

ACAY IN THE PHILIPPINES

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE



"ACAY for me is more than an association. Within everyone is deeply involved to bring new hope and lasting change in the lives of those they have committed themselves for. The presence of God is tangible in every youth helped here." Loti, Finance Assistant



"As a former beneficiary of the program and now a member of the staff what I appreciate about ACAY is the family spirit. I could never have imagined that a broken childhood could be transformed to become a meaningful life if only we take the time to realize that life is beautiful despite the difficulties.

God is at work behind these mysteries. I really admire the effort of each member of the team." Cookie, HR



"ACAY is dear to my heart because it is here that I opened my eyes to the world. Here we do not simply work ; we fulfill a mission. We move forward without ever leaving anyone behind. I have been able to develop my competency with regard to my studies. And above all, they gave me the courage to undertake what I never believed I could have one day." Jam, Accountant



"ACAY has not only changed the lives of the youth but mine too. I used to feel as if I knew nothing but with kindness they taught me and I have learnt so much that now my self confidence has been restored." Maria, MVP Housekeeper



TACLOBAN PROGRAM - SANTO NIÑO

I am Dina, one of the volunteer teachers of the Santo Niño Play Centre. Previously, like a lot of new mothers I was uncertain as to how to react with kids. I was hesitant. So often I felt incapable in my role and responsibilities as a mother.

Jack, in-charge of the ACAY program in Santa Cruz invited ten mothers to be part of an intensive formation in Manila specialising in education for 2-3 year olds held in the University of the Philippines. One of the professors at the University, Nikkie, led the formation and has also come down to Santa Cruz several times with the ACAY team to continue training us.

My experience in the Santo Niño crèche was not easy. It went from challenge to challenge but at the same time I experienced great joy. I understood my role was to support the children from the village to enable them to fully develop their capacities. Your eyes and ears have to be open every minute.

On one side kids love to explore, to invent all kinds of games which left without a watchful eye can soon become a battle field. On the other, a child hasn't yet learnt to be clean so I have to change the child whilst keeping an eye on the others. Another child is crying because the mother has left so by distracting the child with a game I have learnt to turn the tears into a smile. A lot of patience is necessary as the minutes stretch out into hours and the fountains

Dina, Volunteer Teacher



The Village Mayor with the volunteer teachers

APRIL 2016

ACAY newsletter

A second chance for youth in difficulty



www.acaymission.com

EDITORIAL

Youth rediscover the meaning of your life!

At the end of the first CrossRoad formation for the summer 2016, this cry is welling up within me. Last night one of the youth confided to me, "Sr, when I was into drugs I turned to the Lord and cried out my despair. Two weeks later I was caught by the police who brought me to this centre which has saved my life. Sr, if I had not been sent to prison, I would be dead today. What's more, here in ACAY i have discovered who I am. The genogram activity has made me aware that I am repeating the same life of violence and vice as my father. And he himself had repeated the same life of his father. Now I want to stop this cycle and change my life. God has given me this second chance. Perhaps I have a mission?"

To go back to the deepest self! The more the years go by, the more I realize this is the essence of an Association which reaches out to youth in difficult circumstances such as ours. Otherwise there is a great risk that the youth will continue to 'surf' through life without ever finding in it any meaning. ACAY and the Missionaries of Mary have made it a priority to make this journey into the depths with each young person, that by means of times of meditation, of silence and personal sharing they have the chance to go towards the inside of themselves in parallel with the building up of their young lives as adults. This is the fundamental lever of their lives. You need roots to be able to stand. "You were wondering around in the world like a beggar because you had forgotten that you are the King's son...." a Buddhist Monk said. Nothing can replace these invisible roots, established through knowing yourself and inner knowledge of the God who dwells within, whatever may be the religion of the youth.

It seems to me that if at times our programs for young juveniles fail, it is because this self knowledge of the youth themselves, certainly one of the most pertinent indicators of success has not been sufficiently taken into consideration. No accompaniment within our programs can compensate or substitute the inner quest that the youth must accomplish for themselves. In neglecting the inner temples of our younger generations, by mutilating the sacred and the spiritual, are we not destroying man himself in all his greatness? It seems to me an urgent need to reintegrate the transcendental dimension of life.

The ACAY formation program, as good as it seems, would be only a "theory" if we did not help the youth to penetrate their inner beings wherein they can discover their greatness and their dragon. I so like this proverb: "where the dragon is, that is where the treasure lies hidden." This adventure can't be found in books, it is only found as one goes down within themselves, in the humble acknowledgment of one's own weakness and at the same time of the splendour and greatness planted in our hearts.

From this cry welling up inside of me there is a new hope sprouting in seeing that the underlying spirit of ACAY'S action is reaching a great number of young delinquents. ACAY has been asked by the Government authorities (the Minister of Justice and the Department of Social Welfare and Development) to be part of the technical working groups in charge of writing the concept for intervention programs for youth in detention centres and for family therapy.

After 18 years of presence in the Philippines, the time has come to share our experience on a National level.

Sr Sophie de Jésus

AMAZING ACAY - SURPRISING ACAY

Nothing would be possible for our youth without the staff and volunteers devoted to seeing the lives of the youth confided to them transformed.

Last month you were invited to get to know more about the “MOM” sisters - the Missionaries of Mary sisters. In this Newsletter we would like to present our ACAY Missions Philippines teams. 23 professionals use their competencies in different domains at the service of youth at risk. This page will present the ACAY family - its staff and volunteers.

ACAY IN THE PHILIPPINES

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Zaldy Vilches

THE SCHOOL OF LIFE

A space of security to become oneself a space of generosity!

Annually in charge of 20 to 25 girls, inside the School of Life and those who are reintegrating society, the team accompanies and forms the girls so that they will recover their dignity, become progressively autonomous, multitasking and confident in life.



“ACAY gives life to all the dimensions of my own life: human, spiritual and professional. It is truly a School of Life in which I can say that it is a sharing of knowledge and experience between my work colleagues, the sisters, the beneficiaries and myself.

Marlou, School of Life Program Head

The professionalism that I have found in ACAY to me is double-sided: a necessity to go down into the depths of the traumatic experiences of the youth and at the same time to dare to allow oneself to be moulded and formed to the maximum of one's capacities.

Apple, In-charge of the 1st stage of SOL



ACAY is my slice of heaven; it is an experience of freedom and inner peace not only for the youth but experienced by the staff and volunteers as well.

Clothilde, Life Coach



“ACAY teaches our youth of today and the adults of tomorrow with compassion.”

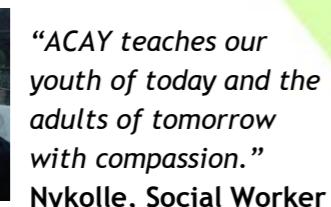
Nykolle, Social Worker
Susie, Counselor



Anya



Philipine
Volunteers



Victoire

Victoire

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Victoire

THE MANAGEMENT TEAM OF ACAY MPI



“In ACAY complexity becomes opportunity”

Jack
Training & Development
Officer



THE MANAGEMENT TEAM OF ACAY MPI



“ACAY leads us through a pedagogy of constantly going beyond ones limitations; reassuring on one hand and on the other an invitation to take new risks. This leads us to dream of a better life for our youth and to be witnesses that the impossible is closer than we think.”

Karen, Program Coordinator

MVP SECONDE CHANCE PROGRAM

In the Philippines, ACAY has developed a program of formation within detention centres and an aftercare program for the reinsertion in society of youth in conflict with the law



“ACAY is diversity.”
Verna,
Program Head
MVP Second
Chance Program



“The music of ACAY’s actions is unique”
Rocky
In-charge of the
Prison Program



“In ACAY it is at the very heart of the difficulties they face that the youth get the strength to hope in a new life.”
Jonathan
In-charge of Towards Sustainability

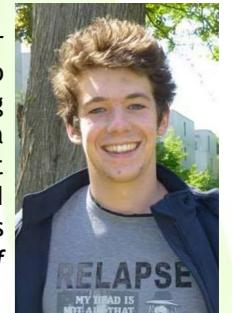
ACAY is not an NGO like the others; it is a family to which I belong. Everyone is welcome no matter what their beliefs, their nationality or their religion.

Jane, In-charge of Education & Coordinator of the Volunteers



In recreating a family like atmosphere for the beneficiaries, in going with them into the depths of themselves and inviting them to go beyond, ACAY has created a model of mission that transforms it's at risk beneficiaries into agents of change. I think that all countries should use this model as an example.

Max, Children of Mekong Volunteer



ACAY is one of the greatest blessings I've received in my life. This was and remains to be like the rising sun enlightening my steps. ACAY has given me light and hope. I have rediscovered the beauty and the value of life despite the tragedies we have been through in Tacloban.

Lorelie, Paralegal Officer (survivor of typhoon Haiyan)



ACAY offers new hope and a new life, not only for the youth but for all so as to reinforce our spiritual life and our faith in God.

Joel, Volunteer



ACAY helps wounded youth to get back up and overcome the adversities of life by allowing them to live a true transformation as much emotional as spiritual. This psycho-social support is a true path of transformation which leads to life.

Laureta, Psychologist



ACAY event in Marseille!

Last March 17, a dinner conference was organised by the members of Marseille Rotary Club with the theme: "Delinquency and recidivism of minors". The profits of the evening were donated to ACAY. There were three speakers drawing in about 100 people:

- Paul Dubois, Vice-President of Club and Family Judge from the High Court of Marseille
- Claude Peillon, Brigade Commander of the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquents
- Luc Charpentier, Territorial Director for Judicial Youth Protection

Madame Geneviève MAILLET, future President of the Bar of Marseille was also present.

The Rotary President said that the evening gave an authentic picture of the state of delinquency and recidivism over and above

the clichés very present in Marseille. ACAY were invited to present their work and the results of the Second Chance Program by way of video and testimony.

Conference organised by the Rotary Club of Marseille Rive Neuve



Sonia Mahdid (educator in charge of activities in prison), Edward, Laurent and Emmanuel in front of the Penitentiary Establishment for Rehabilitation of minors in Marseille -Conference in a High School

The arrival of spring coincided with the arrival of Edward to France, a young graduate from the MVP Second Chance Program of Manila who is presently studying in a prestigious aeronautics school in Manila.

Making the most of the summer break, he came to spend three weeks with the team in France to give his testimony in schools, prisons, during conferences and in meetings with the French partner agencies. The impact of his testimony on

the 100 or so youth he met as well as the 100 or so adults during the three weeks was powerful. The groups reputed turbulent were attentive and following his talk questions shot out from all corners of the room. In seeing the realisations and the first fruits of change in the behaviour of the youth, there are days we find ourselves saying that we have the most beautiful job in the world...

Laurent Thorigne, Director of the second chance program in Marseille

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THANKS KIWI SPONSORS !!

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School has finished!

A year ago I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Occupational Therapy. Now



the time had come to begin another adventure that I had been attracted to for a long time: a humanitarian mission! I wanted to give something back after having received so much from my family, my friends and my faith. I was given the opportunity to come and help in the Philippines through the NGO, Children of Mekong. I was, 'The Chosen One', to come to ACAY. So I joined the School of Life. My role is to guide the girls especially as they prepare to become young professionals but also to help them begin initiatives they have for income generating projects. This will enable them to have savings for when they leave SOL. So I have walked with them day after day. Surprising and awe-inspiring, baffling and breathtaking, my days have been spent going from crisis to victories over their painful pasts.

One of the objectives of ACAY is to study. Adapted to the needs of each personal situation, the studies range from university to polytechnic or starting a job. Five girls chose to follow the Alternative Learning System in which they study the remainder of their High School in one year and sit an exam which if they pass will see them graduated from High School. We hope they'll pass!

The year in a nutshell: Beverlyn has graduated 2 years of Business Management; Joevil has 400 hours of job experience before graduating a course in Tourism; Arlene graduated 6 months of Dressmaking; Kennie-Jane 6 months of Pastry and Baking; Neal-Joy will also graduate 6 months of Tourism and Josie-Mae, Care-giving. The others are persevering at High School, or university studying Commerce, Business Administration or Social Work. Two others are working full-time at present and will begin to study again in June.

I am becoming more and more attached to this mission entrusted to me. The time also came to make, 'THE' decision! It's clear that my heart has been deeply moved.

I still have so much to give (and so much to receive). I heard a whisper that this year I needed to make follies and live my life to the fullest. Perfect! It is very much like me... and because it is, 'More fun in the Philippines', I will extend my volunteer contract for another year!

Clotilde, Children of Mekong Volunteer in ACAY



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I would like to sponsor : A Girl from School of Life The School of Life Program

The MVP Second Chance Program

To the amount of : \$ per month

*Please scan and email to info@acaymission.com or at sponsorship@acaymission.org or cut and mail to

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