to achieve their family’s projects in a sustainable manner and one which does not inflict negatively on their overall welfare: indeed, savings provide an alternative to high interest debt.

FBS members are mainly women with a poverty level corresponding to a level two or three on EnFaNCE’s poverty assessment tool (on par with, or slightly better off than families enrolled in the Family Development Program who generally fall into a level three or four). The majority of members reside in Sitio Damayan (Dumpsite) and Aroma Temporary Housing, although the Program continues to expand rapidly in Baseco as well.

Objectives of the FBS Program

- Enhancing the resilience of urban poor families to challenges and emergencies
- Increasing the economic situation of urban poor families
- Improving financial literacy among the poorest of the poor

Community-Based Training (CBT) Program

Through more than 10 years of training and experience, EnFaNCE has developed expertise in working with very underprivileged families through a developmental approach and is committed to sharing this expertise with other organizations to sensitize them as well as to improve service delivery to the poor.

Training Students

EnFaNCE provides community work exposure to students from different schools and colleges within Metro Manila including City College of Manila, De La Salle University (DLSU) for their Service Learning Program (SLP), and Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health (ASMPH) for their Learning Experience in Communities (LEC) Program. In EnFaNCE’s current partnership with ASMPH, the students are immersed in urban

poor communities and then, as a part of their curriculum, they evaluate the organization and through collaboration with senior management they devise a project to assist the organization wherever both parties feel the need is greatest. In this way they are not only observers in development, but actors as well.

Training NGOs

EnFaNCE also works with different NGOs in order to develop their skills and knowledge in engaging with communities. They have conducted trainings with Association Soeur Emmanuelle (ASMAE) and all their Philippine partner organizations, Entrepreneurs du Monde (EdM) and all their partner organizations across Asia and with Social Enhancement For Entrepreneurial (SEED) Center Philippines, a microfinance organization to help them establish the community programs in areas South of Metro Manila, primarily in Cavite. We have also worked with Life Project 4 Youth (LP4Y) foundation in addressing the issues faced by the youth such as sexuality issues and budgeting.

Objectives of the CBT Program

- Improving the quality of services provided to poor communities to ensure repeat visits and access
- Increasing the capacity of other organizations working with marginalized communities.



Messages from the Staff

Edlyn Abache, Program Coordinator

I have been working for EnFaNCE for nine years and what drives me the most in this work is my strong belief in Filipino families' resilience. Resilience to face hardships and difficulties, resilience bold enough to meet challenges head-on. As a FDP Worker, you get to see and feel them evolve and develop on their own simply by believing in them. It is clearly hard work, yes, but it is worth it and it is awesome when you see them transforming from being shy and disengaged to being strong, confident and active; they are empowered. As an FDP worker you are there during the first half of the process and then you get to see them carrying on making positive changes for their families by themselves. You see them cross over to the other side of the bridge.

Rosemary Ompoco, Accounting Clerk

Everybody starts where they are with what they have. You never can achieve everything you want in the first place but I think the key of success is starting with a small success and then dreaming bigger and bigger. Step by step, even the poorest people can reach their dreams.

Princes Malunes, Admin Officer

When you have to live in very poor conditions, or when terrible events happen like the death of a child, it can bring you down so low. At times like this, you really need someone to remind you that you were up at one time and that that you still have the capacity to get back to a better place. You need someone to trust and someone who will help you to access and utilize the competencies you already possess. At EnFaNCE, we try to be this person for those families most in need.

Mafortune Satparam, Social Worker

Accepting individuality and learning to adapt to every different situation, that's what drives me in my work with EnFaNCE.

Melchor Amante, FDP Worker

The constant challenge of working with the families through their psychosocial issues, continuous learning opportunities and access to many professional trainings are the key aspects of my job that keep me motivated to work with EnFaNCE. It is inspiring when you see the impact of what you are doing through the empowerment of the family to make changes in their own life.

Efzel Matorre, FDP Worker

I always believe that every person is unique and that they have the capacity to move on through times of difficulty ... you just need to believe in them, feel them and accept who they are.

Susana Perananda, FBS Officer

The philosophy of life I would like to transmit to all the families I visit is this: "If you fail in something, don't lose HOPE, because in life there is sunset and the day after the sun will shine".

Lydia Maluenda, FBS Officer

Listening to the families stories have taught me a lot and helping them to find their best path makes me feel really happy and useful.

Melanie Adona, FBS Officer

I believe that despite all the challenges and trials that people have to face in their lives, everybody is capable of making changes and rising again with hope, dreams and dignity for a new tomorrow.

Sheila Mendoza, FBS Officer

I am working with EnFaNCE because I love the NGO. As a previous PPI Collector I have learnt that if you save more money you will always have something in times of emergency.

Carmela Verso, PPI Collector (from UPLIFT)

EnFaNCE's work focuses on helping the people who are really in need by boosting their confidence and fostering their self-reliance. The work is holistic in nature promoting physical, emotional, spiritual and economical development.

Sheryl Duran, PPI Collector (from UPLIFT)

What is special about EnFaNCE is that due to its individualistic family approach to development, every person is seen as different and every situation is unique. Therefore, there is no standard response. At the beginning, I found it hard to adapt myself to every circumstance; but with practice, it is becoming easier.





Tondo



Statistics

EnFaNCE is currently working in two districts of Manila: the Port of Manila and Tondo. Both areas have poor sanitation and little (or expensive) access to water, electricity and other basic services. The communities residing in these areas have limited access to livelihood opportunities and due to compounded challenges; they are often overwhelmed with psychosocial issues.

EnFaNCE intervenes in Barangay 649 in the Port of Manila with access points (field offices) in Block 4, Block 5 and Gasangan. Barangay 649 (50,918 residents) is the largest of the five barangays located in the Port of Manila district (57,405 residents). In Tondo, EnFaNCE works with a portion of the district's 628,106 recorded residents in pockets of poverty in Aroma Temporary Housing, Sitio Damayan and Katuparan.

Aroma Temporary Housing was built in 1993 to provide temporary shelter to deprived families. At present, over twenty years later, there are still approximately

2,200 families living in these temporary housing facilities that have limited access to water (one water point for approximately 50 families), no sanitation (no drainage, no sewage, no latrines), and little, or no, access to other basic services. No concrete government plans to relocate these families have yet to be set in motion. Sitio Damayan's (also known as Dumpsite) 42 hectares surround an old dumpsite near the port where garbage is shipped to Bulacan. The number of families living here is estimated at around 1,500. In Katuparan (or 'fulfillment of one's dreams' in English), around 2,500 families reside in vertical slums and insalubrious shelters on the outskirts of Tondo, bordering the district of Navotas. These shelters were built as a temporary shelter for families who were relocated after the collapse of smokey mountain. Again, no plans for relocation have been confirmed and the area remains characterized by a lack of access to public services such as water, electricity, sanitary infrastructures, etc.

*Note: Population estimated according to the census made by the government in May 2010.



Barangay 649, Port Area, Manila

Location: Barangay 649, Zone 68, Bagong Lupa Port Area, District V, Manila, NCR

Boundaries: N-Delpan, E-Intramuros, W-Manila Bay, S-Port Area

Total Land Area: 54 hectares

Total Population: (as of December 2010) 50,918

Total Number of Families: 10,712

Primary Source of Income: Fishing, vending, scavenging, tricycle/pedicab driver, pier hands

House Condition: Concrete 228, semi concrete-3,566, make-shift 5,190



Barangay 101, Katuparan, Tondo, Manila

Location: Barangay 101, Zone 8, District V, Manila, NCR

Boundaries: N-Smokey Mountain, E-Barangay 98, W-Pier 18, S-Barangay 106

Total Land Area: 1.5 hectares

Total Population: (2012) 12,298

Total Number of Families: 2,180



Barangay 105, Vitas, Manila

Location: Barangay 105, Zone 8, District V, Manila, NCR

Boundaries: N-Sitio Damayan, Romualdez st., E-Roxas Street, W-Happyland

Temporary Housing: R-10, S-C-2 Capulong, Tayuman extension

Total Land Area: 102 hectares

Total Population: (2011) 25,482

Total number of families: 7,114

Stories



NOTE: The families gave their consent to the display of their pictures and their stories of this book. Names were changed to protect the identity of the people involved.



Aroma

“Aroma,” literally a distinct pervasive smell, may refer to something pleasant or not. It is a peculiar quality or atmosphere that ‘envelopes’ a situation, a setting, or a place. It is a distinct and pervasive sensory experience.

In Metropolitan Manila, Aroma is a peculiar place in Tondo — the Aroma Temporary housing area.

While the place may owe its distinctive “aroma” to its proximity to the city dumpsite, it is its stories and experiences that set it seemingly apart from other areas in Manila.

These are stories of individual struggles intertwined with peculiar family experiences. These are also stories of the unfolding work that is EnFaNCE.

Emancipation

Originally from Davao, Clarissa migrated to Manila dreaming of eventually being a caregiver overseas. She believed that she could complete her training in the city and eventually land a contract that would take her elsewhere. When she first arrived in Manila, she swore that she could already taste victory over the fates that had damned her chances of going. She had yet to realize how mistaken she was.

By the time she completed her training in the city, she had ran out of funds. With nothing left for landing a contract abroad or for even going back home, and having no family or friends to go to in Manila, she ended up wandering in the streets alone.

The lights, sounds, and smells of the city in those solitary wanderings now appear to be premonitions of the unforgiving time she would spend in the port areas of Manila.

Eventually, her father was able to get in touch with her and directed her to go to a family friend who lived in Tondo. She stayed there for a while — still hopeful, but deeply wounded by the challenges that she had faced. Notwithstanding her gloom, she found her current partner, Norbie. They now live together.

Then came EnFaNCE.

Clarissa was referred to EnFaNCE by a neighbor who was concerned about seeing her always being unkempt, emaciated, and deeply distressed. By the time an EnFaNCE worker first came to meet her, she already had one son, and was again expecting.

She then felt disempowered. She failed to take care of herself and was completely dependent on the 100 to 150-pesos daily earnings of her partner, Norbie, for their household expenses. This paltry sum would mean countless dark distressing nights without electricity and food.

Often, she would feel lonely at having no one to talk to and share her thoughts with. She felt like a prisoner in her own home. “Gusto kong lumabas pero hindi ko alam paano” (I want to go out, but I don’t know how), she once quipped. She was trapped in a shell of despair.

EnFaNCE workers were there to talk to and support her. She enrolled in the Family Development Program (FDP) where she was encouraged to stand up again — to become a supportive wife and parent, and to appreciate her life more, with all its sights, sounds, and opportunities.

Her greatest achievement in the program was realizing what she can do for herself. She now sees herself as being more emotionally stable and capable of moving forward with her life without hesitation and guilt. She has let go of the bitterness from her past. She now looks to a better future, with a heart hungry for the dream she once sought for herself.





Horizon

Glenda, originally from Bulacan, moved to Manila in 1997. In search of a better life with her partner Johnny, she came to the shores of the city and landed in Tondo.

Her dreams of having the perfect life in Manila were shattered by Tondo's many sensations. With Johnny's parents, they used to live "under the bridge" bearing with the stomach-churning stench of years-old trash and human excrement from a nearby creek. Moreover, the view that greeted them daily was that of mountains of trash all around often draped by the smog from smoke-belching trucks that passed through the area. Water was scarce and food was unclean.

For those living in the area along with Glenda's family, "you take what you have" might be a meaningful motto. Still, as bleak as their lives were, these people continued to dream of a better tomorrow.

Glenda has witnessed the tragedy of losing a child due to severe diarrhea. Due to this incident, her family moved away and exchanged their creek-side dwelling for somewhat better surroundings — an abode so small that in order to sleep on their backs, they had to put their feet up on the wall.

Desperate for a better future for their remaining child, they worked hard as scavengers. Their son, Ruben, was already 20 years old at the time he was encouraged to be part of EnFaNCE's program. He was the first member of the family to engage with EnFaNCE. Eventually, Glenda joined the program and through their hard work and EnFaNCE's Family Budget and Savings Program (FBSP), they were able to build an initial capital of PHP 10,000 to start a small business. They were taught how to budget their daily income and to save money for a particular goal. In six months, Glenda was able to save up another PHP 20,000 that she used to buy a new house.

Unfortunately, a health-related tragedy struck the family again with the remaining son, Ruben, dying from an infected wound. With enough savings, they were able to hold a proper burial and this partly helped the family cope.

Life in Tondo has to go on. Glenda's family had to move on from the tragedies that had come to pass. As they hope for a better life, husband and wife face the blue horizon of Manila Bay and dream of traveling to places they have never been to.

After relating her story, Glenda expressed her gratitude to EnFaNCE for pushing them to build a business and save enough money to help them in their hour of need. They wish that EnFaNCE may be able to help more people like them who continue to aspire for a better life.



TEMPORARY

Tempo in music, refers to the speed or pace of a particular musical piece. It determines the intonation, feel, emotion of a melodic masterpiece. Tempo may also stand as an abbreviated form of “temporary” — connoting transience, a description of movement away from the intermission, with a desire for permanence. Temporary may thus describe a vision of hope directed towards something ‘more’ or ‘different’.

In Tondo, “Tempo” refers to the Aroma Temporary Housing area—a place full of temporary residents, all hopeful for their poverty situation would be a passing one. Tempo is a yearning: hanging, striving, and being full of hope.

Crescendo, Decrescendo

Life is in constant flux, ever progressing towards an unknown. With its crescendos and decrescendos, it is anything but a constant tune. This is what one finds in the life of Angel and Robert's family.

Curious about what life had in store for them in the big city, Angel and Robert, then a young couple, unheeded their parents' and other relatives' apprehensions in journeying to Manila. Migrating from Samar, they ended up in a then small community in Baseco, Manila.

It was not long before Robert found work as a laborer in Divisoria, earning just enough for the couple's daily needs. Life then was relatively easy. They went through each day as a happily married couple. Three years later, they were blessed with their first child, a daughter.

The couple began to feel the pinch as Robert's earnings were hardly enough for the three of them. He quit his job and received a generous separation pay, which he used to buy fishing equipments. He also put up a small sari-sari store. With these, the couple gain was able to live more comfortably.

However, with the coming of a second daughter, the couple again had to make hard decisions. The child was sickly and often needed hospital care. This drained the couple's savings and they eventually had to sell everything and even close their sari-sari store. It was certainly not the end of their story. Starting over, at times desperate, but always determined, they have proven themselves resilient in the face of the many challenges and changes that came their way.

Robert was already employed as a construction worker by the time the couple joined EnFaNCE's Family Budget and Savings Program. They heard about the program from a neighbor. They were able to open a savings account and with guidance, learned how to budget wisely. Their money grew along with their confidence. They had their third child while enrolled in the program and life continued to be relatively agreeable for the family. They were able to re-open their sari-sari store, this time with more goods to sell. They were even able to renovate their house, put up a second level, and expand their store.

In December 2013, the couple was even able to send 20,000 pesos to their relatives who survived super typhoon Yolanda which hit Samar.

This family's response to the tempo of life, with all its ups and downs has been remarkable. Unflinching in their aspiration for a better life, and with a little help — a nudge here and there — to get them through the many challenges of an urban life in flux, this family should be able to face even bigger challenges ahead.





Baseco, a section of Tondo so named for its relation to the Bataan Shipping and Engineering Company, is most known for being part of Manila Bay's breakwater. The community stands at the end of the Pasig River near a 'lost' engineering port for South Harbor.

Once established as a land for indigents, the history of its occupancy has been marked by several great fires that have claimed both lives and properties. The area is seen as a place of misery. A documentary made after the tragedy brought by typhoon Ondoy has even dubbed the area as the "forsaken land."

Nevertheless, Baseco is still there and is really not forgotten. Despite everything, Baseco's community members remain expectant of a better future for the contested land that they have always guarded and nourished with their very lives.



BRISCO



Hustle and Bustle

Erin and Carl have always been part of Tondo's hustle and bustle. They have established for themselves a viable sari-sari store servicing their community, with a vision for business not limited to staying within Tondo.

Erin and Carl's business, tied with their joining the FBS program, showed great potential since it was started. Erin and Carl were able to have their own house and make savings mainly through their store. However, with one stroke of misfortune — an episode of looting and stealing — their business started to go bad.

This disheartened the couple so much that they stopped budgeting altogether. For a time, they were paralyzed by their losses and this led them to close their shop. This happened even as they still had loans to pay for the establishment of their store. Disappointed and distrustful, they initially considered moving elsewhere, but eventually decided to stay given opportunities in the place and the realization that what they had established was already something good.

Riders on the unpredictable roller coaster of life, they rode through the hardships with EnFaNCE by their side and regained their resolve and confidence in Tondo. They learned from their mistakes and discovered how to better manage their budget, expenses, and business.

Carl now works as a full time construction worker in Batangas. This increased their income and led them to afford appliances, the renovation of their house, and to cover the annual educational expenses of their five children.



The Forsaken

Janine and Alvin became members of EnFaNCE as a result of a series of unfortunate events that put them to test and has particularly made Janine feel forsaken. Working as water tender for the community, Janine lived a hectic schedule that put her interactions with Alvin limited to their nightly talks. This eventually made them distant, with Alvin working daily as a construction worker, oftentimes not willing to communicate anymore with Janine even when he is at home.

Once, Janine felt so forsaken within her own home and got pushed to her limit. She went on a 'hygiene' strike to avoid having sex with her husband.

Janine is also saddled with sadness at the thought that her other five children, those with her first husband in the province, were not in contact with her anymore. EnFaNCE workers first encountered her in such a state -- trapped within a shell of sadness. She eventually found her own way out.

As a member of EnFaNCE's Family Development Program, she was, however slowly, able to take more care of herself. She focused her participation towards family planning and health. She has even found a way to extend herself and is thus now in contact with her children from a previous relationship. Her horizons have broadened ever since. Her prospects for a better family appear much better.

She is now also more hopeful of her current relationship. Janine routinely tries to work things out with her husband.

She now goes through life with a feeling in her heart that, perhaps, she is not a forsaken one after all.



Dampiri!

Dampi is a tagalog word that means 'Light Touch' -- a light and gentle touch, for instance, for care and guidance.

For certain peoples of Tondo, Dampi is also a nickname for an area referred to as Dumpsite. This place most graphically represents the poverty that breeds in Tondo. Dampi exemplifies the bleak surroundings of an extremely harsh urban poor existence. Hence, Dampi is often the site of outreach programs and is the focus of charitable organizations.

In the experience of community development work, one "dampi" can go at least two ways. It can mean that the lives of volunteers and development practitioners are truly touched as they immerse themselves in the lives of those that they partner with, or that such volunteerism is precisely the gentle touch that the community needs to help itself.

Mother's Touch

Maribel and her family live in a dumpsite.

Dirty, downtrodden, feeling out of luck, and living in the Katuparan area, Maribel was quite literally "down in the dumps" and, in 2008, she felt that everything was falling even more out of place.

A series of unfortunate events forced Maribel into a terrible depression as her family was pushed further past livable conditions. Gabby, her second husband, lost his job as a butcher and was involved with another woman. Maribel neglected her children, Jerome, Chris and Charisse, who all became malnourished and sickly.

EnFaNCE came to find Maribel at the brink of a full breakdown. She was most vulnerable, nursing her children and desperately attending to a then very sickly Jerome.

Things went worse for the fragile family as Jerome eventually died of dehydration.

EnFaNCE was there to support her through this very emotional phase in her life. For her, the Family Development Program became a listening ear, a bin for woes and sorrows, and a helping hand. In EnFaNCE, Maribel found friends and a refuge.

EnFaNCE catered to Maribel's psychosocial needs and was even able to provide a means for the couple to patch up their relationship. Aside from counseling sessions held during home visits, EnFaNCE also offered the family its Oras ng Pagtanggap (OPA) sessions and husband-and-wife workshops.

The couple was also referred to other NGOs to fully address their needs as a family. This included assistance on family planning, immunizations, deworming, and improving general health for the remaining children, Chris and Charisse.

In 2009, the family became more stable and joined the Family Budget and Savings (FBS) Program. Although Maribel's grief was not entirely assuaged, EnFaNCE helped bring the couple closer and make the kids healthier. Gabby became a better provider with a new job. The family was able to save more through the FBS Program. With their savings, they had their own toilet built and had their house cemented. The family has begun to better provide for itself.







(Touch of Hope) Dampin ng Pag-Asa

Thirty-one year-old Diosalib Libertad's dreams of happiness would mean a life-long struggle to break free from the bonds of poverty. Being raised in poverty and in a broken family--abandoned at an early age--Diosalib had to work and be independent early in life in order to survive.

The loneliness of abandonment led her to be involved in romantic relationships from a very young age. She sought love and acceptance in these relationships.

However, the happiness Diosalib found in these relationships was all but fleeting. She was abandoned by her first husband and she had to escape from the second one. She was also separated from her first three children and was only able to keep her fourth child with her: Joshua.

Diosalib had hoped that things would be better with her second husband. Unfortunately, the man turned out to be abusive and she experienced being beaten up. Still, Diosalib became pregnant in that relationship; twice, in fact. The second one was aborted. At that point, she felt overwhelmed by the fear of not being able to raise another child.

Diosalib had left her first husband bringing only Joshua with her. She left behind her other child with her second husband. As she tried to carry on despite her traumatic experiences, she met her third husband.

Once more, she thought things would be different. She later found out that her husband was an alcoholic and had several other vices. She eventually decided to leave him, again bringing only Joshua with her.

Diosalib had another child with that third partner,

but under the strain of difficult circumstances, she "sold" the child for 300 pesos, thinking that the child would have a better future with an adopted family.

After her third failed relationship, Diosalib vowed not to be involved in meaningless relationships anymore and that she will stop seeking love from partners who will only hurt her. She tried to pour all her love for Joshua's future. Her son became her source of hope and inspiration to continue with what seemed to be a very cruel life.

Despite all her failings and her cruel past, hope still shimmered for Diosalib's future. Things started to shift when Diosalib met EnFaNCE's workers. She was able to participate in the Family Development Program. The program led her to open herself up to people that she could trust.

Slowly, by being able to process her past hurts and mistakes, Diosalib was led to heal herself. She was also able to gather back her dreams for a bright future. Diosalib was trained on how to save through the Family Budget and Savings Program. Eventually, she found a more consistent source of income in being a vendor. EnFaNCE's support helped Diosalib to make wiser decisions for herself and her child, Joshua.

Just when she thought she would never meet love again, Randy, her current husband, came into her life. Randy further lit up hope in Diosalib's life. He was responsible, hardworking, and loving, even to Joshua. With support from EnFaNCE, the couple has begun to set up a more caring family.

Muling dumampi ang pag-asa sa kanyang buhay — hope has gently kissed Diosalib's life once more. With her newfound determination, strength and meaning in life, Diosalib should be able to better turn things around for herself and her family.



Katuparan means fulfillment, achievement, or realization. It may pertain to the fulfillment of dreams and aspirations. To name an underdeveloped area Katuparan seems a cruel joke, but the irony is not lost in the people of Katuparan as they persevere, with hearts always yearning, to free themselves from the shackles of poverty. The structures of society may have bound them, but they await and continue to work for the Katuparan of their dreams.

Katuparan

Vessel

Pia and Chad moved to Tondo as they settled down and began to raise a family. For this typical Manila couple in the margins, everyday life has been a struggle in an urban jungle -- a story wrought with many hardships and one which has yet to see its "happy ending".

Like so many poor parents, they can only dream of being able to amply provide for the needs and wants of their children. Needless to say, for their four children, they were ready to bear many burdens.

For the couple, staying together has certainly meant weathering many trials and raising children has made things even more challenging.

Almost fortuitously, the couple eventually found good partners in Enfance -- development workers and advocates of a family development approach.

It was Pia who actually joined Enfance in 2009. She now refers to this as a "life-changing event in her life"

Since her "membership" with Enfance, she has noted that a multitude of new beginnings and opportunities have been offered and continue to be offered to her. EnFaNCE's Family Budget and Savings (FBS) Program has enabled Pia to procure a boat to expand her business of selling fish. This has provided the family better amenities and has reportedly helped instill an improved sense of responsibility in its members through better access to education, especially for the younger ones.

Pia's initial achievements have given her the confidence to make something more of herself and have led her to join Likhaan, one of the partner organizations of EnFaNCE, focusing on women's empowerment and reproductive health.

Notably, Pia has also been an active participant in the 4P's, the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, a government intervention initiative aimed at improving the quality of lives of indigents, such as herself.

As her family's story continues to unfold, dreams are being fulfilled. Pia's family is able to help itself more and more. Without any untoward incidents, Pia and Chad should soon have their most important aspirations for their family realized their "happy ending".

For now, the family still finds the need to tap EnFaNCE's support. As Pia says: "Gusto ko sa Enfance kasi may tiwala na ako sa kanila. Masasabi kong subok na talaga sila at ang kanilang FBS. Marami talagang natutulungan ang programang ito" (I like Enfance because I trust them. I can say that their FBS program is tried and tested. The organization truly helps a lot of people).



Stepping Stone

"If it were not for EnFaNCE, I would not have had the strength and courage to start over again -- I would not be where I am now," said 29-year old Elsa Anew who found fulfillment through her engagement with EnFaNCE.

Many times, the coming of founts of happiness and satisfaction in our lives do not coincide with the flow of our best laid out plans. They come as we face our most difficult challenges. In this case, EnFaNCE came unexpectedly to Elsa's life when she most needed support.

Elsa and her husband, Hanz, used to lead a relatively contented family life with their daughters. Things deteriorated when Elsa became pregnant with their third child.

Her sister and Hanz were having an affair.

One time she was out for a couple of days doing some errands for her father, she received the unsettling news through a phone call from her sister.

She then felt that a choice had to be made for the sake of family and decency -- unwittingly against everything she had ever known and loved. She got Hanz to leave.

The decision was not an easy one. Elsa spiraled into a depression, leaving even her children unattended. In her state, she forgot to take care of herself -- missing baths, refusing to work, and neglecting those who still should have mattered most to her.

It was at this point that EnFaNCE came into her life. Referred by neighbor who was enrolled in one program, she underwent periodic home visits.

These taught her to learn from her experiences and once again find contentment in the life she had chosen.

Bit by bit, EnFaNCE workers encouraged her to find happiness again -- to pick up the broken pieces of her life. Eventually, she was able to get by and remember all those other people that she loved.

In seeking renewed happiness, she also met another man. However, she later realized that that person was no Hanz to her and her family -- he was not as good to her and her children as her ex-partner was.

As serendipity would have it, Hanz endeavored to contact her again with the hopes of working things out with her. This as she eventually decided to leave her "new" partner to patch things up with Hanz.

Initially, the other man did not take things well. He even pointed a gun at Elsa and her kids out of spite, but eventually decided to let them go.

In all these, EnFaNCE was there to provide an ear to listen, a heart to care, and a shoulder to cry on.

By engaging EnFaNCE's Family Development Program -- joining its inspiring workshops and seminars and being part of a good communication line -- Elsa once again found her way on the road to happiness.

She was able to forgive Hanz and find it in her heart to trust him again.

With her heart at peace, Elsa now seeks further self and family improvement. Her goals now include better management of her own junk shop and getting their children through school.

With the assistance of EnFaNCE's Family Budget and Savings Program, Elsa now owns their house and is currently saving up to buy a second hand vehicle for their business' expansion.

Elsa and Hanz show how much being at peace with one's self can lead to fulfillment and re-igniting dreams.







Making a Difference

Community-based Training

Training NGOs

In 2012, when SEED was reviewing its framework as an organization upholding social microfinance, we came into partnership with EnFaNCE. Finding EnFaNCE was like a glimmer of light for SEED – coming across a network that truly works for the poor through a community-based program aiming at the improvement of their health, education, social and economic conditions.

EnFaNCE in its collaborative spirit, shared to SEED, among others its Family Budget and Savings Program and Family Development Program. With these, we are able to reach out to the most underprivileged segment of the poor where we serve. Through EnFaNCE's example and experience, we are able to provide our partners a savings product suited to their specificities and needs, help them visualize and realize their dreams, and provide them professional assistance whenever they or their family are facing psychosocial concerns. In the coming months, some of these partners will be bridged to upscaled microfinance services and would therefore provide them more edge in their holistic individual, family and community development.

With EnFaNCE in the Philippine developmental landscape, we are assured of a network that really takes to heart and into action service to the underprivileged. We laud EnFaNCE on its 10th year of working from, with and for the poor and wishes the whole team more years of fruitful service.

**-Hilda C. Aytin, Executive Director
Social Enhancement for Entrepreneurial Development (SEED) Center Philippines, Inc.**

EnFaNCE conducted a fruitful training to our

partners' organizations in November 2013. The topic was the parenting issues and how to implement an accurate family approach. The intervention was very relevant since it provided theoretical inputs, guidelines, tools and tips, but it also shared case studies on which all the participants could reflect and use their new knowledge. Besides, the presentation was very clear and interactive. In short, all the participants (social workers, psychologists, street educators, etc.) appreciated it a lot.

**-Bertrand Midol, Coordinator
Association Soeur Emmanuelle (Asmae)
Philippines**

EnFaNCE shared with Entrepreneurs du Monde's partners its Family Development approach during the Asian Regional Workshop held in Manila in November 2013. Methods for implementation and challenges had been presented in a very interactive, practical and inspiring manner, so that the participants will be able to translate the tools, the framing questions as well as facilitations techniques into practices in their organizations.

**- Laurie Palayer, Program Manager
Entrepreneurs du Monde (EdM) Philippines**





Training Students



Before EnFaNCE, I didn't really think about the poor. I knew of their existence, but did not think much about them. I felt I was not ready with what I was being faced with despite having numerous immersions during college. Yes, I have been able to catch a glimpse of the challenges they face every day. Although they are poor they still have a positive outlook and work hard for their families. I used to think the poor always feel poor and rely on others, through my experience with EnFaNCE, I know that I was wrong.

Our partnership with Enfance, through the Service-Learning Program, provided a challenging opportunity for DLSU students to better understand the plight of the poorest of the poor sector of the Philippine society and engaged them to respond to community needs. Enfance has helped open the minds and hearts of lasallians to translate their knowledge into actual service of the less fortunate. Our reciprocal partnership with Enfance addresses both the university and community needs. "

Yes, definitely, it has made me more passionate and open-minded to poor communities. There really is a lot more we need to do if we want the country to be a better place to live in. Don't judge people and understand them in their context. You cannot prescribe medications outright because some of them cannot afford them. It is better to educate them so you prevent the disease and its complications Thank you to everyone! I personally admire all of you and your dedication and compassion. It moves and inspires me to do more.

**Marietta P. Guanzon, Service Learning Coordinator
Center for Social Concern and Action (COSCA)
De La Salle University Manila**

**Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health
Batch 2013-2014**

A photograph of a woman holding a baby. The baby's face is wet with water droplets, and they are looking directly at the camera. The woman is looking down at the baby with a gentle expression. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a wooden structure.

Special thanks to our partners:

4P for People Foundation, Muntlupa City
Amis des Enfants du Monde (AEM), France
Asie Tana Inter Aide, France
Association Soeur Emmanuelle, Makati City
Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City
Bahay Tuluayan, Malate, Manila
Barangay 105, 101, 649, Tondo, Manila
Canossa Health Center, Tondo, Manila
Charity First, Quezon City
Children's Mission, Montalban, Rizal
De La Salle University (DLSU), Manila
Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Quezon City
Educational Research and Development Assistance Foundation, Inc. (ERDA), Tondo, Manila
End Child prostitution & child pornography & Trafficking of children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT), Quezon City
Entrepreneurs du Monde (EDM), France
Filipino Christian Foundation, Tondo, Manila
Fondation d'Aide à l'Enfance - Tiers Monde FAET, Switzerland
GMA Kapuso, Quezon City
Hope Worldwide Philippines, Baseco
Ina Healing Centre, Quezon City
Inter Aide, France
Life Project 4 Youth, Tondo, Manila
Likhaan Foundaton Inc., Tondo and Baseco, Manila
Manila Business College, Manila
Missionary of Charity, Navotas
Mother and Child Hospital, Binondo, Manila
Onesimo, Quezon City
Research Institute of Tuberculosis/Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association Inc., Tayuman, Manila
Resources for the Blind, Cubao, Manila
Social Enhancement For Entrepreneurial (SEED) Center Philippines, Pasay City
St. Martin de Porres, Baseco
Tulay ng Kabataan, Tondo, Manila
University of Santo Tomas Malward, Espana Manila
Urban Program for Livelihood Finance and Training (UPLiFT) Philippines, Tondo, Manila
Virianie, Makati City
Vitas Health Center, Tondo, Manila
Young Focus, Tondo, Manila
Youth at Venture, Pasay City

A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a teal t-shirt, adjusting the hair of a young girl with long black hair wearing a pink dress. They are in a room decorated for a birthday party with pink and purple streamers and balloons. The woman is looking at the girl with a smile.

To be more involved, you may contact us through:

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“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.”

-Abraham Lincoln



Project of:

Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health

Class of 2015, LEC Group 2

Biaco, Chua, Flor, Lee, Manalang, Novales, Sanciangco, Torres.