



GK ANNUAL REPORT  
January 2011-June 2012

# The COURAGE to CARE



# Table of Contents

## OUR VISION

Gawad Kalinga is building a nation empowered by people with faith and patriotism; a nation made up of caring and sharing communities, dedicated to eradicate poverty and restore human dignity.

## OUR MISSION

Ending poverty for 5 million families by 2024.

**Land for the Landless.  
Homes for the Homeless.  
Food for the Hungry.**

### Messages

From the Chairman	2 - 3
From the Executive Director	4 - 5

Building Up Gawad Kalinga	6 - 9
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### Highlights (Jan 2011–Jun 2012)

Integrity Drives Excellence	12 - 17
Stewardship Drives Productivity	18 - 25
Servanthood Drives Leadership	26 - 29
Solidarity Drives Teamwork	30 - 37
Padugo Drives Commitment	38 - 43

Operations Report	44 - 45
Financial Report	46 - 47
Moving Forward	48



### About The Cover

The cover represents our countless volunteers, partners and caretaker teams — ordinary men who have embraced the extraordinary challenge of living out the GK Way and becoming their Brother's Keeper.

Armed with the courage to care for the poor and guided by the values that shape the work of Gawad Kalinga, their lives are a testament to the selfless love and commitment that will bring the mission all the way to 2024.



# Message from the CHAIRMAN



## Building the New World the GK Way

Dear Patriots and Friends,

The fixation of many on the Mayan prediction of the world ending on December 21, 2012 is for me simply a metaphor for the passing of the old world at war with itself and the birth of a kinder and safer planet that people can build together.

Gawad Kalinga was born out of this desire to bury the old world of greed, corruption, injustice and hopelessness through compassionate self-giving to ease human suffering. Through heroic sacrifice for our country we are building intentional communities for a platform of good citizenship, productivity and sustainable prosperity. We have shown in the last 10 years that we can do it. We need to do more in the next decade.

### MORE SACRIFICE

No prosperous nation was built without sacrifice; GK continues to

grow bigger and stronger through the blood, sweat and tears of our everyday heroes, patriots and generous friends. What is significant now is that majority of our caretakers and volunteers are empowered residents of our GK villages. Many beneficiaries are now benefactors.

### GREATER HEROISM

We honor our daring volunteers who learned to walk on water to save others in 2011's Typhoon Sendong that devastated Iligan and Cagayan de Oro. They are setting a pattern as often the first to arrive in disaster areas for rescue, a dedicated ground team for relief operations and the last to leave to do rehab and relocation work in keeping with the GK spirit of "walang iwanan" (leave no one behind). Our heroes go to dangerous areas to make them safer, will not abandon the needy who are considered as family. Because of this Gawad Kalinga has become the top-of-mind choice of

many big donors like San Miguel, Berjaya, Shell, SM&BDO and also the most popular brand in the country for volunteerism. The global awards received this year, notably Skoll and the World Entrepreneurship Forum, attest to the effectiveness of everyday heroism in the Philippines on a scale that can inspire other nations as a template for ground-up inclusive development.

### BIGGER CREDIBILITY

In all of this I must commend our Executive Director Luis Oquiñena for his compassionate and competent leadership. Not only is he effective in directing a big ground force for massive relief and rehab operations nationwide, he continues to inspire a growing global army of corporate partners, government supporters and committed volunteers to support the nation-building effort. While continuing to move with the spirit, he has gained support from a pool of experts, led by an exemplary Board of Trustees, in strengthening

systems and operations to deliver the GK2024 vision to help end poverty for 5 million Filipino families. Of course Issa Cuevas-Santos is a big help in putting in order the backbone for nation-building while both do home-building at the same time for their growing family — 3 kids for Luis and 2 for Issa.

### MORE HOPE

As we view the landscape this year, GK is gaining greater public recall as a brand of hope starting with former squatters in urban slums, now to calamity victims in vulnerable areas and soon to farmers as we expand our economic platform for countryside development. Radical optimism builds sustainable communities — more than 2,000 GK villages to-date and counting, turns idle men into productive citizens, encourages graduates of exclusive schools to work with farmers to make the land productive and create jobs in the countryside.

### MORE WEALTH CREATORS

The first (of 24 sites nationwide) GK Enchanted Farm Village University in Angat, Bulacan is attracting convergence for bottom-of-the-pyramid wealth creation and rural job generation. The Shell Centre for Social Enterprise Start-ups, Hyundai Centre for Green Innovation, Human Nature's Wellness and Beauty Centre, LifeBank's Bayanihan Economics Centre, ODM's Design Centre, Mitsui's Agricool Centre and Berjaya's Culinary Centre will hopefully be ready by June 2013 to cater to two hundred thousand visitors annually. With the entry of DAR, DENR, DA and LGUs, the stage is nearly ready for an effective public-private partnership that aims to raise five hundred thousand social entrepreneurs to help improve the lives of five million rural farmers.

### DEEPER PATRIOTISM

This is coming at a time when the Philippines is gaining the trust of the global community due to the honest and competent leadership of President Noy Aquino and his cabinet, making our economy the fastest growing in Southeast Asia with the most stable stock

market and currency. There is a surge of patriotism that is so palpable, encouraging more young Filipinos not to leave the country, engage more in social innovation, create more opportunities at home rather than seek for it abroad, turn unproductive fertile lands into fields of abundance and secure our food source and supply chain for industrialization, produce and patronize excellent local products and trigger a period of Social Artistry for sustainable prosperity and peace.

### GREATER SOLIDARITY

The GK Enchanted Farm is capturing the global mood for greater solidarity and more effective stewardship of people and planet and attracting a growing stream of foreign interns, starting with hundreds of French changemakers, to discover the treasures of Asia in our GK communities and help achieve prosperity with justice. Europeans, North Americans, Australians and Asians converging in GK villages to teach and to learn, to give and receive the best from one another.

The future of business is in social entrepreneurship, optimizing profit that restores human dignity, protects the environment and builds peace.

At the GK Enchanted Farm Village University a new generation of Filipinos will learn to be better stewards of this rich and beautiful country, to be global citizens who will attract visitors and investors to discover the Philippines as the gateway to Asia and the hub for social entrepreneurs.

Starting June 2013, the Enchanted Farm is expected to welcome visitors from schools, corporations, government agencies and LGUs, NGOs, foreign interns and tourists to the various camps, corporate team building and family day events, weekend markets, day tours, conventions, seminars, weddings, etc. So much to learn, so much to do — let's continue to enjoy the journey.

### MORE LESSONS THIS YEAR

The worst of times bring out the best in us.

Heroes are born with every tragedy.

Sacrifice is the heart of love.

To end poverty the poor must be seen as wealth creators, not objects of charity.

Farmers and blue collar workers will be the new economic heroes of the land, after OFWs and BPO workers.

To achieve social progress, agriculture must be prioritized for food security and sustainable industrialization.

We must support the spirit of social innovation in the young for them to build a better and safer world than this decaying world they have inherited from us.

Through miracles of solidarity, a new world will rise where no one is homeless or hungry, neither an enemy, a victim nor a prey.

Our Saviour came into this world as a squatter with a simple carpenter for a father to show us that the masterplan for global prosperity and peace is to build sustainable communities where resources are shared and no one is in need (Acts 4:31-35), scant resources are leveraged following the miracle of the 5 loaves and 2 fish (Matthew 14:13-21) and sustainability is achieved following Jesus' direction to bear fruit that will last (John 15:16).

The dream to build a new world will come true for those who love and those who hope.

Thank you to all who took this faith journey with Gawad Kalinga where hope abounds and the love of Christ is always around.

  
**Tony Meloto**  
Chairman, Gawad Kalinga



# Message from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Team GK,

It is a new season of hope for all of us as we take stock of the lessons of the first 7 years and build the foundation for the next phase of our work. It is with all humility that we celebrate the victories of the years past but also challenge ourselves to continue to care for the last, the least and the lost. Guided by our operational doctrines and our OGSM, we set clear targets and we worked with unwavering commitment — and with God’s grace, I believe we have succeeded!

As I reflected on our GK journey, I came across Chapter 3 of The Book of Ecclesiastes that speaks about seasons. “There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens... a time to tear down and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them.” Indeed, the verses capture our shared journey in bringing glad tidings to the poor. We all fought a good fight of faith, through thick and thin.

The army is growing, and we have seen the power of volunteerism as we sounded the call for the Bayani Challenge in five different provinces. Students, young professionals, corporations and local government all converged and worked hand-in-hand to do clean-up activities, mangrove reforestation, house-building, classroom reconstruction — but the real impact was that we inspired and proved to everyone that we can end poverty one town at a time if we all work together.

But the ultimate test came with Sendong, which brought massive devastation to our countrymen. The work was overwhelming,

but we responded with faith and courage and we rebuilt step-by-step and brick-by-brick. With the help of our Bayani Builders and the heroic community organizers who were former beneficiaries, hope is rising in Iligan, Cagayan de Oro and Negros Oriental.

We are seeing this same miracle in over 2,000 communities that we have nationwide. The noble work of our on-ground teams is matched by the generous response of our partners who are now helping us with our rescue and relocation, even before disasters strike. Poverty in itself is already a disaster, and with everyone’s help, we can already move families from danger areas and disaster zones to safe and peaceful communities to help prevent loss of lives. We have transformed tragedy into an opportunity for everyone to come together in the spirit of *bayanihan*, and we trust that partners from here and abroad will continue to respond in an equally massive way.

And as the world continues to recognize our work, we respond with greater humility and even more courage to care. We faced the global audience of change makers when we received the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship, and as I stood on that stage in behalf of Team GK, I could almost see the faces of the heroic volunteers and pioneers who brought this work to where it is today. In a special way, I want to honor Tito Tony who has been a father to all of us. His visionary leadership and his servant heart have inspired the next generation of leaders to also take their place in this work of nation-building.

8 years and 2,000 communities after, we ask ourselves — what is the most crucial task that we need

to do to bring GK closer to the realization of our vision of ending poverty for 5 million families by 2024? I believe the answer is two-fold :

1. To build volunteerism anchored on faith and patriotism as the main driver in transforming and empowering communities to end poverty and,
2. To create and connect 5 million opportunities to end poverty for 5 million families.

To many, this may seem like a daunting task but GK is called to challenge the impossible! We dared to dream for the poor and for the country when we started our work, and we should not be afraid to keep dreaming and working for a Philippines that our children can truly be proud of. Look around you — it is already happening because of the courage of the few to lead and inspire a whole nation to care and share for the least among us. Let us do this for God, for our people and for our families — the Filipino is worth living for!

Let us keep the faith, brethren!

In Christ,

**Luis Quiñena**  
Executive Director, Gawad Kalinga



# BUILDING UP Gawad Kalinga (GK)



Guided by Gawad Kalinga's Objectives, Goals, Strategies and Measures (OGSM), Team GK Bukidnon remains fiercely dedicated to eradicate poverty in the province, even in the face of many challenges.

The secret to GK's success lies in its very name, Gawad Kalinga or "to give care." These two words carry the passionate commitment in the heart of every GK volunteer to bring the transformative power of caring and sharing and end poverty for 5 million families by 2024.

Team GK Bukidnon is just one of the many teams throughout the Philippines who best exemplify this. As one of the pioneering teams of Gawad Kalinga, they have faced many challenges but remain undaunted in their dream to eradicate poverty in their beloved Bukidnon province.

Since they started Gawad Kalinga in their first site in Valencia in 1998, the team has constantly evolved and is now focused on achieving clear targets, guided by the Objectives, Goals, Strategies and Measures (OGSM) set by the GK leadership.

## Building Communities

To raise model communities, Team GK Bukidnon works with a per-site approach when it comes to running the programs. They also adopted a strategy of empowering the Kapitbahayan leaders and GK residents by investing in training and mentoring.

One community, GK Sumilao, underwent a training program on how to set up their businesses. Team GK Bukidnon also guided the process so that the earnings from these businesses would not just add to the family income, but also support the community's needs. One group in particular had a *balut* (fertilized duck egg embryo) selling business, and they committed to give back part of their earnings to support the community's Sibol program and ensure quality education for the children in that community.

**"The GK residents have taken on the challenge to become not only the Kapitbahayan governance team but to be the ones to really run the programs of GK in their respective sites."** – Reyms Sullera (Community Organizing)

## Building the Backbone

One of GK's core strategies is to always raise the next generation of leaders, because the mission is up to 2024 and even beyond. Taking on this posture, Team GK Bukidnon officially welcomed the youngest member of their GK Management Team. Joy Maniego, 23, handles Volunteer Mobilization, having been a GK volunteer since she was in her sophomore year in high school. Her passion for the mission coupled with a degree in Accountancy has added value and fresh perspective to the very seasoned leadership of Team GK Bukidnon.



As the youngest member of the team, Joy Maniego (passing on the hollow block) adds a fresh perspective to the very seasoned leadership of GK Bukidnon. Her passion inspires volunteers of all ages to embrace the spirit and mission of GK.

**"It was a privilege but at the same time there was fear. Am I qualified? Can I give what I should give? Then I realized that IT'S NOT ABOUT MY WORK, it's about the work of the Lord. And if He calls me to do it then He will really EQUIP me. And He WILL sustain me. So I said yes."** – Joy Maniego (Volunteer Mobilization)

## Building the Movement

Beyond the GK community and the backbone, another strength of GK Bukidnon as a team is their capacity to inspire other organizations and leverage resources with the power of strategic partnerships.

They engage local government units (LGUs) and local partners intensively in the work, allowing them to embrace the spirit and mission of GK.

Back in 2008, when the Bayani Challenge was held in Bukidnon,

they came up with an LGU-GK Task Force for each city or municipality, starting with Dangcagan, Kitaotao, Maramag and Malaybalay. They have now also built an LGU-GK Task force in Sumilao, and plan to implement the same in the other municipalities to ensure communication and cooperation.

Aside from just institutionalizing teams within the local government units, their monthly Builders' Night is always very well attended, not just by LGU representatives and strategic partners, but by Kapitbahayan leaders themselves. It has become an effective venue to share best practices, as well as help cement their shared dream for a better Bukidnon and their commitment to make it happen.

Team GK Bukidnon also started the "One Bukidnon Movement," spearheaded by GK but engaging multi-sectoral partners (e.g. medical, business and religious groups). It all began with their unified response when Typhoon

Sendong devastated Northern Mindanao last December 2011. While One Bukidnon Movement is still in its early stages, they already know they can count on each other's organizations to respond to the needs of Bukidnon and nearby provinces.

**"GK activities should be embraced by the community itself, but at the same time the GK spirit should be embraced by the surrounding locality."** – Richard Mercado (GK Head for Bukidnon)

## Building Financial Viability

One of the biggest challenges faced by each local team is how to ensure that there are enough resources to fuel the over-all work of GK for that province. Team GK Bukidnon has employed creative strategies to do this, including building a core of supporters who give regularly to fund their operations. They also plan to set up several businesses that will employ GK residents and allocate a share of profit to fund the GK work. This is going to be the challenge for sustainability, but they are confident that with a strong team and strategic alliances, this can all be possible.

**This is courage to care, lived out by a team that has taken GK's "Walang Iwanan" spirit and mission to heart. They, and the rest of our caretakers throughout the country and the world, are our inspiration and guiding force as we work tirelessly to achieve our GK2024 vision.**



The monthly Builders' Night gathers LGU representatives, strategic partners and Kapitbahayan leaders to share best practices and help cement their shared dream for a better Bukidnon and their commitment to make it happen.



# Sweet Dreams are Made of These



Oxford, England — In behalf of Team GK, Tony Meloto and Luis Oquiñena accept the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship from Skoll Foundation's Sally Osberg (Pres. & CEO) and Jeff Skoll (Founder & Chairman) last March 29, 2012.

In the past decade, Skoll Foundation has honored ordinary men and women who had the freedom of spirit to fly uncommon ideas for the common good; normal people doing the abnormal because the old normal no longer worked. And to be in the company of game-changers and world disruptors who were not afraid to turn the world upside down was a big honor for Gawad Kalinga (GK) and for the Philippines.

The Skoll Award allowed us to share the incredible journey of ordinary dream-builders from the slums of Manila who have found their way to this world stage. The staggering \$1-million prize given to us (nearly equaling the Nobel prize), that came with global credibility and prestige, validated our focus on vision and value and not on money and power.

Quite often, it is the cause that chases after money when one begins with a funding mentality. We chose to start our journey to ease human suffering differently

by bleeding for the cause, digging into our own pockets and not giving up when the wells dried up and friends started to abandon us. The hard work and sacrifice ultimately bore fruit — 2,000 GK villages built and over a million lives transformed, not only of the most marginalized, but also of the volunteers who found redemption and meaning in caring.

When we are not blinded by a desire for money or power, or paralyzed by a lack of it, we learn to use our creativity, raise passion-driven caretakers and volunteers whose nobility cannot be bought, and the integrity of the mission is not compromised.

Like Jeff Skoll, the producer of such socially relevant films such as "The Inconvenient Truth," "Contagion" and "The Help," I am a movie addict, influenced in the causes I champion by unforgettable lines from my favorite films. "Build... and they will come" was a profound message I received from Kevin Costner in "Field of Dreams."

We did... and they came. We built our first communities without a master plan and adequate resources and never stopped trying even when we kept making mistakes until we got it right.

Others who knew better or had more resources were scared to do it or simply gave up after a few falls. Up to this day, with all the recognition we have received, we are still a work in progress.

I guess this is what the Skoll award means to us: We can all dream of a future where everyone is family and the world is finally free to serve without borders. "Gawad Kalinga" (to give care) is both our deepest hope and sacred commitment to build a poverty-free world. And borrowing from Annie Lennox who enthralled us all during the Awards night, indeed, "sweet dreams are made of these."

*(An excerpt from Tony Meloto's article on the Skoll World Forum published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer last April 15, 2012.)*

# The Community Impact Assessment Study

The work of GK has continued to persevere and persist since it officially began in 2003, armed only with a heart for the poor and for our country. The powerful and inspiring stories of transformation on the ground in our villages are a testament to the great spirit of *kalinga* and *bayanihan* that are driving the work. We recognize however the great value that empirical data can lend in giving form to the spirit while gaining a more in-depth understanding of the concrete impact we have on all our existing GK communities.

And so, through the Skoll grant and by partnering with Ateneo's Institute of Philippine Culture (<http://www.ipc-ateneo.org/>) and Gawad Kalinga Ateneo, with the direction and guidance of Former Ateneo President Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, SJ., GK embarked in 2012 to put into place the Community Impact Assessment Study (CIAS)

spanning all 2,000 Gawad Kalinga communities in the Philippines. From May to June 2012, we started with a round of 2 focus group discussions each (one among adults and one among the youth) in 8 representative communities to seek out their own understanding and articulation of the value brought by GK into their lives.

From there, we were able to map out 10 focus areas of change that provided the framework for a full-scale quantitative research. The in-depth survey will be done within the period of August 2012 to January 2013, utilizing partnerships with universities to mobilize 5,300 volunteer data gatherers. Its scope includes:

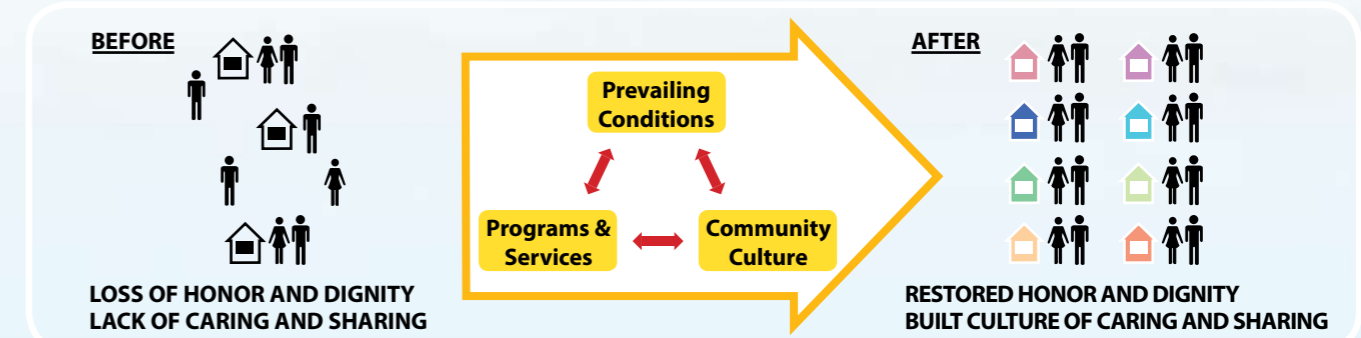
**1. Household Profiling** – a census among all GK beneficiary families, approx. 60,000, to be updated every 3 years. This includes questions to measure conditions of poverty (including incidence of hunger and self-

rated poverty) and the presence of enabling factors against it.

**2. Community Culture Survey** (target 8,100 families) – directed to a sample size of families in each community, to understand better the impact of GK on family, community and country.

**3. Community Profile** – provides a demographic, historical and background record (including its assets) of all GK communities.

With the findings of the CIAS (release by 2nd quarter 2013) we hope to sharpen our over-all strategy and program interventions to facilitate better replication of the GK model towards our goal for 2024. More importantly, we believe that the CIAS will finally be a concrete affirmation of the heroism of the many caretakers and volunteers who, without manuals, guidelines or formal training, took on the daunting task of building communities to end poverty.



## BUILDING UP GAWAD KALINGA

The faces you will see in these pages are those of the many nameless ordinary people who are doing the extraordinary every single day of their lives — all in the name of God and country. The mission they have chosen to take on is to steadily, but certainly, break the debilitating shackles of poverty that are bearing down on the shoulders of the poor in their towns and cities. They share with all of us the dream of a country that we can all be proud of. It is to them and to the poor that we serve that we owe an organization that can lead, prepare and support them in the best way possible.

Our commitment to them is to build an environment that will enable and empower them to raise advocates and teams on the ground that will take on and share the GK Way. Our goal is to feed their quiet dedication with tools, systems and structures that will allow them to execute the dreams they have for the poor through solid planning, collaborative and solutions-driven implementation and finally, be accountable in the eyes of God and man.





# HIGHLIGHTS

for JANUARY 2011 to JUNE 2012

The GK Values are instrumental in driving the work of Gawad Kalinga every single day, as concretely lived out by our volunteers, partners, caretaker teams and residents. We are presenting this period's highlights through stories that make these values come alive, and in doing so we hope to inspire many more to join us in this work.

*Note : Due to an operational shift towards a fiscal year reporting effective June 2011, this Annual Report covers the period of January to June 2011 and proceeds with fiscal year July 2011 – June 2012.*



# INTEGRITY DRIVES EXCELLENCE

My passion for the mission requires that I demand more from myself, giving the best for the least. What I strive for myself and for my loved ones, I must strive equally for the poor so that no one is left behind. When faced with difficult choices, I will uphold what is best for many rather than stand to gain for myself.

**I COMMIT TO INTEGRITY.**



## Committed to Rebuild Lives

Former Victims Build Hope for Sendong Survivors



Having lived in a GK community since she was 12, community organizer Aileen Manulat has big hopes and dreams for the children of the Bayanihan sa Iligan Village.

From afar, you'll see clusters of colorful homes in a 15.9 hectare property, surrounded by lush greenery and cascading hills. The sight is massive and breathtaking. But look a little closer, and you'll see something more — a warm hello between neighbors, the singsong laughter of children, the animated retelling of stories among friends. It's hard to believe that such a vibrant community can come from something as catastrophic as Sendong.

But it didn't begin that way.

When Inday Losenada volunteered to be a community organizer, she knew she was in for a challenge. True enough, when they held meetings, nobody would arrive. When they knocked on tents, nobody would answer. They were shouted at, locked out of centers, and one time, someone even chased them away with a machete.

Community organizer Inday Losenada works with the Sendong survivors to slowly rebuild their homes and their lives.



But day in and day out, they never gave up.

In 2002, Inday and her neighbors also lost everything when a fire ravaged their homes in Brgy. Saray, Iligan City. Much like the Sendong survivors, many hesitated to leave their comfort zones and start anew. But GK Missionville stands today, proof that it's possible to rebuild a community from the ashes of a tragedy. *"Abi nako sauna, dili na mabalik ang nawala. Pero sobra pa jud ang nahatag sa GK, dili lang balay. Nabutangan sad ug tunong akong kinabuhi karong nakatabang ko sa uban."* (I thought I could never get back what I had lost. But GK gave me so much more. I didn't just get a house, I discovered that my life has value because it is spent serving others).

Just like Inday, community organizer Aileen Manulat remains committed no matter how difficult things can get. Having lived in GK Rainbow Village since she was 12, Aileen benefited from Gawad Kalinga's SAGIP program (for the children of GK communities), and she wants the parents in Sta. Elena to understand the opportunities that are available for their children, now that they can grow up in a loving and productive community.

Last May 2012, the community organizers watched as the survivors

made the bittersweet journey from the tents to their new homes, which were completed with the help of funds from San Miguel Corporation. Sonia Jayme, one of the most difficult to convince, expressed her gratitude by saying *"Kung wa mo nagpursigi ug pagkombinse nako, di pa jud siguro ko makabalay ug balik karon."* (If not for your perseverance in convincing me, I wouldn't have a home right now).

One of Sonia's daughters never made it home the night Sendong struck. Her husband passed away while they were in the evacuation center. But life goes on, and Sonia is determined to see her youngest daughter April graduate from college.

When you look at Sta. Elena, look a little closer and this is what you'll find — faces that still reflect the tragedy they survived, but faces that also carry the desire to start a new life. Our heroic partners and volunteers sought out these faces to show them that hope is alive. It is because of their courage to care and willingness to be instruments of God's grace that the Bayanihan sa Iligan Village stands as a vibrant community today.

This, more than the clusters of colorful homes, is the real miracle of Iligan.



## INTEGRITY DRIVES EXCELLENCE

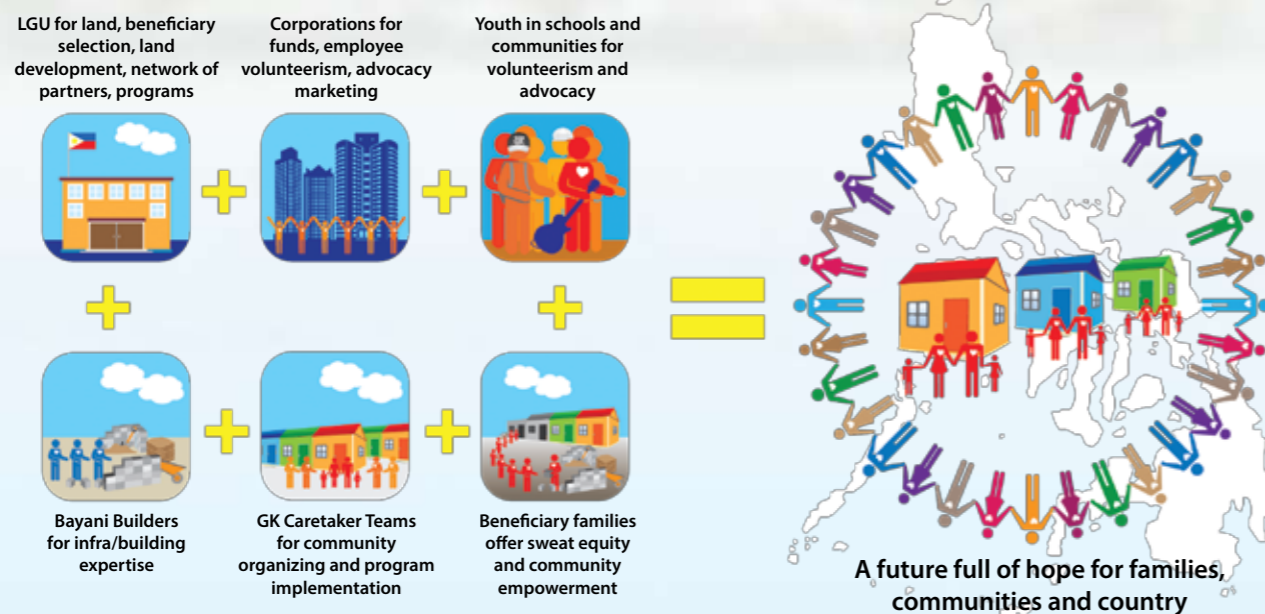
God designed us for excellence, and Gawad Kalinga believes in bringing out the innate greatness in everyone by giving only the best for the least. Through the years, we have seen our rag-tag army of heroes achieve what many said could not be done. We have ended poverty, first in our hearts and minds, and in every slum that we have transformed into peaceful and productive communities.

This we achieved because of God's grace and the brave hearts that dared to challenge the status quo and find radical on-ground solutions that work. While most people choose the convenient and expedient, Team GK takes the road less travelled every day, and we bring as many people as we can to the finish line.

Behind the success of our reconstruction work for the victims of Sendong is the multisectoral effort of partners, community organizers, volunteers, Bayani Builders, and even our very own GK residents — all of whom have given the best of themselves to the work of rebuilding lives, no matter how difficult it may seem.

When the world says it cannot be done, Team GK responds in a resounding voice — **We will challenge the impossible. Walang Iwanan!**

## Creative Leveraging of Resources



## GK Disaster Response and Reconstruction Efforts



DEC. 17, 2011

Typhoon SENDONG (Int'l "Washi") hits the Philippines: Iligan, Cagayan de Oro and Negros Oriental



DEC. 18, 2011

Operation Walang Iwanan activated within 24 hours. Food packs distributed to over 11,000 families.



DEC. 19, 2011

Youth volunteers engage in clean-up efforts in Brgy. Trese, Cagayan de Oro.



JAN. 17, 2012

Tony Meloto spends his birthday building the foundations of the first home in Iligan.



JAN. 25, 2012

President Benigno "Noy" Aquino III and Vice President Jejomar Binay launch the public-private reconstruction efforts in Iligan.



MARCH 2012

The Compostela Valley LGU completes the first 24 homes in Brgy. Sta. Elena, Iligan within 2 weeks.



APRIL 9-13, 2012

GK BAYANI CHALLENGE 2012. 5,000 volunteers build for 5 days in Iligan, Cagayan de Oro and Negros Oriental.



MAY 2012

The first 162 families move into their new homes in the Bayanihan sa Iligan Village in Sta. Elena.

## To Give Without Counting the Cost

### The Extraordinary Challenge to a Bayani Builder



Romy Espra joins the Bayani Builders who have given their all without counting the cost, to ensure that families affected by Sendong have quality homes to move into.

It was business as usual for Romy Espra and his foreman when a Kapitbahayan (GK resident) suddenly approached. The Kapitbahayan and his wife see Romy's team hard at work every day and they wanted to invite them for lunch. Romy didn't know them personally, but during that scorching hot day when he had lunch in their new home, he couldn't help but remember his initial hesitations coming into the project.

News of the disaster that left thousands of his fellow Iliganons homeless hit Romy hard. When he found out about the Bayanihan sa Iligan Village, he got curious. He joined the first meeting and got even more curious because in his 30 years as a labor contractor, it was only then that he would have to purposely bring his margins to a bare minimum. He knew that

if he committed to this, he'd have to stomach losses and difficulties along the way. He was right.

But this concept of GK and bayanihan intrigued him. He looked around and saw fellow contractors who were willing to sacrifice just to ensure that as many quality homes are built. "Business-wise, grabe jud pagka-apiki. Ang ako nalang, hinaot naa ko'y ikatabang sa mga Iliganon kay grabe ang nawala nila. Mutabang ko nga wala'y bagulbol." (Business-wise, the budget's extremely tight. But I wanted to help my fellow

Iliganons who lost practically everything. I wanted to help without complaint).

When Romy had lunch with the Kapitbahayans in their new home, he felt their renewed sense of pride and joy. Romy thought of the other families and realized that the homes he and his fellow Bayani (Heroic) Builders were building are more than just homes — they're a chance at a new beginning. And if this is what it means to give without counting the cost, to sacrifice so that many more may gain, then it's worth it.



15.9 hectares of land in Sta. Elena, Iligan is now the platform for a new spirit of a multi-sectoral response to disaster reconstruction and poverty eradication.



# Courage to Begin Again

The Poor Offer the Best of Themselves to Rebuild their Future



Maximo and Bernardita Cohitmingao find the courage to begin again with their new home in Brgy. Camaman-an, Cagayan de Oro.

Their dog wouldn't stop barking.

This is what Maximo and Bernardita Cohitmingao remember about the night Sendong struck. They were upstairs with 3 of their grandchildren, and by the time they checked why the dog kept barking, the entire ground floor was already flooded. Mang Maximo had to bore a hole in their roof to escape, and they sought refuge in the branches of a gemilina tree until dawn.

Cold, wet, and fearful for their lives, they watched in horror as the flood waters rushed past their home, taking away everything in its path. All that was left from

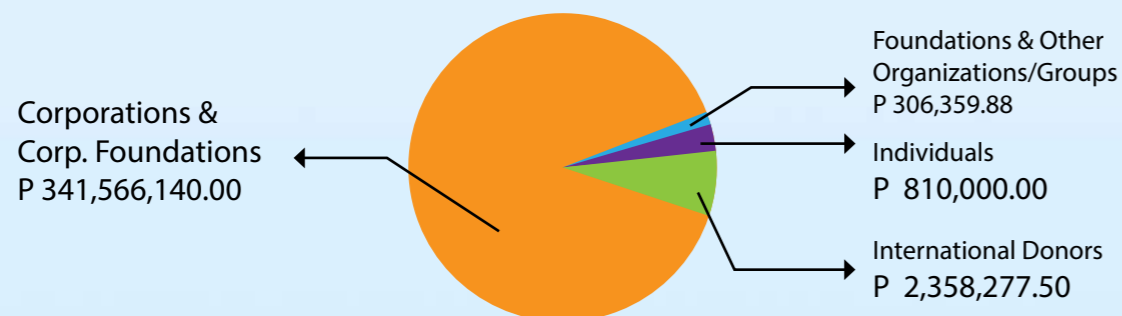
that night were fragments of a life they didn't know if they could still rebuild. And at that critical moment when everything was at stake, Berjaya and the Cagayan de Oro government, together with Gawad Kalinga, responded to their urgent call.

Months later at the Berjaya-CDO Govt. GK Village in Brgy. Camaman-an, the Cohitmingaos now have a home and a community where they can slowly rebuild their lives. Armed only with their faith and the newfound courage to start anew, Aling Bernardita shares, "Wa jud ko nagdahom nga maingon-ani akong kinabuhi karon. Hatag jud ni sa Ginoo."

*(I never imagined that my life can be like this. This is definitely God's gift).*

It took the incessant barking of one dog to save the Cohitmingao family from the flood. But when tragedy robs people of a future to look forward to, it takes the incessant dedication of partners and volunteers to show them that it's possible to find the courage to begin again. And as they use this courage to rebuild their future, we must use it to face poverty head on and say we will not leave anyone behind — from survivors like Maximo and Bernardita Cohitmingao to the many who still live in the tragedy of poverty.

## Monetary Donations For Sendong Disaster Response - Reconstruction Phase



# The Business of Bringing Hope

Corporations Respond to the Urgent Call for Reconstruction

San Miguel Corporation gave 250 million pesos to Gawad Kalinga to build for thousands of families left homeless by Typhoon Sendong in Iligan and Negros Oriental. With this gesture, San Miguel hopes to inspire more private entities to help in the rehabilitation of the affected provinces.

*"More than just building houses, this is about rebuilding people's lives and building safe communities."*

– Ramon Ang, President and COO, San Miguel Corporation



When news of Sendong came to Tan Sri Dato Vincent Tan, then Chairman of the Berjaya Group of Malaysia, he felt compelled to reach out and asked Berjaya Philippines Country Head Paul Soo to find a way to help. Despite having no businesses established in Cagayan de Oro, they have built a village in Brgy. Camaman-an.

*"Ang tinutulungan namin ay hindi amin, kung hindi yung ibang mga nangangailangan."* (Beyond just helping our people, we're reaching out to those who need help the most).

– Paul Soo, Country Head, Berjaya Philippines



The turnover of 122 homes in the Shell-CDO Gov't GK Village in Calaanan represents the multisectoral effort to rebuild Cagayan de Oro.



Rows of brightly colored units are built by SM for 200 families and by BDO Foundation for 100 families in Canitoan, Cagayan de Oro.



# STEWARDSHIP DRIVES PRODUCTIVITY

Fueled by an innate sense of responsibility and a deep call to care for my people and my country I will work hard to restore, rebuild and regain what has been neglected for generations. It is in our persistent presence that we will heal the broken and make them productive. What once was barren land will be abundant.

**I COMMIT TO STEWARDSHIP.**



## To Reap a Bountiful Harvest



To ensure a good harvest, Jaime Severino and the rest of the Catigan farmers faithfully attend to the crops all year long.

**N**estled on top of the mountain ridges of Toril, amidst hectares of fertile land, you'll find a small community of Catigan farmers. Every single morning before the sun peeks out from the horizon, Jaime Severino and his neighbors would head out to the farms — tilling the soil, planting seeds, getting rid of weeds, and on some days, harvesting crops.

Season after season, rain or shine, they would do the same backbreaking work — even years ago when Catigan didn't have concrete roads, electricity or running water. Tatay Jaime recalls the irony of their lives back then: Their hard work reaped enough crops to feed a multitude, but they themselves were hungry, poor, and had little access to outside opportunities.

Their destinies took a turn in 2006 when Art Habana gave his portion of the land to the original tenant families, a symbol of gratitude for years of loyal service. GK came in, and Art's US-based sister Sally Hafner solicited from her network to fund the homes. The Reyes-Munda family and the University of Mindanao added even more homes, and the result is GK Pueblo Antonio, a productive community of 72 families.

As part of GK's Bayan-anihan (Food Sufficiency) Program, each family was given seeds so they could grow crops in their individual plots. With the guidance of Bayan-anihan Coordinator Tante Adalla and his wife Dr. Candida Adalla, as well as the Department of Agriculture, the Catigan farmers yielded enough produce to forever bid hunger goodbye.

The families became such good stewards that soon after, GK productivity partners came in with commercial farming plans. New York-based Citi Foundation together with Citi Philippines were the first to realize the potential of commercial farming for these families. Strong advocates of enterprise development as a way to eliminate poverty, they funded the first purple yam (*ube*) production in 2011. Most of the harvest was bought by Selecta who is now

financially supporting the even larger second production. Human Nature, in its commitment to make natural products from Philippine-sourced ingredients, is currently testing the feasibility of passion fruit and sunflower oil production.

In the beginning, all Tatay Jaime had was a dream for the community to have proper homes and sustainable income that can send their children to school. At 67, he's finally seeing those dreams come to pass. Instrumental to this is the Habanas' generosity and GK being there to empower the community and connect them to partners. But all of this wouldn't count much without the dedication of these farmers, which never faltered from the time when they owned none of the land to the time when they were given small vegetable plots up until today, when they have hectares of commercial farms to attend to.

Through it all, Tatay Jaime believes that it was never about how little or how much they had. *"Ang masaligan sa gamay nga butang, masaligan sad sa dako."* (Whoever can be trusted with little can also be trusted with much). After all, if we're good stewards of whatever we're given, God will open the doors and entrust us with so much more.



In sourcing raw ingredients for their ice cream, Selecta expands GK Pueblo Antonio's 2nd purple yam (*ube*) production.



## STEWARDSHIP DRIVES PRODUCTIVITY

THE POOR INDEED HAVE MUCH TO TEACH US.

What we learn from Tatay Jaime is the simple truth that we all have the responsibility to care, nurture and grow the gifts that God has given us — in ourselves, in people and in resources around us. And this is the valuable lesson of the life of Tatay Jaime to all of us in the work of GK — that no matter what, we rise up every day of our lives not giving up on the work entrusted to us, rise up every day not giving up on the poor who we must continue to cultivate, taking out the weeds on some days and then harvesting on some days. And then one day, they will be by our side, workers themselves in the field, joining to multiply the harvest.

We share with you the shining examples of so many partners who continue to believe in the poor and their potential and who continue to dream with us of a country of abundance — not only for a few but for all. The responsibility of stewardship is no easy burden to carry, but truly, the fruits are enough for us to claim a beautiful future for our country and our people.

## Spinning Trash Into Gold

### Bringing Out the Best in the Least

Where anyone else would see a good-for-nothing mountain of trash, the GK Sooc ladies would see precious scraps that can be sold to bring food to the table. The garbage dump of Mandurriao, Iloilo used to be their source of livelihood, but give these ladies a discarded tarpaulin today, and their skilled hands will transform it into a bag classy enough to be paraded in runways and displayed in boutiques.

In 2007, 25 ladies from GK Sooc learned to sew for a living when SMART tapped the Western Visayas College of Science and Technology. Through their partnership with the Earth Day Network in 2008, the ladies learned how to make simple bags out of used tarps. But the orders were mostly for corporate giveaways and the income was sporadic. Marilyn Platon and the others thought of giving up many times.

But SMART's faith in the community remained and pretty soon, more partners came in. In 2011, Iloilo-born international designer PJ Arañador collaborated with the ladies to generate first class designs for his Nautilus line. The Philippine Business for Social Progress trained them on product development and financial management. GKonomics, a Gawad Kalinga partner in social enterprise development, provided the much needed business expertise and linkage to market. Today, the tarp bags are selling like hotcakes, serving as the community's source of livelihood.

Marilyn shares how Sooc Social Ventures changed her life: *"Hindi na ako nahihiyang humarap sa tao. Masarap makitang nakadisplay yung gawa ko dahil alam kong nakakatulong to sa komunidad."* (I'm no longer ashamed to face people, and I'm happy to see my handiwork displayed because I know that this helps my community).

When we give our best for the least, the least will become the best. And when we see the gold in our people, they too will discover the gold in themselves.



The talented ladies of the PLDT-SMART Amazing GK Village (Sooc, Iloilo) proudly showcase the beautiful and classy bags that they make from discarded tarpaulins.

## Bearers of Peace and Prosperity

### Reaching Out to the People of Sulu

The charming and shrewd women of style behind GKonomics Rose Cabrera, Cecille David, Divine Duran, Marivic Pineda and Pinky Poe have always done pioneering work of finding and working with the rough gems of products and people from among our GK communities to unearth the beauty from within. One such case is the exciting work of exploring and planting seeds of productivity in the GK villages of Sulu, with the help of our team on the ground and the local government.

It started out with bringing 5 residents of GK Panamao to Manila in September 2011 through the support of Smart for training in entrepreneurship and product development. In the following month, they wowed the patrons of the GK Hope Ball 2011 by

showcasing the indigenous craft of the Tausugs' Piz Syabit weaves through the fashion show of Randy Ortiz. Determined to bring back the dying craft of Piz Syabit among the Tausugs who remain victims of underdevelopment due to conflict, they pushed on towards Sulu in January 2012,

bringing along with them key partners to initiate training of residents in all four GK villages. The experience has not only awakened the love of the craft in a new generation of Tausugs but also made them discover a new family who will not leave them behind.



Residents of GK communities in Sulu are trained in Piz Syabit (traditional weaving) in an effort to revive a dying craft of the Tausugs.

## Bonggang Villa

### How Flowers Brought a Community Together

Stepping foot in GK Promiseland will be like stepping foot inside a surreal garden filled with all kinds of beautiful flowers. In the front lawn of each home you'll see shrubs upon shrubs of Bougainvillea, welcoming visitors with their smiling colors. You'll also see the smiling Kapitbahayan (GK residents) with their bolos and trimming shears, tending to these flowers with utmost diligence and making sure that they thrive.

From the seeds to the flower pots to the beautiful flowering shrubs, the Bougainvillea that has become synonymous to this small community in Brgy. Mabuhay, General Santos City is integral to the community's livelihood. Each family operates a floral business, so they sell these flowers to individual buyers. When they need to supply truckloads to those who want to purchase in bulk, the families come together in the spirit of *bayanihan* — sharing profits for the benefit of the whole community.



A resident of GK Promiseland in General Santos City lovingly tends to the Bougainvillea plants that serve as their source of livelihood.



# THE GK ENCHANTED FARM



## Social Entrepreneurship: When Fighting Poverty Means Business



Farmers from families at the GK Enchanted Farm and communities around it find renewed hope from the land as they work side by side a team of young agri social entrepreneurs.

### Developing Sustainable Communities through Social Artistry

“While a painter uses a canvas, my canvas is society, a community or even a slum.” This is how Tony Meloto started Gawad Kalinga, when he brought out the gold hidden in the poor and unleashed the greatness of the Filipino spirit. “When you recognize the potential for excellence among everyone, even the poor, then you can transform criminals to become good citizens and ugly slums into beautiful communities.”

Perhaps most significantly, the second stage of Gawad Kalinga’s development program (Social Artistry, 2011-2018) demonstrates how poverty eradication must go beyond the philanthropic mindset where the poor are only worthy of our charity and take the next step towards creating shared value that will engage the poor for genuine business opportunities, the fruits of which can be enjoyed by all. It is important that we take on a new approach of seeing the poor as partners in development, not merely beneficiaries of projects. **In engaging the 80% who live below the poverty line, stirring up their creativity and productivity, they will become a powerful**

### force in the grassroots, integral in building and sustaining a thriving economy.

Tony Meloto sees the exponential growth happening in the countryside and that is why he spends most of his days learning and planting in Angat, Bulacan. **“The way to develop sustainable, shared wealth is through social entrepreneurship and with 12 million hectares of unproductive land in this country, the opportunities are in agribusiness.”**

### The Enchanted Farm: Where Expertise and Technology Meet Opportunity

As a model for rural economic development, the Enchanted Farm in Bulacan is the first of 24 that will be developed across the country, connecting the poor to the capital, technology, expertise and markets they so need. Filipino colonization has bred a *matapobre* mentality, where to protect their own interests, the few rich and educated have disconnected themselves from the many who are poor. Families would leave large tracts of land inherited from Spanish colonizers idle or underdeveloped, tended only by poor tenant families. Both rich and poor have now turned their backs on the land, fueling the cycle of

unproductivity from what is the country’s greatest resource.

However, we are now seeing an exciting time in the Philippines. With the work being pioneered in the Enchanted Farm, Tony Meloto enthuses that “We see some of our top university graduates becoming social entrepreneurs, big businesses partnering with us and government seeing us as a partner in enacting land reform. People are finally seeing the potential of the countryside to bring this country out of poverty.” With the high rates of unemployment, crime, pollution and congestion increasingly afflicting our big cities, failure to develop the potential of our countryside is simply not an option.

Tony Meloto is seeing the countryside once again as a fresh canvas — and so is a growing network of young social entrepreneurs, both here and from Europe, helping him build the vision at the GK Enchanted Farm. It is a grand ambition to raise up 500,000 social entrepreneurs by 2016 but he believes it can be done by awakening the spirit of *bayanihan* from among the youth, corporations and governments here in our country and from across the world.



# The Enchanted Farm

## as a Farm Village University

One of the GK Enchanted Farm's main thrusts is its farm village university. If the term "university" conjures up ideas of textbooks, theory and disinterested professors, taking part in the Enchanted Farm's camps and internship program offers a different learning experience altogether. By replacing outdated theories with experiential learning where classrooms are connected directly to the communities, the village university is an integral strategy in raising the 500,000 social entrepreneurs GK will help create by 2016. This is instrumental in raising a new consciousness of social entrepreneurship that will transform the mindsets of young and old alike.

Tony Meloto shares **"The 'Farm' aspect refers to our need to connect with the Earth and our immediate natural environment, the 'Village' reveals our need to connect with the local community and its people, and the 'University' highlights our need to learn. In particular, we need to relearn the most fundamental values of caring and sharing which can lead to a fair and holistic development of our countryside.** We also need to unlearn some of the more traditional

models for development, which instead of creating shared wealth have led to the disintegration and segregation of rural communities across the country."

This learning experience has already been enjoyed by hundreds of French interns since June 2011 when the Enchanted Farm's internship program first started. A handful of them have already stayed on to start up social enterprises of their own. Further, a mix of college students and young professionals have taken part in its monthly Social Innovation Camp while students from different levels of learning (preschool to

college) along with their faculty have gone on day camps.

Excited by this environment, key partners are building centers for learning to be completed by mid-2013. With these facilities, the Enchanted Farm is better poised to be the breeding ground for this nation's future social entrepreneurs and all who simply want to learn more about this country's huge potential. With 24 such sites planned across the country, the cross-regional and cross-cultural learning will prove to be truly enriching as it is empowering — worthy of being a farm village university.



A venue of experiential learning for young and old alike, the Enchanted Farm as a Farm Village University is an integral strategy in raising the 500,000 social entrepreneurs GK will help create by 2016.

# Taste the Goodness

## at The Enchanted Farm Café

Judging by its attractive décor, *über*-healthy menu and young clientele, it's easy to think you're at one of Makati's rather expensive and trendy eateries. However, a closer look reveals something quite unique about Gawad Kalinga's Enchanted Farm Café, which opened at Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City last March 20, 2012.



The café is at the very heart of GK's thrust to promote social entrepreneurship in the countryside, creating a market for small-scale Filipino farmers to sell their produce in a fair and sustainable way. "While other restaurants in Manila may promote sustainable consumerism and healthy eating, none is a social enterprise which has the direct community impact of the EF Café. **We're keen that our customers become more conscious of where their food comes from, and that includes thinking about and supporting the lifestyles of the farmers who produce the food,**" explains Bea Gomez, who heads the café.

Ensuring direct community impact has certainly not been straightforward in an environment where economies of scale and stringent produce requirements typically favor large-scale farmers. But by providing opportunities to previously excluded rural communities, the genius of the poor has been able to shine through. "After receiving basic training, my staff helped us produce a whole range of natural and delicious recipes — from pasta sauces to homemade jams and



Bea works with her kitchen staff and the Enchanted Farm nanays to come up with a one-of-a-kind café experience.

lettuce burgers. They even showed me how to make a burger patty out of banana peel!"

Aiming to grow a franchise of 500 outlets over the next 7 years, the Enchanted Farm Café is clearly serious about delivering a market for small-scale farmers nationwide. The speed of progress so far shows that it CAN be done. Bea enthuses, **"From teaching one of my staff how to hold a knife a few months ago, she is now producing over two litres of pesto a day. Provide the poor with the opportunity, and they will exceed your expectations."**

## The New Breed of Filipino Heroes



**Ron Dizon**

Ron became a full-time social entrepreneur after the first Social Innovation Camp (March 2012) opened his eyes to the opportunity of developing the local agri sector and partnering with GK communities. He left his promising career at Hewlett-Packard and is now part of the team behind Bayani Brew, a brand of ready-to-drink iced tea made from indigenous ingredients like *pandan*, lemongrass and sweet potato tops.



**Xilca Alvarez-Protacio**

After a GK Center for Social Innovation gathering, then practicing lawyer Xilca Alvarez (leftmost in photo) headed to the Farm, inspired about the possibilities of countryside development. She then put up Gourmet Keso, producing top quality goat's cheese that provides sustainable income to four cheesemakers from the Farm. Xilca also established Café de Sug (brewed coffee from Sulu) and is part of the team behind Bayani Brew.



**Fabien Courteille**

Fabien started out as a 6-month French intern for GK. He hasn't left ever since, and has now established social enterprises Karpentoy and Plush & Play, which produce toys that are made by the community and contain none of the harmful chemicals most toys have. "I hope to create as many jobs as possible for people in the community, and showcase Filipino traditions and talent," Fabien says.



**Cherrie Atilano**

Outraged that those who produce our food are also the poorest, Cherrie gave up a prestigious Fulbright scholarship to put up two social enterprises (Agricool & Blue Bamboo Ventures) that tap into the genius of our farmers while giving them a sustainable source of income. She wants to make agriculture "the new cool" and a desirable career option for the young, as well as empower the 42 scholars that Agricool sends to school.



**Clarisse Simonneau**

After hearing Tito Tony speak in France, Clarisse flew in to be a short term intern back in 2011. She was so excited about what she found here that she came back for 6 months in 2012, leading the internship program that brought in over a hundred French volunteers to the Farm. Her creative style and graphic design expertise have also been instrumental in shaping the marketing efforts for the budding social enterprises at the Farm.



**Camina Maipid**

While growing up, Camina was a witness to the growth of GK and the birth of the Enchanted Farm. As she was finishing her interior design degree at UST, she had her own awakening as a social entrepreneur and later on juggled her bar exam review with starting up their team's brainchild, Red Carpet Living. Hand in hand with the "nanays", she and her partners envision stylish lifestyle for greater social impact.



# SERVANTHOOD DRIVES LEADERSHIP

Our country needs to build a new brand of leadership — one that instills a posture to serve than be served. *“Una sa serbisyo. Huli sa benepisyo.”* I will recognize and unlock the potential for greatness of everyone around me, building a culture of empowerment, not entitlement.

**I COMMIT TO SERVE MY COUNTRY AND MY COUNTRYMEN.**



*Like wildfire, Gov. Uy's passion for the mission has spread to almost everyone in ComVal, with the local government unit taking the lead.*

There's a place in the southern part of the Philippines with an energy that's hard to find elsewhere. It's a place where an entire village of 30 homes can rise in 7 days. It's a place where hundreds of ordinary people can come together to build classrooms with unbelievable speed and uncompromised quality — where construction materials are passed on from teachers to tricycle drivers, from soldiers to government employees. And there, in the thick of things, passing hollow block after hollow block, you'll see him — Governor Arturo Uy of Compostela Valley.

When you have an entire province that's overflowing with energy



*The hands-on approach of Governor Arturo Uy in bringing Compostela Valley out of poverty has spurred the active volunteerism of present-day ComVal heroes.*

## Leading by Example

and fully committed towards ending poverty, you can't help but wonder how they got steered to that point. For Gov. Uy, *“The LGU should be in the front line. When people see that government officials and employees are active in volunteering, they will be inspired to follow. But if you ask them to volunteer while you just stand there and watch, nothing will happen.”* More importantly, Gov. Uy believes that a leader should have the passion and sincerity to serve.

ComVal's GK journey began in September 2008, with a landslide that displaced more than 300 families from Brgy. Masara. Just when Gov. Uy was wondering how to permanently relocate the victims somewhere safe, he got invited by the late GK Head of ComVal Nonoy Maloloy-on to the Gawad Kalinga Expo in Manila, which opened his eyes to GK's transformative work. Firmly sold on the idea that building a community through *bayanihan* was the best way to help the victims, Gov. Uy immediately held a Partners' Forum and convinced friends and partners to pledge 132 homes.

It didn't end there, because Gov. Uy wanted to replicate the GK Way in other ComVal municipalities.

But convincing partners and achieving sustainable change haven't been easy all throughout. Gov. Uy has frustrations with how slow things move sometimes — how he has to deal with the inefficiencies and imperfections of the system and of some people. As a local chief executive, he faces the daunting problems of his province and constituents. But like wildfire, Gov. Uy's passion for the mission has spread to almost everyone in ComVal, and this makes the work easier. *“We will not stop until there are poor people in this province and there are partners that are willing to help,”* he vows.

By the end of 2012, all of ComVal's 11 municipalities will have GK communities, and each municipality has a GK mobilization team. They have even expanded to making school buildings the GK Way with their *Kalinga sa Kabataan: Bayanihan sa Paaralan*. These results were born out of the generosity of local partners and the active volunteerism of present-day ComVal heroes. But ComVal's success also goes to show that if a leader truly cares for the people, if a leader has the vision to see them rise out of poverty and the courage to follow through, then anything is possible.



## SERVANTHOOD DRIVES LEADERSHIP

It is always oddly unsettling, in a positive way, to witness for the first time the posture of humility and quiet strength of our caretakers and Kapitbahayan leaders. They have a disarming way of working through the disbelieving eyes and the hardened hearts of the poor who have been scarred by years of empty promises. They win over the poor through presence not preaching and they change habits by upholding relationships not rules. When most people raise their voices to be heard, our teams lower theirs to listen.

Leadership in GK has always been less about the power to lead than it is about the passion to serve. It is this missionary spirit that brings people like Governor Uy to our doorsteps, ready and open to give rather than to receive. They come to offer the best of themselves not to rise through the ranks but to plant themselves among the poor... for the poor.

Ultimately, the greatest inspiration of servant leadership comes from the least among us. We are proud of Tatay Igme and the many others like him who have overlooked their own state of poverty and realized that they equally have much to give for community and country.

## Empowering the Youth of San Luis

When Typhoons Pedring and Quiel hit San Luis, Pampanga last October 2011, leaving around 12 public schools completely submerged in floodwater, the Local Government Unit (led by Mayor Venancio "Asyong" Macapagal) and the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) held the iTAYO NA! The School Build Challenge. This multisectoral effort included Gawad Kalinga, the local DepEd, The Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP-AC), Pilipinas Natin! of the Presidential Communications and Operations Office, as well as over 2,100 volunteers.

The active participation of the youth inspired Mayor Macapagal to embolden them further, saying **"We should really empower the youth to stand for and love their hometown."** He worked closely with the SK leaders as they built an army of volunteers in the town. A man who walks his talk, the mayor did everything that volunteers are asked to do during Builders' Camps — digging septic tanks, sifting cement, and even rolling on the ground during team challenges.

In the beginning, Mayor Macapagal had to mentor the youth closely. GK Worker Ain Sabdulla and



The empowered youth leaders of Team San Luis go beyond their dreams for their hometown as they burn with the passion to serve the country.

GK Volunteer Gelo Apostol also had to keep going back to San Luis to guide and root them in the right GK values. Eventually, Team San Luis organized activities of their own. Even without an existing Gawad Kalinga community, they have initiated many activities (e.g. school builds, clean-up drives, values formation sessions) to improve their hometown and have even brought volunteerism beyond their town.

Today, Team San Luis is composed not just of SK leaders but also of

out-of-school youth that have realized they too could offer something for their town. The SK leaders have also realized that they can go beyond the dreams that they have for their individual *barangays*. SK Chairman Esce May Santos says that **"Ngayon natuto na akong isama ang buong bayan, na mangarap para sa buong Pampanga at sa buong Pilipinas."** (Now I have learned to include the whole town, as well as dream for Pampanga and even the entire Philippines).

## The Heart of a Servant

Up in the highlands of San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro, in a small *barangay* called Caagutayan, 20 brand new GK houses stood. Twenty Mangyan (indigenous people) families looked on in excitement — proud of the hours they spent working on those houses. At the back of the crowd, almost unnoticeable in his quiet little corner, stood Tatay Igme. He could have had the first pick — the freedom to choose the best among twenty. But he wanted everyone else to go first. Whichever house was left, whichever house nobody wanted, that's what he wanted to call his own.

Even before the houses stood, Igmedio Alcones was already asked by his neighbors to be President of the *Saclag Guraanan Nagpalayaw Gayod* (Saclag Kapitbahayan na Lubos na Nagmamahal). He knew he was being called to serve, so Tatay Igme didn't hesitate to say yes. **"Kapos man tayo sa**



Tatay Igme speaks on behalf of the Saclag Kapitbahayan (San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro) during the turnover of homes.

**pananalapi, yung talento ay naibabahagi naman sa pagsasalita at pagsusulat."** (I don't have the financial resources but I can always share my talents in speaking and writing).

As KB President, Tatay Igme placed his needs secondary to those of the community. His days were spent solving squabbles, listening to complaints, finding ways to improve lives, and composing handwritten letters requesting the government to provide lacking services such as electricity. This

took a lot of effort and courage, but Tatay Igme was determined to be the voice of his people.

In 2011, Tatay Igme was called to serve at a greater capacity as Project Director, and today he directly speaks with those that are in power. Humble as ever, Tatay Igme hardly felt the change in position. What he saw instead was the opportunity to be a more influential voice and an even bigger instrument of change — all for the good of the people that he serves.

## Winning Over the Many

Dennis and Lilibeth Tantuan left their home in Hilongos, Leyte in the '80s to relocate to the booming town of Isabel having found employment in the Leyte Industrial Development Estate (LIDE). Finding success in their new home, the couple also found the great responsibility to build a community for the poor. When GK came to Isabel in 2002, Dennis was asked to take on the role of Project Director of Isabel Stasia GK Village.

From the very beginning, Dennis knew that he needed the help of many in the town of Isabel to raise up a community for the poor. He engaged the LGU to champion GK, securing its commitment to build 5 houses each year for the next 5 years. Despite working for a rival company, Dennis won over the Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Company (PASAR) to build the PASAR cluster of homes and help in land development.

The greatest challenge Dennis and his team faced was the illegal settlers themselves, a handful of whom were resistant to the entry of Gawad Kalinga in the area. Despite having the best of intentions for the poor, they were met by barricades and picketing. GK tried to convince them to simply join GK but to no end. The case ended up in court and dragged on for 5 years before a resolution was meted out favoring GK Isabel. In the most dramatic turnaround, Dennis

and his team humbly extended a hand of peace to offer them their place in the GK community. Where there was enmity came forgiveness and reconciliation. The families who formerly were enemies became the most enthusiastic in serving their sweat equity and finally have their own homes in the GK village.

Now the Stasia GK community is home and haven to 100 families all because a man believed in the power of all.



Thanks to the unrelenting commitment of Dennis Tantuan and his team, formerly resistant families eventually became the most enthusiastic in serving their sweat equity to build their homes.



# SOLIDARITY DRIVES TEAMWORK

I hold myself responsible and accountable for the work entrusted to me. Amidst the personal battles on the ground I am sure to face, I train my eyes on the vision, keeping in mind that my actions should always be for the greater good. Being part of one Team GK means we watch each other's backs.

**I COMMIT TO SOLIDARITY.**



## Anchored on One Vision GK and LBF : Emboldened by A Combined Strength



One with GK in the vision to end poverty, LBF members and staff respond to the challenge of caring and sharing, starting with the poor in their hometowns.

**H**uge waves pounded the drenched coastal roads leading to Guimbal town in Iloilo where representatives from GK and LBF were set to hold a 3-day team-building workshop. Braving through this rough weather was a badge of commitment worn proudly by the GK full-time workers — a badge that would pale in comparison to that worn by Cora Fernandez, one of LBF's staff who chose to attend the whole event even if her mother's wake had only begun. When asked why, her trite and powerful reply was *"mas madaming mawawala sa akin kung hindi ako umattend nito."* (I would miss out on so much more if I don't attend this).

This outpouring of great love and commitment for the mission has been the hallmark of the partnership between Gawad Kalinga and Lifebank Foundation.

This kind of solidarity in spirit could not have been foreseen when the partnership started in 2010. All that was in the horizon were the 18 communities LBF supported through their Visionary Corporate Responsibility Program. But as soon as the programs for these communities were implemented something new began emerging. The unique values that animated the relationship of GK residents and volunteers captured the curiosity of LBF's leadership. This paved the way for the evolution of a values formation program for LBF members and staff.

to the challenge of caring and sharing, specially to the poor within their hometowns. In Antipolo City, they fed the street children in their barangay. In Quezon City, they built homes in NTC GK village. In San Carlos City, they repainted a public school. Everywhere these activities transpired, it revealed the untapped potential of the LBF members and staff to become a force of change and transformation.

Today, as GK and LBF pursue the roll-out of the values formation program, preparations are also in full swing for a social enterprise program that seeks to lay the grounds for *bayanihan* economics. It is certain that this partnership will continue to evolve and give birth to even bolder initiatives.

On their own, GK and LBF are both consumed by a relentless passion for the mission of breaking the chains of poverty. In joining hands, they have only grown more emboldened because of the unique strength and confidence that comes from teamwork built on solidarity of spirit. From this place of deep unity, both groups anchor on the conviction that only in working together can we truly stand a chance at ending poverty.



Emboldened by their love and commitment to the mission, LBF members and staff paint homes for the poor.



## SOLIDARITY DRIVES TEAMWORK

The Filipino people truly deserve to be honored for the beautiful spirit of *bayanihan* that we share to the world. This powerful yet peaceful force of change is such a great gift to our country as it continues to lift us up out of the terrible circumstances that are thrown our way — be it a dictatorship or a disaster. It is this same gift that Gawad Kalinga hopes to unleash every single day as we face the greatest threat that has hounded us for generations.

Many see the injustice of poverty around us and become too overwhelmed. GK sees instead the many hearts that beat for the same dream — with the minds, the hands, the bodies and the voices online and on the ground that can take the country closer to the dream, year after year. To bring alive true solidarity we must harness the best in everyone as well as inspire more to join us — without discrimination. It demands us to strive to work together, not only finding common ground but instead seeking the high ground where we rise above self and situation. It is only in moving as one Team GK that peace and ending poverty become possible.

## Team GK QC: Building the 300

Building up a team of volunteers is no joke. It requires persistence, faith and a great knack for good times. No one knows this better than Team GK QC. They started out in January 2010 with only 5 members, all college students except for Justine Cruz, then a GK full-time worker, who got them all together. All had been volunteering quite regularly in GK builds but then, as a team, their goal was to build-up a 300-strong volunteer force to raise a city of nation builders.

It was not as easy as they thought it would be. The first step was to come up with a core team. Bringing people of different backgrounds and keeping their different schedules in sync was tricky. There was no doubting the hearts the youth have for our country but reality is that there are many things competing for their attention: school work, family commitments and other hobbies.

“What I first did was to dedicate Monday afternoons to converge young radicals from universities and colleges around the Katipunan area,” Justine relates of their beginnings. “Then we started inviting leaders from schools in QC and that was when a major breakthrough happened. A group of ladies from Miriam College, through the leadership of Mixie Rivera, then the student council



The vibrant energy of volunteerism and love for country brings Team GK QC together — along with the goal to build up a 300-strong volunteer force to raise a city of nation builders.

president, became actively involved and showed real commitment. Their regular presence during the Monday meetings gave more life and attracted more attendees.” The core group steadily grew to 15 people coming from different schools. As a team they started initiating events and builds, each of them inviting their own network through calls and texts. Meeting new people would always mean mentioning GK in one way and getting them to join a coming build or the next Monday meeting.

Roxanne, a student from Miriam College, feels that they have gelled together like one big family, thanks to the friendships built. “In the team, even if we’re not told, we just go ahead and do what is needed. When there are events or activities, we assign roles or each of us takes initiative and offers what we can, even if we can’t be there.”

A year and a half later, they have over 300 volunteers participating in their monthly activities (with exciting photos and stories shared online!). Besides their core team, there is an even bigger group of all-the-timers who help in spreading the great news about their work by writing, taking photographs and continually inviting new people to join in. While Justine puts their strategy of growth in three simple words: fun, friendship and freedom — it is the last that deserves a pause of serious thought on how teams are made and built to last in GK.

“Freedom is about trusting people. It is more than passing the task. It is allowing them to take part and bring value in their own way to the work of nation building. It is about believing that each one of them is key to making the dream happen.”

## What It Takes



Brand-new and fully-furnished, this PAGCOR-DepEd-GK Sibol classroom calls out to every pre-schooler in Brgy. Malabog, Davao City to come to school and find fun in learning.

Separated from the Davao city proper by two hours of winding rough roads, dangerously steep cliffs and occasional security threats, Malabog is a *barangay* easier ignored. So much so that its residents welcomed news of a much-needed pre-school classroom with joyous disbelief — a reaction common across ninety-nine other sites that will also get a PAGCOR-DepEd-GK learning center, as part of Project Silid-Aralan.

But soon after, this disbelief was replaced with a happiness as bright as the yellow fully-furnished

classroom that stood completed. Erecting the building was not unmet with challenges, so to complete it, everyone in Malabog was made to resuscitate a spirit that was once lost to them. “First time namo nasuwayan nga magbayanihan. Kung naa’y kinahanglan, mabuhat jud diay kung magtinabangay lang.” (That was the first time we experienced *bayanihan*. Anything that needs to be accomplished can really be done if we just help each other out), says Josephine Sumbilon, who helped build the classroom her daughter now goes to.

When the roads refused to cooperate because of pouring rains, Mayor Sara Duterte and Brgy. Captain Lemuel Tonug lent their dump trucks in lieu of the suppliers’ challenged vehicles. When the dump trucks were too big and the path that led to the school too small, the parents and teachers of Malabog Central Elementary School became the road that carried the construction materials to the actual site. When Bayani Builder Tony Silva wanted to challenge timelines without compromising quality, he sought reinforcement from the residents of nearby GK Sto. Tomas, led by Project Director Al Montajes. Next to solidarity, “difficult” and “impossible” lose their credibility.

Gawad Kalinga, together with PAGCOR and DepEd, laid the first stake by paying attention to oft-ignored Malabog, and the people of Malabog returned this gesture by paying attention to their community and working as one. And that’s how it’s done — what it took to build one classroom is what it takes to rebuild this beloved nation.

## PAGCOR-DepEd-GK’s Project Silid-Aralan

50 sites with classroom shortages now have a Sibol classroom each. GK’s presence in nearly all provinces was key to the speed of implementation. For Phase II, 50 more learning centers will be built around the country.



Paitan Elementary School, Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat



Obias (Pugay) Elementary School, San Jose, Camarines Sur



Bayanihan at Imelda Elementary School, Sto. Niño, Mintal, Davao City

● LUZON ● VISAYAS ● MINDANAO



## 2011 KALINGA SA BAYAN



Volunteers create an environment of fun and learning for the children of Bantayan with *Paraisong Pambata* activities.



Coming from all parts of the Philippines, volunteers flock to Bantayan Island, Cebu to embark on a 5-day test of courage, endurance and love for country.



Clean-up activities around the coastal areas of the island teach the volunteers how to be heroes for the environment.

# BAYANI CHALLENGE



## 2012 PILIPINAS, NGAYON NA!

Nation building requires rising above differences and working as one for a better Philippines. Since 2006, the annual Bayani Challenge has brought together volunteers and partners from all over the country and even the world for a 5-day adventure of building communities, fostering friendships and weaving hope for the poor.

In 2011, Gawad Kalinga and Pilipinas Natin of the Presidential Communications Operations Office, together with the local government, brought the Bayani Challenge to a whole new level by expanding from just building communities to caring for an entire hometown (KALINGA SA BAYAN, Bantayan Island). In 2012, this was replicated in 5 different hometowns with more than 10,000 volunteers (PILIPINAS, NGAYON NA! Iligan, Cagayan de Oro, Masbate, Negros Oriental and Occidental Mindoro).



Young professionals take a break from work to build homes for the families in Negros Oriental who were affected by Sendong.



Age is not a hindrance to making a difference in Cagayan de Oro, as proven by these very young volunteers who spent the day painting the walls of a house.



In Iligan, Green Kalinga volunteers together with Sendong survivors from other relocation sites work together to create a beautifully landscaped garden.



Volunteers in Occidental Mindoro discover that the beauty of the Philippines is in the diversity of its people, and even other nationalities join in on the fun.



To kickstart the Bayani Challenge in Masbate, over 900 GK volunteers attend the Rodeo Masbateño / Bayani Challenge parade.



# GK GLOBAL MOVEMENT

## Beyond These Shores



The Keppel-GK Eco Village in Bauan, Batangas is a result of the solidarity and strong volunteerism within the Keppel Group, inspiring other stakeholders to follow suit.



SINGAPORE

and Philippine shores. Through the partnership of the Keppel Group, GK Singapore and Yayasan Gerakan Kepedulian (GK Indonesia), 20 Indonesian families in Cisadane, Jakarta were given new homes last May 19, 2012. Much like the Philippines, Indonesia has its share of poverty-stricken families who live in unacceptable conditions.

What Keppel did was look beyond its own shores not only to build business, but also to help build a world without poverty. After all, whether we're Singaporeans, Filipinos or Indonesians, we each have a part in building our collective future. Poh Leong Kok underscores this point by saying **"Some may be born more fortunate and some less, but it's always our duty, us who are well off, to try to contribute to those who are not doing so well. There's no first class human, second class human or third class human. We are all equal."**



INDONESIA



Mr. Alex Lee from Keppel Land Indonesia turns over the symbolic key to one of the beneficiary families in Cisadane, Jakarta.

It used to be a dumpsite with used cars, garbage and overgrown shrubs. A few kilometers from the Keppel Batangas Shipyard, what you'll see today is the Keppel-GK Eco Village, a tightly-knit community of 60 families sprawled over a spacious lot shaded by mango trees. This is possible because of the coming together of people from two different shores: Singaporeans and Filipinos working towards one vision.

It began with the late Chairman of Keppel Philippines Marine Inc. (KPMI) Nelson Yeo, the driving force of this Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project in the Keppel Group. Poh Leong Kok, President of Keppel Batangas Shipyard, echoed Mr. Yeo's desire to give back by saying, **"We want to contribute by empowering lives and nurturing the communities where we operate. The GK model for community building offered the template and something special for the CSR project. The outcome and the life-changing impact it has made to the families are really fantastic."**

Soon after, the project inspired the entire organization. Keppelites from various ranks and departments

helped profile potential GK residents and build homes. In Singapore, members of the Keppel Young Leaders from different business units raised funds by coming up with events and giving from their own pockets.

The Bauan local government unit, headed by Mayor Ryan M. Dolor, has also been an active partner — providing land and additional manpower when needed. Surrounding *barangays* and schools like the Batangas State University also volunteered with the Keppelites.

The difficulties of building a community made the timelines a bit challenging to meet, but everyone's commitment prevailed. The 60 families who barely knew each other have now formed bonds among themselves and with the Keppelites. KPMI Business Development & Corporate Affairs Manager Alan I. Claveria shared, **"The volunteers have become more open-minded about one's responsibility to the community as a result of their experience of working closely with the beneficiaries in building their homes brick by brick."**

This model of *bayanihan* has even gone beyond Singaporean



CANADA



The GK Global Summit 2012 took place in Toronto, Canada on June 8-9, 2012. Its goal was to present Gawad Kalinga as a global template to end poverty, with GK Canada playing a key role in its expansion in the North American region. It was also a venue to engage like-minded individuals and institutions, presenting the GK Way as a platform for solidarity among countries.

**"In fact what I tell people is it's not Corporate Social Responsibility. Let's not say that. It's not aid, it's not charity, it's investing in our collective future. It's helping a country that should be taking its rightful place in the international community. And the Philippines is getting there — much more quickly than people would've thought... Most importantly though, it's about people. It's the fact that we're all in it together, that there are human bridges out there that make the whole world one community."**

(An excerpt from the speech of His Excellency Christopher Thornley, Ambassador of Canada to the Philippines, during the GK Global Summit 2012)



AUSTRALIA



Last October 15-16, 2011, the Gawad Kalinga Global Summit was held at the University of Sydney and St. Aloysius College, hosted by the Sydney University Law School and the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council. It focused on how a GK approach might address poverty and marginalization in wealthy countries where pockets of despair exist, especially amongst indigenous and minority peoples.



FRANCE



Over 450 French students heard Tony Meloto speak at the Conference Internationale in the ISC Paris School of Management last February 2012. He was also asked to be the godfather of Aide Mondiale ISC, France's first student humanitarian NGO that aims to defend the right to education, health and entrepreneurship. ISC Paris and other French universities have sent students to the Philippines as interns of GK.



USA



To support Gawad Kalinga's relief and reconstruction efforts in Mindanao for the victims of Typhoon Sendong, GK USA held the 2nd GK Hope Ball in Meadowlands, New Jersey on June 2, 2012. The Hope Ball helps support the lives of affected families and communities with provisions for food sufficiency, livelihood, education, health, environment, values formation and community building.



SAUDI ARABIA



High school students and teachers from the American International School of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia build homes and bring smiles to the faces of children during their GK Mabuhay volunteer immersion last February 2011 and 2012. Every year since 2006, they immerse in Gawad Kalinga communities to take part in GK's work against poverty.



Tony Meloto speaks at the plenary session of the World Economic Forum on East Asia held in Jakarta last June 13, 2011. He says "It was amazing for me to witness how our simple faith in action and affection for those at the bottom of the pyramid could capture the attention of global policy makers and wealth generators..."



# PADUGO DRIVES COMMITMENT

Inspired by the heroism of those around me, I will share what I have so more can benefit. To honor the sacrifice of many, my personal dreams will take the backseat as I steer towards the bigger dream of my people. I will not be beaten down by challenges nor be hampered by limitations.

**I COMMIT TO PUT THE NEEDS OF OTHERS BEFORE MY OWN.**



## No Ordinary Love



*The greatest gift Tito Jerome has given to the poor is his undying commitment to never leave them behind. He embraces them generously each time with his warm presence.*

**T**hey credit divine intervention for the unlikely meeting between Dr. Jerome Paler, a well-respected citizen and GK leader and Michael, an 8 year-old boy who was abandoned by his parents and left with no home and anyone to care for him. Michael had been sitting under a tree when a coconut fell on his leg and injured him. The residents of GK Sta. Rosa, Southern Leyte then brought him to Dr. Jerome. More than just treating his leg injury, Tito Jerome and his family embarked on a process of healing, which involved bringing Michael to their home and making him one of their own.

Because he was left to scavenge for food at a very young age, Michael learned to eat the only thing that was never in short supply — rocks and pebbles. It took a while for him to learn how to eat regular

food. He was also uneducated, and the Palers very slowly introduced him to school, lovingly guided him through the process and even today, continue to take care of him as he struggles with serious health issues because of his medical history.

But Michael was only the beginning.

As the work of GK grew in Southern Leyte, Tito Jerome's family also grew, as he began to "adopt" more and more young people who needed their care and support. More than just providing scholarships for promising youth in GK communities, the Palers welcomed them into their home — ensuring that they had the necessary logistical support and more importantly, a loving and supportive environment that is key to their success.

At 5 AM, the Paler house is abuzz with 17 people in the household all preparing to get the young ones to school. You can hardly tell which ones are the Palers and which ones are the scholars, because they are all treated the same and you can clearly see how they all look to Tito Jerome and Tita Gina as their parents and role models. Every mealtime takes party-like preparation (the Palers consume three and a half SACKS of rice a month to feed everyone) and is always a celebration, with everyone in the household eating together and ALWAYS with more guests who are made to feel welcome in their home.

And you can see their brand of generosity and service even in their children, who have embraced the mission as their own. GK for them is not just an individual call to mission, but a family commitment. They bring generosity and *padugo* to a whole new level, beyond sharing resources to treating the poor as their own. And when asked why they do it, they humbly say, "**We are but stewards of these blessings. To whom much is given, much is expected.**" Their sacrifice has given life to 19 GK communities all over Southern Leyte, and has inspired thousands of other GK volunteers to live out the value of "*padugo drives commitment.*"



*Everyone is welcomed with open arms to the Paler family and to their home where everyone is treated equally with love and care.*



## PADUGO DRIVES COMMITMENT

*"Padugo"* literally means to bleed — and in the path of mission many take for the work of GK, what is shed everyday and at every turning point is as life giving and life sustaining as the blood in their veins.

It was never about the money. What was first laid down at the feet of the poor have always been the people themselves — people and their dreams for themselves, people and their hopes for their own families, people and their personal ambitions, people and their promise of bright futures — all abandoned in service of the poor.

We honor our caretaker teams who took to the plow without hesitation, bringing their families with them until their homes became haven to the neglected. We celebrate our Kapitbahayan leaders who continue to fight their own demons and remain steadfast in healing their scarred and wounded community. We marvel at our young volunteers who walked away from the dazzling promises of fame and fortune in other lands and see them pushing at the forefront of the work. We are in awe of our partners who have shifted perspective in doing business to create sustainability for country and community.

It is when we see this exciting wave of change sweeping our country that we take heart and move with determination towards 2024.

## People Investing In People

*"We're a people company."*

This is the first statement you will see when you go to the Teleperformance website. Little did anyone know that it will be the very fuel of their deep commitment to the poor.

Gawad Kalinga's initial encounter with their thrust was when Jeffrey Johnson, President and Chairman of Citizens of the World Foundation — Teleperformance's CSR arm, got in touch with GK to extend their help to Ondoy victims last 2010. But they didn't just want to help rebuild houses, they genuinely wanted to engage their whole organization and help this whole community get back on its feet.

Their project was not without its difficulties. The relocation site for the Ondoy victims of Tanay, Rizal was in an off-grid hilly area with rough, muddy roads reachable only by small, sturdy vehicles. Getting there alone was a challenge to their commitment. Teleperformance volunteers had to take an early bus to Tanay, then hire jeepneys and endure the rough ride to the relocation site just to be able to work with the GK

community in building the houses. Two years have passed and they are still regularly volunteering. Despite construction delays caused by challenges in coordination and community organizing, they persisted with fervor and built a real personal relationship with the GK residents in the process.

They however, did not stop with building houses. They wanted to build a community made up of homes. Though the GK residents had roofs over their heads, they were still eating and sleeping on the concrete floors. Noticing this, Teleperformance committed to give a double deck bed and monoblock table to every family. Within the span of two years, they have built a Sibol school, a multipurpose hall and a computer literacy facility — not just with their funds but with their bare hands, their time, their effort and their people. They have now become part of the operations.

With the close relationships they have built, they even formed a team composed of Teleperformance employees and GK residents to participate in the Bayani Challenge in Mindoro last April

2012, where they built one home for a beneficiary family in a week's time. And in celebrating their 2nd year of engagement with GK, Teleperformance committed to build 75 more homes in their village, bringing the total number to 100.

Clearly, this is no longer just a CSR activity. It is friendship and sincere care shared over time. Their employees are now *"kuyas"* and *"ates"* of the children and youth in the village. They have now become a part of the very community they committed to build. Service excellence is not just a slogan they stamp on their marketing materials, it's a way of life for every volunteer from their organization. People investing in people.

*Through the years, Teleperformance volunteers have given their time and effort without counting the cost, and have now become part of the very community they committed to build.*



## A Life of Purpose

The Gawad Kalinga journey of Marirose Cacho began in 2008, when her brother Mari involved her in raising funds for Typhoon Frank victims. After three weeks of relief operations, Marirose yearned for something more permanent, and this is how the Jose Maria Rusty Cacho GK Village (named after her late father) was born.

36 homes were built from her family's resources, but it didn't end there. Marirose shares, *"When I came to know the families in the GK village, my connection to them opened my eyes, my heart, and my mind that there was a purpose I had to live, and I became restless."* She found this purpose when she was called to be part of the GK Iloilo Management Group in 2011.

Marirose's commitment to her Resource Generation role and passion for GK inspired many to become more involved. Today, beside the Cacho GK Village in San



*When Marirose Cacho got to know the families of the GK villages, her connection to them made her realize that she was being called to a life of purpose and commitment.*

Isidro, you'll see 32 homes from Panay Electric Corporation (PECO) and 32 from Assumption Iloilo. In addition, proceeds from the GK Golf Cup initiated by Marirose and her golfer friends will build 25 homes in New Lucena in 2013.

When Marirose was called to serve as GK Head of Iloilo last January 2012, her role grew to leading a province with 5,000 homeless families out of poverty. Sometimes, the overwhelming numbers make it seem easier to just quit. *"But when I see that proud look on*

*a father's face knowing he now has a home to offer his family, quitting no longer becomes an option. Just as my home is a sanctuary where my children feel safe and loved, the Philippines should be a sanctuary for every single Filipino,"* she says with conviction.

At the end of the day, Marirose Cacho can easily choose to live a more worry-free life. Instead, together with Team GK Iloilo, she has chosen to give herself fully and wholeheartedly to a life of purpose.

## A Deepening Conviction

Nestle Jeturian was one of the fortunate few who witnessed the beginnings of GK in the early 2000s, having been one of the Singles for Christ youth that Tony Meloto would take to Bagong Silang. Back then, Nestle would take part in a "one-day, once-a-year commitment" to build in GK communities. *"We help out a deprived area for a day. We feel we've sacrificed a lot. Then we go back to the confines of our air-conditioned homes and live the rest of the year in comfort."*

In 2008, after a GK build in Tarlac, things began to change. *"I felt the Lord speaking to me. He said, if you're serious about helping the poor, do something sustainable. Commit to something long-term!"*

Nestle responded by leading the Child and Youth Development program in GK Onyx, and he was

soon called to even bigger roles with extraordinary challenges. In 2010 he was asked to be Project Director of the CWC (Catholic Women's Club) and UP Delta Lambda Golden GK Villages. By 2012, he was asked to be GK Head of Taguig, managing 11 GK villages with over 500 families.

At those key milestones, he would negotiate with the Lord for a break from GK to take care of his personal life but on both times, he was challenged to tend to the poor instead. *"I realized that when God said long term, he meant*

*lifelong. This really bothered me. I was thinking it would affect my family...my work!"* Despite his initial fears, he found peace in his conviction. It was when he gave up his dreams for those of the poor that God took control of his life as well.

Through his example of *padugo*, Nestle has inspired more business professionals from his network to join him in building up GK Taguig. They may still have a long way to go, but it's good to see that the dream for the poor has taken root in their hearts as well.

*Nestle's mission for GK deepened when he took on the role of Project Director and worked side by side with the beneficiaries in building the CWC and UP Delta Lambda Golden GK villages.*





# The Gawad Kalinga Working Board



2009 was a time of great transition for Gawad Kalinga, as the foundation sought to strengthen the backbone organization of volunteers across all levels, including its Board of Trustees. The consultation process was rigorous, as the GK leaders together identified areas for improvement in the GK work and nominated eminent Filipinos who could fill the important role of providing policy guidance in what is perhaps one of the most respected organizations in the country today.

We weren't just searching for individuals of integrity and influence. More importantly, we wanted GK friends that we had built a relationship with, and had extensive experience and appreciation of our on-ground work to be able to make sound policies that support and facilitate the work of our caretakers.

Today, the GK Board consists of a mix of external trustees and key people within the GK organization to be able to bring the most extensive range of expertise in key areas of GK's operation. Chairman Tony Meloto is supported by Tony Olaes of GK USA and Tony del Rosario of GK Singapore, which provides a global perspective of the opportunities and challenges for our growing work not just in the Philippines but all over the world.

Our CFO Mike Goco is supported by Mr. Ed Chua, Country Head of Shell who also chairs GK's Audit Committee to ensure financial integrity and transparency. Executive Director Luis Oquiñena and Systems Director Issa Cuevas-Santos are likewise mentored by Mr. Gerry Ablaza, President of Manila Water who leads GK's Executive Committee and Mr. Boy de Claro, former President

of Wyeth Philippines, who leads the Resource Generation Committee. Formation Head Ernie Maipid gets guidance from fellow trustee Fr. Ben Nebres S.J., former President of Ateneo de Manila University to ensure that our values formation programs for GK residents, caretakers and volunteers provide the fuel and inspiration.

Together with GK leaders from the Kapitbahayan of each community and our heroic on-ground caretakers, the 11-man GK Board is helping prepare and propel the work for the future. The nobility of our volunteers are now matched with good corporate governance across all levels of the GK organization, and we look forward to gaining strength and momentum as we work towards our vision of ending poverty by 2024.

# The Gawad Kalinga Backbone

	VOLUNTEERS	FULLTIME
GLOBAL BOARD		
GLOBAL MANCOM & DEPARTMENTS		105
AREA AREA COORDINATION TEAM	35	82
PROVINCE/CITY PROVINCIAL MANAGEMENT TEAM	465	
GK COMMUNITY	CARETAKER TEAM	1,550
	KAPITBAHAYAN	1,550
RATIO 19 : 1		TOTAL 3,600 : 187

## People On a Mission



Melai Llegado

We take so much pride in seeing people from our GK communities rise above their poverty to take their rightful place in society as responsible and productive citizens. That is why we are most proud of our Melai from our GK village in Pagatpatan, Butuan. Despite the difficult life she led she has been the ray of sunshine in the GK office ever since her arrival in April 2010 to serve in our Admin department. Everyone runs to her when in need of anything — from copy paper and printer ink to a sympathetic ear.

That's why she's endeared as everyone's *igsuon* (Cebuano for "brother/sister"). She is a true missionary, always ready to serve without complaint, demanding nothing in return except to be invited to serve again. Because of her exuberant passion for the work and dependability, she has been rewarded with even more responsibility and now takes on a new role in our Finance department.



Jaja Reynoso

Like many Filipinos who find opportunity elsewhere, Jaja, who has worked in a leading bank in Singapore since 2007, found first world life so enticing that she vowed to stay for good or else migrate to another country. But God had a different plan for her. She discovered Gawad Kalinga through her Singles for Christ community in Singapore and joined a weekend build in Sorsogon.

To her surprise, a deep love for her country started taking root in her heart that weekend, something she could not simply ignore. Every year since 2008, she would go back home to join and serve in the exciting Bayani Challenge.

It was through this yearly mission that she began to build up a conviction to go home and serve her country. After almost 5 years, she left behind the comfortable life and security of Singapore to join Gawad Kalinga in November 2011.



Peter Tiu

To the GK family, he will always be Manong Pete, our courageous and ever-loving champion of the poor in Iloilo. He was the rock behind the mission, never giving up despite the seemingly insurmountable difficulties that came with setting up the work not just in the province but even in neighboring areas.

And although many will remember how he fought for the poor, our communities will remember how much he loved and served, how he spent time with each community and how he treated all of us like family. In big and small things, from the most mundane to the most critical tasks, you always knew that you could depend on Manong Pete.

He lived out the true meaning of "*walang iwanan*" and we know he continues to be our prayer warrior in heaven. His legacy lives on in our hearts and in the hearts of all those whose lives he touched.



# Operations Report

## January to December 2011: Retooling of Full-time Backbone Operations

On January 2011 GK pursued a retooling process in its key functional areas driven by our commitment to improve program delivery, financial transparency & accountability as we expand GK's partner/donor base towards our vision of ending poverty for 5 million families by 2024. We initiated this internally by pursuing a strategic framework that enabled teams in headquarters up to the area coordination teams to set and work against Objectives, Goals, Strategies and Measures (OGSM).

A full cascade of this new strategic framework was done during the series of Leaders Conferences "Building Team GK" done in 4 areas on May 2011: Metro Manila/ North Luzon, South Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao where the full delivery line was present from the Executive Director (HQ team leader) to the Kapitbahayan Presidents (team leader for residents of GK communities). Through the series of conferences, the operational directions were shared with the teams on the ground, initiating the start of a new way of working for the entire Team GK.

**"I believe that GK would not have survived if not for you... because despite all the doubt and uncertainty swirling around you, you did not lose your conviction for the mission of GK. The Board asked me to come here today to honor you all for what you have done."** – Gerry Ablaza, Member of the GK Board of Directors during the 2011 Leaders Conference (fully-translated to English).



Caretaker teams and KB leaders band together to Knock-out Poverty in 2011.

## January to June 2012 : Empowering the GK Management Teams

With the arrival of 2012 the operational framework and systems were ready to be passed on to the next line of delivery: the GK Management Teams who were an all-volunteer force. Having been tried and tested through the GK full-time workers (ACTs), the time was ripe to enable our volunteer GK Heads and their teams. Upon roll-out, the GK Management Teams began to have a better understanding of the OGSM and their province's role to fulfill it.



"We are now empowered to act locally in supporting the vision and mission of GK." – Richard Mercado, GK Head for Bukidnon

They started to provide their own targets guided by GK's OGSM, allowing GK Headquarters to capture realistic figures as well as get a feel of each GK Head's confidence level to deliver. Another round of Leaders Conferences "Challenge the Impossible" took place in May to June 2012 which included round table talks with the GK Heads to identify the impossible challenges they will take on for fiscal year 2012-2013 and help support them towards these goals.

## Gearing Up for Vision 2024

Along with the new strategic framework came other operational changes. We instituted greater cross-functional collaboration for better synergy and efficiency. A monitoring and tracking system generating key reports was likewise created to help guide policy and directions for the GK organization. These reports were made accessible to the whole organization, including the GK Heads, to enable a better understanding of how the organization is doing against targets and encourage timely action.

Ultimately, with the necessary systems in place to capacitate delivery, enable accountability and ensure transparency, it is the vision of GK to enable and empower more volunteers on the ground to lead the work in the various towns and cities all over the country. The objective is to begin to shift the role of GK full-time workers to simply become coordinators and trainers/enablers. This strategy is key to setting the stage for the work of GK to be led by "mission partners", just like LifeBank Foundation, who wish to end poverty the GK way in their own areas (whether geographic or organic).



## Skoll Foundation Award and Grant

The Skoll Award honoring both Gawad Kalinga Chairman Tony Meloto and Executive Director Luis Oquiñena was a recognition of their visionary leadership in bringing impact and change to both poor communities and within Philippine society. Besides the recognition and the financial support, the Skoll Foundation likewise affirmed GK's enabler strategy. The funds from the 3-year Skoll grant will be partly utilized to support the organization in training and enabling partners in towns and cities across the country to help end poverty the GK way.

Said Sally Osberg, President and CEO of the Skoll Foundation : **"Gawad Kalinga brings new perspective to our growing portfolio of social entrepreneurs tackling poverty. With their deliberate focus on values formation and partnerships, Tony Meloto, Luis Oquiñena and their team have transformed large swathes of the Philippines. And they've successfully replicated the model in urban and rural environments, at half the cost of alternative interventions. We are delighted to welcome Gawad Kalinga to our Skoll community of social entrepreneurs."**

## Building and Sustaining the GK Way Through a Cohesive Value Framework

To ensure that a solid and pervasive culture of caring and sharing is shared to a growing network of partners, it was essential to define the GK way in concrete values that people could live by. The ways that our people move on the ground would be rooted in our belief that Integrity drives Excellence, Stewardship drives Productivity, Servanthood drives Leadership, Solidarity drives Teamwork, and "Padugo" drives Commitment.

Initially, we at GK wanted to strengthen this within the full-time organization who were going to bring these values alive among our volunteers and partners. We engaged the Ateneo de Manila University's Center for Organization Research & Development (Ateneo-CORD), to help us develop a Mentoring and Development System (MDS), our unique version of a performance management system. The MDS enabled us to



The Board of Investments' accreditation of GK as a conduit for compliance of vertical developers to mass housing requirements ensures that in this age of rapid urban development, the poor will not be left behind.

institutionalize team target-setting and team performance assessment, consistent to our belief that goals are achieved not individually but instead by working together in the spirit of bayanihan towards one common goal. At the individual level, the MDS focuses on a person's areas of growth with a perspective towards providing interventions for mentoring and development.

The MDS was rolled out to the entire organization in June 2012, in time for the implementation of team plans for fiscal year 2012-2013. Our vision is to build similar models relevant to the operating systems utilized by our volunteer networks (GK Management Teams, Kapitbahayans or even mission partners like LifeBank Foundation) as they grow the work of GK in their areas. Through this we hope to mainstream the GK culture which we believe is instrumental to ending poverty.

## Investing in Friend-raising for the Future

Gawad Kalinga's strength has always been in the area of building relationships, and this is translated in the way we generate resources for our communities. More than just mere fund raising, we believe in friend-raising to find win-win solutions for the poor communities we serve as well as the partners that we engage. This is the only way to build lasting engagements to create significant impact not just for our GK communities but to help build the movement as well.

**"It is very difficult to separate nation-building with the way we're doing business. GK taught us that by working with the neediest, we only do not build our business because we do good to the least fortunate but we also build the nation..."** – Jeffrey Tarayao, President, One Meralco Foundation

As we started to gear up Team GK towards global standards of delivery in 2011, it has also been a wonderful time of reconnecting with our previous partners, mostly from the private sector, to update them on GK's organizational changes as well as the progress of their adopted communities. These conversations have allowed us to share the challenges we faced and discover how there can be a deeper engagement with each one.

Coupled with this was an aggressive effort to establish new partnerships particularly on the public sector. Notable to the government engagements was the accreditation of Gawad Kalinga by the Board of Investments (BOI) as a conduit for the mass housing compliance required of vertical housing developers in their registration requirements.

Another landmark partnership was with the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) which aims to build through GK, 100 pre-schools all over the country. The first phase of the Silid-Aralan was completed by June 2012. (Read more about the inspiring story of this partnership in page 33 of this Annual Report.)

We have also intensified our work abroad by re-aligning our GK teams in strategic countries such as USA, Singapore, Australia and Canada towards our OGSM.

To ensure the success of these strategies, the team has established a friend-raising process that systematically professionalizes engagements with partners through specific steps and tools that were set as a standard for building partnerships. Concurrently, we have maximized our IT systems to ensure proper accountability of donations given.



# Financial Report

(Note : Due to an operational shift towards a fiscal year reporting effective June 2011, the discussions herein will show the first half of 2011 and proceed with fiscal year July 2011 – June 2012.)

As GK stepped up its efforts for retooling to improve program delivery, accountability and transparency, it likewise renewed its efforts of reaching out to partners who would be instrumental in helping us achieve vision 2024. Strengthening the organization coupled with partner reconnections paved the way towards building the credibility of GK as the viable partner for building empowered communities to end poverty.

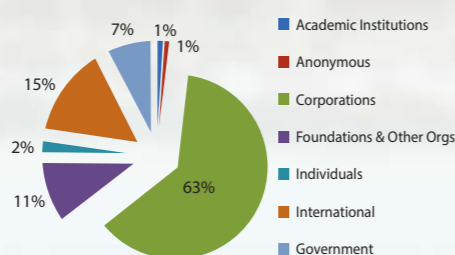
Through this combined strategy, donations came in steadily throughout the first half of 2011 and increased by 27% compared to previous year. This continued through to balance 2011 at an average of Php 20 million a month until December when donations spiked up due to the PAGCOR partnership (32.5 M) and the Skoll Foundation Grant.

donations to help build homes for Sendong victims. (The special report for GK's Sendong reconstruction can be viewed in pages 12-17 of this Annual Report.)

## Major Highlights in Types of Donation

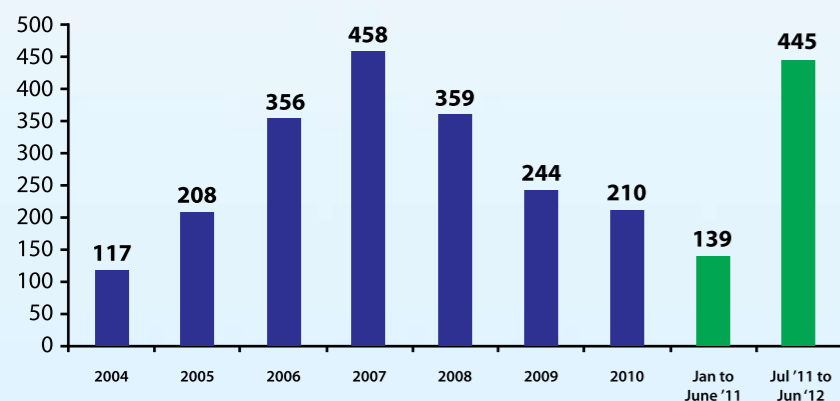
Investments made by our partners for the work of GK continue to be skewed towards program funds (specifically through community infrastructure : houses) to build communities all over the country. Top contributors have been corporations followed by the international sector (USA/Singapore) and foundations.

% Contribution and Top Contributors



## Year on Year Donations

**Highlights:**  
 1. Jan-June 2011 exceeds same period 2010 by 27%  
 2. FY 2011-2012 is 112% higher than 2010



The unprecedented damage brought about by Sendong in Northern Mindanao in end Dec 2011 brought much devastation and heartache. It however became a great opportunity for Filipinos to come together and help rebuild. Because of its track record of reconstruction, many new and current partners approached Gawad Kalinga and gave significant

We would like to make special note of the diversifying initiatives for donations that will strategically grow the work and the movement towards 2024:

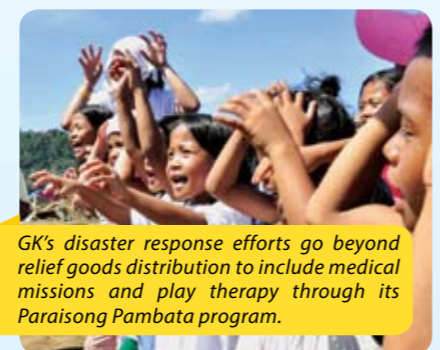
### 1. Post-Disaster Reconstruction

Bulk of total donations from first half 2012 were in support of the major

reconstruction efforts for Typhoon Sendong, focused in the areas of Iligan, Cagayan de Oro and Negros Oriental. This remains consistent to the years of 2005 through 2007, reminiscent of our Kalinga Luzon campaign (among others), where GK was recognized as one of the viable organizations to build for displaced communities affected by super typhoons.

### 2. Relief Operations

Our multi-sectoral network of caretaker teams and volunteers on the ground hand-in-hand with the local government and many strategic partners has allowed us to act immediately in responding to post-disaster efforts. This has enabled us to build a solid track record of implementing relief operations within our areas of concern in a timely and relevant manner. GK has thus become a credible organization to direct funds for in times of calamities. Fueled likewise by our *Walang Iwanan* advocacy (to leave no one behind), we remain with the affected communities even beyond the first weeks after the disaster, continuing efforts over and above the distribution of relief goods to conducting feeding programs as well as play therapy for the children through our *Paraisong Pambata*.



GK's disaster response efforts go beyond relief goods distribution to include medical missions and play therapy through its Paraisong Pambata program.

### 3. Rescue and Relocation

Sendong was a signal for GK to intensify its efforts in campaigning to save families still living in danger zones as they were clogging waterways and also the most vulnerable in disasters. Among those who responded to this challenge were Singapore Red Cross and BP Castrol who helped build a

new community in GK Laura Drive in Napindan, Taguig City for 101 families. This community became a command center for relief operations to its neighboring communities during the Habagat disaster of August 2012, a testament to the strategy of transforming communities from vulnerability to empowerment.

Another partner who supports this strategy is the Keppel Group of Singapore who is building a community for 60 families. Besides the homes, they will likewise construct a pre-school and a community center for the residents.

Mayor Ryanh Dolor of Bauan, Batangas noted "The destitute often live in disaster-prone areas, with poor sanitation and limited access to fresh water and food. The Keppel-GK Eco Village, a first in Bauan, will help to change this by providing a healthy and sustainable living environment for its beneficiaries, restoring their dignity and empowering them to break out of the poverty cycle."

### 4. The GK Enchanted Farm

As the GK Enchanted Farm continues to spread its magic, many companies are helping build the much-needed infrastructure to develop the first-ever village university to showcase GK's Social Artistry phase. Notable to the realization of Tony Meloto's vision for the Enchanted Farm is the support of Shell Philippines through its Shell Instapave technology in June 2011 which built the main road that links the farm to the access road from the main highway. This was followed in 2012 by the building of other infrastructure such as the Shell training center and Shell grass villas to house the ever-growing social entrepreneurs who are trooping to the GK Enchanted Farm.

"We recognise that everyone should have access to basic services and livelihood opportunities. This is why we develop paving systems which are designed to meet the social, economic and environmental needs of local communities," – Chiro Yap, Shell Instapave Manager

Other partners who have contributed to transforming the GK Enchanted



Learning new IT systems in reporting, finance and database

Farm into a viable and rich center for social innovations are Hyundai, Human Nature and Mang Inasal. (A more detailed report on the GK Enchanted Farm can be viewed in pages 22-25 of this Annual Report.)

### 5. Values Formation Program and Hometown Campaign

A landmark innovation for partnerships is being pioneered by LifeBank Foundation (LBF) as they have invested in bringing GK's values formation program and the hometown campaign into their own organization. LBF started its partnership with Gawad Kalinga in 2011 by supporting key programs in 20 communities. The experience for its top leaders cemented a shared vision that has inspired them in early 2012 to take on the GK way to influence their own management and staff as well as their program beneficiaries. (Read more about the inspiring story of LBF in page 31 of this Annual Report.)

### 6. Operational Support for Backroom Operations

Key in driving our work on the ground are our other partners who believe in our organization and recognize the needs required to fuel operations. Strategically, they have shared their own extraordinary resources and their expertise to help us in various areas of the work. While there are monetary equivalents to their contribution, we cannot put a real value to how they share our dream as well as how they have done the extraordinary in helping us realize it.

**Smart Communications** has been instrumental in developing our online system "GK Unity" as well as supporting IT and internet infrastructure by funding our I-gate account and leased line.

**Profriends (Property Company of Friends, Inc.)** has continuously supported GK by providing the office premises for GK Headquarters. Besides covering for this main overhead investment,

its leadership through Mr. Gerry Choa continues to provide valuable advice and policy directions in GK's infrastructure program.

**Microsoft Foundation** continues to support GK through software grants but beyond the software that have been integral to office productivity, they have likewise been instrumental in sharing our vision to their network as well as opening up various opportunities for our leadership to learn more in the field of IT.

"We value our ecosystem of partners and place their growth as a top priority. Gawad Kalinga is truly a promising organization whose mission is something we support through the technology grants we provide them with. Through strategic partnerships like this, we at Microsoft are making more people realize their full potential." - Dondi Mapa, National Technology Officer, Microsoft Philippines

**Globe Telecom** has been a partner of Gawad Kalinga since 2006 and continued through the years to support its community in Bagong Silang. They have likewise supported the major advocacy initiatives of GK, annually driving one of the most exciting events on the ground "The Bayani Challenge", thus sharing the spirit of heroism across the country each year.

A notable initiative from our partnership with **Shell Philippines** is the audit conducted by a volunteer team of Shell retirees under the direction and guidance of Shell Country Chairman Ed Chua. They conduct reviews of our finance systems, policies and procedures including their implementation done on the ground. They report back to the Board Audit Committee with necessary recommendations.

Through these many initiatives supported by our partners, Team GK remains steadfast and committed in driving innovations towards Vision 2024.



# MOVING FORWARD



We honor our caretakers, partners and volunteers who remain unhampered by the many challenges they face, training their eyes instead onward to Vision 2024.

will bear fruit towards partnerships that will benefit the poor and ignite the nation building spirit among developers. In 2012, among those who responded were SM Development Corporation, Cityland, Inc. and Anchor Land Holdings.

For more details about this type of partnership opportunity, you can contact us at (02) 940-9789.

## Bayani Challenge 2013

It started as an annual event of Gawad Kalinga that over thousands of volunteers all over the country and across the world have started to look forward to as their heroic response to ending poverty. Through the years the Bayani Challenge has grown in following and has been able to engage public-private partnerships that has amplified its scope and impact.



## THE BIGGEST VOLUNTEER EVENT OF THE YEAR

From March 23-27, 2013 the Bayani Challenge takes on the theme "Isang Bayan. Isang Bayanihan." taking on its biggest and most massive multi-sectoral effort ever as we gather 100,000 nation builders in 34 provinces across the country.

For more information, visit [www.gk1world.com/bc2013](http://www.gk1world.com/bc2013).

Association), we aim to organize skilled and non-skilled workers — from construction workers to housekeepers — and prepare them for employment opportunities by building their character and skills. In parallel, a separate arm called Galing Kapitbahayan or GKap will take care of linking them with concrete opportunities in the market, leveraging GK's network of partners. Inherent within both programs is a vision to building an environment for the poor where there is dignity of labor. This means working towards compensation that meets minimum cost of living, paid sick leaves, access to emergency funds and other benefits. It is through these interventions that we transform the poor from becoming a burden of society to contributors of a growing economy.

### Compliance of Vertical Developers for Socialized Housing through the Board of Investments' (BOI) Accreditation of GK

Even while the accreditation was inked in late 2011, there still is great untapped potential for the growing number of vertical developers to concretely contribute towards transforming slums into beautiful communities in our many burgeoning towns and cities. It is our hope that this accreditation

As we look towards the next years with much optimism, confidence and excitement, we are grateful that we continue to draw inspiration, passion and innovation from the work and the many workers that our God has blessed us with. We recognize that the work is not solely ours and because of this we hold ourselves as humble stewards responsible for nurturing and growing it, leading it to newer areas that will allow it to impact more lives.

For the next year, the work will be about creating more opportunities for the poor to rise out of poverty and for the rich to help build a just and equitable world. It will likewise be about enabling more (more individuals and more groups in more towns and cities) to take concrete steps towards Vision 2024.

We would like to share with you a few of the exciting initiatives for next year:

### Building the New Middle Class

True to our unrelenting fire to dream for the poor, GK continues to explore enterprising ways to engage the wealth of human resource in our communities. Through a program called GAWA (Gawad Kalinga Accredited Workers

# International Offices & Affiliates

## AUSTRALIA

Gawad Kalinga Australia Ltd  
(ACN 149 039 467)

Suite 2, Level 9 Currency House,  
23 Hunter Street, Sydney NSW 2000,  
Australia

Tel: +61 2 8006 4587  
Fax: +61 2 9231 4244

Andrew Chalk (Chairman)  
[achalk@gawadkalinga.org.au](mailto:achalk@gawadkalinga.org.au)

## CANADA

Gawad Kalinga Canada

Registered Address:  
1929 Leslie Street, Toronto, Ontario,  
Canada M3B 2M3

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 91052 Bayview Village,  
2901 Bayview Avenue, Willowdale,  
Ontario, Canada M2K 2Y6

[www.gk1canada.com](http://www.gk1canada.com)  
[www.onecanadagk.com](http://www.onecanadagk.com)

Tax ID/ Charity ID  
84158 3917 RR0001

Jose Querubin (Vice-Chairman)  
[jose.querubin@gk1canada.com](mailto:jose.querubin@gk1canada.com)

## EUROPE

GK Austria

Rodolfo Quevenco  
[rquevenco@gmail.com](mailto:rquevenco@gmail.com)

GK France

Olivier Girault  
[oliviergirault@yahoo.fr](mailto:oliviergirault@yahoo.fr)

GK Ireland

Bimbo Manuel  
[asmanueljr@yahoo.com](mailto:asmanueljr@yahoo.com)

GK United Kingdom

Vanezza "Zaza" Zabert  
[vanezza.zabert@gk-unitedkingdom.org.uk](mailto:vanezza.zabert@gk-unitedkingdom.org.uk)

## INDONESIA

Yayasan Gerakan  
Kepedulian Keluarga  
Harapan Indonesia

Jalan Manunggal Jaya No. 49,  
Lebak Bulus 3, Cilandak,  
Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia

[gkindonesia@gk1world.com](mailto:gkindonesia@gk1world.com)  
Tel.: +62 21 57944737  
+62 816789938

Tax ID/ Charity ID  
NPWP 31.348.020-4-016.000

Ed Macesar/Maricel Macesar  
[eddieict@cbn.net.id](mailto:eddieict@cbn.net.id)  
[maricel\\_macesar@yahoo.com](mailto:maricel_macesar@yahoo.com)

## SINGAPORE

GK1WORLD (SINGAPORE) LTD.

352 Tanglin Road, #01-02, Strathmore  
Block, Singapore 247671

[gksingapore@gk1world.com](mailto:gksingapore@gk1world.com)  
Tel.: +65 6472 2264

Paolo Domondon (General Manager)  
[pdomondon@gk1world.org](mailto:pdomondon@gk1world.org)

## USA

GK 1 World Foundation (GKUSA)

13860 Stowe Drive, Poway, CA, 92064  
[gkusainfo@gk1world.com](mailto:gkusainfo@gk1world.com)

Tax ID/ Charity ID  
35-2361640

Glenda Terrado (Executive Director)  
[glenda@gk-usa.org](mailto:glenda@gk-usa.org)

Eleanor Figueroa (Partnership Services)  
[eleanor@gk-usa.org](mailto:eleanor@gk-usa.org)

Harold Clavite (Dev't. and Community  
Relations) [howie@gk-usa.org](mailto:howie@gk-usa.org)

Area Coordinators:

Antonio Pascua (California / North)  
[Antonio@gk-usa.org](mailto:Antonio@gk-usa.org)

Tess Poling (California / Sacramento)  
[Teresita@gk-usa.org](mailto:Teresita@gk-usa.org)

Tess Castro (California / Los Angeles)  
[Tess@gk-usa.org](mailto:Tess@gk-usa.org)

Marlon Austria (California /  
San Diego / North)  
[Marlon@gk-usa.org](mailto:Marlon@gk-usa.org)

Tina Balch (California / San Diego/ South)  
[Tina@gk-usa.org](mailto:Tina@gk-usa.org)

Rolly Aberion (Florida / Miami)  
[Rolando@gk-usa.org](mailto:Rolando@gk-usa.org)

Rocky Barrido (Florida / Tampa)  
[Rbarrid@msn.com](mailto:Rbarrid@msn.com)

Gerardo Balbin (Illinois)  
[Gerry@gk-usa.org](mailto:Gerry@gk-usa.org)

Cecilio Daculan (Minnesota)  
[Celio@gk-usa.org](mailto:Celio@gk-usa.org)

Ranel Sarmiento (Missouri)  
[Ranel@gk-usa.org](mailto:Ranel@gk-usa.org)

Rick Munda (Mountain /  
Colorado / Nevada)  
[Rick@gk-usa.org](mailto:Rick@gk-usa.org)

Louis Gosioco (Nevada)  
[Louis@gk-usa.org](mailto:Louis@gk-usa.org)

Evita Florendo (New England)  
[Evita@gk-usa.org](mailto:Evita@gk-usa.org)

Sonny Ramirez (New Jersey)  
[Sonny@gk-usa.org](mailto:Sonny@gk-usa.org)

Shirley Domingo (New York / Manhattan)  
[Shirley@gk-usa.org](mailto:Shirley@gk-usa.org)

Tina LoGuidice (New York / Queens)  
[Christine@gk-usa.org](mailto:Christine@gk-usa.org)

Francis delos Reyes (North Carolina)  
[Francis@gk-usa.org](mailto:Francis@gk-usa.org)

Myrcia Hoppe (Oklahoma)  
[Myrcia@gk-usa.org](mailto:Myrcia@gk-usa.org)

Carol Tulud (Texas / Houston)  
[Carol@gk-usa.org](mailto:Carol@gk-usa.org)

James Parker (Texas / San Antonio)  
[JamesP@gk-usa.org](mailto:JamesP@gk-usa.org)

Jackie Bretoi (Texas / San Antonio)  
[Jackie@gk-usa.org](mailto:Jackie@gk-usa.org)

Guia Caliwagan (Virginia / Hampton Road)  
[Guia@gk-usa.org](mailto:Guia@gk-usa.org)

Ben Dichoso (Washington, DC)  
[Ben@gk-usa.org](mailto:Ben@gk-usa.org)

GK GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS  
GF Cheng Bldg. 212 Haig St. Brgy. Daang-bakal, Mandaluyong City Philippines 1552  
Tel. No. (+632) 940 9789 / Telefax No. (+632) 533 2217  
[www.gk1world.com](http://www.gk1world.com)



[www.gk1world.com](http://www.gk1world.com)

