

Vision Help

INTERNATIONAL CARE FOUNDATION

UPDATES
FROM THE
PHILIPPINES

INVESTING IN LIVES

Mercy Ministry - Updates from the slums
Page 14

LOVING PARENTS

Finally adopted, finally loved
Page 4

A LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT FOR OUR FARM

Welcome Stephanie Bolz
Page 8

BLESSED WITH *children*

17 new kids in House of Hope
and Village of Hope
Page 10

ABOUT US

We are Vision Help, a non-profit foundation that has been working in the Philippines for over 10 years. We help people in need and rescue children from poverty, forced prostitution and human trafficking.

The protection of children and the improvement of their living conditions are central goals of our work in the Philippines, where every third child lives below the poverty line and is affected by exploitation and violence or forced prostitution.

Carsten Aust, a pastor and paramedic who has been doing humanitarian work in the Philippines since 1996, founded the foundation in 2011. Ten years after its founding, in 2021, the Philippine government awarded Vision Help as the best non profit organization in the field of child and family assistance.

Medical care, disaster relief and reconstruction, education for street children without access to schools, education and vocational training for children and adults, feeding the poor, running children's homes and children's villages, conducting safe adoptions in close cooperation with international authorities, and church work are the areas in which the foundation is charitably active.

We help people to become healthy and independent. With effective initiatives, we protect children, fight poverty, empower and elevate communities in a sustainable way.



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

SALAMAT PO AWARD - BEST NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION



SCHOOL IN APAYAO & EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIP

First indigenous school in Apayao



MERCY MINISTRY DAYCARE CENTER

Daycare, preschool, soup kitchen and care in the slums of Tondo, Manila.



HOUSE OF HOPE CHILDREN'S HOME

in Antipolo, Rizal



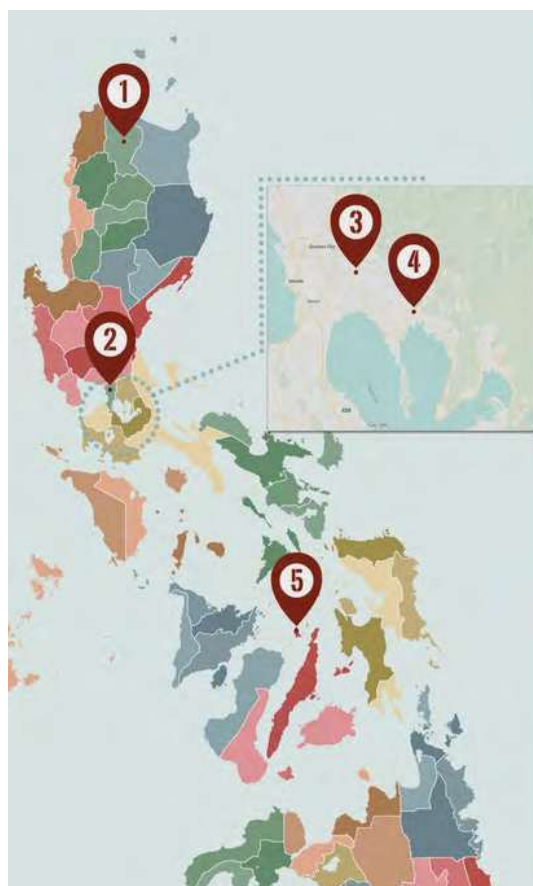
VILLAGE OF HOPE CHILDREN'S VILLAGE & SCHOOL

in Morong, Rizal



CITYLIGHT CHURCH & SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Church and educational sponsorships on Cebu





Tondo Team



Citylight Church (Cebu)

Every action needs people who want to join in, who want to become part of a vision. Become part of ours.

Stand with us against sexual abuse of children; help us give a new home to orphans or street children. Be a part of providing education and fighting poverty.

Let the light of God's love shine through us. You too can be VISION HELP!

Carsten Aust

Founder & Director of Vision Help



Sunday Service (Tondo)



House of Hope Team



Village of Hope Team

Loving Parents

SOUGHT AND FOUND

Every child wishes for parents who love them unconditionally. For some of our children this dream has become true.

They have often been discarded like trash, abused, or simply neglected. Our House of Hope and Village of Hope are the first places where they have found comfort and protection. Our staff members love and care for each and every child.

And yet, we want more for these children. Since 2018, we have been working in collaboration with local authorities to facilitate the adoption of children. In the past six months, with both joy and sorrow, we have been able to entrust three of our children to their new parents.

Finally Loved

On December 3, 2022, after five years in our care, Cailsey went away to join her new family.

Neither her birthmother nor birthfather wanted her - they did not even provide a birth certificate or a name for her. Cailsey's mother left her to two neighbors when she was only a few days old and disappeared. As the two women struggled to care for her, the little girl then came to our care.

Our staff members lovingly raised her and rejoiced in Cailsey's first attempts at crawling, walking, and speaking.

Now, we were able to place her in the loving hands of her new parents. Even before the Filipino-Canadian couple from Cebu personally met the almost six-year-old girl, they were already praying for their future daughter - such was the depth of their love for her.



Cailsey with her Papa and Mama



Turnover Ceremony of Mary Jelome

From being an "Accident" to being Desired

For Mary Jalome's parents, her birth in 2012 was an accident - conceived outside of marriage and unplanned. When the little girl was two years old, her mother fled from her abusive partner to a women's shelter. She no longer wanted her and her daughter to be subjected to his abuse.

In the shelter, Jelome's mother made the decision to place her daughter in our care because she believed she was unable to provide for her. For about eight years, our staff members took care of Jelome. She proved to not only be a ray of sunshine but also talented in languages: she learned some basic German from our volunteers.

Before Mary learned that an Italian family would adopt her, she began learning the language of her new parents and older sister. When they came to pick her up six months later, Mary surprised the three of them with her skills.



Miriam Joy with her family.



Mary Jelome with her family.

Answered Prayer

In 2016, Miriam Joy's mother left her, just five days old, in a facility run by "Youth With A Mission" (YWAM). She worked as a barmaid and became unintentionally pregnant. After getting to know and trust the staff members of the Christian organization, she gave birth to her child in one of their houses - but she did not want to keep the baby.

Since YWAM was not equipped to care for children, arrangements were made for the baby to come to us. Although Miriam loved her family at the House of Hope and Village of Hope, she longed for a mother and a father.

She prayed for it every day. God answered the seven-year-old's prayers. On May 2, 2023, her new parents from the United States, along with her two older brothers, came to finally meet her and be with her.

It is always a special moment for us when a child is welcomed into a loving family. We have invested so much in them: time, love, and prayer. Thanks to your support, such as through sponsorship, we are financially able to provide a home for 97 children at the moment. We hope that many more of them can be matched with new parents.



MORE SPACE FOR LEARNING

Education is the key to the future of our children and that is why we built our own school building at Village of Hope. Since the number of our children has been steadily growing over the years, the building which we currently use to hold our classes is no longer suitable due to our increased population.

Designed for Growth

We began the construction of our school building in the beginning of 2022. With it, we aim not only to have more classrooms but to also to provide our children with better educational facilities and opportunities. The school has five classrooms and a teachers' room as well as a music room, a computer lab, a craft-project room, and a laboratory for science lessons. With these facilities, we will have space for up to 200 students, allowing us to accommodate even more children in the future.



Numerous Volunteers

In addition to local construction workers, we have been blessed to receive support from numerous volunteers from Canada and Germany over the past months.

The project has progressed and we will soon install doors and windows and carry out other polishing work by August. We want to celebrate the opening with a formal ceremony when everything is ready. Our children cannot wait and are already excited that the building will soon be used and filled with their laughter.



LET'S EQUIP THE SCHOOL

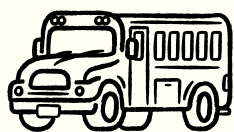
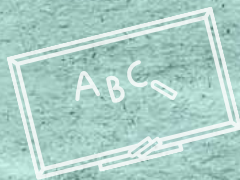
What good is the most beautiful school building without furniture and equipment? Not much.

After the construction of our school, it is now time for furnishing. Without blackboards, study desks, computers, and other tools, even the best teacher's ability to educate their students will be limited. That's where we need your help!

Invest in the future of our children by providing them with everything necessary so they can have a good education!

Donate today for the School Project in Village of Hope!

You can find all the information on our website
www.vhicf.org



A BUS FULL OF CHILDREN

In just the past eight months, the number of children in the "House of Hope" and "Village of Hope" has increased from 80 to 97. We are delighted with this growth, but it also presents us with some challenges, such as transportation for our little ones.

Therefore, we launched a fundraising campaign to raise 25.000€ to purchase an additional much bigger vehicle (a Hyundai HD45).



In May, we reached our goal and were able to acquire. Alongside our other light truck, we are now capable of transporting up to 65 children at once. This makes attending Sunday school and other educational excursions so much easier for us.

We would like to thank all our partners who supported us and made the purchase of the Hyundai HD45 possible! Without you, we could not have achieved this.



A LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT *for our farm*

Saving costs while offering high-quality vegetables and fruits to our children - this is one of our major goals at the Village of Hope. We have about four (4) hectares of land to cultivate for this purpose. The COVID-19 pandemic and the return to Germany of one of our missionary co-workers who was responsible for the farming have made the implementation of this major project extremely challenging.

But God is faithful: One of our long-time supporters, Stephanie Bolz, decided in 2022 to stay for at least three years to resume the work in our farm!

Living with and for God

When Stephanie Bolz became a Christian, she promised God that she would live with and for Him. However, her time-consuming work as a landscape architect was a challenge for her.



In 2017, a friend of the 52-year-old Stephanie from Eutin told her about our Village of Hope and our search for someone who could make the adjoining property usable for farming. Stephanie got in touch with us right away. She then visited us repeatedly in 2017 and 2019 - until the pandemic hit and temporarily halted her visits.



When the position as a gardener-farmer became available, she received a clear calling from God to take on this task. Stephanie recalls,

“God is wonderful! Exactly ten years ago, I began to take a personal interest in vegetable cultivation, even though I had no professional connection to it. This allowed me to gain sufficient experience for the tasks here in Village of Hope.



Significant Developments

Since January, Stephanie has been part of the Village of Hope. Her workday usually begins at around 6 a.m. when the temperature is still pleasant. Since then, remarkable progress has been made in the field: Half of it has already been cultivated and made suitable for animal husbandry. Eggplants, cucumbers, chilies, papaya, corn, and okra are just some of the crops that go directly to our kitchen and are turned into nutritious meals for the children.

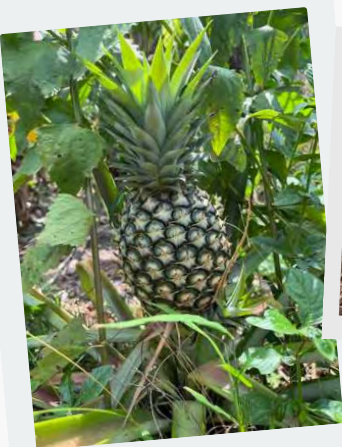


Involving the Youth

Stephanie also involves our teenagers. She teaches them the basics of vegetable cultivation and other crops. Marco, one of our sponsored young adults in the Village, reports,

“I really like Ate Stephanie and I'm fascinated by seeing what can grow from a seed. When we finally harvest something, it makes me genuinely happy. I feel rewarded for my hard work.

Stephanie is full of enthusiasm and she is curious about what she can further achieve with her work at the farm in the future. We are grateful for such support in our team!



Rich Blessing of Children

WELCOME WITH US
OUR NEW CHILDREN!

We consider every child in the world to be a gift from heaven. We therefore believe that everyone of them deserves love and care. In the slums of Manila, however, we experience the exact opposite. Abandoned, mistreated, abused or neglected children are a daily part of our work.

17 new kids

Despite the challenges, we are grateful that we can offer help and provide a fresh start to vulnerable children at our House of Hope and Village of Hope. In our care, they experience acceptance and security for the first time in their lives.

From November 2022 to June 2023 alone, we have welcomed 17 new children between the ages of three and 16. Currently, our staff is caring for a total of 97 children and teenagers.

Hungry and exploited

Two of our new kids are teenagers, Janneza (14) and Anna (16). They came to us in February after the authorities took them away from their relatives due to abuse.

Their stories of suffering are long and, unfortunately, not uncommon: their father passed away early while their mother abandoned them. Consequently, they ended up living with their relatives, treated as cheap labor. Janneza recalls:

“There were days when we had nothing to eat because our uncle couldn't earn any money. I often thought about running away, but I didn't want to leave Anna behind.





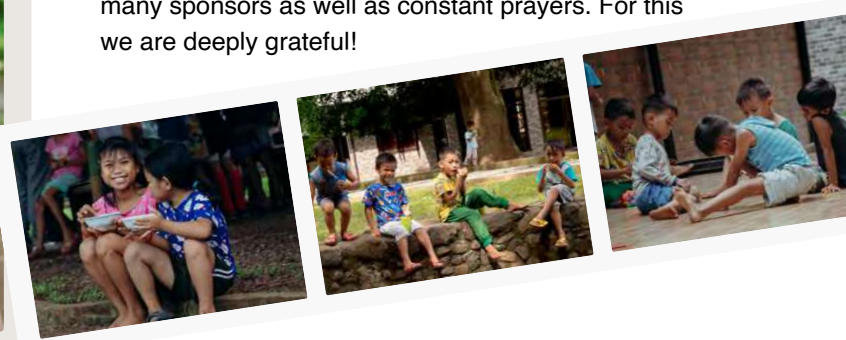
Anna adds, "After school, we couldn't play because we had to take care of the other children in the family until late in the evening." With us at Village of Hope, Janneza and Anna are now allowed to grow up feeling safe, without worries and are lovingly cared for.



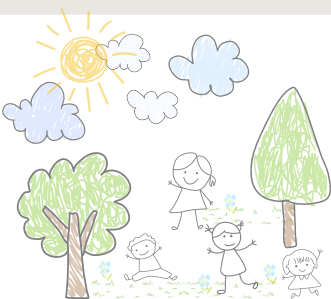
Finally, freedom and security

Similar to Janneza and Anna, many of our children did not have a normal childhood before they came to us. The older ones often had to grow up too quickly and struggle through life on their own. We are grateful that we can now give some of them a different kind of life and a new perspective. Our Vision Help team does their best in giving the children a new way of life. Our co-workers often become surrogate mothers, with whom the children experience inner healing.

The fact that we have been able to offer a loving home to 17 more children and teenagers in the past months is only possible through the partnership of many sponsors as well as constant prayers. For this we are deeply grateful!



If you too would like to invest in the future of one of our children or have any questions regarding sponsorship, please feel free to contact us at sponsors@vhicf.org or visit our website www.vhicf.org!



Medical Outreaches

HEALTHY AND LIVELY

Health is precious especially for our children. That is why we make sure they not only have a roof over their heads, clean clothes, food on their plates, and a place in school but they also receive regular medical check-ups.

Taking care of 97 children and teenagers can be quite costly. As many of our own have had challenging pasts, the abuses they endured left marks in them. This is why we are incredibly grateful to have doctors who partner with us free-of-charge to treat our children. In the first half of 2023, our children in both House of Hope and Village of Hope underwent numerous medical examinations. These check-ups are crucial especially for those awaiting adoption since their medical records must be up-to-date as legally required.



Dr. Jemima Guarino and Team



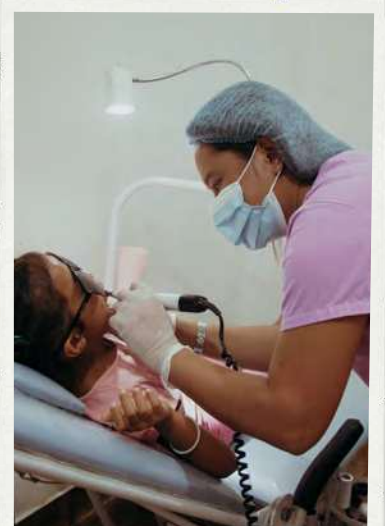
Dr. Rachel Canlas and Team

Teeth good, all good

In January, Dr. Jemima Guarino from Baguio City, along with three other dentists, visited us. They spent three days examining all the children and residents in our Village of Hope to which they provided preventive dental care. In the slums of Manila, it is challenging to maintain proper dental care, and many of the children new in our care only learned how to brush their teeth properly when they came to us. And so Dr. Guarino's visit was so timely!

In May, we were happy to welcome a dental team led by Dr. Rachel Canlas, who visited us for the first time. Dr. Canlas and her staff filled 60 to 70 cavities in our children and young residents within just two days!

In the Philippines, a dental filling costs around 17€. But thanks to their generous help, we were able to save a considerable amount of money, and we are truly thankful for that!

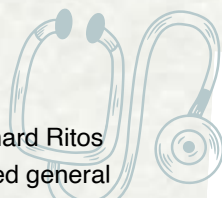




Dr. Leonard Ritos and Team

A Thorough Check-Up

In March, our children underwent comprehensive check-ups by Dr. Leonard Ritos and another physician. These dedicated general practitioners from Baguio examined a total of 102 babies, children and teens from our House of Hope and Village of Hope as well as some of our sponsored students who live outside of our child-care centers. Dr. Leonard was extremely diligent when it came to our little ones and made further test recommendations for some cases. As a result, he diagnosed tuberculosis in a seven-year-old that had previously gone undetected. Thanks to this timely diagnosis, the boy received the necessary medical treatment.



Dr. Ellie Choi in Village of Hope

We do not take all this support for granted; instead, we see it as part of God's provision for our work at Vision Help.

With that, we do not aim that these medical treatments and consultations be available to our own children only. We desire to extend it to communities that are in deep need of medical attention. That is why we organize medical missions on different islands of the country with medically trained volunteers and willing doctors whenever possible.

If you'd like to be one of our medical partners, we are always available to answer your questions and we would love to work with you. Feel free to drop us an email at outreach@vhicf.org for more information.



Dr. Ritos in Village of Hope



Investing in lives

MERCY MINISTRY

In places where education is common and free, it is almost taken for granted. That is not the case in the Philippines. Here, education is expensive which makes it difficult for poorer families in the country to send their children to school. Often, they have to contribute to earn money instead of studying. This often leads to children growing up illiterate and they become targets of exploitation. We believe that education is the key to escape the misery of poverty in Manila's slums.

Learning how to read and write

This is what our project called "Mercy Ministry", is about. Next to our soup kitchen, we help pay educational fees for those who need it. We also provide literacy classes for adults (Adult Literacy Program) and young students (BLESS Program) in Tondo. Currently, 4 adults and 20 children are enrolled in our literacy programs and BLESS classes to improve their lives.

Finding inner peace

Consequently, our employees learn about the needs of their students. Friendships are developed and so sharing about life concerns become common. Many of our students enjoy attending our encouraging church services and Bible studies, which take place twice a week. There they experience acceptance, appreciation and comfort in contrast to their hard and dreary lives in the slums. Rebecca, the mother of one of our scholarship recipients, says:

“Whether it's raining or sunny or my feet hurt, I go to church. When I've had an argument with my husband, for example, I find inner peace in the church service or in the Bible study.
—Rebecca, 44

She feels God's presence in her life: "Once, I almost got hit by a car. But it was like an invisible hand pushed me out of the way to save me." Reports like these motivate us to continue projects like this. They change lives forever.

Living with God - anything but boring

Life with God is fun. We want to show this to the teenagers we work with. That is why every Saturday, two of our German volunteers and one of our staff members organize a lively service for the young people. For about an hour and a half each week, they have the opportunity to have fun together, get to know each other, and learn more about the wisdom of the Bible and the love of God.



PLEASE FOLLOW and share

SOCIAL MEDIA & IMPRESSUM



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Receive free magazines in the quantity of your choice from us for sharing. Share with your neighbor, friend, church or local bakery. Only together can we face the challenges of poverty, save lives and make a lasting impact. Order with quantity and delivery address: mail@vhicf.org

CORPORATE DONATIONS

Do you as a company want to do good and live up to the idea of corporate social responsibility (CSR)? Help people in need and demonstrate this to customers, partners and employees. As a non-profit organisation, we issue tax-deductible donation receipts and help publicise your social commitment. Contact: mail@vhicf.org

ATTENTION: OUR NEW DONATION ACCOUNT!

We are happy that for a while now donations can be made directly to our Vision Help donation account in Germany. We therefore ask all donors and sponsors who still donate to our former partner Mastering Your Life e.V. to switch to our account or to set up donations on www.VHICF.org once again. Direct debits and credit card donations must be cancelled by e-mail to office@mastering-your-life.de or by postal mail (Mastering Your Life, Renoirstr. 32, 04157 Leipzig). Thank you very much!

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**WE ARE VISION HELP.
HELP US SAVE LIVES.**