



PHILIPPINES



PROJECT OVERVIEW

January to December 2020

GFF HELPS PHILIPPINES TEAM MESSAGE

Dearest Sir Owen Glenn,

Heartfelt greetings from GFF HELPS Philippines!

It is our great pleasure to finally present to you the GFF HELPS Philippines successful and on-going projects in the year 2020 in Aklan, Philippines. Aklan, as the oldest province in the Philippines, which is known for her rich culture and history, wonderful nature and people, keeps withstanding the challenges that pandemic brings. The Philippine Team has embraced the new normal setting of volunteering activities in Aklan, despite all the overwhelming adjustments, we have been able to serve and continue what we have started since the start of the year. This year has been a roller coaster to all of us but we have gone through it all – and will cope with what the future brings – through the GFF HELPS unity and God's love and grace.

Just before the Philippine Government announced lockdown, the GFF HELPS Philippines conducted a number of projects including *Reading Workshop and Mobile Library*, *Adult Natural Science Learning Program*, *Women's Empowerment Program*, *Vegetable Garden Project*, *Digital Literacy Program*, *Free Webinars*, *Online Storytelling*, *Online Sports Project*, *Online Sewing Project Webinar Course* and *Solar Project*. These projects are carefully executed with collaboration to Aklan Local Government and the GFF HELPS Philippine Team with observance to COVID-19 Protocols.

The GFF HELPS Philippines Team has always been inspired in accomplishing these philanthropic deeds through the guidance and dedication of our Sir Saom and through the selfless love and unending support of our Sir Owen Glenn. Our sincerest gratitude to all the philanthropists behind the Glenn Family Foundation.



Lady Peace R. Remaneses, LPT
GFF Helps Local Representative
Philippines
Joined Nov 2019



Ana Herco
GFF Helps Local Volunteer
Philippines
Joined Jan 2020

GFF HELPS PHILIPPINES SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS IN 2020

PROJECT 1: READING WORKSHOP AND MOBILE LIBRARY

Date: January 6th to March 13th 2020

Location: *Banga, Aklan*

No. of Beneficiaries: *150 children*

Project Summary:

Carrying along the laptops, projector and books, the team traveled by the GFF Tricycle– if not, a rented tricycle– for hours to reach these four schools in the villages to provide a 1-hour **Reading Workshop**. This project includes activities like reading, speaking and writing/coloring about the valuable stories that the Representative had presented. While the Reading Workshop was ongoing, the Volunteer worked in a small group of 3-4 children and helped improve their pronunciation and speed in reading. After the children finished their activities, the Team will then conduct **Mobile Library** wherein books were lent to those children who have returned their borrowed books. The borrowed books stayed at the children's care for a week until the Team returns for the next Reading Workshop and Mobile Library session.

The teachers and the children were very grateful for this program as it helped the children develop love for reading at an early age. Aside from the stories told to them, children were more excited with the new books that they would borrow during our **Mobile Library session**.



Active pupils of Daguitan Primary School eager to hear for another story during the Reading Workshop session in January 2020.



Active pupils of Lapnag Primary School, lining up to borrow books during our Mobile Library session in March 2020.



Children's happy faces of Capitan Tazan pupils after receiving their own books during our Mobile Library Book Donation in March 2020.

PROJECT 2: ADULT NATURAL SCIENCE LEARNING PROGRAM

Date: January 8th to March 18th 2020

Location: *Banga, Aklan*

No. of Beneficiaries: *50 dropped-out students or Alternative Learning System students*

Project Summary:

This project had a 2-hour weekly presentations, experiments and tests in *Astronomy, Biology, and Chemistry*. During the entire project, equipment like laptops, projector and materials for experiments bought by the Philippine Team from the center town were all loaded to the GFF Tricycle which was driven by the representative heading to Banga Elementary School. With the help of our healthy experiments like Salted Duck Eggs and Mungbean Sprouts, the participants had given ideas to try those at home and make a living out of it – which somehow helped them in earning money

Our participants were all dropped-out due to early marriage or teenage pregnancy, family problems, health and economic reasons and the teacher and the participants were very thankful for this program since this project had given the participants enough Science knowledge and skills that they never had during their secondary education, hence, a key to pass in the universities once they decided to continue their studies.



ALS students listening to the discussion and watching videos about Life on Earth during our Adult Natural Science Learning Program in January 2020.



Proud ALS students as they present their successful experiment on Mungbeans Sprout during our Adult Natural Science Learning Program in March 2020.

PROJECT 3: WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

(Basic Computer Skills and MS Office Lessons)

Date: February 27th to March 31st 2020

Location: *Banga, Aklan*

No. of Beneficiaries: *Ten (10) housewives of school students*

Project Summary:

Basic Computer Skills and MS Office Lessons were taught under the **Women's Empowerment Program**, with the assistance of GFF HELPS Philippines Team. The team rented ten (10) computers in a computer café in Banga Town to conduct a 2-hour bi-weekly meeting with new lessons every session. The lessons were carefully planned and executed by the Team providing clear and concise examples and activities, giving one-on-one instructions to cater the different

level of comprehension of each participant. We had provided visual materials that they could carry along with them and to study at home. The participants learnt to manipulate MS Word, MS Powerpoint, MS Excel, Applying Jobs Online, Making Resume and Basic Research wherein all their outputs were printed and were put together on Google Drive so that

This project aimed to enhance the computer skills and self-confidence of every woman who is trying to learn despite of age, economical and marital statuses. Our women were all grateful to be part of the **Women's Empowerment Program** – Basic Computer Skills and MS Office Lessons.



Women's Empowerment Program participants working for their computer lessons in March 2020



Women's Empowerment Program during our fifth computer class session in March 2020.

PROJECT 4: DIGITAL LEARNING PROGRAM

Date: January 6th to March 13th 2020

Location: *Banga, Aklan*

No. of Beneficiaries: *Fifty (50) students of Lapnag Primary School*

Project Summary:

The GFF HELPS Philippines Team had donated ten (10) tablets to Lapnag Primary School to have a better and effective teaching-learning process between the teacher and the learners. Since each teacher teaches multi-grade/level learners in one classroom, the tablets were used by the other grade level learners to work on applications related to their lessons while the teacher conducts lessons to the other grade level learners. This had lessened the teacher's work since the children could work independently with the tablets. The pre-installed applications on the GFF Tablets were really helpful since those were timely and kid friendly. The teachers had also tried installing applications related to their lessons. Before we officially turned-over the tablets, the team had conducted surveys about the learners need and had demonstrations with the teachers' utility with the tablets.



Teacher Monalisa while having her class with Lapnag Primary School pupils using the tablets in January 2020.



Teacher Rosalie while having her class with Lapnag Primary School pupils using the tablets in January 2020.

PROJECT 5: COVID-19 HELP

Date: April 11th to May 3rd 2020

Location: *Banga, Aklan*

No. of Beneficiaries: *Fifty (50) families who were once part of the GFF HELPS Projects in Banga*

Project Summary:

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unemployment to most of our participants and their families in Aklan Town. Some areas had been put to lockdown, leaving the people helpless. However, in March to April, the local government in Aklan provided food rations but those were not regular and not enough. The GFF HELPS Philippine Team took initiatives by having this COVID-19 HELP Project by providing food packs including 5 kilograms of rice, groceries, fruits like apples and oranges and vegetables like carrots, cabbages, mungbeans, onions and some hygienic products like anti-bacterial soaps and shampoos and a COVID-19 pamphlet. We had communicated to the 50 beneficiaries, set their schedules of pick-up and reminded them of COVID-19 protocols – like wearing of masks, and washing their hands with soap and water.

Afterwards, we ordered the packed rice and groceries from the nearest stores but due to the home quarantine implemented that time in March to May – only one family member could go outside- the GFF Representative's father was the only one who had a quarantine ID/Pass making him responsible in picking up those boxes of groceries in the grocery stores. We've packed it by 50 sets and were all picked up by the fifty (50) beneficiaries in the representative's residence, having eight to ten (8-10) beneficiaries per day for a week, with strict observance of COVID-19 Protocols before acquiring the food packs that were placed few meters away from the representative's door. We had witnessed the fifty beneficiaries happy faces every time they pick up those food packs. Some beneficiaries had tearfully shared that they had almost nothing to eat until **COVID-19 Help project** came.



Dropped-out students with their food packs during our COVID-19 Help Project in Banga, Aklan in May 2020.



Rico Molleda, a dropped-out youth, together with his family in Banga, Aklan in May 2020.

PROJECT 6: FREE WEBINARS (Education, Mental Health Awareness and Online Teaching)

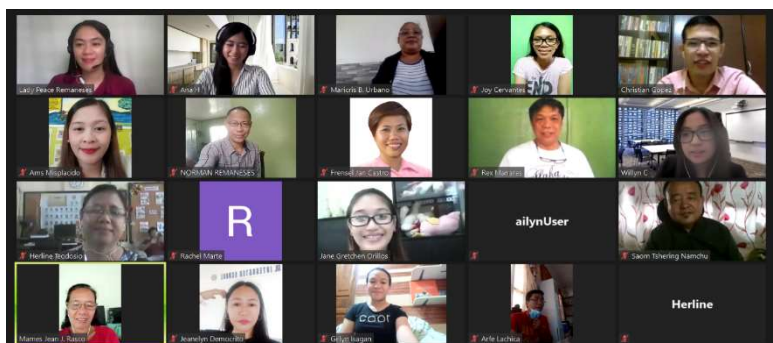
Date: July 24th, July 25th 2020

Location: *Banga, Aklan*

No. of Beneficiaries: *Forty (40) Public school teachers, principals and ICT officers in Banga Town; thirty (30) attendees & thirty (30) unemployed participants*

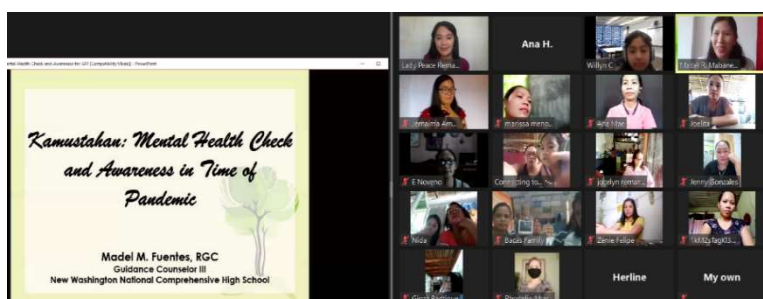
Project Summary:

The GFF HELPS Philippines has been hosting a 2-hour **Free Webinars** via ZOOM application, presenting different topics applicable to various participants like professionals, housewives and youths since July. The team had searched for speakers to talk about specific topics applicable to certain group of participants and then the team posted advertisement on GFF Facebook Page to gather more participants and let them fill a pre-webinar registration form and post-webinar evaluation form. We had our first Webinar on 24th July via Zoom and the attendees had been enlightened with a very timely webinar topic: “*Transitioning to A New Normal in Education Amidst Limited Resources: Third World Setting*” which was presented by an experienced and professional speaker, Mr. Christian Gopez. The participants showed big appreciation since this kind of new normal education is quite challenging to both educators and learners.



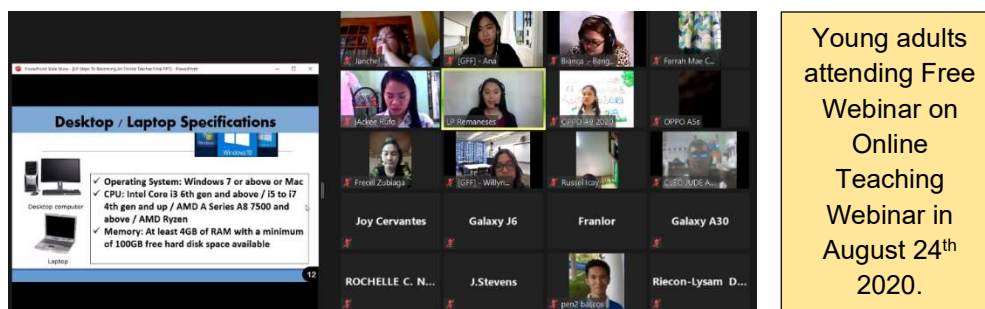
Public School Teachers, Principals and ICT Officers attending Free Webinar on Education on 24th July.

The second Webinar about “*Mental Health Awareness*” helped the participants understand how Mental Awareness affects everyone – including their family members who suffered and still suffering from depression and anxiety. Our speaker was Mrs. Mabel Fuentes, a Licensed Guidance Counselor in New Washington Town’s Secondary School. The webinar had almost thirty attendees (30) and most got very emotional when the speaker individually asked about their family member’s mental health. The participants never hesitated to open and share their problems to the speaker and other participants.



Housewives and young adults attending Free Webinar on Mental Health Webinar in July 25th 2020.

The third webinar on “Online Teaching” had given hope to almost thirty (30) participants who have been unemployed due to pandemic. The GFF Representative Lady Peace Remaneses, an experienced online teacher who has been teaching English for more than a year to Chinese students, was the webinar speaker. The webinar was designed to help the unemployed adult to find a job and work at home through teaching online to international students. The participants were enlightened about the professional qualifications and technical requirements, the steps to pass the interview, trainings, and demonstration teaching. The participants were delighted since most of them were really looking for an online teaching job but didn’t have any idea to start with until this webinar was conducted.



PROJECT 7: VEGETABLE GARDEN PROJECT

Date: August – December 2020

Location: Tabayon, Capitan Tazan, Lapnag, and Daguitan - Banga, Aklan

No. of Beneficiaries: 50 family beneficiaries

Project Summary



Packs of vegetable seeds, safety COVID-19 precaution pamphlets for the Vegetable Garden Project

While one of the primary livelihood sources of the communities is vegetable production, most of the farmers have been affected when the Covid-19 happened; there was more supply than demand, thus resulting to the vegetables not being marketed and failing. They could not easily afford vegetable seeds and saplings, as it would cost them much by travelling alone to purchase.

To aid to some of our beneficiaries who have also been affected in terms of their livelihood, the GFF HELPS Philippines has successfully conducted its first Vegetable Garden Project in the month of August. After careful planning last month, the team has also produced booklets for the

children and the parents which will be beneficial for the maintenance and information about the vegetables.

The total fifty (50) beneficiaries were chosen to be the families of our Reading Workshop and Mobile Library participants; the Philippines' team have visited each beneficiary to check and survey the conditions of the families' vegetable plots after a few weeks since the seeds were handed out. In December, we have finished and conducted evaluations among our beneficiaries, and it was a success – the vegetables harvested were either sold or consumed by the families, and we are looking forward to having our second batch of the project on other locations. Despite the challenges of getting to each household of each of our beneficiary, stories amongst our beneficiaries stood out the most to us as they proudly showed their vegetable plots and expressed their gratitude to the GFF HELPS.



Local Representative LP Remaneses and Local Volunteer Ana Herco with beneficiaries of Vegetable Garden Project.

PROJECT 8: SOLAR PROJECT

Date: November 3rd to Present

Location: Mercedes Village, Madalag, Aklan Philippines

No. of Beneficiaries: Fifty (50) family beneficiaries

Project Summary

The GFF HELPS Philippines Team has been doing **Solar Project** for the past two years in Madalag, Aklan, Philippines. The town of Madalag is considered to be the second farthest and second most remote area in the Province of Aklan, wherein mountains, streams and rivers cover the villages. Given the location and distance from the center of the town, the previous three (3) villages were qualified for this Solar Project since their areas cannot access electricity. This year, we have managed to continue this project, giving opportunity to fifty (50) families living in the Village of Mercedes. It is a village where people are living in peace, working hard in the mountains – harvesting coconuts and scratching off *abaca* fiber to sold in the markets, doing household chores and taking care of children, animals and plants. The people are just living simply, used to walk in kilometers by foot just to reach the main road, contented of what they have but still hoping to have lights during the night, especially with families with new-born babies, elders and disabilities and students, who chose to use oil/gas lamps to stay at night. These ways of living pushed the Philippines Team to finally include the village as the first beneficiary for this **Solar Project** in 2020. Upon carefully planning from placing of order, purchasing and packing materials, communication to the local government officials and residents, we had successfully distributed

fifty (50) solar kits – solar panels, battery, two (2) LED lamps and a torch – to the fifty (50) poor and deserving families in the village on December 17th 2020.

We had demonstrated to the beneficiaries the correct way of using and caring for the solar kits and introduced each materials' functions to make the solar kits last longer. After the Team had done demonstration and distribution, we went to one of the beneficiaries' house and showed how the solar kits should properly installed. To reach the house, we had to cross a bridgeless river, a river with clean and clear water flowing free from the mountains, that reached up to our knees. As we reach the old woman's house, she was grateful watching us while we demonstrated the installation of the solar kit.

Most of the beneficiaries haven't had proper education due to geographical and economic problems experienced from the past generations and were carried until now. However, these uneducated beneficiaries have the heart to be grateful enough for the **GFF HELPS Solar Project** since most of them have not experienced comfortability at night due to lack of electricity. They are all happy to be part of this project.



Johnny Francisco, together with his wife and 4 children, using their solar kits for the first time.



Mike Fernando, together with his wife and 5 children, inside their well-lit home.

PROJECT 9: FILIPINO AND ENGLISH ONLINE STORYTELLING

Date: May 2020 – present

Location: Banga, Aklan

No. of Beneficiaries: 30 children of Banga Elementary School and Tabayon Primary School

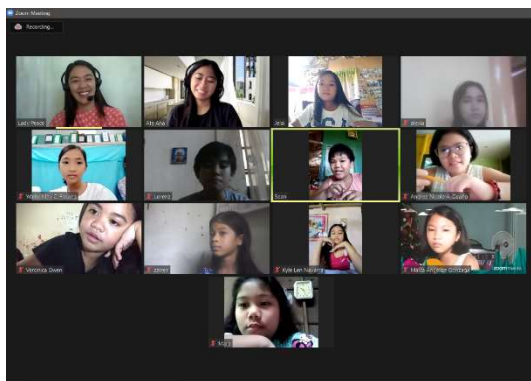
Project Summary:

In the Philippines, the children are restricted to go outside and play as beneficial to their childhood experience – and since their school has started, they remain at home doing their modules and lessons, and play amongst themselves. The pandemic has not only affected us adults, but also the children. We all know how the children and the youth are the future leaders of our generation, and it is perhaps one of the most rewarding projects that we, the GFF HELPS Philippines, has

been conducting – the Online Storytelling – in which makes it possible for us to still communicate and educate them with love and care.

The Online Storytelling is an ongoing program, where we share with them stories and lessons about different subjects – such as art, science, ethics, and awareness of the world today. The impact on the children is immense as they also meet other same-age group kids where they can interact, do activities, and learn together. Every week, we conduct 2 sessions per week, with participants ranging from 5-8 years old for Filipino language, and 9-12 years old for the English language.

As Mrs. Janelle Magallanes, the mother of our 3 participants, has said, “Thank you so much Ma’am for the art materials [GFF drawing set]. The Storytelling sessions are great help for our children to cope with this pandemic. They are confined inside our house and the sessions are their windows to outside world and a way to still interact with a teacher and some classmates.”



A screenshot of one of our English Online Storytelling sessions



Jelai with her new drawing book for our English Online Storytelling project

PROJECT 10: INDOOR SPORTS PROJECT

Date: November 2020 – present

Location: Banga, Aklan

No. of Beneficiaries: 30 participants from our Online Storytelling children

Project Summary:

As per the local government restrictions amid the pandemic, the Filipino children cannot go out and interact with kids their age to play. The team has brainstormed ideas on what kind of sports that the children would like to do and benefit them in their homes, whilst guiding and teaching them on scheduled games via Zoom. We have come up and started with two board games, namely chess and scrabble, that we have provided personally by visiting each of their homes. Upon receiving their new board games, they were very excited as it was something new to them.

The Philippines’ team has conducted an introductory lesson on the rules of chess and scrabble, with a focus on one game per week. They would have their siblings or family members to play with them, and sometimes playmates in their neighbourhood. Next year, we are looking forward to have friendly matches online amongst our dear participants to test their knowledge and skills at these games, which will be beneficial to them in the future with problem-solving skills.



Local Volunteer Ana Herco teaching the basics of chess to Jelai and Sean



Althea, Atasha and her cousins while playing scrabble

PROJECT 11: WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM – SEWING PROJECT

Date: December 2020- present

Location: Banga, Aklan

No. of Beneficiaries: 5 participants of Women's Empowerment Program

Project Summary

The GFF HELPS Philippines' team has realised the significance and impact of women in today's ever-changing society, and so ventured on another project for the Women's Empowerment Program – a sewing course program for the mothers in Banga, Aklan.

The aim of this program is to expand the skills and knowledge of these mothers through sewing, that is one of the sources of livelihoods of women in a province like Aklan. Although this is the case, not many women could afford to have their own sewing machines, or even have the skills needed to apply for jobs relating to sewing. The chosen five (5) beneficiaries were from our previous Basic Computer Skills program, and they took such great interest upon hearing from us of the sewing course program.

After months of planning, the team has successfully launched the program in the 2nd week of December where the Philippines' team has visited each household to have their orientation on the program, with the help of the sewing instructor. They show great enthusiasm in learning and applying the skills they learn that they have started stitching at their homes, before the program even officially began. The sewing project is ongoing and will run for 10 weeks via Zoom. At the end of the program, the women will have learnt how to sew several types of clothing, skills and techniques in becoming a certified dressmaker. Through this, we are looking forward for them to get started with the sewing machines and materials that the GFF Helps has provided, and eventually helping their families with this line of job.



Sewing Instructor Jemaima Ambag with Zenie Felipe our Women's Empowerment Program participant



Jinky, our participant from the Sewing Course Project with Local Volunteer Ana Herco, Representative LP Remaneses, and sewing instructor Jemaima Ambag