

BUDYONG

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BLESSING OF THE NEW OFFICE OF GSK

On Saturday, September 10th 2005, the new office of Gugma sa Kabataan was officially opened and blessed. The Rev. Ruth GT. Quiocho, minister of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines officiated the blessing of Gugma sa Kabataan located in Baranggay 17, Magsaysay-M.H.del Pilar Cagayan de Oro City.



Above: The Reverend Ruth GT. Quiocho explained the significance of the lighted candles. Below: Director Ester Versoza, DSWD Region X gave her words of solidarity.

Amongst the participants were the street children together with their guardians and parents, the staff and members of the Board of Trustees. Ms. Ester Versoza, Director of Development and Social Welfare and Development Region X, underscored that operating a social welfare agency for street children "is not a bed of roses." Ms. Faith Gerona, City Social Welfare and Development, stressed that "partnership in all aspect will be given to GSK." Mr. Charlie Galarte, who represented the Commission of Human Rights Region X, conveyed that "linkages have a vital role between GSK and CHR."

Ms. Nora M. Lupeba, GSK BOT President, expressed her words of welcome to guests, and visitors followed by an invocation in song by Gsk children. Iliminada A. Domingo, Gsk Executive Director presented the vision, mission goal and objectives of Gsk while the children were introduced by the Social worker. The festivity continued in the Agape Meal. It was fun for the children to be showered by candies and loose change.

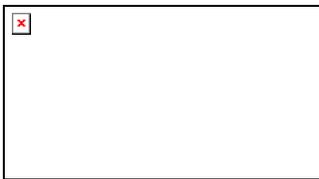
The new office is located in an environmental friendly area. It has a common outdoor area for children and staff to work and play. It has two rooms and bathrooms for an office and a center function and kitchen amenities. The new office shall serve as the center where children can be safe and belong.

GERMAN TEACHER VISITED THE CENTER

Albrecht Wilke, a graduate student from Friedrich-Schiller-Universitaet Jena, spent four weeks at Gsk center. The meeting of the East and the West was an intercultural teaching-learning process. Teacher Albrecht, whose major fields composed of English, Science, Mathematics and Sports used deductive method in teaching the children. Within three weeks he taught the children on English conversation, while in Geography children have to locate where they are residing, from what region they belong in the Philippines and in Asia. In science the children concretize what belongs to the animal and plant kingdom. Basketball, volleyball, swimming, and self defense skills were taught.

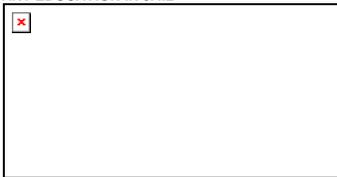
Part of his visit is to do a research about street-children projects in developing countries. Ten children were chosen respondents for a data based on the socio-economic status

Teacher Albrecht must have followed the curriculum of the Great Rabbi who is compassionate to the children. He patiently taught the rehabilitative exercise to a limping child who was a victim of vehicular accident in another incident he took three other children together with their Moms to the hospital. He doesn't mind the heat, the long cue assisting the children for a free charge.



*10 + 20 - 12 x 5 = 90 teacher Albrecht teaches arithmetic.

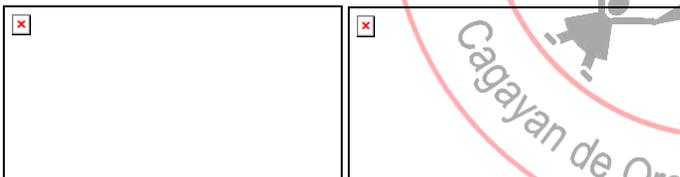
ART EDUCATION IN JAIL



Every Wednesday children who are in conflict with the law undergo an art activity. The objective is to express thoughts, ideas and feelings.

The art experiences which the child undergoes provide a holistic expression. From straight lines and curved lines each child expressed his longings to be with the family, to be free from all kinds of anxiety, to achieve their dreams. In art they travel their imagination. A child depicted in his drawing that his mother and sisters were waiting at the doorpost for his coming home while another child who dreamt to be a celebrity saw himself in Hollywood.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN COMMUNITY AT GSK

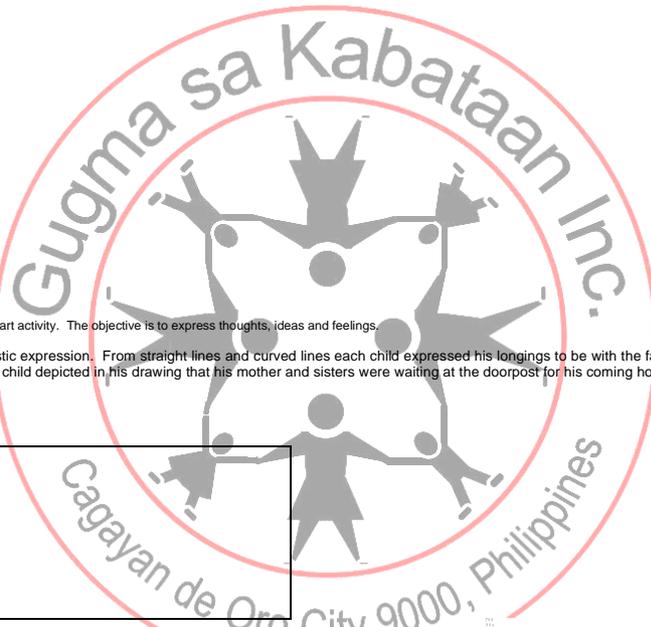


Above- Gsk children proudly present the school kits received from the OSAS. Below- Gsk children has to group and save themselves because the boat is sinking.

For two hours Gsk children together with students have so much fun playing games, sharing talents and laughter. The invocation was led by the Gsk children in singing "Isang Pagkain." John Carlo Niepes, the youngest client impressed the audience by his word of thanks "we are deeply blessed and honored to be participant on today's occasion."

Twenty (20) students of Xavier University represented by the organization of Sociology and Anthropology Society (OSAS) have immersed themselves in the community service. The community service was part of the culminating activity of the OSAS during the intramural week. Dr. Edvilla R. Talaroc, Professor in Anthropology, stressed that the community service intends to reconcile the theory into practice.

Ms. Cynthia Rosales, Chairperson, CDO Task Force Specially Children in Difficult Circumstances facilitated for the participation of the Gsk children. Ms. Rosales assured Ms. Iliminada SA. Domingo, Gsk Executive Director, for full support in the faith journey of the children.



Xavier University is a Jesuit church-related school. It is the oldest private university in town.

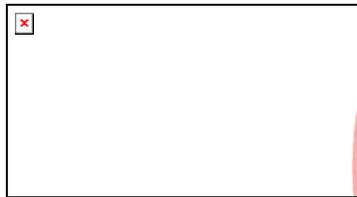
Sports are another avenue of the children to help them to overcome loneliness and depression. The Basketball team that was organized was named "D'anothers." "Beat them was their motto" in getting the title in the championship. GsK provided them the basketball uniform and an ice cream treat being the champion. On the other hand, the partnership of Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and GsK has just started. Every last Friday of the month representatives of the Commission of Human Rights facilitated seminars on the rights of children and gender sensitivity.

UCCP KIDS REACHED OUT GSK FOR EE

For two Saturdays, Sunday school boys and girls of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) have visited GsK center to be an outreach for Evangelism Explosion (EE). Fifty children with their teacher trainers shared the Gospel to the children of GsK. It is an activity with the goal to deepen the spiritual life of GsK children that they (GsK children) need to know and to have a personal encounter with Jesus.

The presence of the UCCP kids have provided the GsK children a sense of worth and belonging. GsK kids were so amazed to hear young children like they are were reaching them out talking about Bible stories, reflecting on salvation and praying for them.

According to Misses Rhonora Velez, Sunday School Superintendent and Ethel Leslie Barilo, the children underwent thirteen (13) weeks of trainings on Evangelism Explosion (EE). The evangelism intends to share the Gospel on one on one approach through stories from the Bible, reflections and prayer. Visual aids were made to be used to draw diagnostic question about Christ, as the Friend, Defender and Redeemer of children.



A trained Kid used his visual aid in sharing the Gospel.

GsK Kids in the Honor Roll

During the first grading period two GsK children were included in the Honors list. Welhim "Dondon" Pontaon is a Senior High School student at Bayabas National High School got an average grade of 84.66%. Antonio "Tonio" Clarabal, a 2nd grade pupil at Barra Elementary School got an average grade of 82.7%

Antonio is the tallest pupil in the 2nd grade class of Ms. Tomasita Wong. The classmates voted for him as the Sergeant at Arms who helps in maintaining peace and order in the class. Ms. Wong is a teacher who is very supportive for the growth and development of Antonio. Ms. Wong observed strict confidentiality on the life story of Antonio as a street child

Welhim got a grade of 95% in the Citizenship Advancement Training (CAT) and 93% in Science. He is very active too in co-curricular activities in school namely: as President in the class, President in the Solid Waste Management Organization, and Intelligence Captain.

Welhim has the heart to be a social worker.

He always created a space in his heart to be caring and concern to the needy children. GsK recognized that his leadership capability prepares him to be a social worker.

Carry On Welhim and Antonio!

LIFE STORY FEATURES. IT IS MIRACLE



His peers on the street called him Tonio. In the Village where he grew up they called him Saddam. Now the school where he is in, called as Gigante (Giant). Neglect and abused pushed him to live on the street. On the street peer pressure made him a bad boy. To those who have met him on the street he was considered as rugby boy (solvent sniffer). To the other small boys on the street, they hated him as extortionist.

"God is good to me." Antonio Clarabal reflected. "I have a good uncle and his wife is a mother to me." "I have a very kind teacher and GsK have helped me in my studies."

Indeed, there is miracle in the life of Antonio.

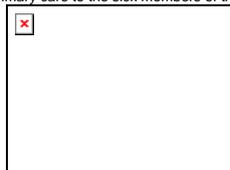
Against all odds, Antonio is doing well in school. In August, he was pressured by his peers to go back to street life. Fro two weeks he was away from school. Determination and perseverance is all that he has. He has to say NO to his friends. He has to quit sniffing rugby. He has to catch up from the school works that he missed. He has to work hard. During the first grading period he was considered in the honor's list.

It is with sadness that he doesn't know his father. He was very young when his father was imprisoned. He saw his father once. Seven years ago, his mother decided to enter into a new type of relationship. She lived with a woman partner. Tonio remembered that was the beginning of him and is sibling's miserable life. He left home and his sister. His mother's partner beat them.

Antonio who walked into the center under the influenced of drug, a stinky and filthy child is now a TOTALLY transformed person.

PARENTS' FIRST AID ORIENTATION

A first aid orientation was conducted for the parents at Gsk center on September 26, 2005. The objective is to emphasize the importance of sanitation in the prevention of disease, and the application of primary care to the sick members of the family.



"Prevention is better than cure", these words were noted by Rodney Valleja, a third year medical student at Jose P. Rizal College of Medicine, Xavier University, who facilitated the orientation. Prevention could be achieved by maintaining the cleanliness of the environment where most exposed to people, especially to the susceptible children. Parents were informed that unhygienic house and contaminated playground are favorable sources of common diseases that most children are infected by. Rodney was surprised by their knowledge as to what particular disease their child may get if certain situation is not clean. For instance, their child could get dengue if stagnant water on canals is not drained. Empty containers around their houses are not kept in shaded places, or if not turned upside down. Important and relevant information about prevention of diseases like intestinal worms, hepatitis, and etc. was inflicted to the parents. And of course, personal hygiene was the primary education in the prevention.

Home care was encouraged to the parents. Common first aids like what would they do if there is a cut, what should be done to control bleeding, how to change dressing, and others were being imparted.

Clarification of misconceptions about dealings of unexpected events like injuries, minor trauma, collapse and burns was made. The parents were also informed with the basic mechanism of cause of these incidents. For them to have an understanding on why and how to go about when these troubles come.

Communication between parents and the center is made to strengthen the health care of the children.

Send your articles and comments to:

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