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**THE OFFICIAL UPDATE OF GUGMA sa KABATAAN, INC**  
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**GsK SUPPORTS MORE CHILDREN THIS SY 2005-2006**



**THE GRANTEES.** Children from two communities of Isla de Oro and Macabz  
Who proud of their school supplies



**GsK on Saturday is FULL HOUSE**

The number of children supported by GsK this SY 2005-2006 is four times increased. It started with eight (8) children who were wards from former Balay sa Gugma. More children were recruited from three groups- Isla de Oro (10), McDonald territory (10) and Duran and indigent family (2).

During Saturday the center is in full house of the children who come for tutoring in language both English and Filipino, mathematics, science and social studies. Also, it strengthens the bonding of both new and old children playing games and watching

## GsK 1<sup>st</sup> Summer Camp



In April 23-29, 2005, twenty (20) children of Gugma sa Kabataan were chosen for the 1<sup>st</sup> Summer camp of Gugma sa Kabataan. Together with the staff the camp was held in Dumaguete in the island of Visayas.

Summer camp 2005 provides an opportunity for the children to develop self-leadership. Also, it is an adventure for the children to see other places. The theme, "Matatag," which in English connotes I am resilient. It is an affirmation to the children that all odds they have the capability to hope, to celebrate, to enjoy, living a life that is free and the courage to say NO to the power of darkness.

Activities like drawing, learning new songs, Bible lessons, directing a drama and singing enriched the faith journey of the children as a person, as a performer, as a leader and as a community builder. During the field trip to Silliman University Marine laboratory to be an environmentalist was raised. The tour guide underscored the labor of the endangered clam species that grows to twenty-five (25) centimeters.

Show case was the culminating activity of the children. They were able to appreciate their gifts in acting, singing, dancing, directing, and script writing. Eduardo de la Cruz were recognized as best performers. Also, Crismon Esquivel and Talampas were awardees on best entertainers. However, the leadership award was given to Ponlaon.

## INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS VISIT



In two different occasions members of the International Board came and visited. Stefan Wolfenstetter, President of Balay sa Gugma in Germany and Vice-President of the international organization of Gugma sa Kabataan came for his annual visit in April 16-24

With him was a long time friend and committed donor of Balay sa Gugma Mr. Raimund Huber with his Spanish wife Teresa is now based in Madrid, Spain. The visit included the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Board Meeting of Gugma sa Kabataan and spend time with the center and in jail.



**A SERIOUS CONVERSATION.** At Gsk Center from Left- Minda Domingo, Executive Director, Stefan Wolfenstetter from Germany and Raimund Haber from Spain.

Dr. Wolfenstetter was a channel of bringing donated gifts from friends in Germany, including toys and a billiard table. The toys were intended to be shared with the pediatric ward and the GsK center for therapy sessions. On the other hand, a billiard table was donated for the amusement use of the children. Both Haber and Wolfenstetter did not leave without the promise to donate a set of television and DVD to the GsK center.

In May 18 Ms. Jillian Cooper, our Board member representing Australia, who is a family friend came to the GsK center. Ms. Cooper brought a Koala key chain from Australia for the children.

## **SY 2004-2005 AWARDEES AND GRADUATES**



Science and Math. Ms. Belen Acierto, guardian of Freddie, has witnessed awarding the medal. Also, it is a way of Freddie expression of gratitude for th given to him.

On the other hand, Arnel Jimenez and Kristina Jalalon received their elementar Jiminez is an awardee in math of Balingoan Elementary school. Another graduate Williamar Ponlaon is very happy to receive his high school dip an award on deportment service.

## **MORE GOOD SAMARITANS OF GSK**

Ms Iris Koch of Action Medeor in Germany has donated antibiotics, dewormin and skin disease ointments, and vitamins. Both children in the center and jail w said medicines.

In April 20, 2005 Ms. Ingrid Berger from Germany donated a billiard table to the jail.

The Silvanosa family celebrated the 27<sup>th</sup> birthday of Cerelito Silvanosa in a non May 21, 2005 the Silvanosas headed by matriarch, Helen Silvanosa, donat evening meal for GsK children. Caroline, the daughter who is a nurse in USA s celebrate the birthday of our families. We go around the city and distribute people.”

Ten (10) young people from the TAU GAMMA PHI-Triskelions Grand Fra afternoon with the children having fun. Also, they donated used books and cloth

Mr. Willy Velasco, a long time friend of Balay sa Gugma remains committed to t Two brand new basketballs were given to the center for the children to enhance and team building skills. Also, two boxes that are newly harvest of unripe man the children.

## **TWO ORGANIZED GROUPS: AN OUTREACH OF GsK**

The street dwellers who are no longer qualified beneficiaries of GsK were or Boys Club. These street dwellers are occupying the Dunkin Donut area w washers and car watchers GsK provided materials for the identification car street dwellers. The identification cards will provide them identity and personalit owners who don't pay the fee and run away after cleaning”, noted by the choser Montilla.

Guardians and parents of children have organized themselves too. Ms. Belen president. The primary goal of the organization is to strengthen the relation center and families. One of the tasked of the parents is to provide voluntary se

Jail, thirty seven (37) children in Lumbia city jail were treated on skin disease. primarily suffering from scabies, a skin disease which is frequently caused by dirt in the area. Also, deworming was administered. To supplement the nutrients needed, vitamins were given.



SING YOUR SONG OF HOPE. Anxiety, homesickness of the children can be suppressed whenever guests and visitor comes around.

Rodney Valleja, a third year medical student of Xavier University convened a group who helped in the treatment. Ms. Josephine Antiquina, one of our Board members, Mr. Leo Martin Tobo, a physical therapist and Mark Anthony Lustre a Civil Engineer assist in the treatment.



**IN JAIL.** Board member Ms. Antiquina took the data of the children while

Rodney valleja (center) cleaned and treated the affected skin area



Jason can beautifully create anything from blocks.

Jason is one of the two children left at the center. He wanted to be in school with other children. He had never been to school. It is too sad that no teacher would like to teach him.

Jason has a bulging eyes and impaired speech. Zorayda recalled, "He is a very irresponsible father." "When his father was still alive he loved to play chess but he was very disturbed while playing. One time while playing Jason cried. Jason was less than two years old. Jason's father irritated by the cry picked him up from the crib and hanged upside down from a window to stop crying. After few days we realized that the eyes of Jason were bulging out.

All the six children are school drop-out. Zorayda is a side walk vendor earning small money. Zorayda spent most of her time in the market and Jason together with other children is left in the house. Hence the family is living below poverty- inadequate electricity, drinking not potable water, doing laundry and taking a bath in a dirty environment.

Jason's impaired speech and eye defect is not an obstacle to have a good education. His imagination, perseverance, and creativity are amazing. The center facilitates his learning by using recognized colors, shapes and sizes.

## **EDITORIAL**

### **WANTED PEACEMAKERS**

One of the sermons of Jesus to his disciples was "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God" (matthew 5:9). It is very interesting to note that many people who have peace. A dying person's wished is she/he would like to die peacefully. In times of war – socially, morally, economically, politically, people longed and prayed to have peace.

.. . . . .

On the 8<sup>th</sup> month of our faith journey our center, Gugma s Kabataan is serving for street children of various needs. We are looking for peacemakers who will embrace into an affirming and loving attitude. We welcome peacemakers who are generous resources to capable children who are critical, theoretical and reflective to make invite peacemakers who will give a little love BUT a lot of understanding to the children. Peacemakers tap and enhance the gifts of the children in art.

Blessed are you as peacemakers for you belong to the family of God.

Executive Director

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An Excerpt from Manila Bulletin- June 14, 2005

### **MAJORITY OF FILIPINO KIDS MALNOURISHED**

If lately, the Philippines can not credit itself with economic progress and a healthy well-off population, the problem may lie in the sad state of the Filipino child.

According to the State of Filipino Children Report by the Council for the Welfare of the majority of the Filipino child population aged 0-17 years which totals 32.8 million of total population suffered from malnutrition, can not avail of educational opportunities reside in depressed areas where quality of life is very low.

The CWC, the focal agency of the Philippine government for children's concerns under PD 603, reports that three out of 10 0- six years old are under weight; four out of 10 and four out of 100 are wasted.

Almost 30 of 1,000 infants die before they reach age one, and about 300,000 Filipinos are born each year with intellectual impairment due to iodine deficiency. The sad fact that develops in these early years sets the stage for later success in school and the child's later adolescence and adulthood, the report said.

The sadder fact still is that as far as educational opportunities go, many children do not get any learning stimulation at home nor have access to day care centers. Those who do usually drop out after the first three years of schooling and only seven of 10 reach high school.

Four out of 10 to 13 year old kids do not move on to high school, acquire skills that meet international learning standards.

It is for this reason that the CWC, together with the combined strength for four government agencies – Department of Health, Education, Social Welfare and Development, a

we want a bright future for our country, we would want every Filipino child to be now," CWC Director Lina B. Laigo said.

To be a Bright child, a child needs to get the proper level and quality of care, guidance and stimulation to nurture his or her mental, physical, and psychosocial potentials during the first five years of life, Laigo explained.

The CWC leads the implementation of ECCD efforts in the country with the active participation of local government units (LGU's), accredited NGO's people's organizations, the DOH, DSWD., Dep Ed, DILG, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor and Employment, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the National Nutrition Council.

"The Bright Child brand was conceived as a unifying symbol of the holistic program implemented by the above mentioned agencies," Laigo said.

The Bright Child program has identified nutritionally depressed areas in Bicol and Western Visayas as those that are in immediate need of Bright child initiatives. The concerted efforts of the participating agencies will benefit from supplemental feeding program packages, early education programs, day care centers, and their proper implementation at the barangay level.

"It takes a community to support this project and keep it going," Laigo added. The program will benefit not just from government and NGO support, but also, through the active participation of private citizens and the private sector.

An extensive media campaign for the Bright Child Program will be launched in June.

