

Gugma sa Kabataan, Inc

“A alternative place for street children to be safe and to belong”

QUARTERLY UPADATE

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1. Introduction

In one of our trainings I was reminded of the story of a mother and child which goes:

There was a mother who was almost giving up on what to do to his sick child.

She went to several physicians but the sick child who seemed not getting healed.

So much money and time was spent yet, the child was not healed
The mother tried another doctor.

The doctor could not find any sign and symptom of a particular disease. The doctor talk to the mother seriously.

“Madame, this is the medicine we will try to give to your child

L-O- -V E.” The mother replied, “what pharmacy is selling

such medicine?” The doctor replied, “ the pharmacy is in your house.

You and the other members of the family can give it.”

After three days the mother came back and said “ doctor it is not working to my child.” The doctor replied “you can double, triple, four fold the dosage.”

Two weeks later the mother came back together with the child thanking the doctor for the medicine that brought healing to her child.

Reflecting on, LOVE is the best medicine that Gugma sa kabataan, Inc is giving to the children. Like an ocean, the love to the children is beyond color, class, gender, named and unnamed individuals, groups and organizations. The trauma, guilt, anger, and depression are slowly being overcome because of the diverse ways of loving the children.

2. Concerns, Issues and Needs

- a. Sixty-eight percent of the parents and guardians remains uncooperative to look after the children. These children remains economically exploited and neglected to attend to their needs.
- b. It was observed that school children were required to submit projects which are non-academic related like floor wax, bleach and laundry soaps. In addition, children have to contribute a certain amount of money to buy an audio-visual equipment i.e television which is supposed to in the administrative budget.

- c. Twenty –six per cent of the children were assessed as children with special needs by a teacher in Special Education. Four were identified as suffering from learning disability while 7 children belongs to the slow learners. The former could hardly identify letters of the alphabet, and writing from right to left / dyslexia while the latter can read but unable to understand.
- d. There are five identified common behaviour who were victims of all forms of abused in the family and community namely, Bullying, aloofness, guilt, anger and fear. These are expressed by children who are between the age range of 9 to 15 years old.
- e. Housing facility remains a motivating factor disturbing a child psychologically. A house with a dimension of 5 x 5 meters exposed the child very early to the husband-wife activity due to lack of private rooms. Also, it endangers the girl-child from being a victim of incest. There are 9.50% of the children who are incest victims.

III. Accomplishment

1. Continuing University Education Students. This school year 2013-2014 Gugma sa kabataan, Inc. is continuously facilitated to assist 3 university students in the field of Social and applied science. Misses Hosen Gamos and Devine Grace Dagang are now in their sophomore year working on the degree of Bachelor in Social Science at Bukidnon State University. Likewise Ms. April Mean Ibanez is a 2nd year student in Ateneo de Cagayan in the discipline of Industrial Engineering.

The 3 young ladies struggle so hard to obtain a university education. Hosen worked as a Nanny to augment her allowance. She has a sponsor who is responsible to her university fees. Devine who got a partial assistance is a junior staff in Gugma sa Kabataan, Inc. Meann has to meet the guideline of the Cagayan de Oro City educational program for a continuing full scholarship.

2. Saturday Tutorial. In partnership with the College of Education at Liceo de Cagayan University, 15 students in the Secondary, Elementary and Special education are involved in the Saturday 2 hours- tutorial classes. The tutorial strengthens the learning where the children needs extra assistance in the areas of communication arts (English and Pilipino), mathematics, Chemistry, for the secondary students while elementary needs to fortify in reading comprehension and mathematics. The children with special needs are provided a one-on one tutorial the student teachers on Special education.
3. 24gute Taten 2013 Project. The 24gute Taten literally means “doing kindness” is an organization in Germany which annually chose an organization. Gugma sa Kabataan, Inc. was received was privilege to be qualified on the proposed project “ Skills Training for young people” . It is the goal of Gugma sa Kabataan, Inc. to provide a technical skill that will prepare the young people to earn for living. The grant was used for the tuition fee, daily allowances for food and transportation, procurement of personal documents for registration, training materials and equipment’s.

Five young people were trained in Electrical Maintenance and Installation. To qualify for an employment they have passed the required government examination or NCII. In the process, the students are required to undergo internship for a period of one month.

On the other hand, there were three young people who took training for three months on Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) to acquire knowledge in welding. The trainees are now on the job-training that requires them for 45 days. The trainees have to undergo a rigid job training in and off the school.

Recommendation: a. Submit a livelihood proposal on metal craft shop
b. Assist the young people for employment either in private firm

4. Psychological Assessment

Between April and May 13 students in the Behavioural science have provided clinical services to address the psychological needs and issues of the children. Each student has to assist a maximum of 3 children providing services on counselling, therapy and case work. During the 3 weeks sessions the "trust" came out as a primary issue on psychological disturbance. The trust was betrayed caused by abused and exploitation by members of the family. Three girls have deep hatred to fathers and step father because of sexual abused. On the other hand, aloofness was an identified behavior of a child who experienced worst form of abused i.e a melted candle was dropped into the skin of girl for a mistake by an angry guardian. Three types of psychological assessment was facilitated to determine on the affective functioning. The psychological test identified the areas affected like intrapersonal, interpersonal, family, sex, and self concept

Recommendation: a) Hiring of psychologist as a staff either on a part time or full time.
b) A series of therapy and counselling

5. Capability on Human Sexuality. It is a regular summer program for the children with the goal to increase awareness on the parts of the body as male and female. It is a preventive approach on the problems of early pregnancy and sexual abused. A seminary student and is a nurse by profession who was on Pastoral care and counselling internship have facilitated 2 hour Saturday classes on Human Sexuality. The orientation was based on medical science, Biblical and theological. The slogan to say "NO, this is my body," was instilled to fight against sexual violence.

Recommendation: a. Organized another orientation-training on Human Sexuality in relevance
Related laws on: R.A 9775, R.A 9208

6. Learning disabilities assessment. A professor in Special Education have helped assessed five children according to their learning abilities both orally and in writing numbers and letters. A 3rd grade boy was identified having a learning disability. It was interpreted that the child is characterized by difficulty in learning to read fluently and with accurate comprehension despite normal intelligence. According to the professor, the child was a victim of neglect who grew up learning on his own and unable to be guided and corrected. To cite, the child is writing flip way. The other 4 children were assessed as slow learners. The child with a learning disability should not be expected in the conventional way as other children in the academe.

- Recommendation: a. Daily tutorial and closely monitoring in the school.
b. Case conference with the parent and teacher on the special condition of the child

IV. Community Involvement

Our networking program is always considered very important in the involvement of communities working with us in all aspect of development – government and non-government like the academe, business sector, civic and people’s organization.

We deeply acknowledge our partnership in working with the children. They are named and unnamed groups and individuals who are actively involved in providing goods and services to Gugma sa Kabataan, Inc.

1. Helene Kowaljow, a German student in Social Work at the University. She did her internship for 4 months providing services on English tutorial and helped generate funds.
2. Central Mindanao State University Department of Behavioural Science partnership in providing volunteer students in psychologist.
3. Liceo de Cagayan University, partnership in providing students in Teacher education working on Saturday Tutorial services.
4. Bishop Han Theological Seminary new partnership for supporting the Christian education services.
5. Gov. Oscar Moreno on the educational assistance for Devine Grace Dagang together with the 4 high school students Summer skills training on cellphone/mobile phone repairs.
6. Kapisanan ng mga Broadcaster sa Pilipinas (KBP), through Mr. Frank Mendez, for choosing Gugma sa Kabataan to celebrate the KBP anniversary. A party treat at McDonald was organized and shirt, blouse for each child school uniform.
7. Global Youth Mission represented by 23 university students from various school in Mindanao, Germany, Belgium and Indonesia shared their 3 Saturday weekends in providing tutorials in English and Science. Also, it was an issue of acculturation between the Gugma sa Kabataan, Inc and the international guests.
8. The pompous birthday celebration of the Shekainah Faye Ampit 18th Birthday, Engr. Christine Aliza, Engr. April Aleth Pielago, Anna Fay Gabule, Jillian and Jig Maranan. There was so much fun that the children have enjoyed the Party. School and hygiene supplies were considered as gifts to the children.
9. Class “79 of Cagayan de Oro Central Elementary school was organized by Ms. Eva Aguilar purposely for pre Christmas “ July Santa Claus”. Used books, clothes, shoes, sack of rice and school supplies were heartily given to the children

10. The management of Big Bys and Missy BonBon through Ms. Joanna Yu who provided regular bread and pastries that improved the energy and alertness of the children.
11. The weekly supply of trays of eggs by the Carmelite Sisters Monastery assured the children to have food at the end of the week when the center is closed.
12. "A feeling of ownership for set of pillows and beddings received" when Cagayan de Oro Hotel and Restaurant Association (COHARA) shared the hotel linens.
13. Mrs. Blanquita Marco, Manager of Casa Crystalla, is an advocate for the needs of Gugma sa Kabataan, Inc. to COHARA.