

TAYO 2

TEN ACCOMPLISHED YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS



ORGANIZERS

ABOUT TAYO

TAYO, or the Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations, is an annual search that aims to recognize, reward, and encourage youth efforts in nation building. The first TAYO Search was held last year, and culminated in an awarding ceremony in April 2003, at Malacañang Palace.

It has since become known the Philippines' foremost award for outstanding youth organizations, choosing its winners based on innovative programs or projects that have benefited communities everywhere. This year, Area Finals eliminations were held in Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, and the National Capital Region, finally concluding with the national judging and awarding ceremonies, where 20 organizations from the four areas vied for the Top Ten slots. Present at the awarding ceremony, held on July 23, 2004 at the Malacañang Palace, was no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Tayo 2 takes off from where Youth Rocks!, the first TAYO magazine, leaves off—seeking to capture the youthful passion and idealistic commitment that the TAYO winners and finalists have demonstrated in their efforts to make a mark in Philippine society. Although it presents the organizations in a light and (literally) comical manner, it by no means makes light of the achievements of the young men and women inside its pages. By creating this publication, TAYO's organizers, sponsors, supporters, and friends hope that more young people will lead positive change in their communities and spur the country's social, political, economic, and spiritual transformation.



ABOUT THE NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION

The National Youth Commission is the premier youth policy-making body of the Philippine government. Created through law eight years ago, it sets the youth agenda in legislative affairs and ensures that the Filipino youth's interests are represented in government and public work. Apart from these, the NYC also implements several flagship programs and projects for the youth.

The TAYO search is one of the numerous programs in the NYC's growing portfolio. As the NYC continues its quest to improve the lives of the Filipino youth and to ensure young people's participation in building and developing our nation, it calls upon Filipino youth everywhere to "Be someone's hero today."



ABOUT THE OFFICE OF SENATOR FRANCIS "KIKO" PANGILINAN

Behind Senator Kiko Pangilinan is a youthful team of individuals who are committed to promoting legislation and projects that add value to Filipino people's lives. Team Kiko, as they are collectively called, has been known to be a progressive, motivated, and dynamic staff in the Philippine Senate. Sharing the vision of Sen. Kiko for the youth, the search for the Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations became the flagship youth campaign of Team Kiko for the year 2003. As the search enters its third year, the office continues its commitment to highlight the role of the youth in nation-building, and to show how this is already happening in different parts of the country through the work of youth organizations.



SuperTAYO



Ver. Jafar Png 2004

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GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



I congratulate the country's *Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO)* for channeling their energy and idealism towards responsible and principled service, one that upholds the values of honor, commitment, discipline, determination, compassion and humility.

By being part of TAYO, your volunteerism and dedication to service provide evidence that you hold in your hands the capability and the knowledge of how best to empower and enable our youth to become productive citizens and responsible leaders. The dynamism and selflessness you exude as part of this year's TAYO will certainly make you become beacons for generations to come.

Let me also congratulate the *National Youth Commission*, the *Office of Senator Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, Mirant Philippines*, the *Philippine Council of Young Political Leaders*, the *Foundation For Governance and Convergence*, the *National Movement of Young Legislators* and all program partners for continuing to take big steps towards a more vibrant and empowered youth through TAYO.

Together, let us explore the frontiers of reforms so that democracy and its blessings can decisively revitalize our society and create a stronger nation through our youth.

Again, I congratulate you all, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your dedication in building a strong republic.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo



SENATOR FRANCIS "KIKO" PANGILINAN



For us, the organizers of this Search, TAYO is a source of genuine fulfillment and inspiration. It is the realization of our cherished aspirations for the country – that we shall have a citizenry, especially the youth, that actively and passionately cares for the nation's welfare and that of its people. It is the answer to our deepest fears that the nation has lost its youth to the distractions of our times.

What we find in TAYO are living and shining examples of everyday activism. The young women and men who have joined the Search are to us manifestations of civic duty, volunteerism, courage, and determination. What is amazing is that they call themselves "ordinary Pinoy youth." I believe they are anything but ordinary, because through their selfless efforts and tireless contributions to society, they are nothing short of extraordinary.

I join the nation in congratulating the Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations of 2004. I hope reading about their stories in this publication will inspire more young people and their barkada to become more involved in the community. Nation building is everyone's business. Let us be the stakeholders of a bright Filipino future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kiko', with a horizontal line underneath.



PAOLO BENIGNO A. AGUINO IV
CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION



Another year brings a new set of TAYO winners. These organizations braved the challenges and faced the consequences of playing an active part in solving some of their communities' problems.

TAYO is about enjoining other youth and concerned individuals into being part of the solution, and choosing not to let the grim statistics daunt them from being productive members of society. TAYO is about taking a stand, making that decision to stop being the victim of circumstance and spearheading the solutions that make a difference.

We recognize the efforts of these exemplary youth who have made that decision and prevailed. And with the hope in these enlightened souls, we, the organizers of TAYO, dwell in the possibility that we can make small but sure steps towards a better tomorrow.

Ben Aquino

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

They were awarded as two of the country's Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO) in 2003. A year after the applause has died down, MyZoo Foundation and the Ateneo Debate Society continue to prove that, indeed, old (world-changing) habits die hard.

MyZoo Foundation: Keeping up the Fight For Mother Earth's children

MyZoo has gone a long way since last year's awarding ceremony. Aside from continuously being conducted in Metro Manila, Rizal, and Laguna, its winning entry, the Zoo to You Expansion Program, was used in a project in partnership with The Wild Thornberrys (who came courtesy of CLICK Licensing Asia) when the latter toured 50 schools in Metro Manila last year. Using digitally formatted portraits of Philippine wildlife, the project promoted conservation efforts as a supplement to regular school curricula, and the show as an educational tool.



Then, early in 2004, MyZoo embarked on an anti-illegal wildlife trade campaign entitled "Paglaya Mula sa Munting Hawla". It will be presented via calendars, posters, tarpaulin prints, and the media, and will be fully implemented in 2005. In June this year, it implemented the Environmental Awareness and Action Formation Initiative, an environmental education and conservation training program for youth groups around the country. My Zoo also renewed its agreement with the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) to develop the Bureau's education and awareness programs. This includes the establishment of an environmental education center in PAWB and the promotion of the Philippine Wildlife Conservation Act of 2001. These endeavors earned for MyZoo a Plaque of Recognition from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in September 2004. Then, to celebrate International Environment Month in October, the organization sponsored an exhibit and premiere screening of *Two Brothers*, a film showing the story of two tigers separated at birth by man only to return to the wild in the end.

MyZoo continuously conducts programs and projects to increase the public's awareness of the country's natural heritage. It particularly works to educate the public about the Philippines' endemic animals so that their population and habitats may still be protected. As Baba Dioum states, and as MyZoo believes, "In the end, we will conserve only what we love, love only what we understand, and understand only what we are taught."

By Lester Louie L. Lopez

Ateneo Debate Society

Being recognized for the Ateneo Debate Society's achievements in deepening debate education and critical thinking in the country was a rather unique experience for us. While we have always been recognized for our achievements in competitive debating, recognition for our other activities happened less frequently. There were times when we would question our ability to manage the ADS both as a varsity team and as a youth organization bent on making an impact in the country's future. But being one of the TAYO reminded us of why we should always strive to be both, no matter how impossible the tasks would seem—because what we do does make an impact.

At the time that we were awarded, the Society was in the midst of planning for the coming year, to strengthen the potential of the Philippine Debate Development Program (PDDP). Since then, the ADS has continued to excel in the international and the national debate circuits, and has also strengthened and innovated the PDDP to provide better services to our debate education recipients.

In the previous year, the ADS formed partnerships with the



Konrad Adenauer Foundation, a German political foundation, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, and PLDT. These partnerships have tremendous contributed to the way

ADS delivers its goals and commitments at present. Aside from these, we have been continually expanding our target audience for debate education, as well as diversifying our services. Our nationwide high school tournament has also never been as successful in enriching Philippine debate culture as it is now. With all these advances that we have made in our organization's history, it seems inevitable that the ADS will just continue moving forward.

By Eleanor Uy

ON THE ROAD WITH TAYO

MONDAY, JULY 19



WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO START THE WEEK? WITH LUNCH, OF COURSE!



THEN, A LITTLE WAKE-UPPER WITH MR. ANTHONY PANGILINAN



TUESDAY, JULY 20



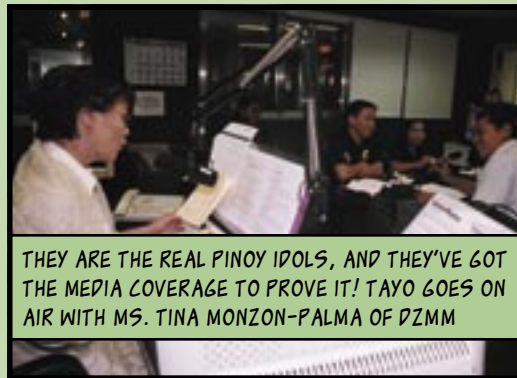
THE FINALISTS STRUT THEIR STUFF AND WOW THE JUDGES WITH THEIR PRESENTATIONS

"I GET TIED WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS"

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21



TALK ABOUT BLAZING TRAILS! JASON SIBUG OF TUKLAS KATUTUBO AND PAOLO AGUILAR OF UP TASK FORCE ARKI ADD A LITTLE... OOMPH... TO THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES



THEY ARE THE REAL PINOY IDOLS, AND THEY'VE GOT THE MEDIA COVERAGE TO PROVE IT! TAYO GOES ON AIR WITH MS. TINA MONZON-PALMA OF DZMM



AND HERE WITH SENATE PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DRILON



EVEN STARS NEED TO WATCH OTHER STARS! TAYO GOES TO MAGANDANG TANGHALI BAYAN FOR A LITTLE LUNCHEON ENTERTAINMENT



SHOOTING STARS! THE TAYO FINALISTS GET THEIR 15 SECONDS OF FAME AT THE BAYWALK OF ROXAS BLVD.

LORENZO "KIDDO" LOSIO OF GENREV STUDENT NETWORK ENDORSES THE NEWEST, HIP-PEST BRAND FOR THE YOUTH



THURSDAY, JULY 22



BREAKFAST... THE BEST WAY TO START THE DAY



NOW, ONTO THE REAL BREAKFAST



FRIDAY, JULY 23



LOOK, MOM, I'M ON THE NEWS!



AND ON THE AIR, TOO! ("I WOULD LIKE TO GREET MY FRIENDS...")



THE COVETED TROPHY BY ARTIST TOYM IMAO DE LEON



TAYO 2 WINNERS GET AWARDED BY MS. DEBORAH LANDEY, UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL COORDINATOR, SENATOR FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN, HER EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, NYC CHAIRMAN PAOLO BENIGNO A. AQUINO IV, AND MR. BOBBY CALINGO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MIRANT PHILIPPINES



THE TEN ACCOMPLISHED YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS



GO FOR GREEN! ELVIN IVAN UY OF THE DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY MANILA-STUDENT COUNCIL IS AWARDED THE U.N. MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AWARD FOR THE ORGANIZATION'S FIVE-YEAR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



AND, NOW, ON TO BUSINESS... TAYO AWARDEES SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) WITH THE TAYO FOUNDATION

DE LA SALLE
UNIVERSITY-MANILA
STUDENT COUNCIL



Council of Change



If you were part of the student council of a large university, you'd probably have projects, complaints, fundraisers, and meetings coming out of your ears—not to mention the daily lessons, homework, and exams that actually keep you in school. The students of the De La Salle University-Manila Student Council (SC) have proven that, aside from coping with the rigors of their academic and extra-curricular work, they can also carve out time to help communities around them in very real, very concrete ways.

The SC's mission initially involved 3 Ps of total student empowerment: **p**rotect students' rights, **p**romote students' welfare, and **p**rovide opportunities for the holistic development of students. But in schoolyear 2001-2002, it decided to look beyond the school's walls and add another P: **p**artake in nation-building.

According to Elvin Uy, the SC's representative to the TAYO awarding ceremony, "When the Student Council added 'partake in nation-building' to the organization's mission statement... the leadership team then of the SC had to think of ways to best live out this facet of the mission statement. Then SC President Emmeline Aglipay suggested that the SC embark on a comprehensive community development program, and made it mandatory for all SC units to help out in this project."

The students realized that, as more privileged citizens of Philippine society, they had to contribute to the upliftment of communities around them. They chose for their five-year community development program Barangay 91 Zone 9 in Libertad, Pasay City, a community where half of the families didn't have a stable means of livelihood, and where most had difficulty meeting even their basic needs.

"The first challenge was making a program that would truly make the community self-reliant after the SC's stint with it..." Elvin reveals. "The barangay... had to understand that the SC was not there to bail them out; rather, the SC will only serve as an enabler for them, that they will find their own way to self-sufficiency after five years." Meeting this challenge required frequent visits to the community and dialogues among community residents, barangay leaders, and the students themselves.

"The next challenge was translating the formulated program goals into specific, workable projects and activities. After which, the next challenge would be the rigors of implementing a project, which includes finding the necessary funding and manpower... The SC relied heavily on the inputs of resource persons and institutions to guide its action."

The SC sought the help of the DLSU-Manila's Center for Social Concern and Action (COSCA) to coordinate efforts involving the community. It then reviewed and assessed the barangay profile and community development plan that it had formulated. It consulted with different SC branches and officers, and especially the residents of Barangay 91, regarding the different projects and activities that would be implemented under the plan. Finally, it put its plan into action, maximizing whatever talents, skills, and resources that they had gathered.

"We've learned that giving so little can mean so much. What made the ComDev (Community Development Plan) successful was not the gargantuan efforts of some select individuals, but the collective small actions of many individuals, students or otherwise," Elvin shares of this experience.

The SC still has two years to go before it fully achieves its goals, and it acknowledges that there will be more challenges and trials along the way. Moreover, the SC's members realize that what they're doing now is just the beginning of newfound hope for Barangay

91. It will still be up to the residents themselves to sustain these efforts and their results. "The hardest realization is the fact that no matter how much you try to help others, you cannot single-handedly uplift them; they themselves would have to have that desire to help themselves. Otherwise, no amount of help or enabling will really make their lives better."

Whether Barangay 91 eventually and fully uplifts itself from poverty's grasp, no one can say. But through the efforts of the students of the DLSU-Manila Student Council, the residents of Barangay 91 have hope on which to build their dreams.

A Framework For Community Development

The DLSU-Manila Student Council's five-year community development program involved these four aspects. See what you can learn from this, and how you can replicate this in your community:

- **H**Health and **H**ousing
- **E**ducation and **E**nvironment
- **L**ivelihood and **L**ocal Governance
- **P**eople's **P**rotection and **P**articipation

The community was divided into committees and groups

- Children's group (Kaluskos Musmos)
- Youth group, in coordination with the Sangguniang Kabataan
- Adults' group

Simultaneous planning and implementation of projects was done across the different key areas. Each project was headed by different SC officers and was implemented together with the barangay.

HEALTH

- Coordination with the Barangay Health Center
- Medical and dental missions (with the aid of various hospital groups, i.e., the Department of Health, the Philippine General Hospital, etc.)
- Increasing the inventory of medicines found in the Barangay Health Center

EDUCATION

- Computer literacy program - This program aims to equip the barangay with basic computer skills that will make its members computer-literate and give them an edge in terms of securing employment. It takes nine sessions to complete.
- Workshops to hone the talents and develop the skills of the Kaluskos Musmos children
- Bead-jewelry-making
- Basketball and volleyball tutorials (with the participation of the DLSU-Manila varsity players)
- Arts and crafts workshop
- Singing, dancing, and acting lessons (with the participation of the DLSU-Manila Harlequin Theatre Guild)
- Graduation ceremonies for participants of various workshops
- Tutorials on General Education Courses (Math, Science, English, Filipino, Makabayan) and skills enhancement (reading, writing, listening, and public speaking)
- Catechism and Lenten Retreats (in coordination with the DLSU-Manila Lasallian Pastoral Office)

ENVIRONMENT

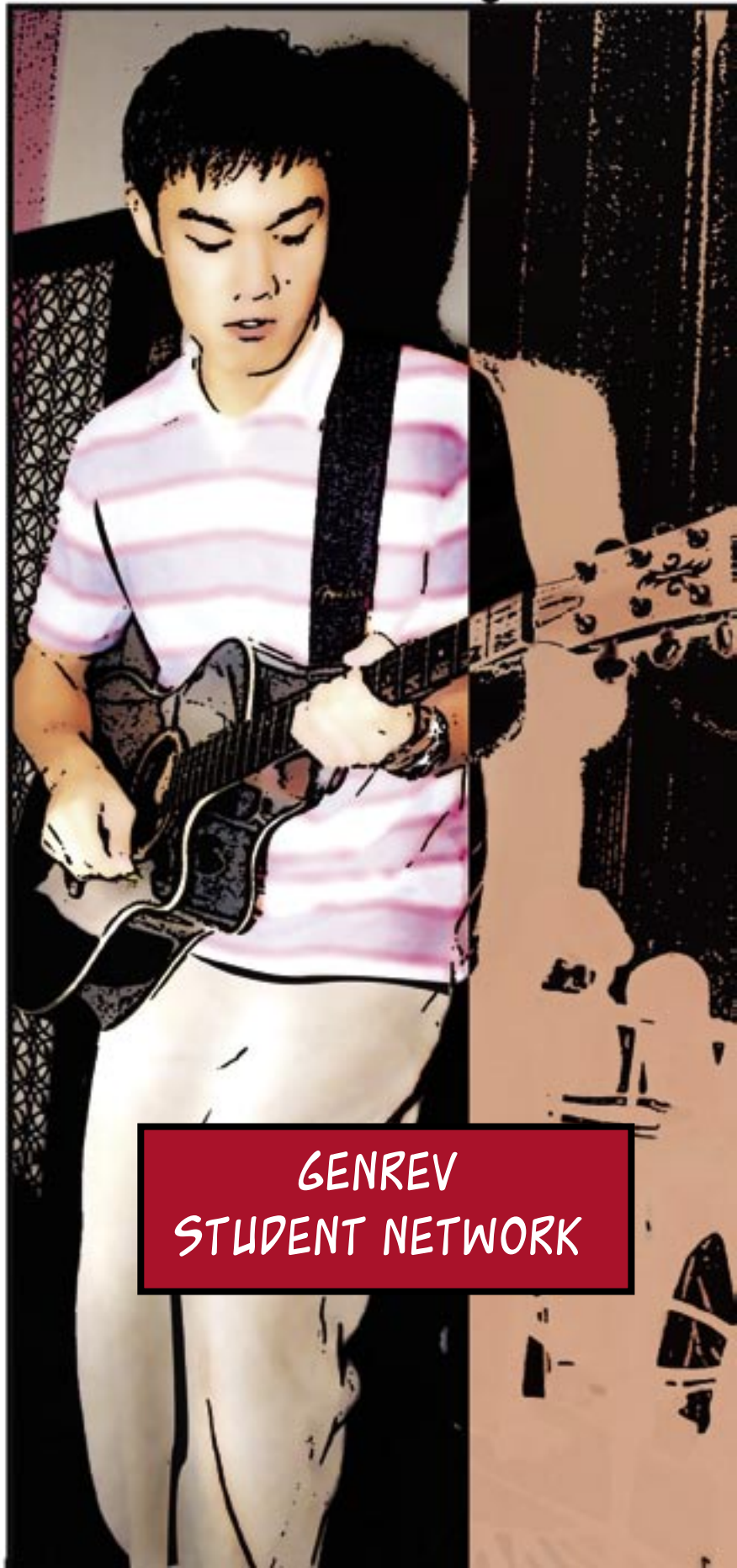
- Waste Management seminars
- Cleaning of canals and side streets
- Clean and Green projects and campaigns

LIVELIHOOD

- Coordination with the Cooperative Development Authority-Pasay Chapter
- Exploratory talks for mothers in order to start their cooperative
- Vocational training for mothers (i.e., bead-jewelry-making, pillow-making, candle-making, food processing, etc.)
- Cooperative establishment by some members of the barangay, where they pooled their resources to be able to provide gardening services and sell plants and flowers


Taken from the DLSU-Manila Student Council's entry form to the 2004 TAYO search.

All Revved Up!



GENREV
STUDENT NETWORK





Entertainment networks and advertisers spend millions of dollars to get our attention, using the latest technology and the boldest concepts just to get us to stay focused on them for a few minutes—or even just for a few seconds.

The same is true for Internet advertisers and websites, who have to contend with this generation's über-limited attention span and eight-second itch.

Now how does one youth organization with few members and practically no funding get its message across to as many people as possible—especially if its message is centered on the Gospel?

The answer is simple, but it isn't easy. As the members of the GenRev (Generation Revival) Student Network have proven, all it takes is a little savvy, a little creativity, and a whole lot of commitment, passion, and faith.

A new Generation, a new revolution

GenRev was formally established in September 2002, when 30 high school and college students and young professionals decided that they want to help revive God's word in schools, and to awaken students to the "explosive power of the Catholic faith."

"We have long realized that spiritual and moral poverty are prevalent in today's youth culture, (that these are) the reasons for many of society's ills. They are the causes of the immorality and injustice that plague our people and the reason behind the apathy that keeps young people from doing anything to change that reality," shares Lorenzo "Kiddo" Cosio, GenRev's representative to the TAYO Search.

Realizing that they had to be creative "and not follow existing structures" in order to reach as many young people as possible with very limited resources, the team did a little research. They discovered that Filipino students were very Internet savvy, and that, through this technology, they could break down geographical barriers and operate even from within their homes. Thus, www.GenRev.net was born.

Creating a website is relatively easy, but creating an online community that young people would want to be part of isn't. Kiddo says that they used a "strategy of humor, craziness, youthspeak, and extreme friendliness" to deliver its serious message. Aside from having an attractive homepage, GenRev.net online devotionals, youth-related articles and features, Bible studies, inspirational weblogs, personal and customizable profiles, on-site email and personal messaging services, free downloads, and public message board access. Through the site, young people from everywhere and from all walks of life discuss everything from school and family problems, to sex and relationships, career direction, drug addiction, and even depression and suicide. With over a million hits a month, it has, indeed, become a thriving online community.

Kiddo is thankful, but he knows that their work has just begun. "We at GenRev have begun reaching individuals in various ways that are relevant to youth culture. We have seen drastic change(s) on a personal level, but there remains much to be done. We're basically 'in the picture' and on the scene, but the picture is yet to be completed," he says.

Of course, it's important for a community to have avenues for live interaction, especially if it wants to forge ties that last. GenRev also holds campus visits, retreats, and seminars, and even regular

"GenRev Nights" and concerts to keep its young audience hooked. Oh, and for those who can't get enough of them, there's also Crazy About You, GenRev's first CD release, and GenRev Radio, which airs on DWSS 1494 AM.

Small sacrifices, large payoffs

Their work seems to be so much fun. Is there anything that's even remotely challenging or difficult about this cause?

"Reaching out to other people always includes self-denial," Kiddo admits. "Stepping into another person's world to impact their lives means sometimes giving up personal comforts and pleasures. It always involves a lot of time. Constantly investing time and effort in prayer and work is always a challenge, especially when there are major events and activities that we have to put together alongside keeping genrev.net alive.

"Nonetheless, the payoffs are tremendous and the fulfillment that comes with being an instrument for change is out of this world. This always drives us on."

Living a life of purpose and passion

With so many young people today faced with a seeming loss of purpose and far too many distractions, how can we find and keep our purpose?

Again, the answers are simple, but not easy:

1. **Love God.** Love for God drives us to love others; it fuels our patriotism and desire for good.
2. **Love people.** People understand the language of love more than any other.
3. **Give your all.** Don't ever do anything without giving your 100%. God and His people deserve our absolute best and nothing less. Mediocrity never got anything anywhere. Excellence will get you places... maybe even a spot among the Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations!

"Selflessness is realizing that reaching out has hardly anything to do with you, and everything to do with other people and what God wants you to do for them," says Kiddo. Words of wisdom, indeed, from someone who's got God's wisdom backing him up every step of the way.

See what can happen with Divine Inspiration!

- With practically zero budget, GenRev got a team of amateur web designers from Manila and programmers from Cebu to build GenRev.net.
- With no marketing or promotions strategy, GenRev got a **million hits** on its first month alone!
- Within one year, GenRev's membership grew to **4,607 (or over 15,000% growth!)**
- It has members coming from **900 schools** in **25 countries**.
- GenRev.net won as **Best Website for 2003** in the 25th Catholic Mass Media
- The website has over **1 million average monthly hits**.
- It has over **10,000** average unique visits per month.
- Over **350 new members** join the GenRev community per month.

Tribal Triumph



TUKLAS KATUTUBO, INC.

"Bakit sa Maynila... Ang daming tulay ngunit wala naman akong nakikitang tubig na umaagos sa ibaba? Bakit sa bundok maraming ilog ngunit wala namang tulay na maaaring maging daanan ng aming mga kalabaw upang ihatid ang aming mga pagkain? (Why is it that, in Manila, there are many bridges but there are no rivers running underneath them? Here in the mountains, there are plenty of rivers but there are no bridges where our carabaos can pass to bring us our food.)" – Manobo children

The Philippines has 110 indigenous tribes that contribute to our country's rich cultural heritage. We know of a few of them through the texts in our history textbooks and our social studies classes, and through the tapestries, beadwork, handicrafts, and textiles that we find in trade fairs and *tiangges*. Apart from that, however, these groups remain as shadows and glimpses of our pre-Hispanic past, relegated to the highlands and the forgotten corners of our now-urbanized society.

Aside from being treated as second-class citizens in their own country, these groups are also often deprived of land, livelihood, education, and the right to practice their rituals and traditions. It is this painful reality that has prompted the young and emerging leaders of these tribes to come together and form Tuklas Katutubo.

The first-ever national indigenous youth organization in the Philippines, Tuklas Katutubo seeks to train and organize indigenous peoples, especially their children and youth, so that they may be assimilated into "mainstream" Philippine society. Jason Sibug, Tuklas Katutubo's representative to the TAYO Search, clarifies that the kind of empowerment these people need is different from traditional notions of empowerment. "*Ang katutubo, empowered na sa sarili nilang tradisyon at kultura* (The native peoples are already empowered in regard to their own tradition and culture). (They) know their rights on land, self-determination... to organize as tribal peoples, rights to education, livelihood."

What they need, Jason says, are opportunities to participate as active and productive members of our society.

With a philosophy of actualizing the legacies of their forebears; and expressing, caring for, and fulfilling their cultural heritage, Tuklas Katutubo works to:

- Train indigenous peoples about their rights, responsibilities, personality development, and avenues of participation
- Introduce them to new technologies and means for livelihood and economic development
- Conduct research and documentation activities
- Conduct advocacy campaigns
- Organize relief service operations and medical missions
- Organize networking activities and facilitate linkages among various tribes and organizations, including an inter-school cultural exchange program.

Its project entry to the TAYO Search, *Balik Tribo*, is a comprehensive community empowerment and educational immersion program where indigenous youth attend a five-day workshop that teaches them the value of peace and culture, environment, health, and education. People from various sectors are also invited to participate, as this gives them a chance to interact with their tribal peers, exchange ideas, and understand and appreciate life in the mountains.

"We learned that the IPs (Indigenous Peoples) are in remote areas, so we decided that instead of them coming down from the mountains, it should be us from the lowlands who should go up and learn to live and co-exist with them in order to understand their plight," Jason says.

Balik Tribo is an innovative and groundbreaking program that has achieved much for the IP community in the Philippines. But it also came with its share of challenges and difficulties. Jason shares that they found it difficult to get funding and support from the LGUs (local government units). The club was blessed so far with contributions from church groups, NGOs, and other private corporations. They've also been able to raise funds through the fees that *Balik Tribo* participants pay, as well as other fundraising activities.

Their cause is literally an uphill climb, but the youth of Tuklas Katutubo are confident that they can achieve their aims. They now have 3,000 members nationwide, and they've already served 60 of the 110 tribes in the country. They've also organized many pioneering activities, such as the First National Indigenous Youth Summit, held in May 2002 in Kidapawan City, and the "Bangon Batang Katutubo" national campaign, which they launched last year in Quezon City. Aside from these, they've also been recognized here and abroad for their work, winning even the prestigious TOYS (The Outstanding Youth Service Award) from the United Nations and UNESCO.

"We've learned many things through this, such as being culturally sensitive, and we have also helped IPs to become self-reliant," Jason shares, "But the greatest lesson we have learned is that indigenous peoples have their own rights and abilities. We tell them that, 'you can go to the mainstream society even while preserving your cultural background and tradition (beads, weaving, songs, dances, etc.)' It can become a reality."

Tuklas Katutubo has already done a lot to advance the cause of the people it represents. As the years progress, we hope that they will fully realize their goals and have their culture more actively promoted in mainstream Filipino culture.

TRIBAL TRIVIA
Where are these tribes located?
See if you can guess!

Ayta	Teduray
Manobo	Aromanen
Mamanwa	Ilianon
Talaandig	Obo
Kalinga	T'boli

Answers:


Ayta – Zamboales and Nueva Vizcaya, Manobo – North Cotabato and Agusan del Sur, Mamanwa – Surigao, Talaandig – Bukidnon, Kalinga – Kalinga Province, Teduray – Maguindanao and North Cotabato, Aromanen – North Cotabato, Ilianon – North Cotabato, Obo – North Cotabato, T'boli – South Cotabato



By the Numbers



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
OF MANAGEMENT
ACCOUNTANTS (SAMA)
OF DON MARIANO MARCOS
STATE UNIVERSITY



In mathematical terms, you arrive at a sum when you add two numbers. A difference, on the other hand, is the result of subtracting one figure from the other. But for number-crunchers like the Students' Association of Management Accountants (SAMA) of the Don Mariano Marcos State University in Ilocos, the sum of their efforts on and off-campus have multiplied to make a whole lot of difference to themselves and to their community.

Most of SAMA's members are Management Accounting majors—but these bookkeepers aren't necessarily the bookish type. In fact, the organization prides itself on for the fact that they have a responsibility to the standards and needs of their school, as well as outside the walls of their campus.

"We recognized the importance of cooperatives and SMEs to the community and the economy," shares SAMA's President Vivian Bartido. According to her, this led to the formation of the Volunteers for Enterprise and Cooperative Development (VECoD). Working hand-in-hand with the College of Business, Economics and Accountancy, SAMA's volunteers have ably aided cooperatives in Ilocos by providing bookkeeping and accounting assistance and by setting up accounting systems that these co-ops could manage on their own.

"There is this very alarming situation of co-ops in the provinces," Bartido adds. "There are 830 registered co-ops, (but) only 52% percent are operating and only one-third are potentially viable." She attributes this partly to a lack of cooperative education, business management skills, knowledge in bookkeeping and recording of transactions.

Recognizing the breadth of the needs that it had to

address, VECOD expanded its services to include: tracing the roots of the cooperatives' problems through a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis, the establishment of cooperative membership training and strengthening seminars, and Cooperative Consultancy visits & and monthly evaluations.

The numbers speak for themselves. Because of SAMA's help, 11 of Ilocos Norte's cooperatives are now able to implement and manage their finances more diligently and effectively. In fact, SAMA had a hand in reviving two cooperatives which had stopped operating for years.

"The fact that we were able to help those cooperatives to prosper is really very fulfilling," says Bartido with pride. "We had to pacify super *sungit* co-op members, convince uncooperative officers, and reach out to those who were afraid and suspicious," she adds, recounting some of the difficulties that SAMA has encountered. Along with a lack of funds there were also perils of traveling to those cooperatives in far-flung areas. "*Parang kasa-kasama na namin ang disgrasya* (It was as if we were accompanied by bad luck). Our vehicle would get in trouble. *Mawawalan ng brakes* (We would lose our brakes) or, when traveling in bad weather, *na-open na lang 'yung hood ng sasakyan at natakpan na ang* (the hood of our vehicle would open and cover the) windshield!"


But all these haven't dampened the enthusiasm of SAMA. The organization's success has been recognized by the members themselves as well as by the school, which conferred on it the Best Interest/Curricular Organization award in 2003. The volunteers even have a saying that resembles a beer ad slogan, "It's SMV: Sarap maging VECOD!"



Cebu's Child Wonders



SUGBUANONG PUNDOK ARON SUGPUN
ANG CHILD ABUSE (SUPACA)



In an ideal world, children grow up healthily and happily, full of love, free of abuse, and free to express themselves and be productive members of society. As we all know, however, the world isn't ideal, and children everywhere are exposed to maltreatment, abuse, and crime. This is true even in the progressive city of Cebu, which has its own share of challenges in spite of being rich in culture, steeped in tradition, and immersed in industry.

"Before our organization was born, young people in our community were hooked on rugby. Most of the people there... liked to quarrel; kids weren't aware of their rights and feared nothing. And their parents didn't care about them—not even about these children's education," Diana Aspiras of Sugbuanong Pundok Aron Sugpuon ang Child Abuse (SUPACA) shares in Filipino. "Even in our school, there are teachers who would abuse the kids and hit them if they can't answer questions properly, and especially if they're caught not listening to the teacher.

"The clincher came when one of our friends... was abused by her father and became pregnant at the same time as her mother," Diana reveals. "Then we decided to organize ourselves." SOPACA (Students' Organization for Protection Against Child Abuse), SUPACA's forerunner organization, was born. Its name was later changed when the organization expanded to include even out-of-school youth (OSY) from their communities.

The organization's main thrust is to advocate for and protect children's rights, and to educate their peers about these. It conducts training sessions on leadership and team building, child rights laws (specifically, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Child and Youth Welfare Code, and the law on Special Protection for Children), and the technology of participation; as well as room-to-room campaigns, small group discussions among student leaders, symposia, and poster- and essay-making contests.

"We started by advocating to our peers about their rights, and then we eventually created training programs to develop young people... It was difficult at first because the teachers didn't care—they would ask us about our activities, and then ask why these were still necessary. They wouldn't let us conduct our activities at first, but we persisted and explained our cause to them, and they eventually understood our purpose."

From its school-based activities, SUPACA went on to conquer the air waves. Its radio program, *Kids on Air*, airs every Saturday over

Angel Radio; and its TV program, *Kapihan sa Kabataan*, is shown by the Philippine Information Agency over SkyCable every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. Four of its members are also part of the Cebu Bureau of the Kabataan News Network, a national program supported by The Probe Team and the United Nations Children's Fund.

The organization has been lucky so far with the support that it's been receiving. Diana admits that they don't have a lot of funding, but they've been kept afloat by the generosity of their benefactors. "We've been able to sustain our organization because people inside and outside our community, even those from beyond Cebu City, want us to succeed. They see that we really want to educate young people about their rights."

The founding members' efforts are now being multiplied by eight SUPACA chapters around Cebu City, as well as by a community of out-of-school youth in Sita Alaska, Mambaling, Cebu. All of these chapters have their respective activities and officers, who congregate at the annual SUPACA Confederation and election of officers.

SUPACA's members are a cut above the rest. Apart from being recognized as a "best practice" by Save the Children-UK for enabling young people to participate in governance and nation-building, the organization also counts among its members and alumni:

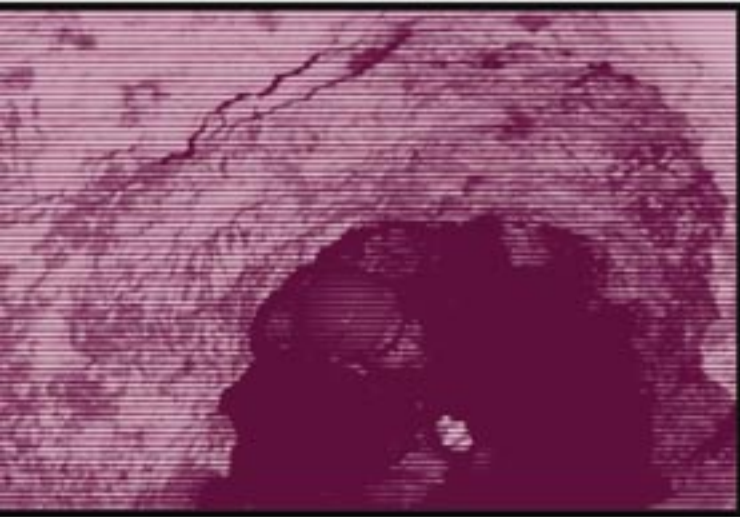
- 3 members of the National Anti-Poverty Commission Children's Sectoral Council
- 2 of the Ten Outstanding Cebuano Youth Leaders (for 2002 and 2003)
- An Outstanding Boy Scout of the Philippines (for 2003)
- And a member of the Cebu City Commission for the Welfare and Protection of Children (CCCWPC)

The organization is also a member of the Cebu City Task Force on Street Children.

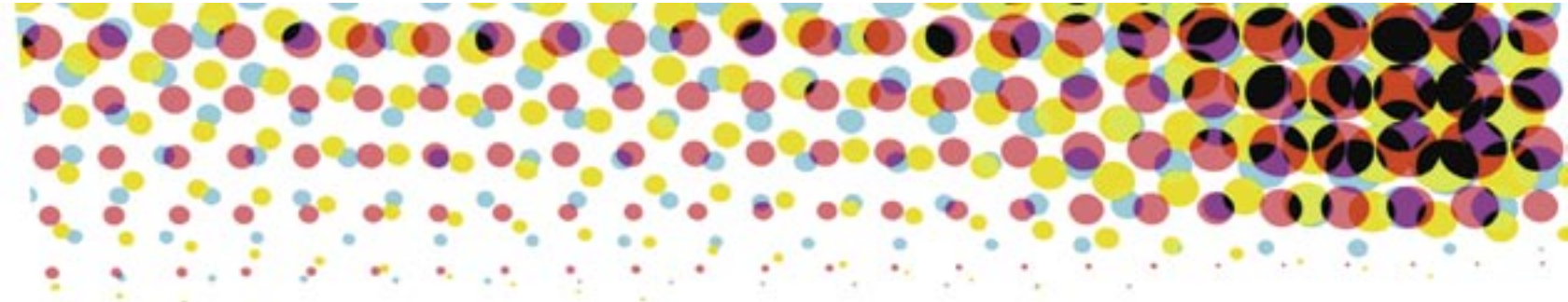
So what more could these youngsters ask for? Not too much, Diana answers, only that they want to coordinate with more local government units (LGUs) in order to expand their activities. Nationwide, perhaps!

To other young people and youth organizations who want to make a dent in the world, Diana shares these words: "Don't be afraid of whatever challenges your organization may face. Finish what you've started, be true and sincere to your mission, and strive to achieve your goals even if you don't have too much funding."

Into the Caves



CONSERVATION AND
RESTORATION EXERCISE
(CORE), INC.



They were just a group of friends who didn't go to school, but who met regularly to play soccer. While taking a break from a game one day, they decided to do a little exploring in the nearby caves. By the time they got out of those graffiti-filled caves, Reynaldo "Jun" Bagayas, Jr., Giovanni Sicat, Patrick Gaddi, Hilario Gaddi, Patrick Remedio, and Oggie Sanchez had been infused with a new mission and the passion to do more with their young lives.

Conservation and Restoration Exercise (CORE), Inc. was informally established in Agusan Canyon, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon when that same group of soccer players-turned-cave enthusiasts conducted its first-ever cave cleanup on Earth Day 2001. Armed with only garbage bags and water sprays, these seven young men collected the garbage that they found inside and around the caves, and erased years' worth of graffiti that had defaced their natural beauty.

They realized that it would take more than a day to clean the caves, so they invited more friends to join them the following week. Three years and over a hundred weeks' worth of cleanups later, the group is larger and more committed than ever, having conducted cave cleanups every Sunday since their first attempt, and having raised enough funds to make Linis Kweba a sustainable project.

Jun shares of their first encounter with some of CORE's volunteers: "We were mistaken to be 'mga mayayaman' (rich kids) until nakita nila na we dealt with the garbage. They participated in the protection of the caves and insisted to be taught about the caves' technical aspects. So we did!"

In time, CORE attracted the attention of surrounding communities and local government units. Other out-of-school youth (OSY), students, and even drug dependents turned to them as outlets for self-expression and civic duty. When Republic Act 9072—the Cave Management and Protection Act—was being drafted, the group was asked by the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) to document its weekly cleanup activity and to participate in the drafting and public consultation of the bill. The PENRO also lauded CORE for initiating Linis Kweba even before the existence of a law on cave management and protection.

Realizing the impact of their activities and their responsibility to the community, CORE went beyond cleaning caves and began

attending training seminars and workshops on basic caving and geology, cave biology, cave surveying, basic mountaineering, water survival, high angular rescuing, tour guiding, among others. The money to attend these have come from the volunteers' own pockets, but they've willingly spent for these, knowing that the knowledge and skills that they will acquire here will go a long way.

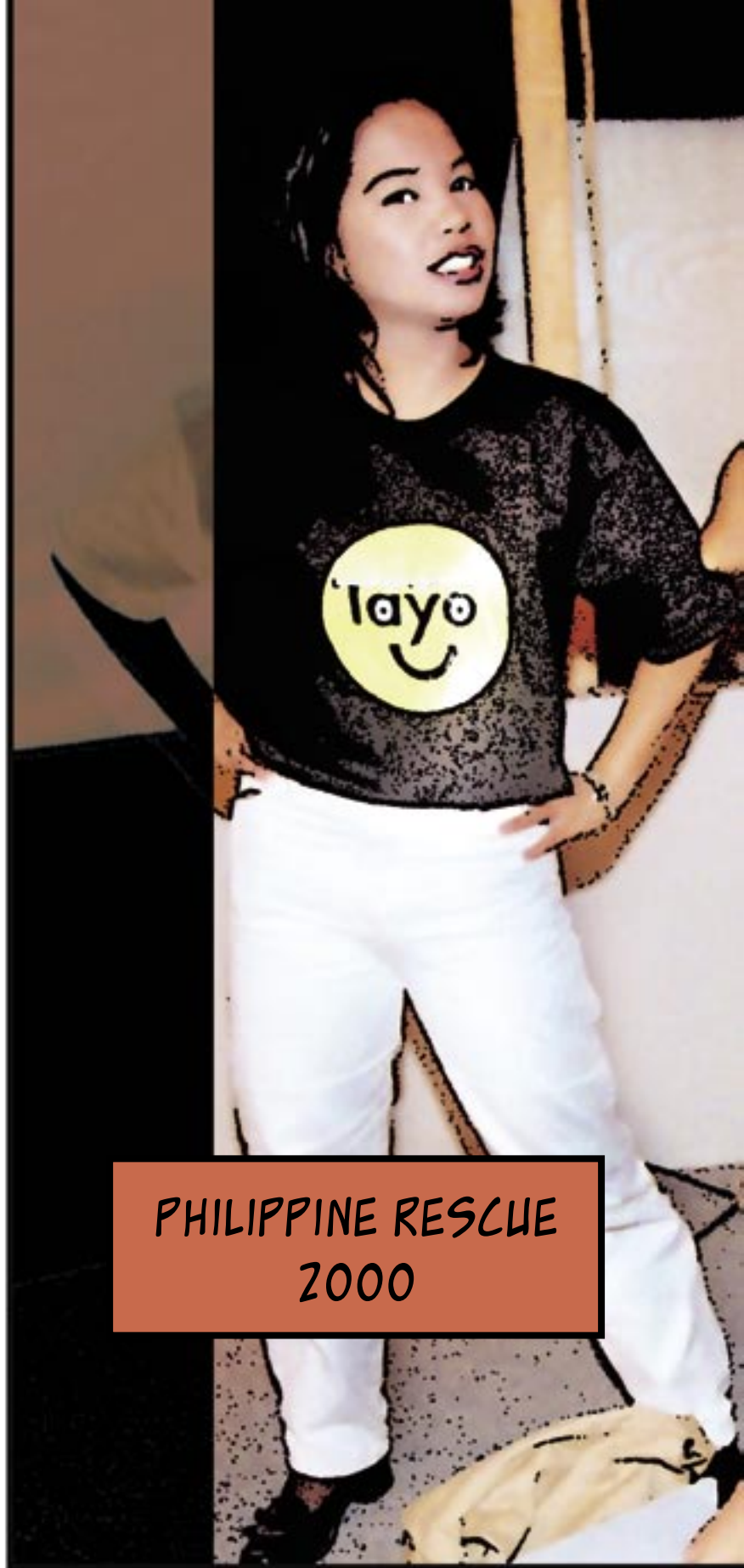
Now, the members of CORE are setting their sights on higher goals. The club now wants to encourage self-discipline among cavers and the town's locals; conduct research and educate others on the causes and prevention of cave damage; cooperate with other conservationists and organize special projects to draw public attention to their cause; they also plan to place entrance gates to caves where appropriate; oppose the sale of speleothems; support effective protection measures; cooperate with private cave owners by providing them with knowledge about their caves; and aid the public in understanding caves and the importance of preserving these.

These goals may seem to be out of reach at first, but if you consider CORE's history and its passion for getting things done despite limited resources, you can be sure that these dreams will become reality very, very soon.

*How CORE raised its Funds,
and what you can learn From them:*


- Hosted the 2002 barangay summer games
- Organized the Sigaw Kalikasan Dance Concert
- Organized the first wall-climbing competition in the municipality
- Organized the mountain bike challenge
- Organized the first Bikini Open Competition in the province

Use your passions and interests to generate funds for your cause!



PHILIPPINE RESCUE
2000

Living Heroes



December, 2003. Christmas was already around the corner, and the sounds of merrymaking should have been everywhere. Instead, wails and sobs filled the air as families mourned for the dead in the aftermath of flash floods that swamped the provinces of Misamis Oriental, Leyte, and Surigao. Rescuers were able to retrieve 20 bodies, but many more had been injured or lost. *Media noche* was spent not at parties at loved ones' homes, but at wakes and funerals.

This was how members of Philippine Rescue 2000 spent Christmas last year—away from their loved ones and in the arms of grieving families who had just lost their own through nature's fury. It's a difficult, dangerous, and depressing way to spend the holidays, but these young men and women—all between 18 to 30 years old—would rather think about the people and families they have helped.

Humble beginnings

Philippine Rescue 2000 was founded in 1998 by Michael Angelo Bustamante, then the Operations Manager of Bombo Radyo-Cagayan de Oro. He wanted to concretely respond to the calls for help that he had been learning about through his job, but knew that the local government would not be able to support comprehensive emergency- and disaster-relief operations in the area. After getting 20 of his buddies on board, Michael launched an organization that would later go on to save hundreds, even thousands, of lives.

From that small group, Philippine Rescue 2000 went on to recruit members from the different barangays of Region 10. They went through rigid training in the fields of Basic to Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Search and Rescue, Water Safety and Rescue, Standard First Aid, Airplane Crash and Emergency Landing Search and Rescue Management, Rope Rescue, Handling of Trauma Patients in Technical Situations, Emergency Medical Technical Training, and Fire Safety and Fighting.

Huge impact

Now, Philippine Rescue 2000 has over 2,000 members, all below 30 years old. They have participated in a variety of search and rescue operations that have involved anything from vehicular accidents, to fires, plane crashes, floods, bombings, and other such incidents. Their work has taken them to different parts of the country, and they have also been recognized by various organizations nationwide for their courageous and selfless efforts. Some of the awards they have received include Best NGO, awarded by the Police Regional Office 10 at Camp Alagar, Cagayan de Oro City, and a Distinguished Humanitarian Award from the Presidential Action Center.

Of course, the ultimate reward of their work is knowing that they have helped people and families in need during very critical moments.

According to Maricel Pamisa, Philippine Rescue 2000's representative to the TAYO Search in July, "In a disaster-prone country like the Philippines... (calamities) and other emergencies may occur anytime... In the broad spectrum of disaster management, the quick response of rescuers is very vital. That's the reason why Philippine

2000 was organized.

"(In the course of my work with Philippine Rescue 2000) I learned that each of us is a potential hero, by getting involved in the community, sharing time, treasure, and talents... The lesson (is for us) to become men and women for others. That sometimes, life is not always for the family, career, and for personal, but it is also for others."

There's no doubt that these young people deserve to be called "Living Heroes", as they have been dubbed by people in their community. For there is no other test of heroism than to willingly risk one's life for another, knowing full well that this day could be their last.

All in a day's work Some of Philippine Rescue 2000's heroic efforts have included:

- Retrieval of at least 20 dead bodies in the flash floods in Misamis Oriental, Leyte, and Surigao last Christmas
- Retrieval of at least 189 fatalities out of over 300 people that had been killed in flash floods in Camiguin Province, off Cagayan de Oro
- Search and retrieval operations following the crash of Cebu Pacific flight 387 off Mt. Sumagaya, Claveria, Misamis Oriental (received Distinguished Humanitarian Award from the Presidential Action Center)
- Search and rescue operations following the Air Philippines plane crash in Davao City
- Search and rescue operations following the bombing of MV Mediatrix in Ozamiz City
- Search and rescue operations following fires that hit Barangay Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro City; Iligan; Valencia, Bukidnon; and other areas around Region 10
- Search and rescue operations following 20 drowning incidents in Cagayan de Oro and Misamis Oriental
- Search and rescue operations following 60 major vehicular accidents
- Civilian rescue during the MILF attack in Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte
- Rescue of trapped mountain climbers in Mt. Hibok-Hibok, Camiguin Island




MUSICAL DRAMATICS
SOCIETY OF
STA. ANA NATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL



Peace Prowess





Mindanao is a beautiful island rich in culture, tradition, and natural resources. However, it has also been marred by territorial disputes, culture clashes, and religious conflict for decades now. It is also here where Christians, Muslims, and *lumad* (ethnic minorities) are greeted by war for breakfast, however hard they try to co-exist peacefully.

Now, imagine a public high school where Christian, Muslim, and *lumad* youth are brought together in an uneasy truce to learn as much as they can and work together despite their obvious differences. The atmosphere can be tense, and learning, a challenge. Still, the students of Sta. Ana National High School consider education a gift and struggle to make the most of it.

“Christians, *lumad*, and Muslims struggle to educate themselves in a simple, though uncomfortable, classroom,” Angelica Bajado shares. “These students, naïve and curious, have talents and skills just waiting to be put to good use.”

Angelica is an alumna of the Musical Dramatics Society (MDS) of Sta. Ana High School, an organization that addresses this need for students to demonstrate their talents and sharpen their skills in a very productive way. It was established in 1994, and has since “opened the opportunities for ‘problem students’ to focus their attention into various theatrical activities, rather than become juvenile delinquencies.”

In 2003, MDS went a step further and used the collective talents of its members to promote communication, understanding, brotherhood, and peace in their war-stricken region. Through *Kabarangayan 2003: A Cultural Caravan of Youth Action for Peace*, MDS was able to use theater and music as platforms for bridging the communication gap among their Christian, Muslim, and *lumad* students and enable these young persons to proudly express their respective cultures. They also used their productions to tackle sensitive issues, such as drug addiction and war, and make their voices heard by the community at large.

“It was difficult,” Angelica admits. “We ourselves were struggling financially, but we had to find our own resources for fares, for expenses during our practices... Our costumes were improvised through *malongs* and human props. It was a matter of creativity and innovation to survive.”

As challenging as it was, the members of MDS stuck to their cause and asked for the support of their community. Luckily, the

Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) chairpersons of Davao City pitched in for MDS to also conduct forums and workshops, aside from staging their theatrical production. As a result, MDS got their message across to more people outside their school.

“The organization got so much attention from the other students,” Angelica shares proudly. “They wanted to be part of the group also. News spread all over the city that we have presented fantastic productions that served a purpose.”

More than being able to stage their productions, MDS also concretely contributed to the ongoing peace process in Mindanao, in their own little way. By including youth of different skills, talents, and backgrounds in their activities and productions, MDS was able to break down walls and bridge communication gaps. It was able to foster the students’ respect for each other, and it was able to set an example to the community that Christians, Muslims, and *lumad* can work together given the proper environment. It showed that peace could be a reality in their community.

“We have learned the difference between cultures, especially between Muslims, Christians, and *Lumad*... That we can instill inspiration... eventually bridging the gap in communication which is the reason for conflict. We have learned that peace can only be achieved if we begin with ourselves.”

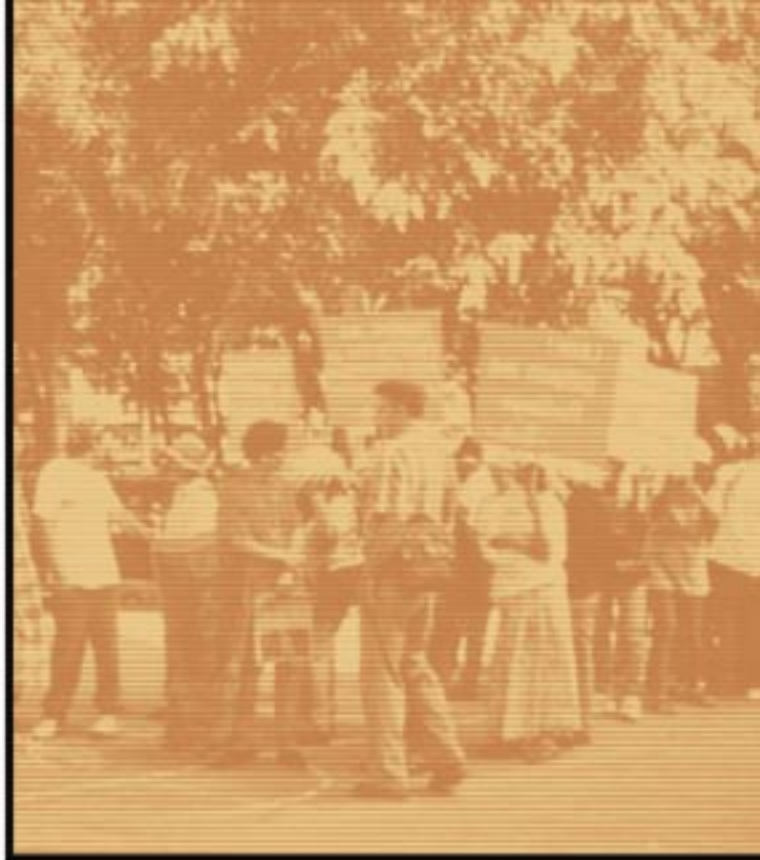
Facing a challenging situation? Take it from them! (Some words of wisdom from MDS)

- Believe that you can do it!
- Do not expect anything in return when you give... It is better to give than to receive.
- Collaborate with other clubs and sectors, such as NGOs and government.
- Be patient.
- Have faith.
- Be a leader and a servant as well.


Keep in mind that being great at what you’re doing, whether it’s in academics or in service, is better than (just) being good!



TINGOG SA
KASANAG (VOICE OF
ENLIGHTENMENT)
ORGANIZATION, INC.
(TISAKA)



This is **REAL** Girl Power



Society tends to look down on women who work on the streets and in bars, KTV lounges, and other such places. We live in a time when the terms “guest relations officer” and “hostess” have come to mean something shameful, when bodies have become commodities people willingly trade. But instead of condemning the women involved in this industry, we must try to understand that, for many of them, their profession is just a reflection of how little they have and how much they need help. Sometimes, these women simply don’t have a choice—or are ignorant of the other options available to them.

It is because of this dire situation that Tingog sa Kasanag, or TISAKA, was born. A Cebuano phrase meaning “Voice of Enlightenment,” TISAKA aims to educate prostituted women about their rights and other skills, so that they can hopefully get decent employment and get out of the sex trade. It initiates public information and educational programs on women’s health, dialogues with police and government authorities on law enforcement and women’s problems during raids, and provides skills training on assertiveness, legal rights, and peer counseling. TISAKA also offers medical and legal referral assistance to its members.

Maridel Gaid, the organization’s representative to the TAYO awarding ceremony, reveals the painful plight of women in Cagayan de Oro before TISAKA was born, in her native Cebuano. “There were a lot of cases of abuse... women were being pulled by the hair, their private parts touched and scratched... Policemen were abusing them and telling them that they should be sent to jail. People were calling them names and telling them that they just wanted easy money, that they were dirty and carriers of disease.” Being a former sex worker herself, Maridel understands what these women are going through, and is passionate about helping them get out of their rut.

TISAKA’s entry to the 2004 TAYO search is a community education program that uses theater as a means to educate its members, constituents, and the public about reproductive health, prostitution, and sex trafficking. Through this, prostituted women are given opportunities to learn, to develop their self-confidence and self-esteem, and “to live without the feeling of shame, guilt, and discrimination.” They attend script-writing and acting workshops, conduct regular rehearsals, and are able to share their sentiments to the public at large in an artistic and engaging manner. They also engage in dialogue with other groups working for this cause, and are likewise exposed to other opportunities that can help get them out of their situation.

Getting their work done was a huge challenge, of course. As Maridel shares, “People would tell us that we were carriers of disease, that we were a shame to our families. (In the course of our work for TISAKA) we would go out even when it was raining, only to

see that the other girls wouldn’t show up at all (for the activities)... The most difficult part of our work was not being able to give the girls everything that they needed... not being able to anticipate all their needs and concerns and do something about these.”

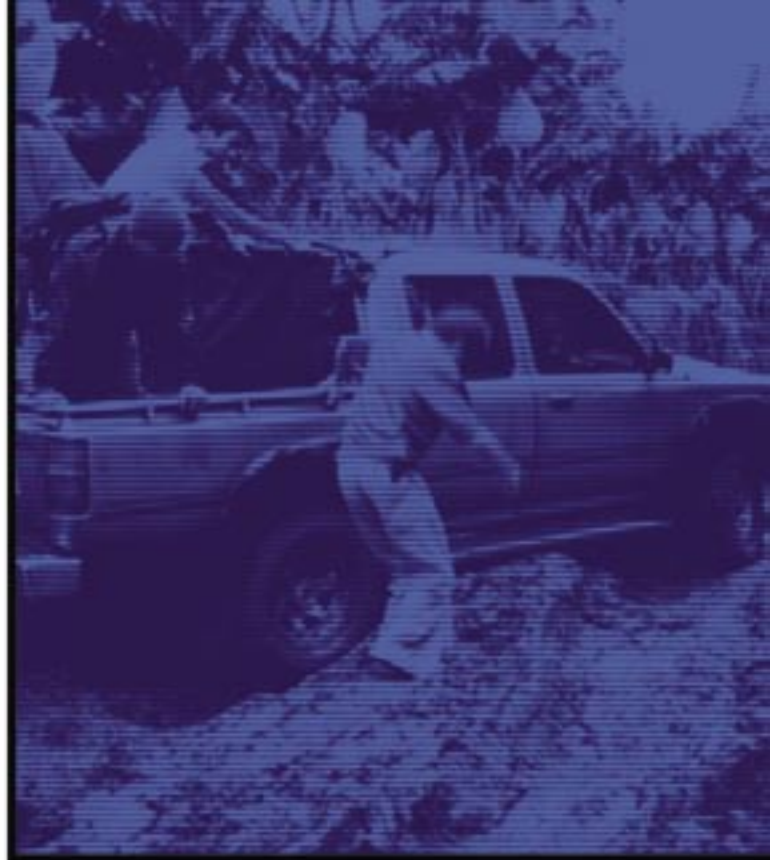
TISAKA has reached out to more and more prostituted women and women in urban poor communities, and has helped to empower them. Of its 203 members, 25 have already successfully moved on from the sex trade.

“Now, other organizations are inviting our organization to be part of their discussions,” Maridel beams proudly as she talks. “We are no longer being abused, especially by people from government and the media... People are now more aware of the issues surrounding prostitution, and even students are coming to work at Talikala for their practicum. We’ve also formed a support group, WWW.PWAP (Women Working with Prostituted Women Against Prostitution).”

The women of TISAKA have taken brave, bold steps to reach this point, but it will take more than education and empowerment to get prostituted women off the streets. After all, Maridel admits that the income women earn from the sex trade cannot easily be replaced by other jobs. But those who have survived the industry must forge on, she says, because they have to set an example for their sisters and prove that their goals *can* be achieved.

“I’ve learned that you don’t need to have finished school in order to be productive. That the important thing is your desire to learn... Most of all, (I’ve learned that) there are many women out there who are being abused, but whom we can help.” Indeed, this is what girl power is all about.

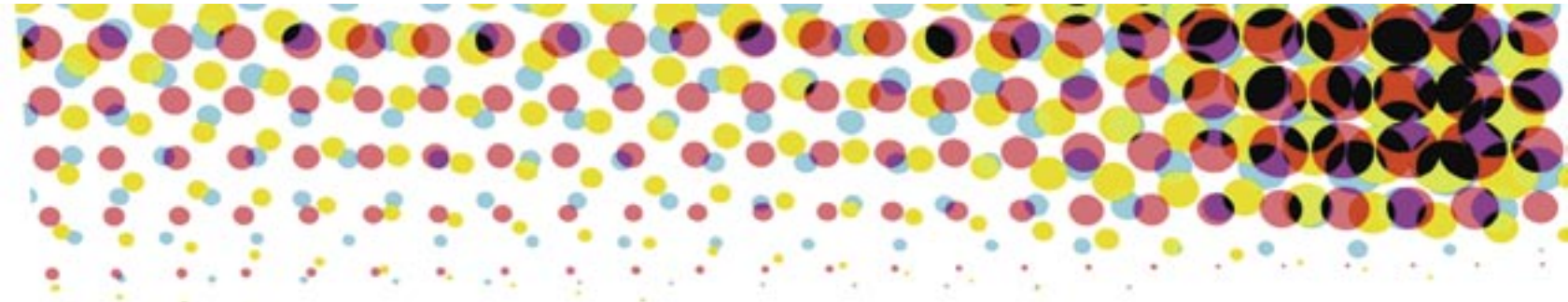
“Sana huwag tayong matakot sa katotohanan, at huwag (tayong) maging mapanghugsa sa ating kapwa. Tanggapin ang bawat isa. At magkaisa sa bawat plano para maabot at matupad ang ating mga hinahangad na pagbabago, laban sa katiwalian ng mga nagpapalakad. Ngayon pa lang, kumilos na tayo habang ‘di pa huli ang lahat... At, higit sa lahat, huwag kalimutan ang Panginoon. (Don’t be afraid of the truth, and don’t judge our fellowmen. Most of all, work together to fulfill your plans and to achieve change against the anomalies of those in power. Act as early as now, while it still isn’t too late... And, most of all, don’t forget the Lord.)”



Watershed Warriors

WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
YOUTH COUNCIL





Water is the source of life, the essence of man's survival. It is abundant in Davao City—home of Mt. Apo and the Philippine eagle—and is one of the city's primary assets, being key to sustaining its 8 million residents and helping to attract numerous investors.

In 1999, however, Davao City's primary water source fell under a serious threat. A 6.7-hectare banana plantation, complete with all its chemicals, pesticides, and eroding soil, was established inside the Mt. Apo Natural Park, on a sloping riverbank right beside a river. Its owners put up a cable car that ran across the river, and were dumping "impregnated plastics" along the riverbanks. In the words of the Watershed Management Youth Council (WMYC), "(The) plantation was literally violating every rule stated in the National Integrated Protected Area System or NIPAS Law. Despite all these, everyone just ignored it."

The violations and their possible effects—including the local government's apathy to the matter—were so glaring that the WMYC knew that they had to take matters into their own hands. With this, they formulated and passed a petition to the Sangguniang Panglungsod on July 1, 2001, lobbying for the stoppage of the operation of the banana plantation. Five months later, they sat through the first SP Environmental Committee hearing, which was also attended by various government agencies, local government units (LGUs), non-government organizations (NGOs), and other concerned citizens. They knew that they were up against giants, and that their battle was going to be long and hard, but they held on to their cause.

Shenna Rhea Maranguit, WMYC's representative to the TAYO Search, shares: "Getting support from the government agencies who are supposed to be the ones in charge of handling the violations of the plantation was the toughest of all our challenges. It was difficult to lobby and coordinate with these agencies because of their stand regarding the matter. To counter this, the WMYC researched and conducted seminars to know more technical terms and explain the whole petition to the councilors."

Along with its petition, the WMYC also consulted with barangay councils, then created a network with different organizations involved in environmental activities. It collaborated with such groups as Girls Scouts of the Philippines-Davao Council, Barog Kalikupan Davao, Kinaiyahan Foundation, Junior Earth Savers, Sandawa Ecologists Movements, Soroptimist International, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and other school-based organizations and civic groups. Then, the WMYC conducted a signature campaign which gathered 10,000 signatures. Triumph was almost at hand.

Finally, after almost 10 hearings, the WMYC successfully convinced the Davao City Council to pass a resolution calling for the immediate stoppage of the banana plantation's operations. The

resolution was released on July 10, 2003, and the plantation was ordered to vacate the Natural Park shortly thereafter. Then, the DENR was called upon to rehabilitate the area.

Their success didn't stop there, though. Following the passage of the Resolution No. 02-464-03 series of 2003, the Davao City Council passed another resolution, this time requesting the City Mayor to conduct further evaluation, research, and study on how to protect the environment in the face of growing agricultural activities in the Watershed areas (Resolution No. 0366-04).

"Legislation is a lifetime tool for environmental protection," Shenna says. Although more work still has to be done to ensure the strict implementation of these resolutions, as well as of other environmental protection laws, she and her peers are proud of the legacy that they have left to future generations of Davaoños. Environmental protection, after all, is a very long and arduous process, but it should—like many things—begin with small steps from passionate and committed individuals.

We hope that WMYC's work will snowball into a national movement, and that more youth organizations will take up this cause despite apparent challenges. After all, the earth is our only home.

Watershed Management Youth Council's Milestones

- Passed, through the support of the city council, two resolutions—one recommending the City Mayor to issue a stoppage order on the operation of the banana plantation located inside the Mt. Apo Natural Park (Resolution No. 02-464-03 series of 2003); and another requesting the City Mayor to conduct further evaluation, research, and study on how to protect the environment in the face of growing agricultural activities in the Watershed areas (Resolution No. 0366-04).
- Ensured the sustainability of clean and safe drinking water of Davao City for present and future generations.
- Contributed to the protection of the Mt. Apo Natural Park and Davao City's Watershed, which is the source of 97 percent of the drinking water in Davao City and home to the Philippine Eagle.

With excerpts from the Watershed Management Youth Council's entry form to the 2004 TAYO Search.



Wild on Animals

BENGUET STATE UNIVERSITY
INTERDEPENDENT STUDY
ORGANIZATION OF STUDENTS

Pets are considered a staple of the typical Filipino home. It's commonplace to see a family with a dog, a cat, a pair of lovebirds, or maybe even a giant snake. Dogs, in particular, have always been considered man's best friend. Man, on the other hand, has not been such a good friend to dogs, and even to animals in general.

This is the underlying belief of the Independent Study Organization of Students – Veterinary Medicine (ISOS-VM) of the Benguet State University. An off-shoot of the organization of the same name in De La Salle Araneta University in Malabon, this org is carving its own niche up on the pine-covered hills up north.

ISOS-VM was established in 1991 as a vehicle to help its student members improve their academic performance, cultivate and discover their hidden talents, and evaluate themselves through constructive criticism and advice. After a series of leadership seminars and exposure trips, the group recognized its responsibility to the community and began to lend support to public health and environment programs. But true to their veterinary background, the members then spearheaded a program that also dealt with the well-being of animals.

"Animals are taken for granted and only appear important when human beings need something from them," says Karen Binay-An, a member of ISOS-VM, "They are being exploited and these creatures need human protection from human cruelty". Recognizing this, the ISOS started the Adopt-A-Class program in 2003.

Adopt-A-Class is a yearly program that

is geared towards educating first grade students of the Central Balili Elementary School in La Trinidad, Benguet about animal care and welfare. ISOS believes that young minds absorb information better and hopes that, through this project, these impressionable children will assume develop a genuine, educated concern for animals that they can pass on to their family and community.

The program includes activities like storytelling, film screenings, coloring sessions, lectures, quizzes, field trips, and parties. It also supports the school's feeding program. These activities are geared towards cultivating the children's creative and social skills and, most importantly, deepening their understanding of animals and the responsibility of having a pet. "(These) children start to assume responsibility (for) their pets and this becomes a part of the growth of the child," Binay-An adds.

As a result, not only are the children's lives enriched, but ISOS members also feel that they have gotten something worthwhile out of the project. "We have become better facilitators and lecturers, and we have established linkages and partnerships with other individuals and institutions," Binay-An shares. She also believes that imparting the idea of responsible pet ownership also brings their dream of a rabies-free country that much closer to fruition. "We can make a difference with our own little yet dignified way," she says with a smile.



Labor of Love

CHILD LABOR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM PHILIPPINE RURAL RECONSTRUCTION YOUTH ASSOCIATION - ALBAY CHAPTER

Ask any mother about childbirth and she will tell you that bringing a child to life is no small miracle. But in a third-world country like ours, it is sad to see that many of the fruits of this labor are driven to labor themselves as soon as they are seen fit and old enough.

The clothes you wear, that new pair of rubber shoes you just bought could have been made in one of many sweatshops all around the Philippines that employ underage children.

This was the focus of the Child Labor Scholarship Program instituted by the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Youth Association (PRRYA), which traces its roots to China in the early 1900's. It was first started as the RRYA (Rural Reconstruction Youth Association) when it was founded in the Philippines in 1952 and started youth initiatives and empowerment programs in 69 barrios in Nueva Ecija and Rizal. The RRYA's initiatives lasted until 1982 when it was renamed the PRRYA as we know it today. In 2003, its members decided to reorganize in a way that would contribute to nation-building and community development.

Now it operates 15 provincial branches nationwide, with its locally conceptualized advocacies, programs, and initiatives all geared towards youth empowerment.

Initial efforts of the resuscitated organization centered on environmental issues, but members soon recognized another more significant problem that needed to be addressed. "There was not a non-government youth organization that focused on sustainable youth development," relates the association's chairperson, Eminel Perdiz. "The PRRYA provided a venue for Albay youths for expression, empowerment and development."

The PRRYA at the time felt the need to shift their program and focus on youth issues. One of such issue that affected the community was the unjust use of child labor by local industries. The group went on to take up the cudgels for these troubled youths who, due to their poverty, were forced to work for a living to augment their families' income, thus

depriving them of proper education.

Thus the Child Labor Scholarship Program was born; a four-year process that offers scholarships and aid to 10 specially selected child laborers from the first district of the province of Albay. The PRRYA, along with its Japanese NGO partner People Aid, oversees the scholarships of these beneficiaries, and implements monthly consultation meetings with their parents, tutorial classes, personality development sessions, exposure trips, home visitations, and coordination with the students' advisers, all to ensure the successes of the beneficiaries and of the program itself.

Only in the first year of its four-year program, the effects on these children have yet to be fully measured. One thing is for sure, though: the program seeks to bring these scholars out of their previous quandary and give them a chance at a better life. In fact, in addition to the educational benefits, the program also is giving these children and their families a livelihood assistance fund which they can use to add to the family's income.

In the eyes of the volunteers, the program has begun to benefit the children tremendously, but its effects on the community and on the organization itself are even farther-reaching. "The community was able to get inspiration from our simple but sincere efforts," notes Perdiz. "But the impact on the members of the organization is far (greater). We were able to discover more of ourselves as we went through the project." As a result, PRRYA's members feel that they are better equipped to make more changes in the society at large.

Only in its first year, the program still has a long way to go. Yet, the volunteers are undaunted. "We hope that the youth at large would get to be inspired by our humble efforts," the chairperson stresses, which goes to prove that a little work does go a long, long way.





As Easy as ABC

ACTIVE BEGINNERS' CLUB SIQUIJOR STATE UNIVERSITY

Ben Stiller has made a living out of playing the underdog. From Derek Zoolander to Gaylord Faulker, Stiller's roles were those mainly of people faced with daunting situations with the odds stacked against them. His characters usually started as pushovers, but in the end, they would always seem to come out on top, rising above the adversity.

It's a feeling that the students of the College of Business Management of Siquijor State University were familiar with. With an enrollment of only 103 students, meager resources—like the lack of textbooks and funding—and the threat of the school's closure looming above their heads, these students took it upon themselves to make a good start for themselves. Thus the Active Beginners Club (ABC) was born.

The ABC believes that it is vital to develop a self-sufficient individual who helps in society to achieve common goals. The organization, which is made up of mostly Business Management students, strives to embody this belief by immersing themselves in raising badly needed funds through inventive fundraisers.

Their initial effort was so successful that ABC was able to raise enough money to donate—get this!—70 volumes of books for the library, *Php20,000 in cash* to purchase equipment needed by the College of Maritime Education, 170

new chairs and several assorted fans to make up for the shortage in classrooms, as well as the construction of a covered walk. It may already seem like a lot to the novice fundraisers, but for the Active Beginners Club, this was only the beginning.

In subsequent years, these enterprising students continued to raise funds for the school through entrepreneurial means, and this has translated to: a mimeographing machine, computer units, a filing cabinet, a television set and a fax machine that the College of Business Management as well as the entire University could benefit from.

"Members were inspired to see and feel that in their little way, they were able to contribute to update knowledge and develop the skills in the acquisition of modern facilities and equipment that are mostly found only in the cities," says the club's President, Harlene Cabilao. And, of course, the impact of ABC's donations to the school and its students was widely felt. "The school was able to have additional facilities without spending government funding," continues Cabilao, "And we were giving children a chance to acquire education in order to have a decent livelihood after graduation."

An old adage goes, "If you want something done right, you've got to do it yourself." This never held truer for the enterprising students of the ABC. They were in a situation that not one of us would want to be in but they accomplished something that we can all aspire for.



Good Government Starts Here

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH EASTERN
PHILIPPINES
UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT



Typical schools have typical students with typical concerns—like projects, exams, difficult teachers, and relationships. They also have typical student councils that try to deal with these typical issues. But up north is a student council that is anything but typical.

The University Student Government of the University of North Eastern Philippines has a set-up that is both unique yet all-too-familiar. It has three branches—a veritable replica of the country's democratic government: executive, legislative and judicial branches—and it represents every student in the school either through their courses or their organizations. Built upon the foundations of commitment, integrity and service, it is dedicated to the student populace as well as to the community beyond the school's walls.

This group's idealism has taken the form of a pet project: an outreach program that has seen the Student Government take several far-flung barangays under its wing. "The barangays were remote and desolate," says Beryl Salvadora, a Senator of the Student Government. "People were not aware of (how to take care of) their health or of how to protect their environment. Many children were not able to go to school and were, as a result, uneducated."

Under the students' outreach program, three local barangays—Caricot, Goyudan,

and San Roque—in Camarines Sur were adopted by the Student Government and were the recipients of much needed aid. Help first came in the form of donations of clothes, seedlings & canned goods, community clean-ups, and free medical check-ups. But the students decided to take their mission to a higher level and, borrowing from an old saying, went ahead to "teach (community members) how to fish."

They then implemented the second stage of their program, and armed these communities with a battery of awareness programs designed to educate and inspire its residents. These came by way of seminars, symposiums, and fora that tackled such matters as: students' rights, community development, population education, livelihood programs, capability-building, environmental protection and conservation, and public health. All these, along with diligent check-ups that students time conduct regularly, have led to an improvement in the way of life of these remote communities. They are now better educated when it comes to their health, sex education, and on how to protect and conserve their environment.

"People in the barangays have become educated for generations to come," beams Salvadora. "We have made a change and brought back hope to their lives."



Chemical Reaction

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
LOS BAÑOS
CHEMICAL SOCIETY

When you feel kilig looking at two people very much in love, you say that they have chemistry. Successful love teams endure because people recognize their chemistry. In science, the principle of Chemistry is basically seeing how different elements come together to form something greater.

Such is the case of the UPLB Chemical Society (ChemSoc) of the University of the Philippines Los Baños. Established in 1964, the society's first and foremost objective is to achieve academic excellence through instilling better scholastic attitude towards the sciences.

In working towards this, its members observed that there were fewer and fewer Chemistry majors enrolling in the course and, in the words of ChemSoc member Irvin Domingo, "Only about a half of them would graduate and only a small percentage would actually find work related to chemistry". It was then that the organization hypothesized that they needed to light up their Bunsen burners and revive the flagging interest in chemistry in particular, and in the sciences in general.

To do this, the organization held university-wide quiz competitions and review classes in chemistry—which were participated in by both Chem

majors as well as students from other courses in school. And, like many combustible elements, it exploded onto the national scene through KAPNAYAN, a triennial national chemistry fair that involves a week of seminars, exhibits, educational tours, audio-video presentations, creativity contests, and most especially, a national high school chemistry quiz contest. KAPNAYAN is Filipino for chemistry, combining the terms "*sangkap*" (components) and "*ugnayan*" (mixture).

Since its inception in 1976, KAPNAYAN draws almost a hundred schools from all over the country annual, and the Society takes pride in promoting enthusiasm for and awareness of the field of chemistry among the youth of different dialects. "Through KAPNAYAN 2003," relates Domingo, "we expect an increase in the number of students enrolling in chemistry and related courses in the next three years".

ChemSoc and its members believe that the development of Science and Technology, particularly in Chemistry, is the only way for the country to catch up with the fast-paced, modern world. They envision that, through their efforts, they are giving the sciences a "badly needed thrust". They hope that, through them, as well as through the hundreds of children who take part in KAPNAYAN, the combining of their elements would spark an explosive change.

Mission Possible

MU SIGMA PHI FRATERNITY
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
MANILA

The cultural phenomenon, *Star Trek*, immortalized a line uttered by Dr. Bones McCoy, the show's wise-cracking medical officer portrayed by the late DeForrest Kelly: "Damn it Jim! I'm a doctor, not a miracle worker!"

Unbeknownst to Kelly, there indeed exists a breed of medical practitioners who are just that: doctors who can also make modern-day miracles come true.

For years now, the medical students of the Mu Sigma Phi fraternity of the University of the Philippine Manila, which was established in 1933, have been responsible for charity work and medical missions in and around Metro Manila. But it was through the hopes of one of its members, Dr. Orlino Talens, that the group undertook its biggest initiative yet.

Talens, a native of Oriental Mindoro, recognized that his *kababayan* as well as the cultural minority group, the Mangyans, had very little access to health care. Children had insufficient immunization, the incidence of miscarriage was high, young individuals suffered from intestinal parasitism as well as other health issues, and there was no functioning health center nearby that could attend to their medical and emergency needs. He brought this to the attention of his brothers in the fraternity, and this led them to organize a medical-surgical-dental mission in this far-off region.

The first medical mission, done with the

help of donations and solicitations, and with the coordination of a local non-government organization (NGO), arrived in Barangay Poblacion in Mindoro in November 2000. A total of 1,300 patients were treated. This led to a second mission in 2001.

Aside from treating patients, this mission included health education for the local community health workers as well as the barangay councils. This time around, over 1,700 people were served. Inspired by their successes, the fraternity decided to adopt the communities in Oriental Mindoro and hold medical missions there yearly. In the years hence, over 3,600 cases have been treated by Mu Sigma Phi and its outreach program.

Members of the fraternity are proud of being catalysts for change. "There is now a synergistic relationship among the local NGO, LGU (local government unit), and the community members when it comes to improving their health care system and alleviating the poor health conditions in their community," relates Naegele Mandal, one of Mu Sigma Phi's members and a sophomore medical student in UP-Manila.

He also has a message for other members of the medical community. "We live in awe of the glorious mechanism of the human body. It is about time that we must make ourselves realize the glorious machinery of how the community functions and exists as a dynamic unit like the human body".





Archi-typal Activism

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
TASK FORCE ARKI

Many of us are probably used to seeing impoverished families living in makeshift homes made of corrugated steel, plywood, or even used *balikbayan* boxes. Just travel along Metro Manila's *riles* (railroad tracks) or its many slum areas and you will see families living in homes that would probably easily collapse with the force of ordinary thunderstorms.

While we can sleep soundly in strong and secure houses, a large number of Filipinos have to contend with homes made from our junk.

Members of the UP (University of the Philippines) Task Force Arki realized that, as students of Architecture, they have within their reach the means to uplift the living conditions of the poor. They believe that "the architect is a designer, creator, and destroyer of ways of life," and so they strive to use this power responsibly and for the greater social good.

The organization was founded during the Martial Law years, when student activism was at its height, and when the University of the Philippines was at the forefront of the youth movement. Back then, UP Task Force Arki's founders decided to address the worsening problem of public housing, and so used their skills "as a means for making way for individual growth and development."

The problem remains, and so the organization's work continues.

Through their involvement in the Samahan para sa Angkop na Pabahay ng San Pablo Apostol (SAPSPA) Project, UP Task Force Arki's members assisted in the design and preparation of architectural plans of the houses of SAPSPA in Magsaysay Village, Tondo, Manila. Families in this area have very limited means, and although they were given funds by German benefactors to build decent homes, hiring a professional architect was simply out of the question for them. "(These families would) usually end up with houses that do not fit their unique needs as a family, mainly because they cannot afford the services of professional architects," shares Paolo B. Aguilá, UP Task Force Arki's representative to the

TAYO Search.

He continues: "Even though low-income families can't afford professional architectural services, they *don't have* to be content with makeshift homes nor template designs of low-cost housing projects that alienate its inhabitants. I learned that, as students of architecture, we can uplift the level of understanding of the effects of quality of spaces on the lives of the people they are housing,"

The SAPSPA project began with a site visit in February 2003. UP Task Force Arki's members surveyed the area and interacted with community members to assess their living conditions and determine their needs, and then began the design process. They visited the site frequently before finalizing the designs, and then finished drafting designs for four homes by December 2003. As a result, "families in the SAPSPA community are living their lives more comfortably and productively, because of the homes that allow them to focus on improving their own lives," Paolo shares with pride.

Their mission comes with its share of challenges, of course. Paolo realized that he comes from a culture "where architecture is (a)... luxury", a field of study that is seen to be frivolous and elitist. So he and his peers strive harder to prove that they can use their skills to contribute to nation-building.

"The hardest lesson I have learned would probably be that, as a youth organization, you have to face certain inevitable facts: that there are many people out there who don't share your sentiments on nation-building; and you can't agonize over that fact. You have to do what you have to do."

And done it they have. As more families in Magsaysay Village, Tondo, sleep soundly at night with concrete walls that won't collapse with a single gust of strong winds, so does UP Task Force Arki's legacy grow—a legacy that will probably last longer than the organization's lifetime.





Maritime Makeover

D' CATALYST CLUB
SAMAR STATE POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE

It's all the rage right now. Half of the lifestyle section is devoted to stories about improving one's fashion sense or room décor. TV shows have popped up offering styling tips and tricks, all in the name of improving one's look. And it seems that people gobble up every piece of advice wherever it may come from. It's their belief that there's always room for improvement.

Such is the case of D' Catalyst Club of the Samar State Polytechnic College. Affected by unsettling accounts of a rise in rape cases and grisly deaths plastered all over front pages and headlines all over the country, a group of concerned Christian students decided that they needed to become agents of change. Catalysts, to be exact.

"Instead of being disheartened and set back in the corner, we changed and redirected our focus to find opportunity," says club member Allan Betasolo. These determined youths, mostly Engineering majors of the university, set out on a mission of prayer and action. Despite not being recognized by the school as an official organization due to its religious undertones, the group's initial efforts were geared towards peer counseling and Bible ministry. The Catalysts even ventured into performing in concerts-for-a-cause to get their message across.

All the while, the Catalysts were looking for other opportunities to make a difference. During one of their recreational activities at a nearby beach, the club was able to visit nearby barangays and it was here that they came upon Barangay Cabauagan. Upon seeing this area, they decided that they would make it a part of their mission.

Upon inspection, they took note of several glaring problems affecting this seaside community. The shoreline was unsanitary, with tons of garbage strewn all about. Even the water, which was a primary source of food and livelihood for the community's residents, was polluted. Many

household members were unemployed and most of the youth were not attending classes. The Catalysts then introduced the Uswag Barangay program to help these local residents.

Using funds derived from various fundraisers, as well as from the very pockets of the club members, the group went ahead with their community clean-up. Working hand-in-hand with the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) and residents of the barangay, they set out to clean and rehabilitate the shoreline. And, recognizing the need for an additional source of livelihood, they began constructing beachside cottages using materials culled from the available natural resources in the community, to encourage local tourism in the area.

What got off to a great start marred by challenges later on. Due to financial difficulties in 2003, the Catalysts could no longer make their weekly visits to oversee the project. But to their joy and surprise, additional partners arrived and built upon what the Catalysts started. The cottages that they had started to build were completed, and additional cottages were even put up. Another organization took the initiative of completing the comfort and shower rooms. So now, residents of the community are able to raise funds through the rental of the cottages, as well as through its other primary industries like farming and fishing. The club continues to assist the community in the promotion and advertising of the beach resort.

The Catalysts have proven that it doesn't take rocket science to build a tourist attraction that can help to sustain their community. Its members hope that their fighting spirit will be emulated by the communities they serve, so that they can continue to create a spiral of positive change through the years.



Peer Pleasure

PEER COUNSELORS' CIRCLE
FOUNDATION UNIVERSITY

Switch on the TV and you'd probably catch the latest episode of another drama program, like *Smallville*, or *SCQ*. Despite the occasional, over-the-top kidnapping, ghost haunting, or superhero episodes in these shows, this form of visual fiction does tell an underlying truth: that young people have their own problems and issues, and who better to turn to than a circle of your own peers. Right?

In the Foundation University of Dumaguete City, the problem was that there weren't enough people to listen to all the problems of the vast student populace. There were only two counselors available to lend a sympathetic ear to over 3,000 students.

The Peer Counselors Circle was thus born in 2000 after several responsible, sincere, and committed students were called upon to form the core of the new group.

The club's Vice-President, Shiela Tuale, recalls of that time, "The school had a problem. Dropout cases had increased; there were unwanted student pregnancies and even suicide cases". Those who answered the call to help their peers jumped in head-first and dove immediately into guidance and counseling training. Before long, they began to counsel the students. Their efforts included helping students adjust to high school or college life, as well as identifying, understanding, meeting, and coping with their everyday problems.

These peer counselors who were talking the talk were soon walking the walk.

They became instrumental and vital in the school's guidance program. Aside from facilitating the guidance classes of all the freshmen students, they've also assisted in teaching the school's sex education program. They've also conducted research, study habits, and goal setting seminars as well as values clarification, decision making, and human relationship training. Moreover, these young counselors have also assisted in the testing at the Guidance office as well as in the job skills seminars of the graduating students, and are also offering tutorials in Math and English. If that weren't enough, the Peer Counselors Circle even conducts outreach programs off-campus by visiting barangays and offering counseling services and seminar workshops on building self-esteem and self-confidence. Quite a feat for a young organization!

"With the presence of our organization," Shiela shares, "the students were more encouraged and inspired to strive because we made them feel that they have worth and dignity." And in the end, the peer counselors themselves experience some form of personal growth and development. "Every time someone comes to us and says we touched their lives we feel we're part of what they become."

Everybody needs someone to talk to. In Foundation University, there are a lot of ears that are ready to listen. A lot of shoulders to cry on. A lot of peers ready and willing to give a hand.



Youth Speak

JORDAN YOUTH MOVEMENT MUNICIPALITY OF JORDAN, GUIMARAS

Young people speak a language all their own. The older generation can remember when using the word “steady” meant describing couples in a romantic relationship. Nowadays, the youth call that “mag-on” while “steady” has replaced the word “cool” in the youth’s everyday vocabulary. It seems that the only people who can understand young people are the young people themselves. Such is the belief of the Jordan Youth Movement in Guimaras province.

The Municipality of Jordan has been a child-friendly municipality for the past three years. This was declared by UNICEF representative Terry Hill who uses Jordan and the province of Guimaras as an example to other nations when it comes to child rights. The local Sangguniang Bayan passed a resolution then that approved a Children’s Code that looks after children’s rights and their development.

The Jordan Youth Movement meanwhile, was established to address the issues and concerns affecting the youth of today, such as: poverty, unemployment, an increase in out-of-school youth, degrading moral values, and higher incidences of drug use. These have spurred the members to take a more ACTIVE role in the education and enlightenment of the youth. To the Jordan Youth Movement, ACTIVE means: Advocate

Children on Trends and Issues that Value Education program.

ACTIVE was a series of talks and dialogues that placed more emphasis on the rights and responsibilities of the child. Topics ranged from leadership and communication, to adolescent reproductive and sexual health, AIDS, teenage pregnancy, and early marriage. What made the forum unique was that the facilitators and resource speakers were all trained youth leaders who spoke to the kids in their language, on their terms, in order for them to better understand and appreciate their rights, roles, and responsibilities to the community. And, to be a self-perpetuating community of youth for other youth, those who had been part of ACTIVE were also called upon to be facilitators, moderators, and resource speakers.

“Nagkaroon ng kabuluhan ang buhay ko (There is now meaning in my life),” says Movement Presidnet Girlie Caro. “Naging bahagi ako sa pagbabago sa buhay ng mga kabataan ng Jordan (I’ve become part of the change in the lives of the Jordan youth).” Indeed, Jordan has lived up to its name of being a child-friendly community. The efforts of the Jordan Youth Movement have also ensured that the municipality’s ACTIVE program will be flying high for many years to come.



ENTRY FORM

Please check the appropriate boxes

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

Have you joined TAYO before?

- Yes. If yes, please indicate the name of the project entry and the Search year _____
- No.

How did you know about the Search?

- Newspaper Radio
- Magazine Television
- NYC/YORP Letter Website/E-mail
- Others (Please indicate): _____

REQUIREMENTS

The organization shall submit 3 copies of the following:

- Accomplished Entry Form
- Certification attesting to the existence and veracity of the information submitted to the Search
For In-School Youth Organizations, a certification from the Office of Student Affairs
For Out-of-School or Working Youth Organizations, a certification from the Barangay.
- Short profile of the Organization featuring a brief description of the organization, its nature, background, programs and track record (not more than three pages on a short bond paper).
- Short profile of the Project Entry, featuring the description of the project site, timetable and process of implementation, resources used and level of community involvement (not more than one page on a short bond paper).
- Photo documentation (not more than three pages on a short bond paper).
- Registration with the Youth Organization Registration Program (YORP) of the National Youth Commission -- form downloadable through www.youth.net.ph.

ORGANIZATION PROFILE

NAME OF ORGANIZATION			NO. OF MEMBERS
ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION			
No.	Street	Municipality	Province / City
NAME OF ADVISER (if any)		DATE THE ORG. WAS OFFICIALLY FORMED	NYC YORP RESOLUTION NO.
		NAME & POSITION OF HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION	
OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBER	OFFICE FAX NUMBER	ORGANIZATION E-MAIL ADDRESS	

CONTACT PERSON DATA

FULL NAME			
Surname	First Name	Middle Name	
HOME ADDRESS			
No.	Street	Municipality	Province / City
DATE OF BIRTH		POSITION IN THE ORGANIZATION	E-MAIL ADDRESS
month	day	year	
CONTACT NUMBERS			

NOTE:

- The TAYO Organizers reserve the right and prerogative to disqualify all entries which will not meet the requirements of the search. Lack of non-compliance of any of the above-stated requirements will mean automatic disqualification without notice.
- Mail/hand-carry entries to the TAYO Secretariat, National Youth Commission, 4th Floor, Bookman Building, 373 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.
- Deadline for submission of entries is 31 January 2005.
- For inquiries, call telephone numbers (02) 781-1163, 781-1152, 781-2372, 749-9401, 749-9404 & 749-9399, or e-mail tayo@youth.net.ph.



PROJECT

PROJECT TITLE

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

OBJECTIVES

PROJECT LAUNCH DATE & TARGET DATE OF COMPLETION

GENERAL CRITERIA

- Impact of the Project Entry to the local community (e.g., improvement in literacy, sanitation, health, income, etc.)
- Social Mobilization (e.g., involvement of the community, especially the youth, in planning, implementation and evaluation)
- Innovativeness (introduction/application of new technologies, best practices, uniqueness of service or products, promotion of unique and indigenous materials)
- Sustainability and probability of duplication

SEARCH RULES

- All entries shall be evaluated mainly on the basis of the project entry submitted. An organization shall submit only one (1) project entry.
- There shall be no discrimination as to the organization's background, ethnic origin, and socio-economic status.
- The project entry submitted for evaluation must not have been a recipient of direct government financial assistance or grants. Funding for the project entry must primarily be non-governmental. The allowable limit for government funding is five percent (5%).
- Recipients of other awards are eligible. Previous TAYO winners and finalists may still participate, provided that they enter a project entry different from the one entered in the preceding search.
- Registration in the NYC's Youth Organization Registration Program (YORP) is mandatory. Registration papers may be submitted together with the organization's entry.
- All decisions of the TAYO Screening Committees and the Panel of Judges shall be final. No correspondence pertaining to these decisions shall be entertained.
- The organizers reserve the right to modify, alter or amend the above-mentioned rules or waive compliance therewith at its sole discretion, if such steps are in accordance with the purpose of the TAYO Awards scheme.
- All materials submitted to the TAYO Secretariat automatically become property of the organizers.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Open to all groups, organizations, clubs and societies whose membership and leadership is composed of at least fifteen (15) members who are 15 to 30 years old.
- Organizations shall be judged on the basis of a recent project or program that had an impact on the community and which best reflects the efforts of the youth sector towards nation-building.
- A project entry began in 2004 must either be completed before or by the deadline, or a major portion must have been undertaken by the deadline.
- For other continuing projects, a major portion must have been undertaken by the deadline.

I hereby certify upon my honor that all facts and information indicated herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I further declare that any information given that proves to be untrue may constitute a ground for disqualification in the search for TAYO and a prosecution for perjury.

Further, I subscribe and agree that the TAYO organizers have the sole prerogative to select the winners of the TAYO, and that their decision is final and executory.

In witness hereof, I am executing and signing this statement voluntarily without compulsion.

Signature Over Printed Name

Received by: _____
(Name/ Position)

Date: _____



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Mirant Philippines

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Xavier School of Cagayan
Marian Choir of Cavite
University of San Carlos, Cebu City
Zamboanga Economic Zone Authority
Philippine Information Agency
1st TAYO Search Winners & Finalists

TAYO SONG

Composed by: Harold Clavite
Lyrics by: Redolfo Plopinio, Harold Clavite,
Georg Nava
Arranged by: Tito Cayamanda
Friends in Media
ABS-CBN News Channel
Breakfast Hosts and Staff
Magandang Umaga Bayan
GMA 7's Unang Hirit
Magandang Tanghali Bayan
Manila Bulletin
Chalk Magazine
DZBB 594
DZMM 630
Manila Broadcasting Corporation - DZRH

All youth organizations all over the
country that made the 2nd TAYO
Awards a success!

**And lastly, thank you to
the Lord God Almighty who
makes all things possible!**

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CALTEX (PHILIPPINES)

Caltex (Philippines), Inc., a member of the ChevronTexaco global organization, was established on March 18, 1921. Its refinery in San Pascual, Batangas was inaugurated in 1954, the first petroleum refinery in the Philippines.

A responsible corporate citizen, Caltex (Philippines), Inc. is actively involved in a number of projects that range from education and technology transfer to environment, from youth development to shelter.

The **Caltex Fund** provides for a scholarship program for disadvantaged children as well as assistance in skills/livelihood training and shelter. The **Good Roots Project** is a five-year environmental project aimed to preserve the environment through technology transfer to communities located in denuded areas. Through **Habitat for Humanity Philippines**, the company has built more than 30 houses in various sites nationwide. Caltex is also a founding member of the **Philippine Eagle Foundation, Inc.** that helps protect and preserve the Philippine's national bird and its habitat.

The company currently has a network of more than 800 service stations nationwide.



**CEBU
PACIFIC**
WE'RE GOING YOUR WAY.

CEBU PACIFIC

Inaugurated on March 8, 1996, Cebu Pacific is the country's second flagship carrier, and a young organization built on ultra-solid foundation: combining centuries of skills, knowledge, experience and excellent service records in every facet of the airline industry.

It has always put great importance in matters concerning the welfare and development of the youth, which is why the airline is a staunch supporter of youth-oriented programs and organizations. The Cebu Pacific family also firmly believes that values instilled while an individual is young are values retained as they grow up to be the country's work force and leaders. This is reflected in the airline's participation in value formation programs.

A spirit of family, of volunteerism and teamwork enable the airline to accomplish its goals. Everything that Cebu Pacific has achieved, every hurdle that it has surmounted, was made possible through the values instilled by the airline in its organization: dedication, loyalty, integrity and innovation, all founded on trust. Cebu Pacific takes steps in maintaining a high-trust organization as it guards its team spirit with diligence.

The logo for the Philippine Daily Inquirer, featuring the words "PHILIPPINE DAILY" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font above the word "INQUIRER" in a larger, bold, white, serif font, all contained within a blue rectangular box.

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

For 18 years, the Philippine Daily Inquirer has been reaping the rewards of its hard work. Continued publishing of countless exposés and hard-hitting news has established its reputation as the country's most trusted source of independent and inspiring journalism. It is now the most awarded and circulated Philippine newspaper with over 2 million readers daily, 130 correspondents, 4 regional bureaus, and 4 printing satellites nationwide. Its dynamic website, www.Inq7.net, is among the top 15 most visited news websites in the world.

Beyond being the country's leading journalistic voice, the Inquirer has also been a leading corporate citizen, actively involved in poverty-reduction, environmental and educational causes. It is the first to use organic soy-based ink in addition to 100% recycled newsprint, and to spearhead special niche sections like 2bU!, Junior Inquirer, *Elan*, and Inquirer Golf Monthly. Its efforts to promote people-empowerment through reading are complemented by its award-winning Youth Readership Program and its latest publication, *Inquirer Libre*, which continues to make in-roads in developing readership for the mass market.

The Inquirer's meaningful goal of making a difference in the everyday life of Filipinos continues to be the driving force behind its journalistic and community initiatives. As the country's no. 1 newspaper, it remains steadfast in its commitment to bring "balanced news, fearless views" to readers when and where it matters.

THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT OF YOUNG LEGISLATORS

Philippine history bears witness to the resilience of youth leaders who have never stopped from organizing themselves into a solid force that will spur them towards greater causes and goals.

A spin-off from the April 1988 group called the “Metro-Manila Young Councilors’ League,” the National Movement of Young Legislators (NMYL) emerges as the most promising non-traditionalist group in the topsy-turvy arena of Philippine politics. It is presently the only young lawmakers’ league of its kind in Asia. As a youth group, it aims to consolidate the nation’s young legislators and define their role in national development.

Hence, within the NMYL’s confines is born the much-awaited force in Philippine politics’– the New Politics of the young. From this credo springs forth a passion for youth development programs that strive to undertake, support, and recognize actual and practical activities for total youth development such as the Search for the Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO). The NMYL proudly supports the TAYO Awards to help encourage, strengthen and solidify the idealism, nationalism and fervor of the youth which is a crucial factor for sustainable national development.



Philippine
Council of
Young
Political
Leaders

PHILIPPINE COUNCIL OF YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS (PCYPL) FOUNDATION, INC.

The Philippine Council of Young Political Leaders (PCYPL) Foundation, Inc. is a non-stock, non-profit organization with the vision of developing young elected or appointed officials in government into competent and responsible leaders for a sustainable future.

The PCYPL believes that the key to successful leadership is an adequate knowledge in the areas of: information technology, environment protection, social sciences, and management, as well as commitment and dedication to service. Character building, values formation, social responsibility and global awareness are equally important areas that it strives to develop these among young leaders.

Using non-traditional and practical means of learning, PCYPL seeks to help budding leaders perform their public duties well in their present capacities, and in their future roles when they later rise to higher levels of responsibilities.

With these principles in mind, the PCYPL believes that its efforts will produce a new set of idealized political leaders, geared and ready to face the challenges of tomorrow.



Foundation for Governance & Convergence

FOUNDATION FOR GOVERNANCE AND CONVERGENCE

The Foundation for Governance and Convergence (FGC) is a non-stock, non-profit organization with the vision of realizing a just, equitable, and progressive Philippine society anchored on the practice of sustainable development and democratic principles. It seeks to advance the tenets of genuine local autonomy, sustainable, integrated, and area-based development and participatory democracy in both the national and local levels of governance.

In this regard, FGC proudly and wholly supports the annual search for the Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO) as one of its special programs. The FGC gives special emphasis on the recognition of outstanding young individuals and groups that epitomize an ideal Filipino: nationalistic, patriotic, and values-oriented. The FGC believes that recognizing the efforts of our young leaders will cultivate a new culture of governance and convergence within the society that aims towards the development of, for and by the people.



PHILIPPINE JAYCEES, INC.

The Philippines Jaycees Inc. is an affiliate of Junior Chamber International, a worldwide leadership development and community service organization. Its mission is to contribute to the advancement of the global community by providing opportunities for young people to develop the leadership skills, social responsibility, and fellowship necessary to create positive change.

With over 6,000 members aged 18 to 40 from 230 local chapters in the Philippines, the Jaycees is known as an active Filipino youth force. Because of this, it is only fitting that the Jaycees was a vital part of the search for the Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations of 2003.

The Jaycees operate on the premise that the development of individual character and personality will result in better communities and, eventually, a more peaceful world. The organization may be described as a University of Leaders—the students are its members; the curriculum is leadership development; and its campus, the world.



THE TEN ACCOMPLISHED YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS



**Department of Social Welfare and Development
National Capital Region (NCR) Corner San Rafael Legarda St.,
Sampaloc, Manila, Philippines**

In line with the mandate of the DSWD, the agency's NCR Office assists local government units, national government agencies, people's organizations and other members of civil society in the effective dissemination and implementation of social welfare and development policies, programs, projects and services geared at alleviating poverty and empowering disadvantaged individuals, families and communities for an improved quality of life.

Congratulations to the youth groups that joined this year's Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO)!

In consonance with the mandate of the DSWD-NCR, being an agency that protects the welfare of the marginalized and disadvantaged individuals and families, to which the youth comprise a majority, the DSWD-NCR is very pleased to be part of TAYO, a program that encourages the youth to be of service to our people.

Congratulations also to the organizers and partners of the TAYO, today's foremost national youth award. This program is something that we should keep on supporting so that a lot of other people will be inspired by the stories of these selfless youth.

To all youth organizations, I encourage you to vie for the TAYO so that your efforts are recognized and your best practices are shared not just in the local and regional levels, but in the national level as well. I further encourage you to keep on creating, innovating and doing great service to the communities and the nation as a whole.

ALICIA R. BALA
Assistant Secretary and
Concurrent Regional Director
National Capital Region
Department of Social Welfare and Development



MIRANT

Mirant Philippines, a wholly owned subsidiary of Atlanta-based Mirant Corporation, is the largest private producer of electricity in the country, owning more than 2500 MW of installed generating capacity. It owns and operates the 1218-MW Sual Power Station in Pangasinan, the 735-MW Pagbilao Power Station in Quezon, 100-MW Navotas II Power Station in Metro Manila, and has a stake in the natural gas-fired 1250-MW Ilijan Power Plant. Mirant Philippines also owns Toledo Power Station in Cebu, which has a combined capacity of 135-MW and the 72MW Panay Power Facility.

Mirant Philippines was the first to heed the call for private sector assistance to resolve the power crisis in the late 1980s. It pioneered the B-O-T concept in the country and set the precedent for private sector participation in power generation, as well as in resolving the country's power dilemma. Today, with its *Energy Supply Business*, Mirant Philippines is again opening new gates of opportunity in providing creative energy solutions to the country's evolving energy needs.

Achieving the position of premiership in the nation, Mirant Philippines now looks beyond merely being the leading company in the country. Through a strategic combination of operational excellence and creative energy solutions, Mirant Philippines is geared to recognize and respond to the country's intensifying requirements, responding in ways that power the growth of the nation. Through its social development arm, Mirant Philippines Foundation, Mirant is able to reach out to at least 300,000 households all over the country and provide electricity to far-flung and isolated rural barangays. This is made possible through Mirant's rural electrification program in at least 1000 barangays nationwide – Project BEACON (Barangay Electrification for Countryside Development). Alongside its efforts in electrification, Mirant Philippines is also highly involved in environmental stewardship programs that not only benefit the environment but also open up socio-economic opportunities in its host communities.

As the leading company in the country, Mirant Philippines is set on continually generating opportunities that empower lives and build the nation.

On behalf of mirant philippines, congratulations to the 2003 ten accomplished youth organizations (tayo) winners!

Indeed you are all a sparkling example to everyone as to how we can do our share in effecting positive change in our country.

Your dedication and commitment will be an inspiration to other young people. That from your example, they will derive the motivation and encouragement to serve the community and the nation.

Our best wishes as well to this year's batch of tayo aspirants. Keep in mind that the ultimate reward lies in knowing that you have committed yourself to something which serves an interest far greater than your own.

For more than two (2) consecutive years of providing support to tayo awards, it is truly an honor for mirant philippines to be part of such a worthy and noble program.

Thank you very much!

EDGARDO A. BAUTISTA
President
Mirant Philippines



One transmission network to move the dream of a better future forward.

TransCo is strongly committed to breaking barriers that hinder our country's full development by providing the linkages that empower communities and people. We connect the power source to the user so they can move in synergy to meet the requirements of the times.

Our transmission network serves more than the purpose of providing reliable electricity service. It is an indispensable part of nation building. By putting in place a truly national electricity grid in the medium term, TransCo is investing in the future -- ensuring that electricity will be there to power the Filipino dream of a better life.



Linking All Filipinos, Enhancing Life





www.youth.net.ph