



**Vision Help**  
International Care Foundation

# NEWS & UPDATES FROM THE PHILIPPINES

## AWARDED AS THE BEST NGO OF 2021

Awarded by the Department of  
Social Welfare and Development  
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JULY TO DECEMBER 2021



Dear friends,

Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the LORD comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

The text from Isaiah 49:13 invites us to rejoice. How much more should we rejoice in the Christmas season! For Jesus comes as a Savior to us in our needs. At least, that is what he wants if we invite him. When we realize that we really need a Savior, he can work in our lives. We experienced Jesus as a helper in need through many situations we had this year. In our family and in our ministry, we saw Jesus taking care of us again and again. Many of our paths, have led us to numerous hardships this year. One doesn't always experience God's intervention right away, but to walk the path with faith and trust in him as the savior is a must.

We do our best to lead and teach the children and young people from our children's center to trust in God. As a family, our trust in God was deeply challenged this year and we had to practice even more of what we easily preach so many times.

May this Savior of the world become the comforter and support to all of us. Let us rejoice over His deep involvement in our lives!

With this, we thank you again for all the support, donations and prayers which became an answer and a blessing to us through tough times this 2021. Looking back, we can only marvel at the faithfulness and love of God! Once again, he has carried us through this year, blessed us, healed us, provided for us and accompanied us. May the following pages be a joy to you as you read them. We all wish you a blessed Christmas and a new year protected and accompanied by God.

Your Carsten Aust with family  
and the whole VHICF Team



# WE TURNED 10 THIS YEAR!

## OUR ANNIVERSARY



Did you know that the work of VHICF started 15 years before the foundation was established? **Carsten and Mercy Aust have been missionaries in the Philippines since 1996.** They did so much in different provinces within the Philippine islands that they thought it best to establish their work as a recognized organization. Through their work in the mountains, in the cities and in the slums, **Vision Help International Care Foundation was established in 2011.**



Over the years the work has expanded immensely and yet there is so much more to do!

# AWARD

## BEST NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION OF 2021



We are so grateful for this award that the Philippine's government granted us for being the best non-profit organization of 2021 in our region! The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) recognized VHICF as the outstanding foundation in helping disadvantaged children and families.

A big thank you goes to our team and supporters who make our work possible!



**VISION HELP INTERNATIONAL  
CARE FOUNDATION, INC.**

**SALAMAT PO AWARD - BEST NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION**





We were sad to let her go but our joy was greater because Lyka finally got what she had dreamed and wanted for so long.

**FINALLY, A FAMILY.**



# LYKA MOVES TO THE U.S.A.

It was during one of our medical missions in 2015 that a little 1-year-old girl was given to our care. She was covered in boils and was obviously fragile and unhealthy. Her name is Lyka. Her mother passed away when she was a baby so she was left in the care of a relative who equally did not have the means to raise her properly. **With such inadequacy, Lyka grew malnourished. She was forced to eat solid food which was mainly rice mixed with water and salt at a very young age.** When Lyka's aunt came across our organization during the medical missions, she decided to give Lyka up so that her medical needs would be met. She came to us for temporary sheltering, however, no one claimed her back later on and so she was officially surrendered to our care.

While we know that being in our care is better for children who suffer the effects of poverty, it is always heart-breaking that families break because of it. Lyka stayed in our care for many years. During her first year with us, she was a sickly child. She had pneumonia, stomach parasites and was malnourished. We took care of her. This little girl grew up well and stayed with us for seven years.

No one claimed her back after her medical treatment. She was with us for seven years. ”



She became independent and wonderfully curious about many things. Lyka loved to play with other kids and she had no problems when playing alone too. Our caregivers remember her as a warm and sweet girl who showed appreciation boldly.

**It was in 2018, Lyka was five years old, when we started her adoption process. It was an arduous journey of two years and five months.** The COVID-19 affected the whole process but we pushed through.

Finally, the time came on August 20, 2021, Lyka met her dad and mom for the first time!

It was a heart-warming and tearful event. While we felt sad to let her go, joy filled our hearts more because Lyka got what she deeply longed for. Two days after, she flew to the U.S. and has even started going to school there.

As dark as the backgrounds many of our children have, there is hope. **Finding families for our kids, even though it takes a long time and demands so much effort, is what makes it all worth it.**

# A SCHOOL FOR VILLAGE OF HOPE



## BREAK THE VICIOUS CIRCLE OF POVERTY WITH EDUCATION!

The COVID-19 restrictions forced children worldwide to complete their schooling in front of a PC, online. Since our children come from difficult backgrounds of horrible abuse, abandonment and child trafficking, they often have difficulties in concentrating or understanding. Because of this, a very intensive learning support and tutoring is usually necessary for them to learn better. This special support is only possible through personal interaction.

In a real classroom, teachers can instruct much clearer and assist better. Therefore, we have decided to build a school in Village of Hope for approximately 150 children who live with us there. 240,000€ are needed for this. We are so grateful that 180,000€ have already been donated for the school.



## PLANT A PENCIL – BUILD A SCHOOL – HARVEST EDUCATION

Instead of throwing away pencil stubs, plant them and enjoy seeing something grow beautiful and delicious! And wouldn't it be even nicer if you could also do some good with it?

With our sustainable VISION HELP Sprout pencil, you can!

The end of the pencil contains a water-activated seed pod so you can plant tomato, basil or cilantro seeds. **All proceeds from this pencil will be invested in our school building project.** By doing so, you are contributing to our children's brighter future!

**Get your VISION HELP pencil for a donation of 10€** and maybe a few more to give as a special Christmas gift for yourself and your loved ones! Order it via [www.VHICF.org](http://www.VHICF.org) or call +49 (0) 162 395 79 51





## BUILD A SCHOOL WITH US

### GIVE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH!

The proceeds of this growing pencil will be invested in the construction of a school for the kids of Village of Hope.



MORE ABOUT US AND HOW TO  
BECOME A SPONSOR ON  
[WWW.VHICF.ORG](http://WWW.VHICF.ORG)

**Vision Help**  
International Care Foundation

ULTIMATE GROWING PENCIL **Sprout**



Plant in pot with saucer in good moist potting soil.



Plant at a 30-degree angle with seed capsule only covered in soil.



Water often in saucer to keep moist.



20°C/68°F room temp. with natural light ideal. Avoid direct sunlight.



Within 1-4 weeks, fresh plants will sprout.

To:

From:

out pencils  
9% sustainable,  
ic & non-GMO.  
room temp.  
one year  
anting  
is.

ENT1-3 approved.  
Keep away from  
children 0-3 y/o.  
For more info go to  
[sproutworld.com](http://sproutworld.com)


SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT!

ORDER NOW YOUR SPROUT PENCIL FOR  
10€ PER PIECE AT [WWW.VHICF.ORG](http://WWW.VHICF.ORG)



# GROWTH



A man wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a colorful, patterned shirt is watering plants in a field. He is holding a green watering can and spraying water onto the plants. The background is a clear blue sky with some clouds. The foreground shows green plants with small buds.

Finally, we can harvest our own  
homegrown organic vegetables  
in our new farm.

# OUR NEW FARM



# FIRST HARVEST

The 2.8-hectare of land which we have been working on is now about 65-70% cleared and it is being fully used for planting various fruits, vegetables and root crops. **Corn, sweet potato, turmeric ginger, cassava, okra, beans, papaya, banana, chilli, cucumber and squash among many others are what we have planted in our new farm.**

We have also moved our incinerator and garbage management facility by the farm's elevated area, a rocky hill, **where our waste can be organized, recycled or disposed properly.**

We have also moved there most of the animals we have been taking care of. All our ducks and goats freely roam the farm grounds and eat all that they can find. **These efforts help us have a more sustainable supply of food so that our children can eat healthy and organic.**



**SOW, HARVEST, EAT HEALTHY.**





# HOUSE BUILDING PROJECT IN CALERO

The 21-year-old Quirara grew up in a poor family. She did not finish school and, eventually, married early. Quirara currently lives in Sitio Pulo, the little island community which we have been helping out more intensively since COVID-19 pandemic started.

**Life is challenging in Sitio Pulo because its terrain changes drastically every year.** During summer, its surrounding area is dry and fit for planting and harvesting crops such as rice and corn. However, during rainy and typhoon season, **Sitio Pulo turns into an island, surrounded by non-potable, polluted water.** The livelihood there then turns into planting and harvesting water spinach. Aside from this change, the biggest problem that the 70 families in Sitio Pulo has is the housing. They have no match against the strong typhoons that threaten to destroy or damage their makeshift houses made with scrap materials of thin plywood, rusted galvanized iron sheets and worn out tarpaulins.

This was Quirara's situation. She and her husband, Rommel, has a two-year-old son. Their main livelihood is to harvest water spinach and sell them for a cheap price at the local market. This would earn them 2,50€ a day, enough for two meals which Quirara tries her best to fit for all three of them. Mostly, nothing is left for other expenses.

**Quirara and Rommel's family suffer damages to their house every year.**

We met Quirara during one of our disaster relief projects in Sitio Pulo. She shared, "I have been saving money for two years to replace our tarpaulin roof with more durable galvanized iron sheets. I have been praying for someone who would add to my little savings so that I can buy the materials." **Quirara's joy was uncontainable when she found out that she was one of the 36 families who would receive construction materials and assistance to reconstruct their houses so it can stand a better chance against the series of typhoons every year.**

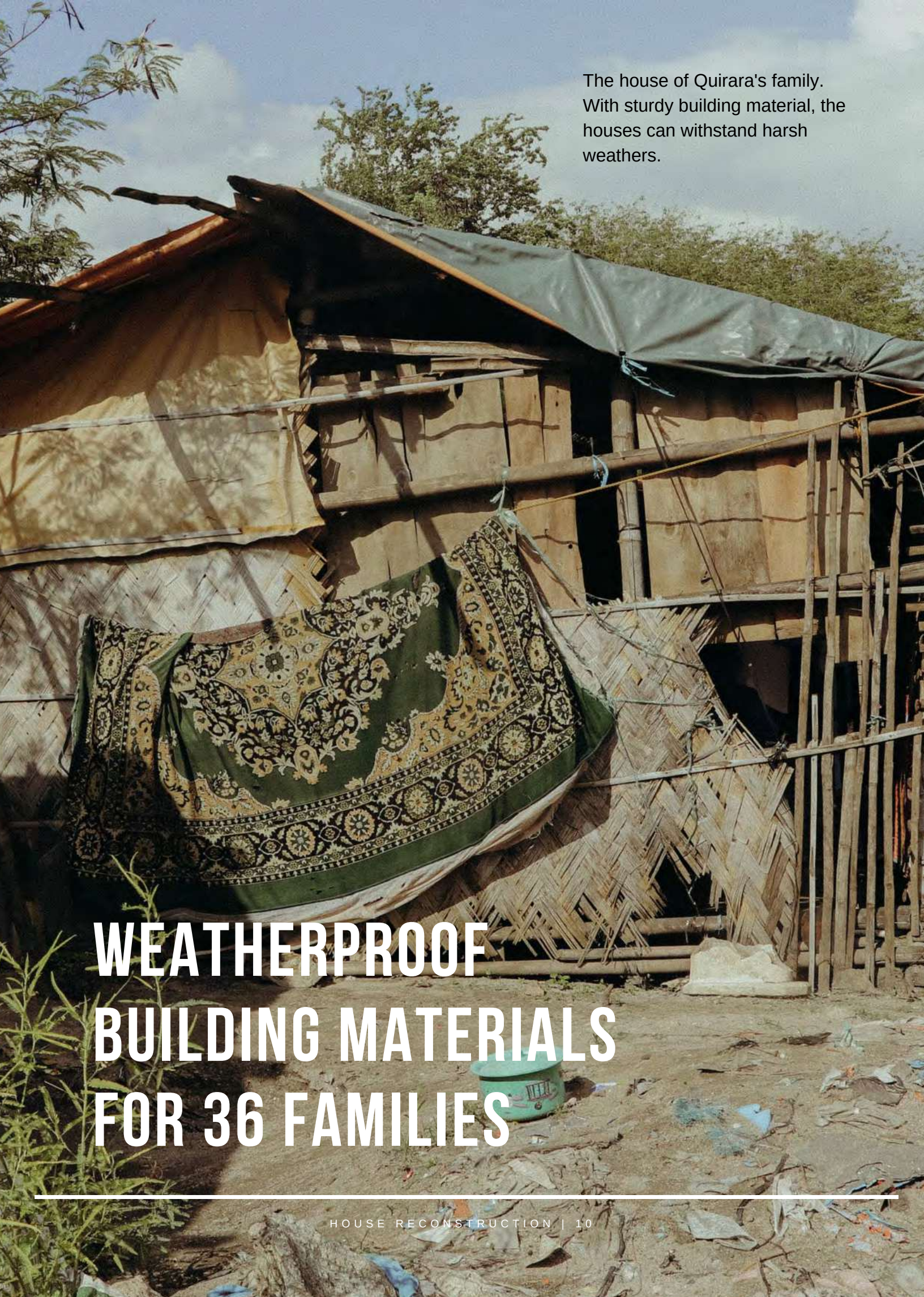
Our work in Sitio Pulo will continue on. **For now, we set-up a community water filtering system so that the water surrounding their community during rainy seasons can be fit for consumption.** Aside from this, we conduct relief distribution whenever needed.

**” I have been praying for someone to add to my small savings so I can buy the materials. — Quirara**



**Sitio Pulo: Every year, what should be dry land turns into an island surrounded by polluted water.**



A photograph of a rustic wooden house with a corrugated metal roof. A patterned cloth hangs on the wall. The house is made of wood and has a corrugated metal roof. A patterned cloth hangs on the wall. The house is made of wood and has a corrugated metal roof. A patterned cloth hangs on the wall.

The house of Quirara's family.  
With sturdy building material, the  
houses can withstand harsh  
weathers.

# WEATHERPROOF BUILDING MATERIALS FOR 36 FAMILIES



# HOUSE OF FAITH

Pushing through projects proved to be a challenge in 2020 because of many COVID-19 restrictions that limited our activities in the Philippines. But while it was a struggle, we are grateful to have pushed forward with our work. It is our desire to serve more children and care for more of those who are disadvantaged. For that to happen, we needed to add more houses in our Village of Hope. **In 2020, we started the construction of our fourth children's house and with the support of many, it was finally finished and furnished in July 2021!**

We named this fourth house as our House of Faith because it was built during trying times and yet it came through! By the month of August, our kids happily moved to this new house and enthusiastically brought their belongings and together they arranged the space, its furnitures and fixtures so they could all enjoy it.

With our House of Faith, we can welcome new children who are in need of shelter, love and care!



our fourth children's house!



THANK YOU!



Dear Sponsor,  
Thank you so much  
for your support  
and for your over  
whelming kindness.  
May the presence  
of our Loving God  
be with you always!  
Merry Christmas!

From: Marc

I love you  
sponsor!

I am Lizelle A Villanueva a scholar  
of the vision Help International  
Care foundation  
I am studying at General Vicente-  
lim Elementary school I am in grade 5  
and I am modeling my wish Now that  
Christmas is coming Covid-19 will disa-  
ppear and I hope we will be given the  
Need for this pandemic also for our family  
In advance merry christmas and god  
bless you all stay safe always.

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Dear Sponsor

First of all I want to say Thank you  
for your support to me. Thank you for  
your love and your kindness to me.  
I am happy in school and I learn some and many  
lessons. God Bless you.  
From Cristina B Galino.

Merry Christmas

To Sponsor

Thank you so much to  
support my all needs  
specially to my school  
Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy new Year

WE  
WISH YOU A  
Merry  
Christmas  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Hi I hope that  
your pine are okey.  
like to go school but not  
allowed. I wish that covid all  
end.

Thank you!!  
God bless!!

Felmar K  
CABRERA



God loves  
you and  
me!!

Dear sponsor,  
I just want to say  
thank you so much for  
your love and support.  
May God guide you  
and continue to  
pour out his  
blessings on you.

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

From: Renz

Dear Sponsor, thank you  
for supporting me. May  
God bless you and I  
Pray that God always  
bless you with your family.  
Merry Christmas

From: Carlito

Dear sponsor,  
Thank you For  
your kindness  
and For your Love  
and support.

From: Nathaniel

I always pray for you!

Merry  
and N  
bless y



# LIVE GOD'S LOVE

We are grateful that our work in Tondo is still on-going and that we were able to find new ways to serve the needs of people despite the many limitations imposed in that area.

Enrique, one of our sponsor children's 62-year-old grandfather, shared with us that it was through one Sunday Service that he came to know Jesus Christ. It was through our educational support for his grandson, Ivan, when he came to realize that **"God is truly faithful"** to him in his own life. He felt this because when it seemed hopeless, help came.

The family does not only receive scholarship from us but also supplies of rice and grocery. Ivan lives with them while his mother works her best to make ends meet, she earns 5€ a day to feed her three children and elderly parents. Despite the hard life they have, Enrique appreciates deeply every help they receive, not just physical and financial needs but spiritual too.



## ENCOUNTER GOD



Margie, a 32-year-old mother of three children who are all in our educational sponsorship program in Tondo, shares with us that her husband lost his job as a garbage collector when the lockdown started in March 2020.

He was the only one who earns money for the whole family and receive 30€ a week for his arduous job. But all those were lost. She testified with obvious gratitude in her heart,

"Aside from the scholarship my children receive, we also receive consistent supplies of rice and groceries as well as school supplies ... **it came to a point, when the pandemic started and everything was closed down, we had nothing much to eat, but Vision Help came to our aid.** ... It is a great relief for our family to have our basic needs help. I am also thankful that my children can continue going to school even when it's online."

**To share the love of Christ is our utmost goal and over the years, we realized how holistic our approach must be so that people may come to know it fully.** This means that while we do our best to proclaim the Truths written in the Bible during our Sunday Services, Bible Studies and Evangelistic activities, we put forward practical help to the people of Smokey Mountain and its poor neighbouring communities as equally important. **God's love are not just communicated in words but in concrete action. And all these are possible because of your continued partnership with us. Thank you.**



# SHARE THE VISION CHALLENGE



## DO GOOD AND SPREAD THE WORD!

Giving children a home, fighting poverty and saving lives - all this and more is part of our mission, which we can only realize because of people like you, with prayer, support and donations! In the past years, we have been able to give hope to many children and families and yet even more are still in great need! We need more support now more than ever.

**Would you join this SHARE THE VISION CHALLENGE by sharing our story online or by forwarding this magazine?**

Through your help, more people can learn about the situation in the Philippines and would compel them to make a heartfelt decision in becoming supporters.

If you would like to distribute free copies of our magazine — whether at your workplace, the bakery next door, or your church — send us an email ([e.abrahams@vhicf.org](mailto:e.abrahams@vhicf.org)) with your address and the number of copies you would like to receive.

You can find posts in our social media accounts on **Facebook and Instagram** or more about us on **[www.VHICF.org](http://www.VHICF.org)**

**Together, we can do more.**

Thank you!  
Your VHICFTeam

**THANK YOU!**

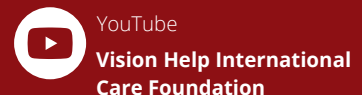




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# WE ARE VISION HELP, HELP US SAVE LIVES.

## *Vision Help*

International Care Foundation

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