



SOL 25 Years | Testimonial Series

25 Years, 25 Journeys of Metamorphosis



ACAY Missions Philippines Inc

School of Life Program



SOL 25 Years | Testimonial Series

25 Years, 25 Journeys of Metamorphosis

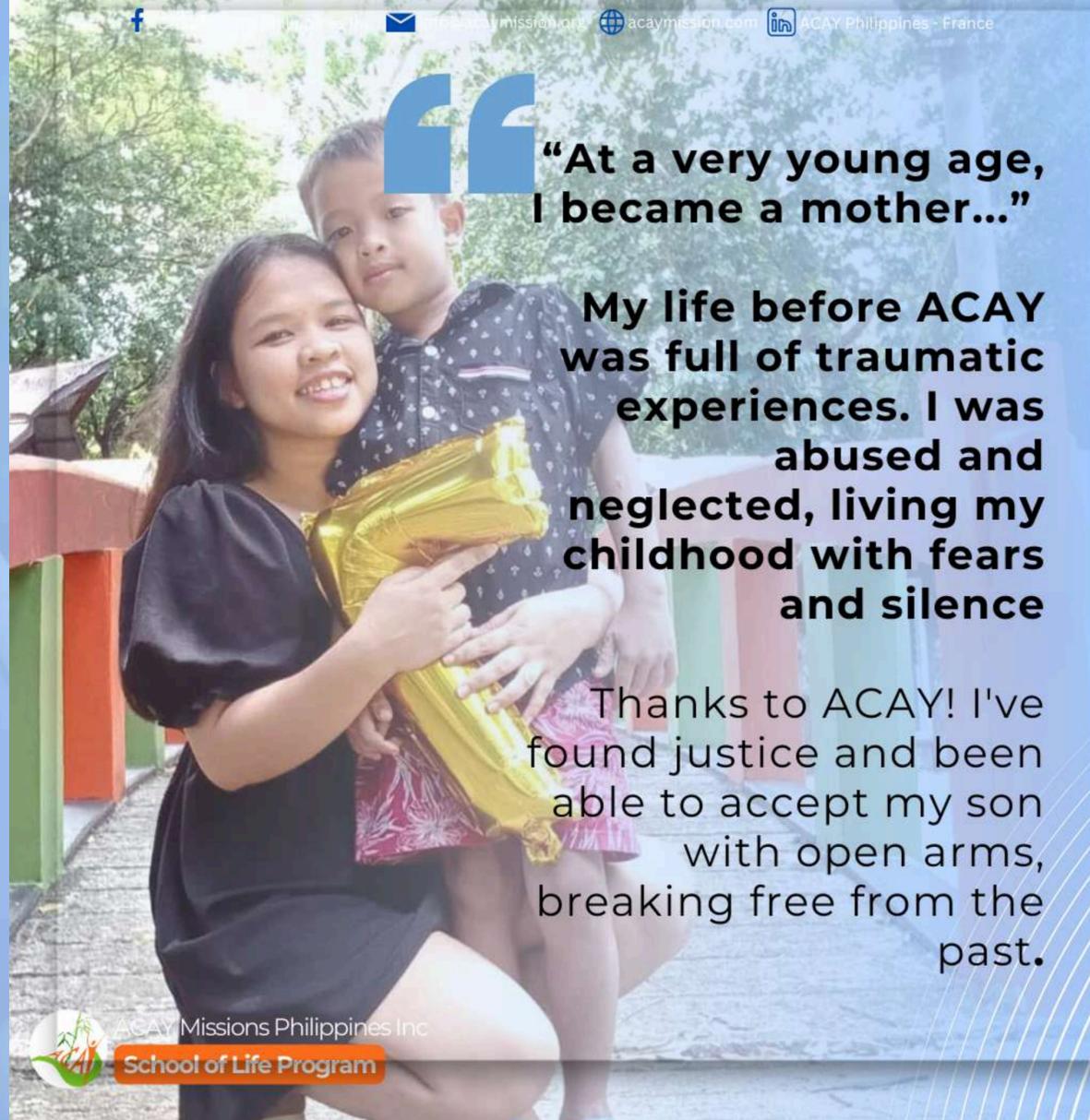
For 25 years, the School of Life has walked with young women on their journey from brokenness to renewed hope. To celebrate this milestone, we are featuring 25 beneficiaries whose lives have been deeply transformed.

Through their words, we look back at who they were then and who they are now, not as perfect success stories, but as living proof that with compassionate care, effective team and innovative method real change is possible.

25 years. 25 faces. 25 journeys of metamorphosis.

Welcome to their stories.

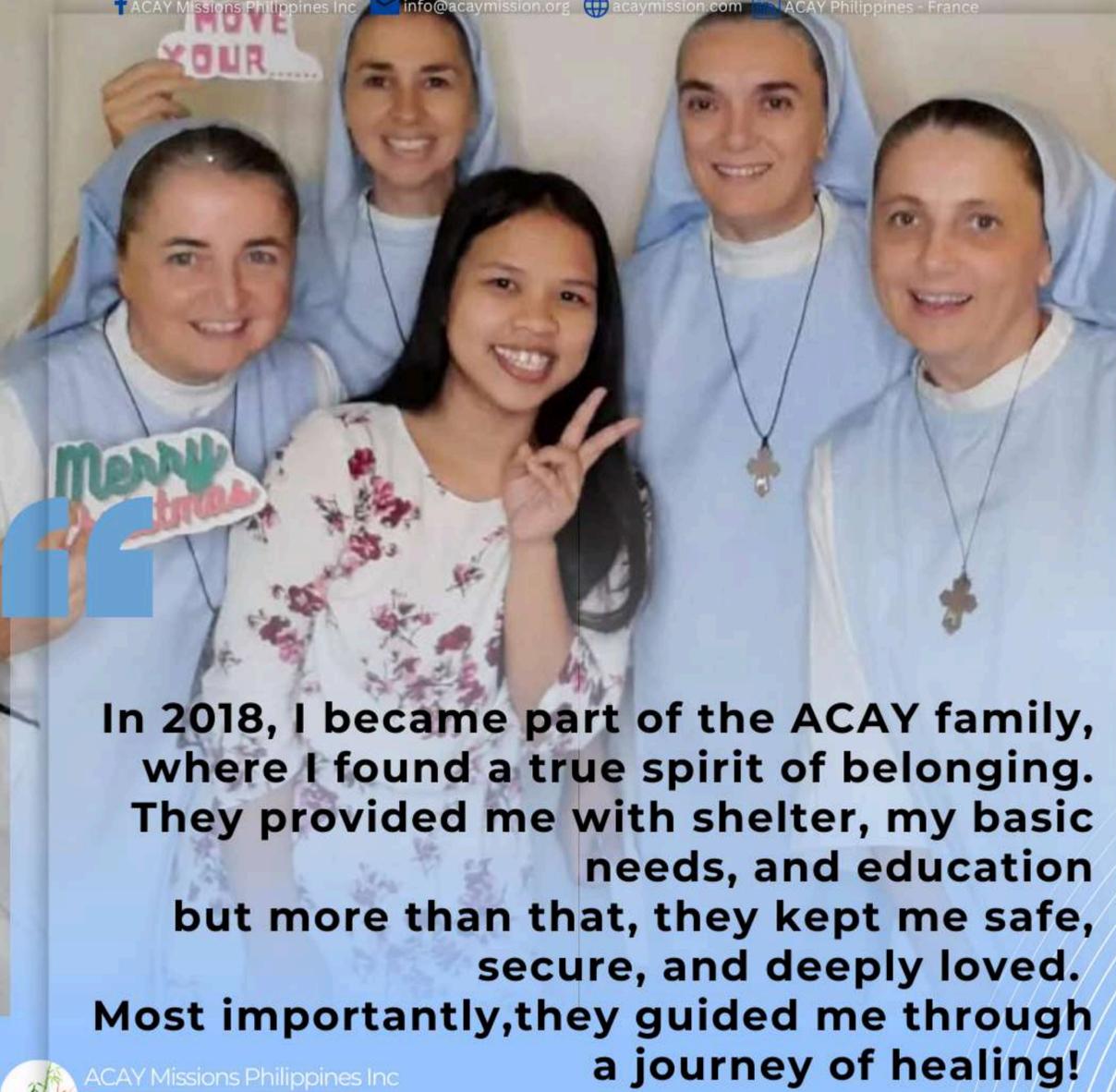
Meet Marie! Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis



“At a very young age,
I became a mother...”

My life before ACAY
was full of traumatic
experiences. I was
abused and
neglected, living my
childhood with fears
and silence

Thanks to ACAY! I've
found justice and been
able to accept my son
with open arms,
breaking free from the
past.



In 2018, I became part of the ACAY family,
where I found a true spirit of belonging.
They provided me with shelter, my basic
needs, and education
but more than that, they kept me safe,
secure, and deeply loved.
Most importantly, they guided me through
a journey of healing!



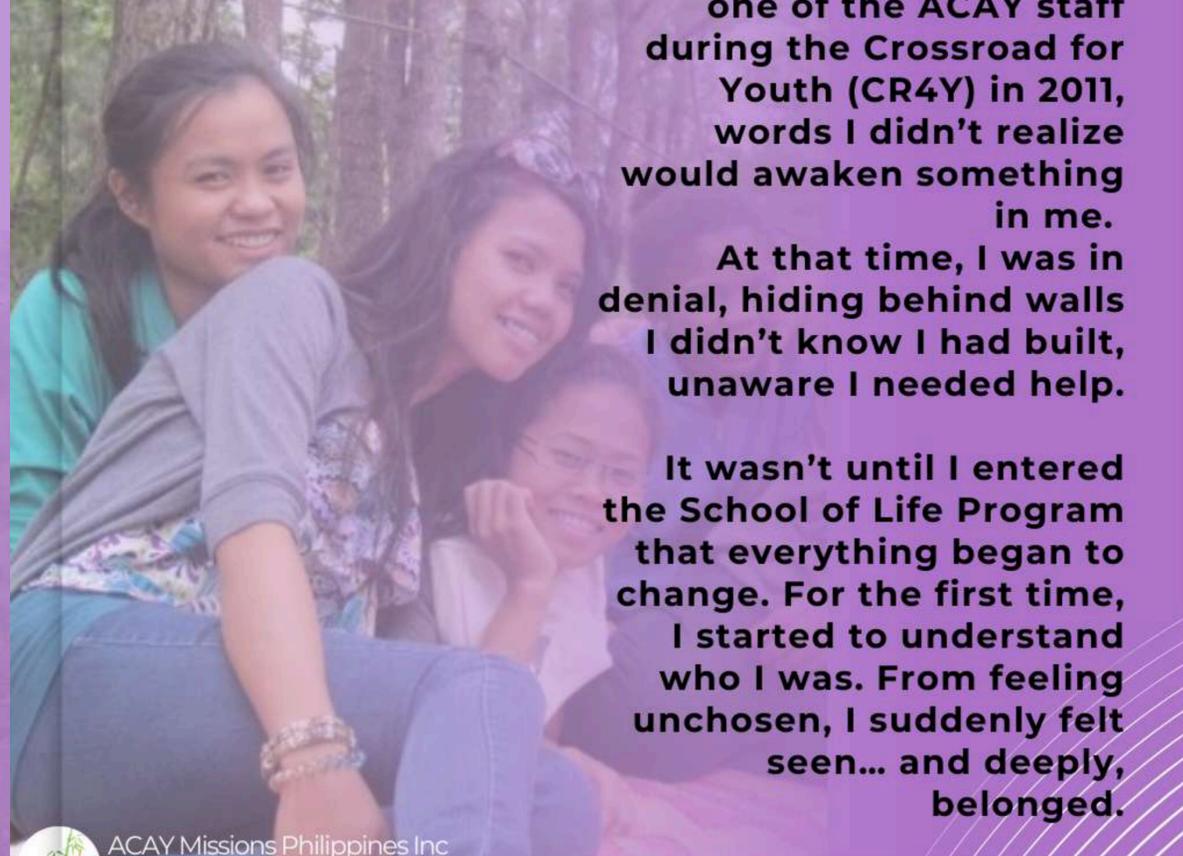
Because of ACAY, I've learned to change my
perspective of systematically being "I am the
victim here" and change my thoughts and
reality from being a "victim to I am now a
survivor"

I'm now thriving in my third year of college,
pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Social Work.
My painful experiences have become a
powerful testimony. Today my nightmare has
been transformed into a mission!



Meet Apple! Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis

ACAY Missions Philippines Inc
School of Life Program



“

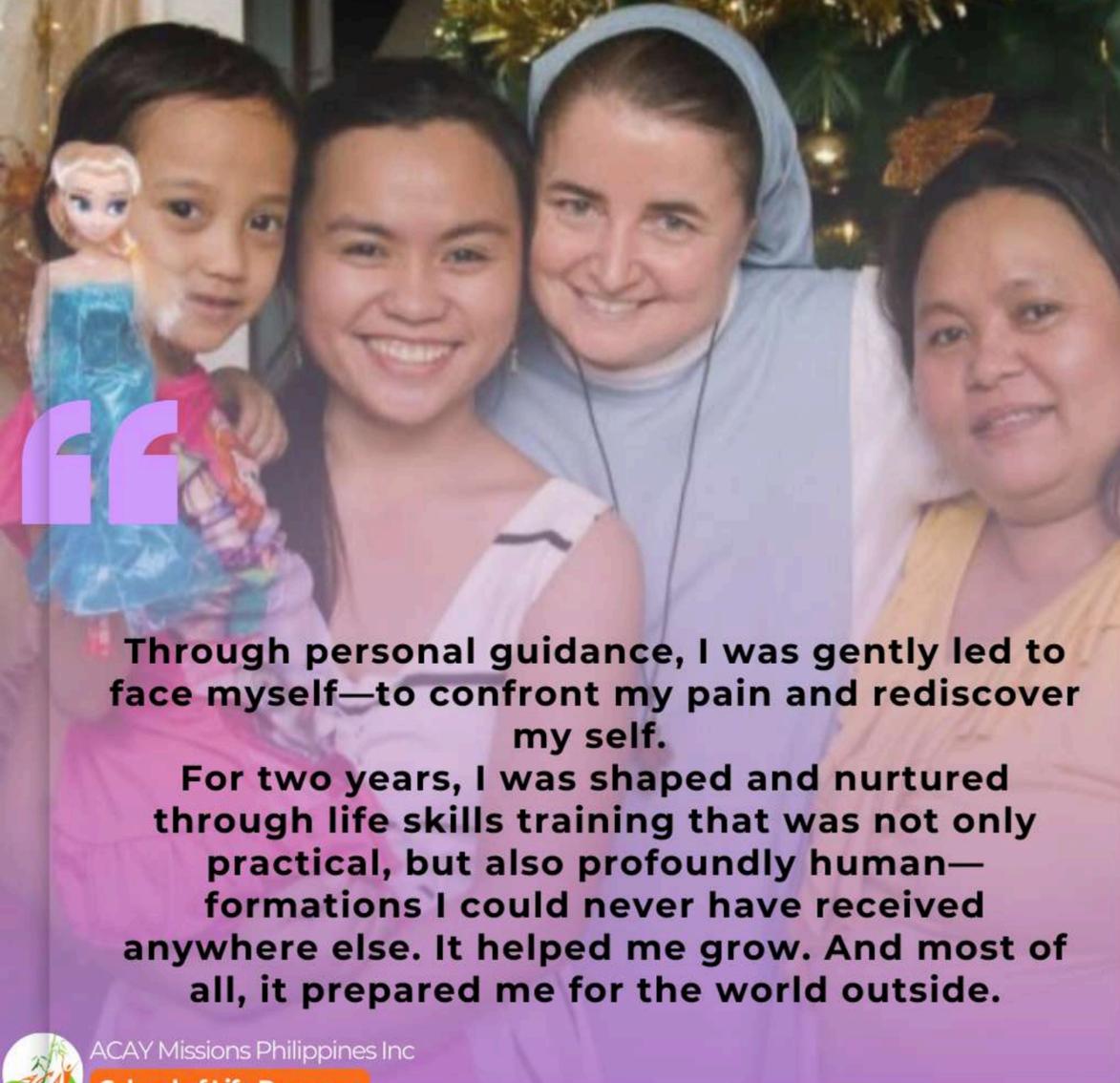
"Opportunities knock only once."

Those were the words of one of the ACAY staff during the Crossroad for Youth (CR4Y) in 2011, words I didn't realize would awaken something in me.

At that time, I was in denial, hiding behind walls I didn't know I had built, unaware I needed help.

It wasn't until I entered the School of Life Program that everything began to change. For the first time, I started to understand who I was. From feeling unchosen, I suddenly felt seen... and deeply, belonged.

ACAY Missions Philippines Inc
School of Life Program

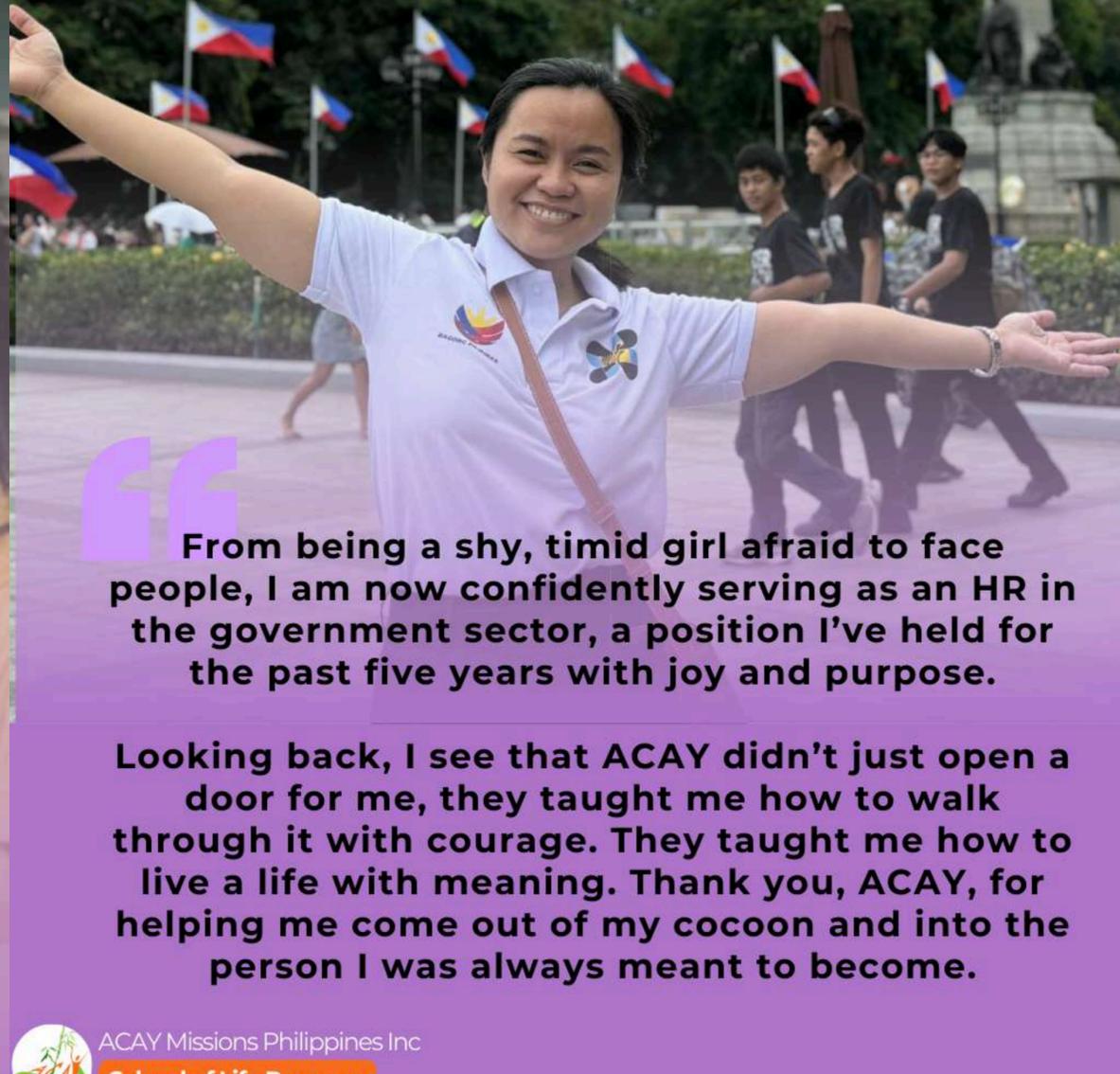


“

Through personal guidance, I was gently led to face myself—to confront my pain and rediscover my self.

For two years, I was shaped and nurtured through life skills training that was not only practical, but also profoundly human—formations I could never have received anywhere else. It helped me grow. And most of all, it prepared me for the world outside.

ACAY Missions Philippines Inc
School of Life Program



“

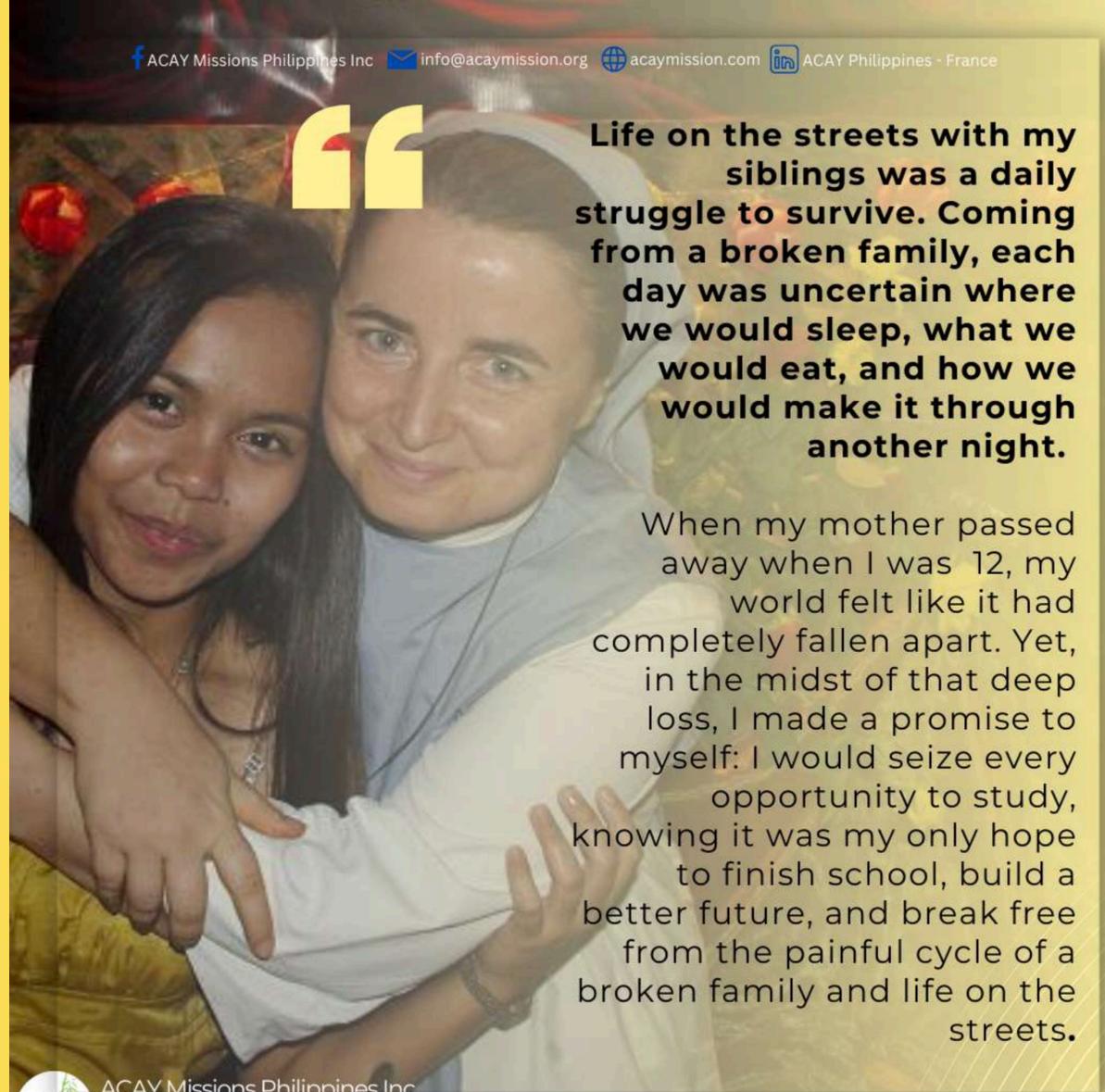
From being a shy, timid girl afraid to face people, I am now confidently serving as an HR in the government sector, a position I've held for the past five years with joy and purpose.

Looking back, I see that ACAY didn't just open a door for me, they taught me how to walk through it with courage. They taught me how to live a life with meaning. Thank you, ACAY, for helping me come out of my cocoon and into the person I was always meant to become.

ACAY Missions Philippines Inc
School of Life Program

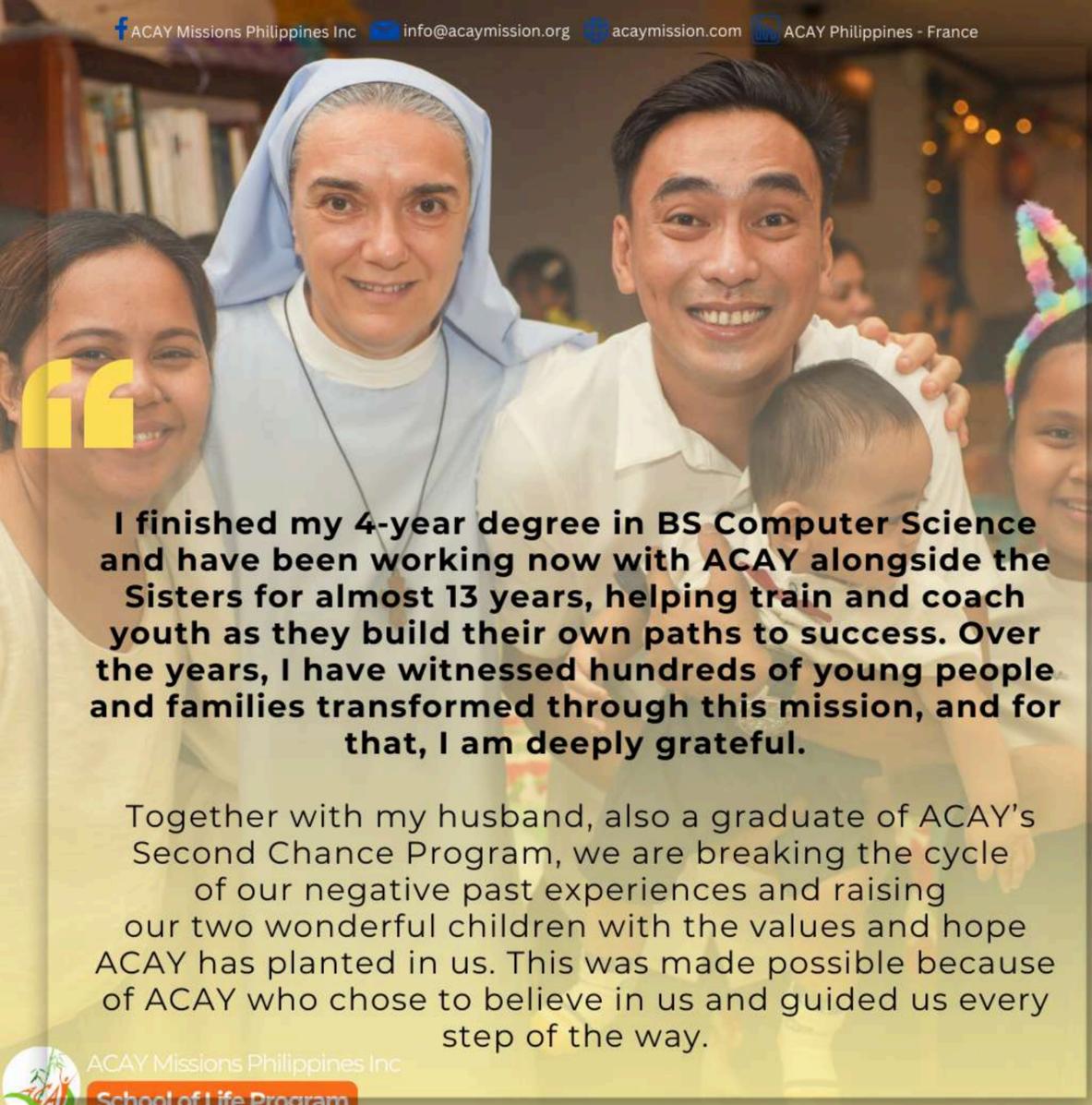


Meet Loti! Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis



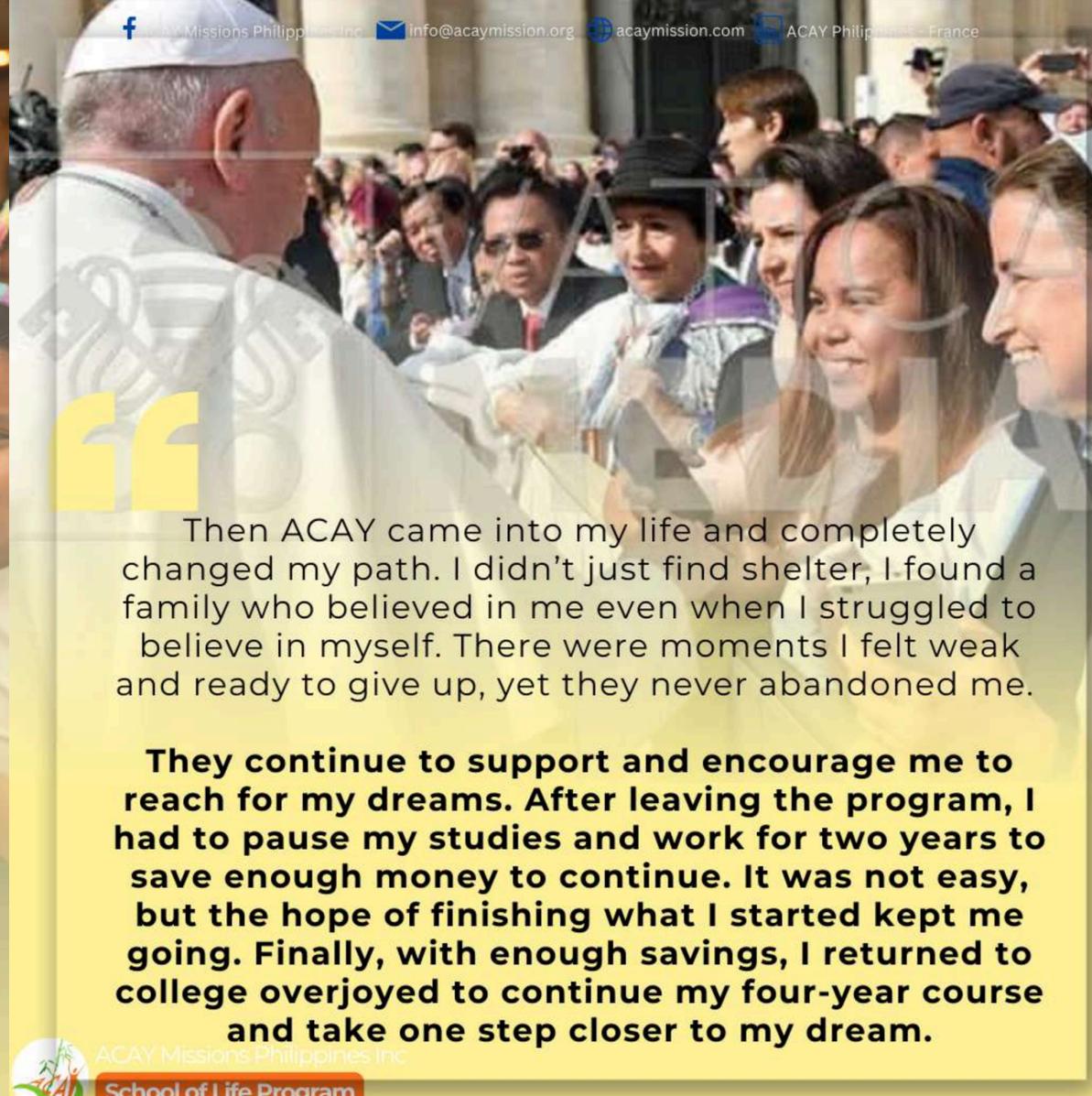
“
Life on the streets with my siblings was a daily struggle to survive. Coming from a broken family, each day was uncertain where we would sleep, what we would eat, and how we would make it through another night.

When my mother passed away when I was 12, my world felt like it had completely fallen apart. Yet, in the midst of that deep loss, I made a promise to myself: I would seize every opportunity to study, knowing it was my only hope to finish school, build a better future, and break free from the painful cycle of a broken family and life on the streets.



“
I finished my 4-year degree in BS Computer Science and have been working now with ACAY alongside the Sisters for almost 13 years, helping train and coach youth as they build their own paths to success. Over the years, I have witnessed hundreds of young people and families transformed through this mission, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

Together with my husband, also a graduate of ACAY's Second Chance Program, we are breaking the cycle of our negative past experiences and raising our two wonderful children with the values and hope ACAY has planted in us. This was made possible because of ACAY who chose to believe in us and guided us every step of the way.

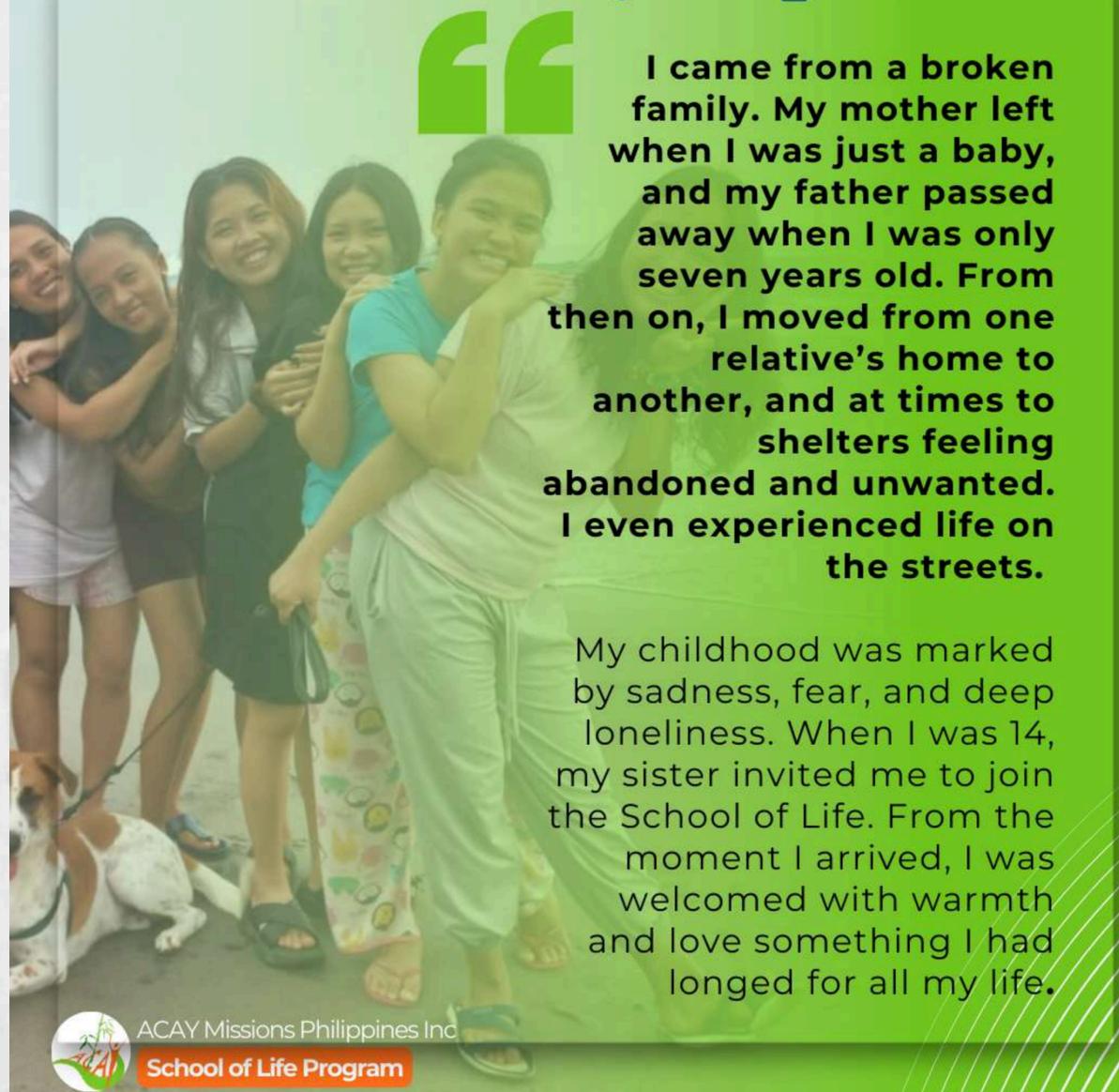


“
Then ACAY came into my life and completely changed my path. I didn't just find shelter, I found a family who believed in me even when I struggled to believe in myself. There were moments I felt weak and ready to give up, yet they never abandoned me.

They continue to support and encourage me to reach for my dreams. After leaving the program, I had to pause my studies and work for two years to save enough money to continue. It was not easy, but the hope of finishing what I started kept me going. Finally, with enough savings, I returned to college overjoyed to continue my four-year course and take one step closer to my dream.



Meet Elea! Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis



“

I came from a broken family. My mother left when I was just a baby, and my father passed away when I was only seven years old. From then on, I moved from one relative's home to another, and at times to shelters feeling abandoned and unwanted. I even experienced life on the streets.

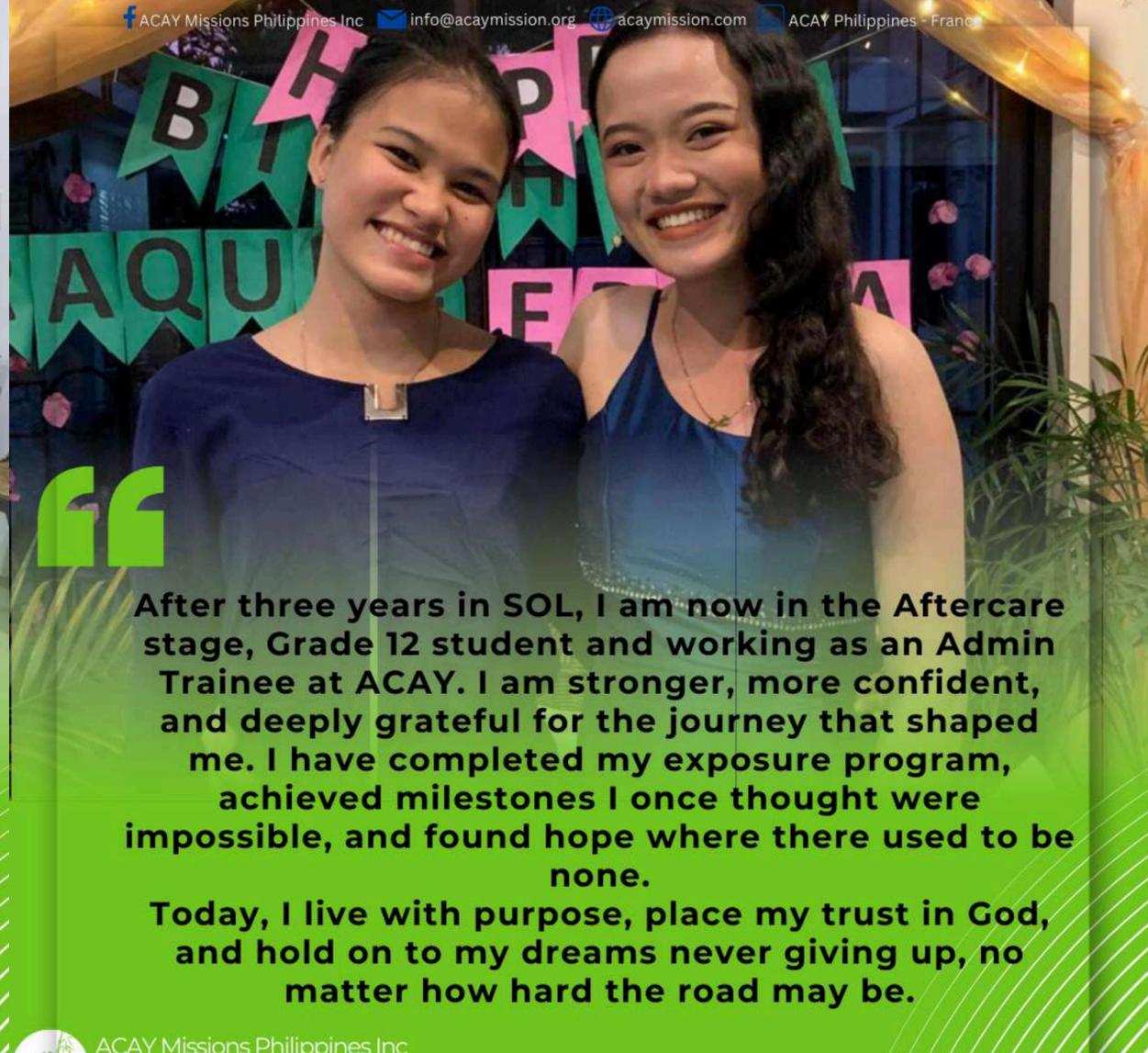
My childhood was marked by sadness, fear, and deep loneliness. When I was 14, my sister invited me to join the School of Life. From the moment I arrived, I was welcomed with warmth and love something I had longed for all my life.



“

In SOL, I learned to open up, trust, and share my feelings through interventions like Meta, counseling, and training. The family spirit, the guidance of the sisters and staff, and the presence of God, my wounds slowly began to heal. I discovered the values of honesty, perseverance, and the courage to go beyond my limits.

Through dialogue and understanding, I was able to rebuild my relationship with my mother something I never thought would happen. I found my voice, my purpose, and the courage to step out of my comfort zone.



“

After three years in SOL, I am now in the Aftercare stage, Grade 12 student and working as an Admin Trainee at ACAY. I am stronger, more confident, and deeply grateful for the journey that shaped me. I have completed my exposure program, achieved milestones I once thought were impossible, and found hope where there used to be none.

Today, I live with purpose, place my trust in God, and hold on to my dreams never giving up, no matter how hard the road may be.

Meet Edna! Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis



Behind my laughter and smiles, I carried pain from my past. Before, I was just going with the flow, with no plans and only darkness. I came from a broken family. My mother was addicted to gambling, and my father suffered from mental illness.

The responsibility of raising me was passed on to my Auntie. During that time, I called myself “wala akong kwenta” or worthless.



I am deeply grateful to ACAY for helping me see beyond my pain and believe in a brighter tomorrow. Despite not having my mother's support, I found love and belonging from the Sisters, Ates, Kuyas, and co-beneficiaries. I remember my coach once asked, “For you, what is success?”—and now I see it not just as achievements but as moving forward despite challenges.

I learned that real change starts within and to “begin with the end in mind,” reminding me to finish what I start. Through guiding sessions and spiritual activities, I discovered life's deeper meaning and my true purpose.

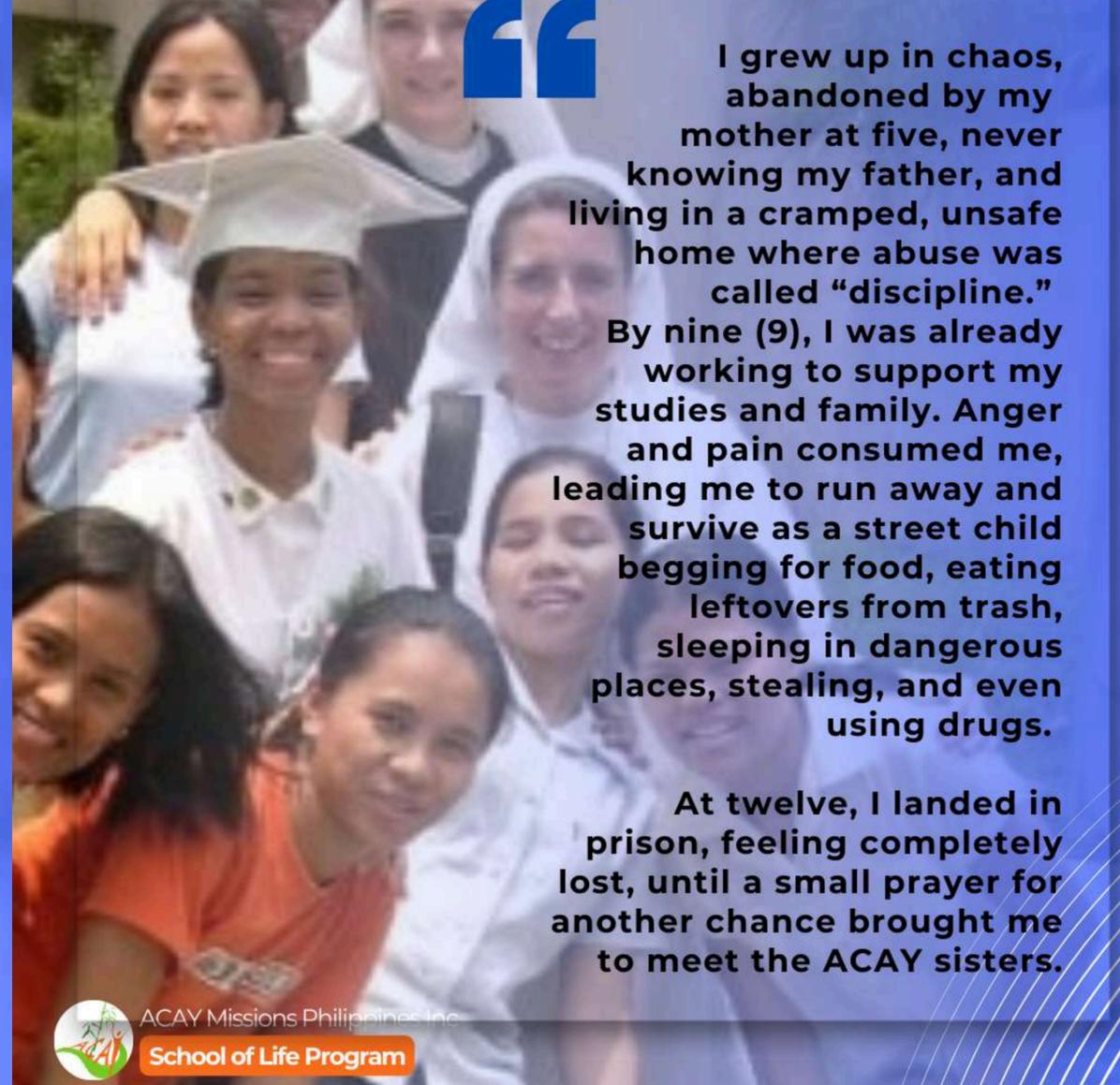


In 2022, I graduated from a 2-year course in Business and Office Management Services, which gave me valuable work experience and helped me prepare for the path I am taking today. I am now confident about my direction in life and grateful to everyone who has journeyed with me.

Next year, I will graduate from one of my dream schools, PUP, with a Bachelor of Public Administration. Currently, I work as an Admin Officer at ACAY, giving back by sharing what I've learned while continuing to grow.

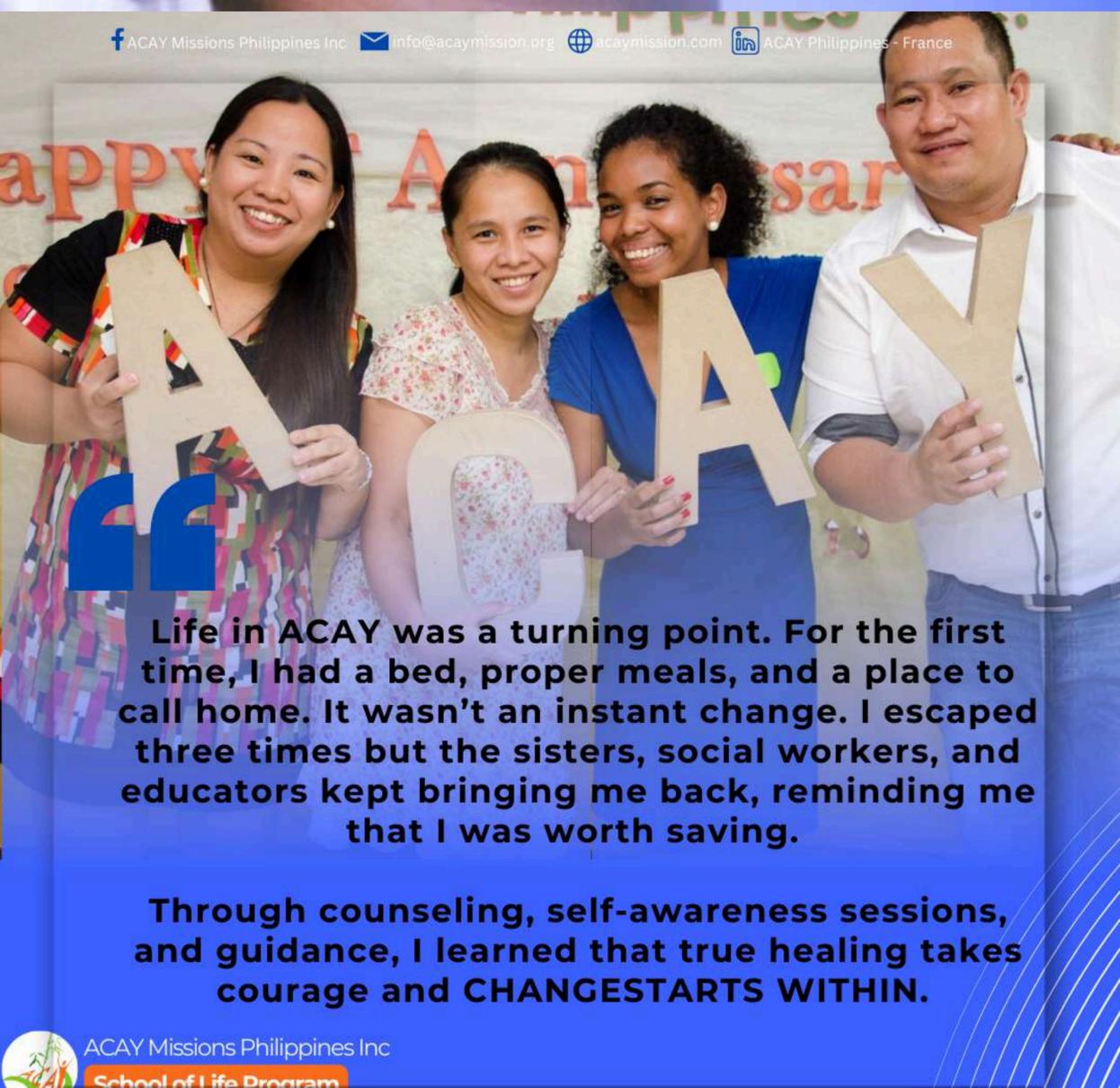


Meet Cookie! Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis



I grew up in chaos, abandoned by my mother at five, never knowing my father, and living in a cramped, unsafe home where abuse was called “discipline.” By nine (9), I was already working to support my studies and family. Anger and pain consumed me, leading me to run away and survive as a street child begging for food, eating leftovers from trash, sleeping in dangerous places, stealing, and even using drugs.

At twelve, I landed in prison, feeling completely lost, until a small prayer for another chance brought me to meet the ACAY sisters.



Life in ACAY was a turning point. For the first time, I had a bed, proper meals, and a place to call home. It wasn't an instant change. I escaped three times but the sisters, social workers, and educators kept bringing me back, reminding me that I was worth saving.

Through counseling, self-awareness sessions, and guidance, I learned that true healing takes courage and **CHANGESTARTS WITHIN.**



I eventually finished my studies in Business Administration and even worked for ACAY for over ten years, helping others start their own journey of transformation.

Today, I live in Germany with my husband and two beautiful children. I am deeply grateful for the life I have now—one filled with family, love, and purpose. From a life of pain and survival on the streets to one of hope and fulfillment, my journey is proof that second chances can lead to incredible transformations.



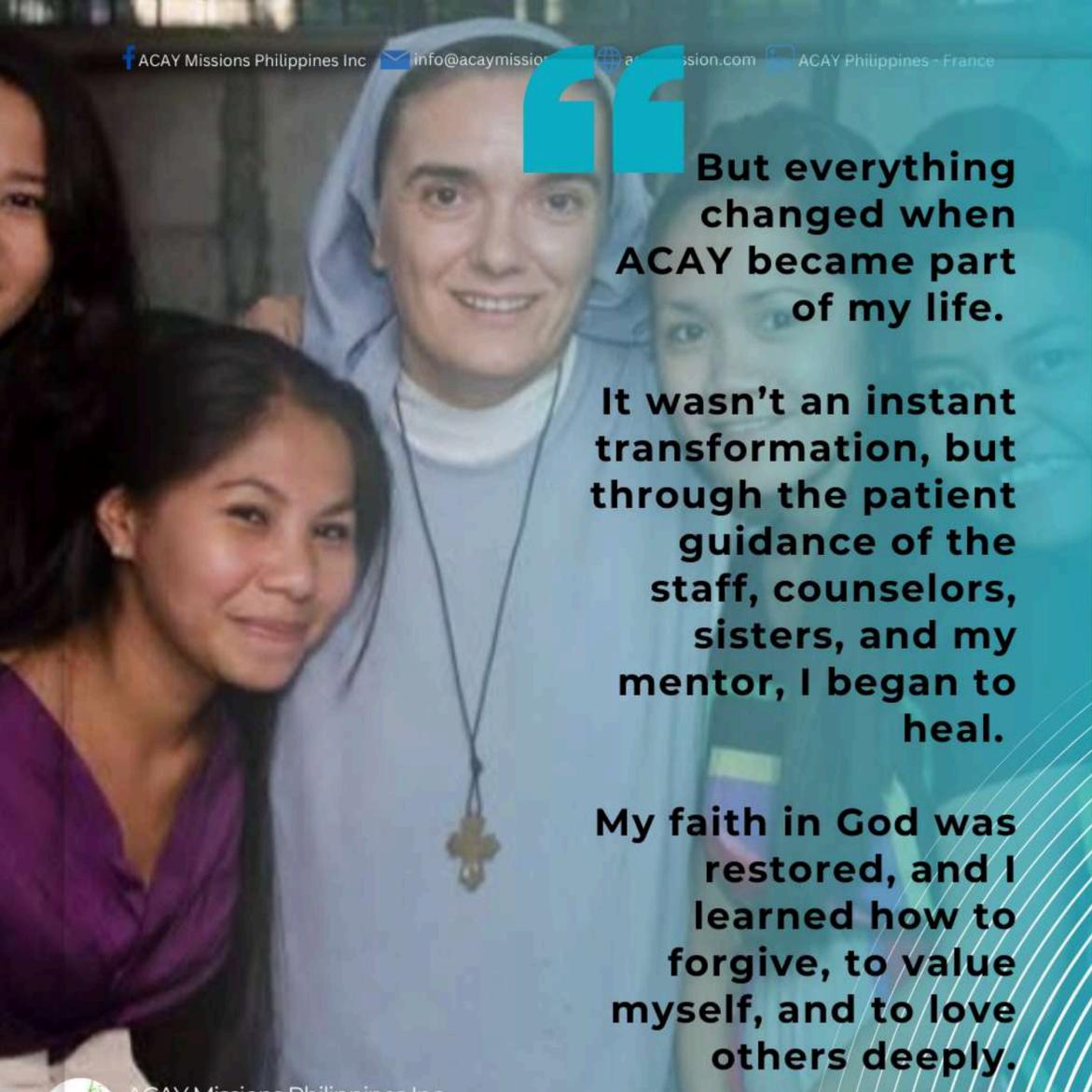
Meet Raquel! Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis



Before I entered ACAY, I felt like my life had no meaning.

I was lost, hopeless, and angry at God, at myself, and at the world around me.

I had no dreams and no vision of a better tomorrow.



But everything changed when ACAY became part of my life.

It wasn't an instant transformation, but through the patient guidance of the staff, counselors, sisters, and my mentor, I began to heal.

My faith in God was restored, and I learned how to forgive, to value myself, and to love others deeply.



Today, I stand as a testimony of hope and change. I support my family, care for my mother, and manage our small sari-sari store.

I also volunteer at ACAY as Night Duty Staff, Production Assistant, Basic Education In-Charge, and Health Assistant, giving back to the place that helped me find my true self.



Meet Diakira! Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis



When I first entered the School of Life in 2017 as a beneficiary, I was unsure of what I wanted in life, having grown up in a community that was often chaotic and challenging. But as time went on, I began to understand myself more deeply. Through self awareness training, my confidence grew, and I learned to become more independent and mature. I was also able to improve my relationships with my family and complete my education.



I stayed in SOL for about three years, and during that time, my life was truly transformed! One of the most important parts of my journey was having supportive people who believed in me and in my potential. That made all the difference.



Metamorphosing Youths Lives



Now, for the past five years, I've been working at ACAY as an Admin Officer. I chose this path to give back for everything ACAY has done for me and because I believe that many young people, no matter their background, need support and someone to believe in them too. When I look back at who I was before ACAY, I never would have imagined becoming the person I am today. I am grateful, proud, and hopeful for the future."



Meet Abigael! Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis



I grew up as a street child. Before I found my way to ACAY, I had already stayed with two other NGOs. My life was chaotic, coming from a broken family, with no clear direction as I grew older.

Everything began to change when I arrived at ACAY. There, I learned to start putting my life in order, beginning with knowing God, gaining the confidence to interact with people, developing skills I could use in my community, and discovering how to face life as an independent person.



For me, ACAY's mission didn't stop within its walls. They walked alongside me as I met and built a life with my partner. I count myself among the blessed ones who experienced a beautiful, joy-filled "ACAY wedding". They helped me rebuild myself and gave me the chance to have something I once thought was impossible, a complete and happy family.

Today, I am proud to say I am happy and fulfilled. Because of ACAY, I met the man who truly loves me, and together we now have two children.



I am now a full-time housewife, grateful that I can take care of my family and spend precious time with them at home. **But my story doesn't end there. ACAY taught me to be resourceful, so even while at home, I run small side businesses, selling products from home and through social media to help provide for my family.**

I can say with all my heart: I have a complete and joyful family because of ACAY.



Meet Kimberly! Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis

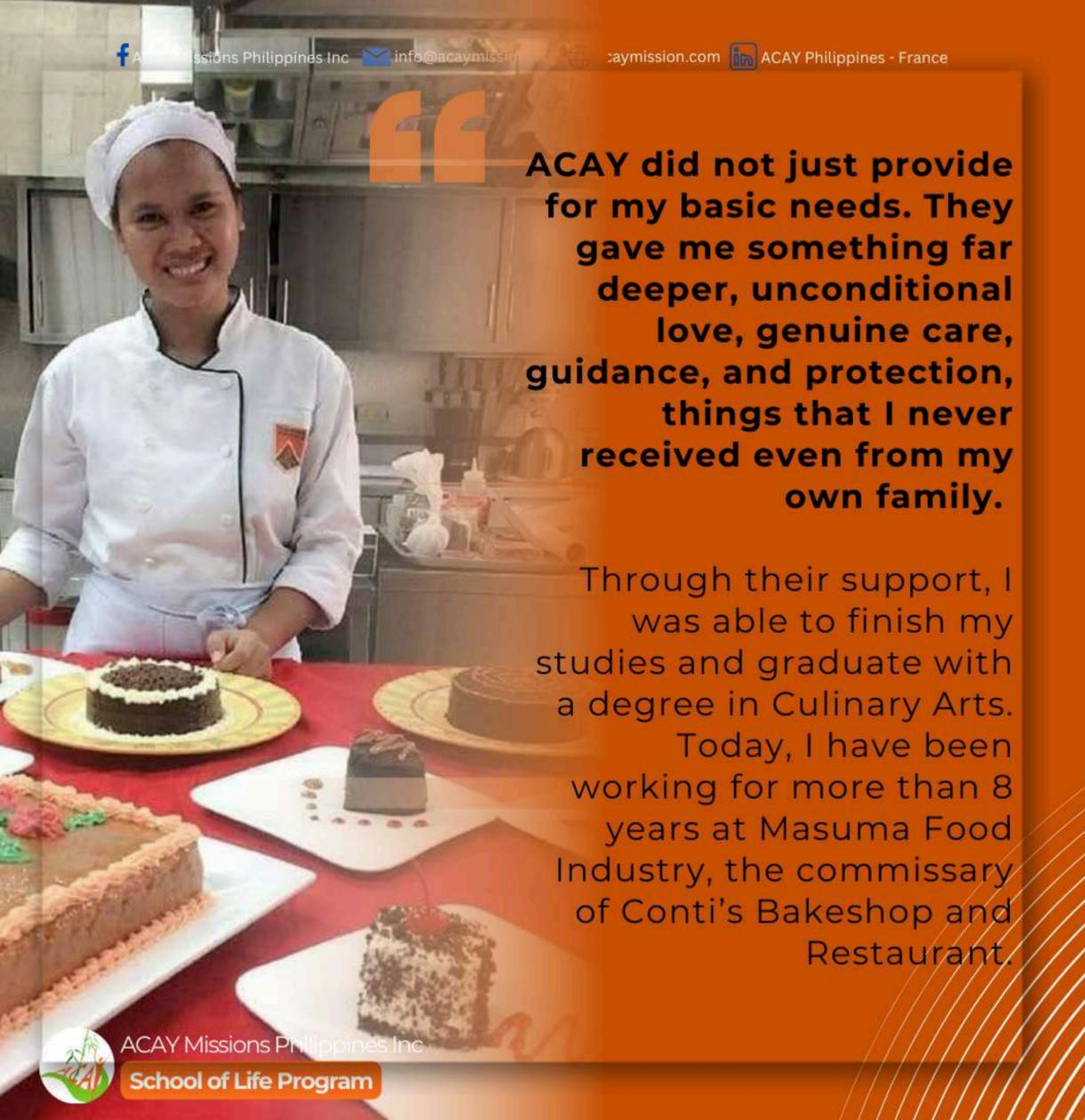
ACAY Missions Philippines Inc
School of Life Program



“ I still remember the year 2013, when I first entered ACAY’s School of Life. At that time, I was completely broken, hopeless from all the painful experiences I had gone through. I didn’t know how to stand up again under the weight of my past.

Then I encountered ACAY. I believe it was part of God’s plan, because from the moment I became part of their family, my life, my hope, and my strength were restored.

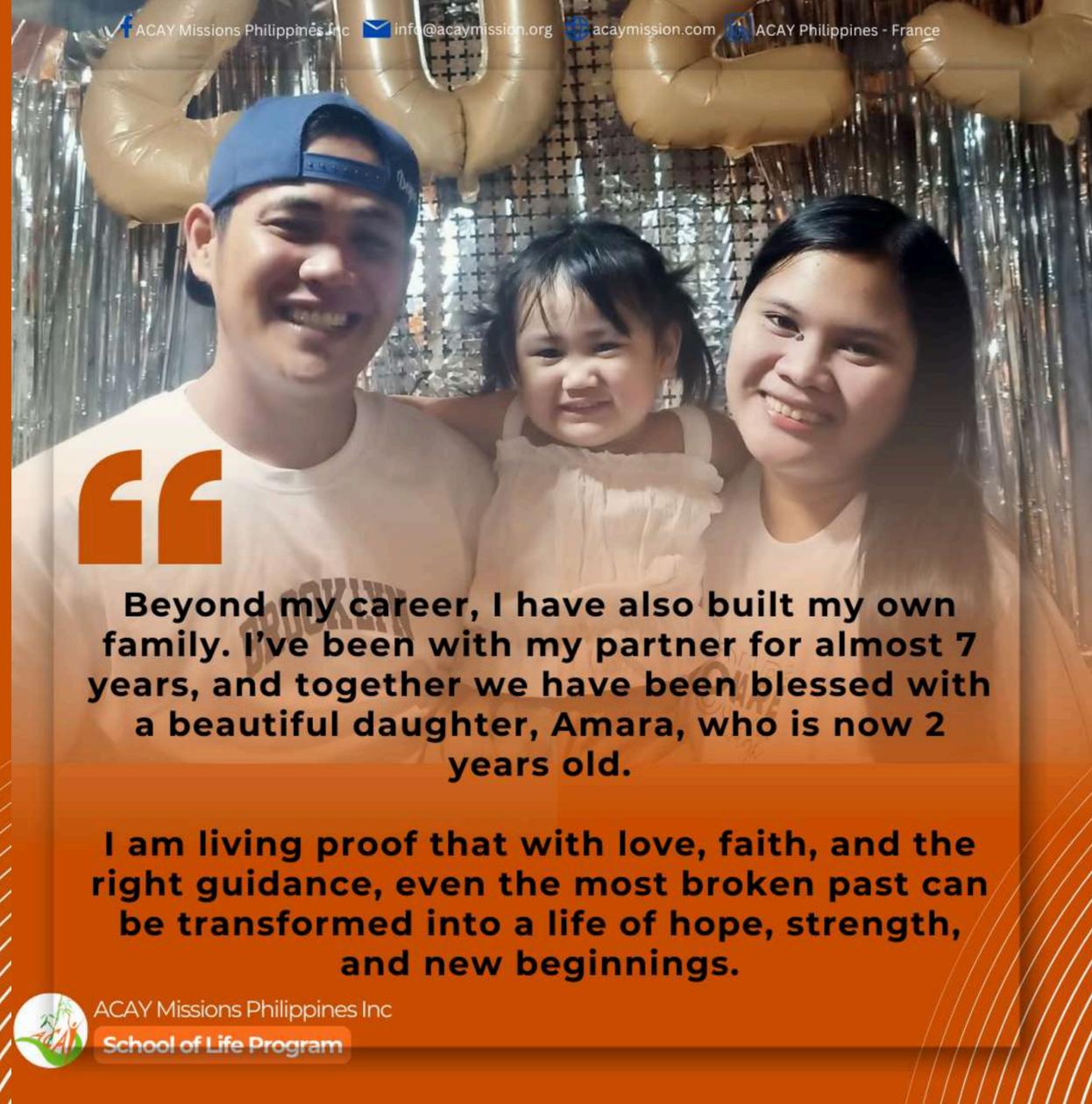
ACAY Missions Philippines Inc
School of Life Program



“ ACAY did not just provide for my basic needs. They gave me something far deeper, unconditional love, genuine care, guidance, and protection, things that I never received even from my own family.

Through their support, I was able to finish my studies and graduate with a degree in Culinary Arts. Today, I have been working for more than 8 years at Masuma Food Industry, the commissary of Conti’s Bakeshop and Restaurant.

ACAY Missions Philippines Inc
School of Life Program

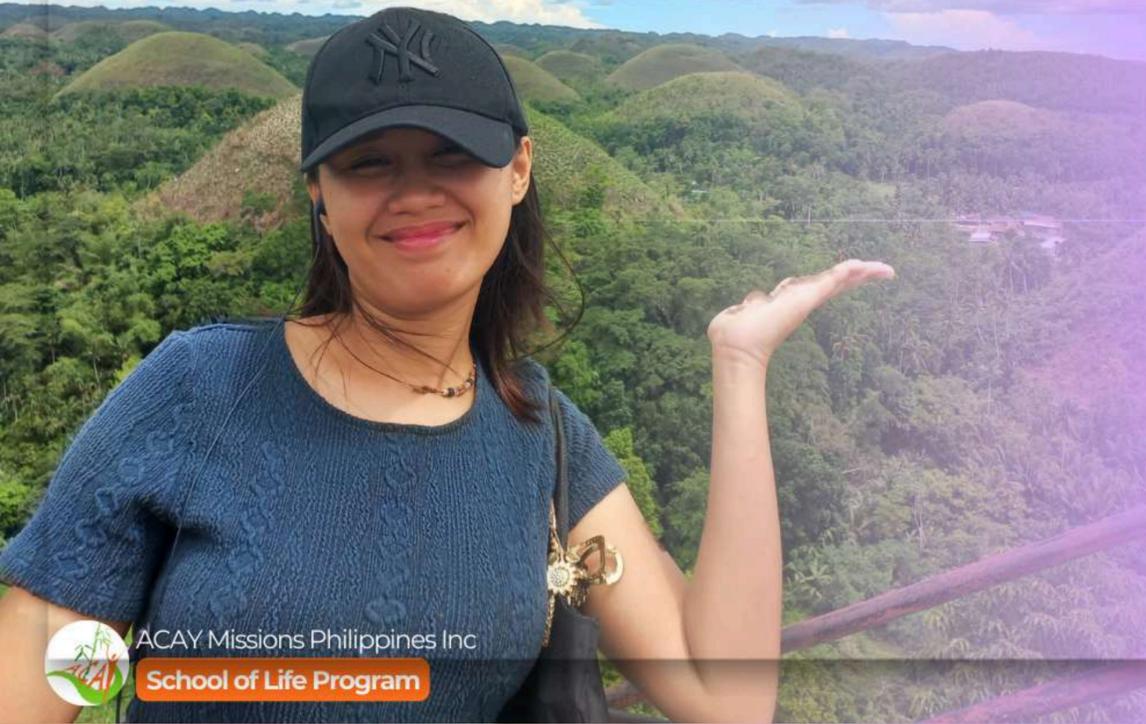


“ Beyond my career, I have also built my own family. I’ve been with my partner for almost 7 years, and together we have been blessed with a beautiful daughter, Amara, who is now 2 years old.

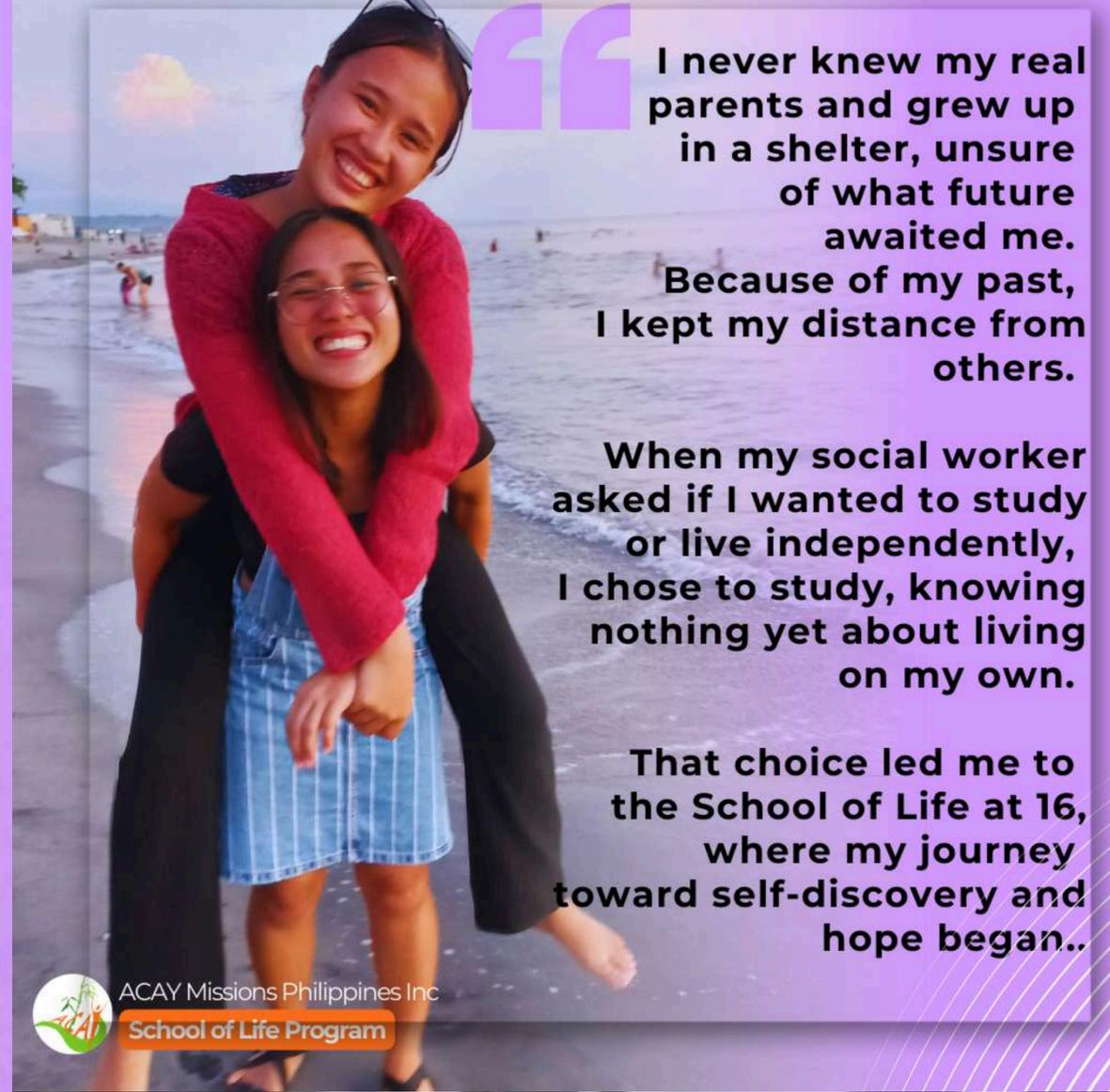
I am living proof that with love, faith, and the right guidance, even the most broken past can be transformed into a life of hope, strength, and new beginnings.

ACAY Missions Philippines Inc
School of Life Program

Meet Lovely! Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis



ACAY Missions Philippines Inc
School of Life Program



I never knew my real parents and grew up in a shelter, unsure of what future awaited me. Because of my past, I kept my distance from others.

When my social worker asked if I wanted to study or live independently, I chose to study, knowing nothing yet about living on my own.

That choice led me to the School of Life at 16, where my journey toward self-discovery and hope began..

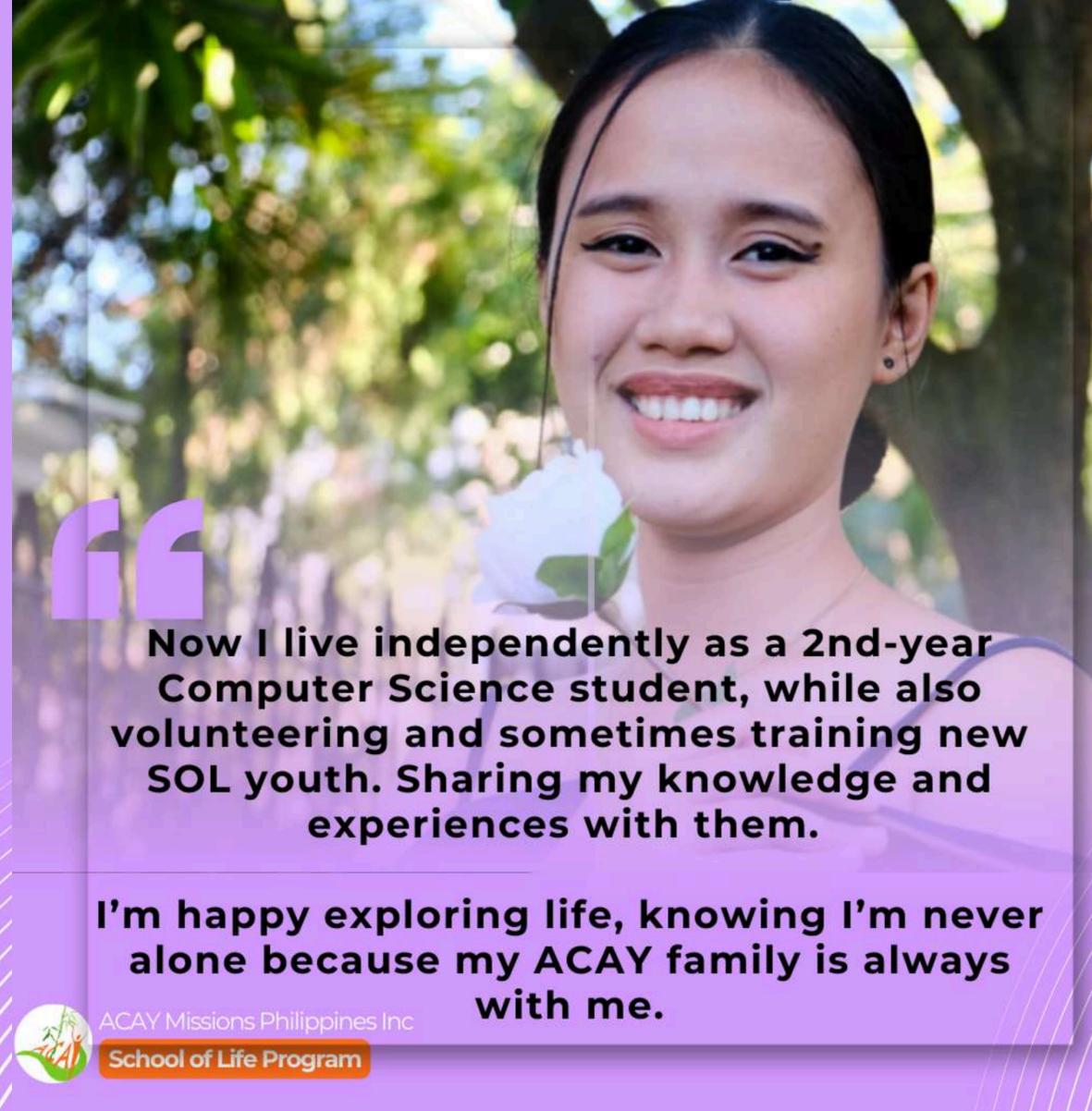
ACAY Missions Philippines Inc
School of Life Program



From my very first day of exposure in SOL, I already felt the sense of belonging and family spirit I had been longing for. Their warm welcome and acceptance opened my heart, and through their methods and trainings, especially the Metamorphosis.

I was healed from my past and gained a clear vision for my future. With the program's goal of reintegration into society, I was equipped and prepared to face independent life.

ACAY Missions Philippines Inc
School of Life Program



Now I live independently as a 2nd-year Computer Science student, while also volunteering and sometimes training new SOL youth. Sharing my knowledge and experiences with them.

I'm happy exploring life, knowing I'm never alone because my ACAY family is always with me.

ACAY Missions Philippines Inc
School of Life Program

Meet Mikay! Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis



Before SOL, my life began with pain. I was sold at birth for 10,000 pesos and passed from one person to another, ending up in the care of a violent, alcoholic guardian. At just 5 years old, I faced daily beatings, neglect, and later abuse. Fear turned into anger towards life, towards people, and especially towards God.

Rescued by a neighbor, I spent eight years in a government shelter. I was safe, but inside I was still broken, carrying deep rage and starting to hurt others the way I had been hurt.



Coming to ACAY was the turning point. My fears slowly melted with the warmth of the staff and sisters. I opened my heart to share my past, and in doing so, I opened my heart to God again. My anger was transformed into gratitude when I realized He had saved me twice, first from the abuse, and then from repeating the same cycle.

Through trainings, personal sharing, psychological support, and the Metamorpho.sYs Journey, I learned to plan for my life, track my growth, and face the areas I needed to improve. Little by little, I healed and rebuilt myself.



Today, I am 1st Year College of Practical Nursing. I continue my studies while volunteering in ACAY, mentoring new girls, and helping in the Home Life.

My painful past has now become my mission, to inspire and guide other youth in need. I am no longer just surviving; I am living with courage, strength, and hope for the future.

Meet Jane! Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis



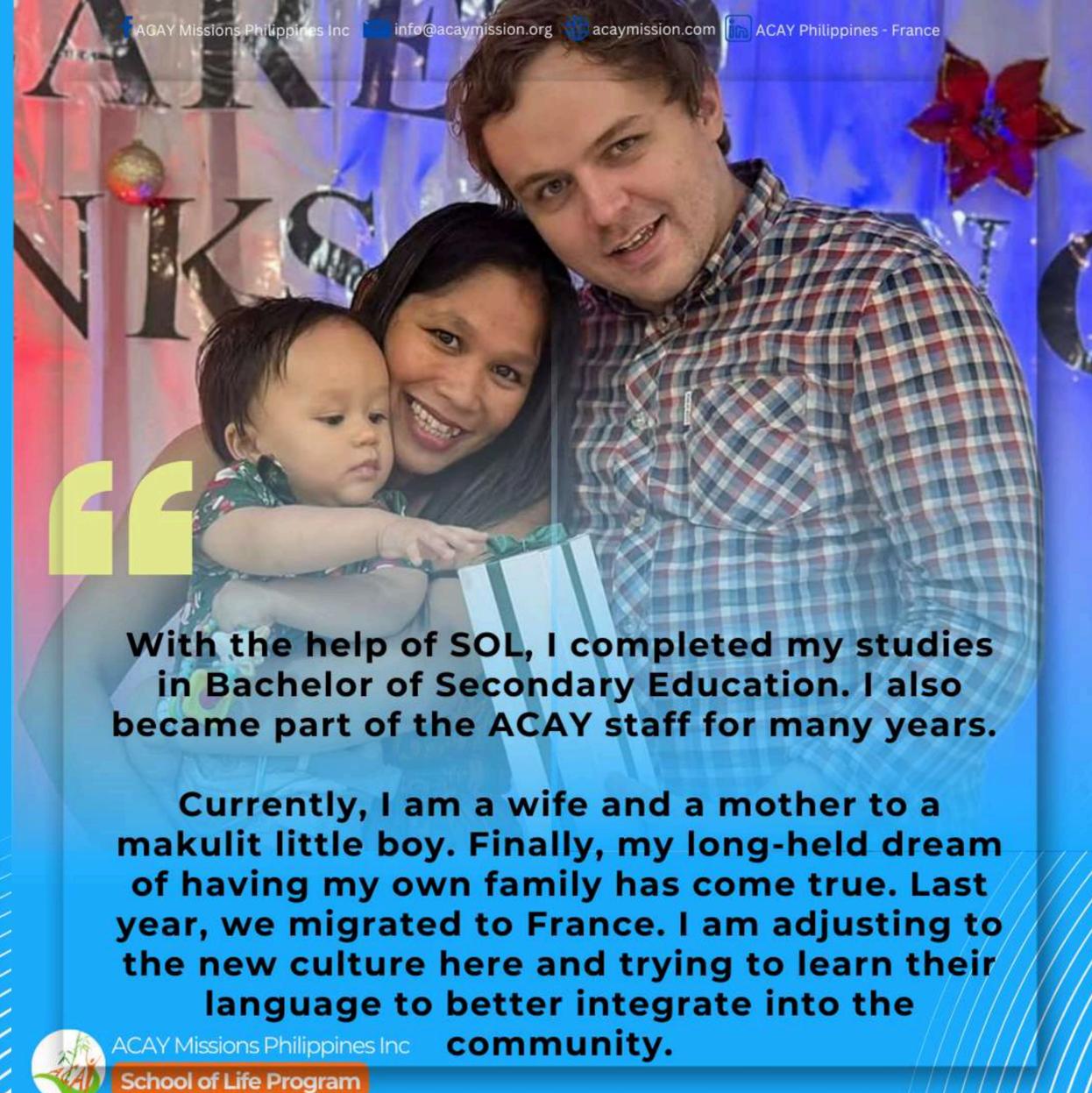
I was an orphan from an early age. My father died when I was a baby, and my mother passed away when I was 9 years old.

Since then, I transferred from one relative to another, and from one shelter to another. This was the cycle of my life until I met the School of Life. In SOL, I found family. My guide once told me, 'Now the cycle of being moved from one house to another ends —you are home'.



First, the School of Life provided me with security both physically and emotionally. I am no longer afraid. At SOL, I have built my sense of self and became independent.

Through training and formation, I have gained self-confidence. I have discovered myself and my potentials. Additionally, I have developed a deep relationship with God.



With the help of SOL, I completed my studies in Bachelor of Secondary Education. I also became part of the ACAY staff for many years.

Currently, I am a wife and a mother to a makulit little boy. Finally, my long-held dream of having my own family has come true. Last year, we migrated to France. I am adjusting to the new culture here and trying to learn their language to better integrate into the community.



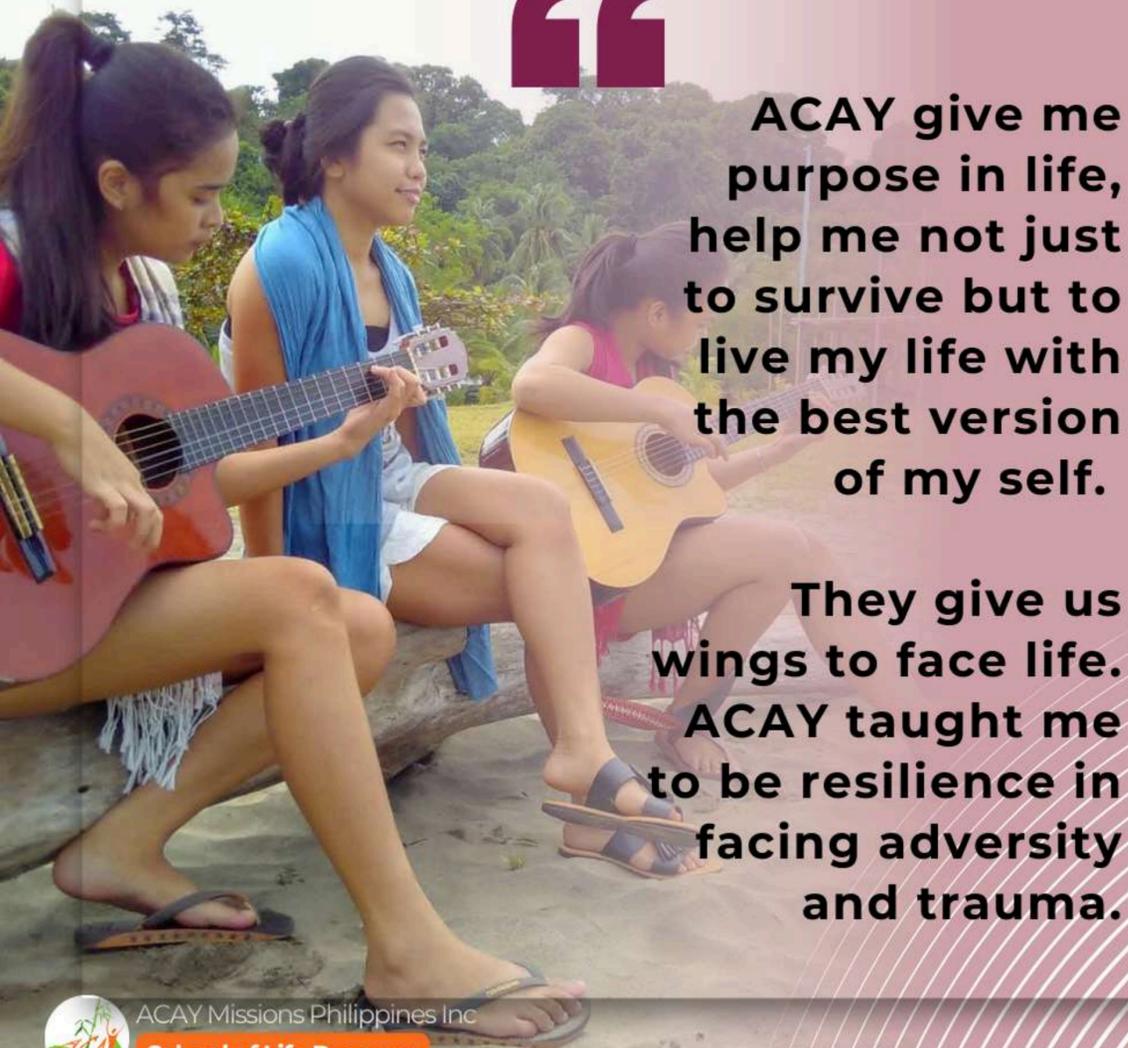
Meet Julie Ann! Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis



“ Before ACAY, I experience War and different kind of abuse. I came from a Dysfunctional family.



I was lost and just trying to survive life. No purpose just barely surviving.



“ ACAY give me purpose in life, help me not just to survive but to live my life with the best version of my self.

They give us wings to face life. ACAY taught me to be resilience in facing adversity and trauma.



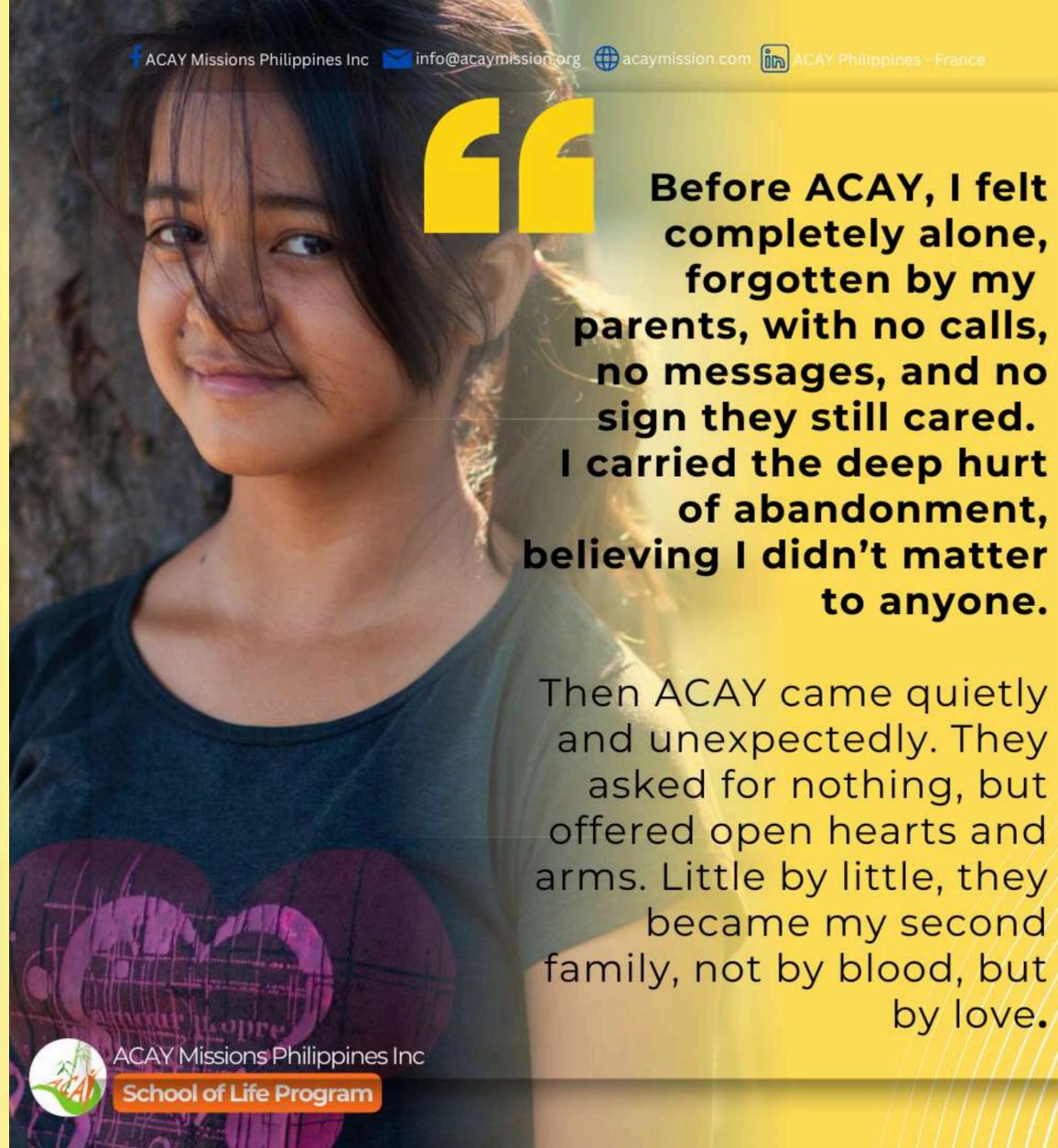
“ Now, I am a proud mom, a loving partner, a trusted friend, and just recently I got promoted as a Trainer in a BPO company were i 've been working for over six years.

All of this is because of ACAY's guidance and belief in me. Today, I'm not just living my life, I'm living it with purpose, passion, and the confidence to inspire others.



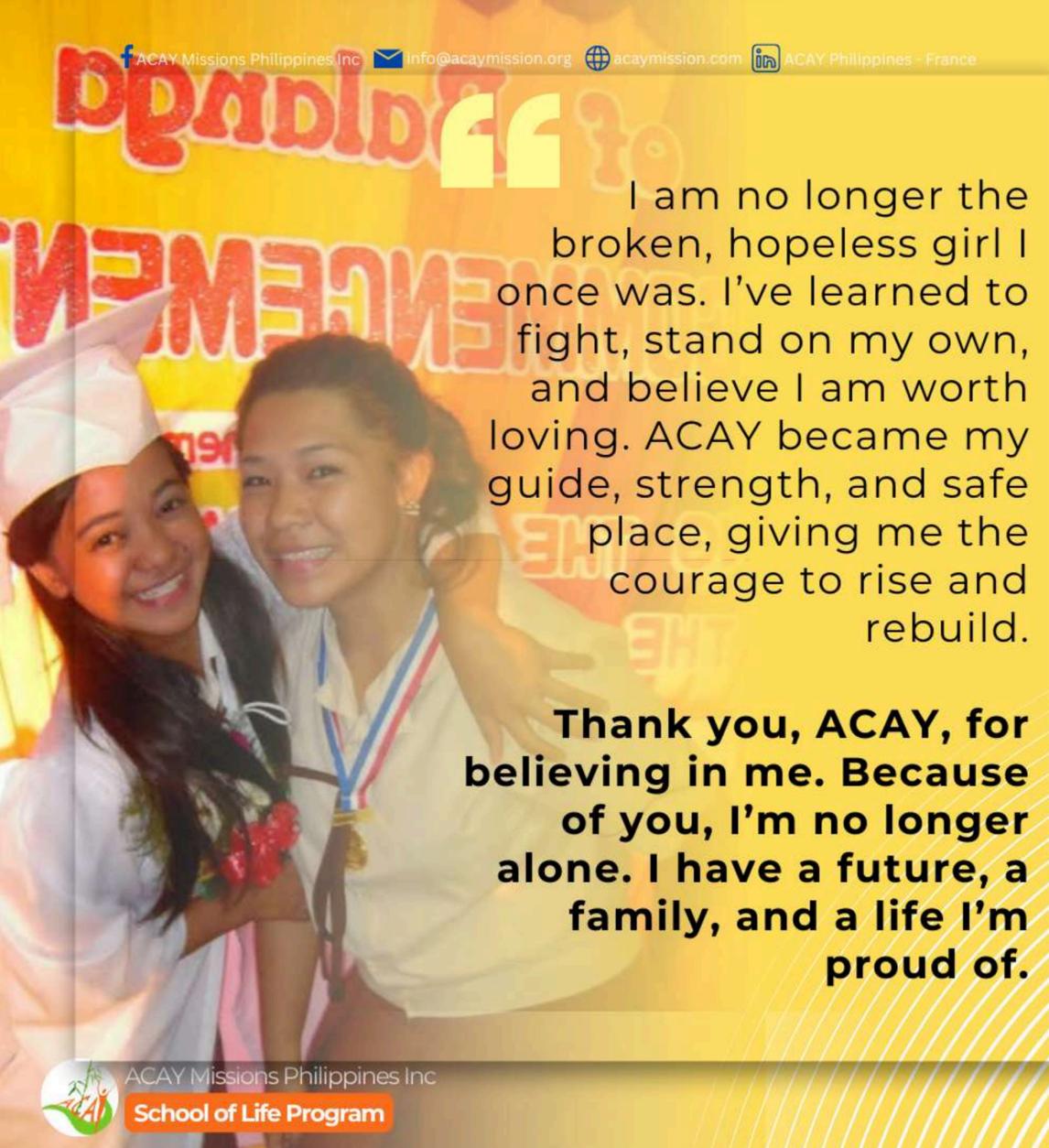


Meet Rachelyn! Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis



Before ACAY, I felt completely alone, forgotten by my parents, with no calls, no messages, and no sign they still cared. I carried the deep hurt of abandonment, believing I didn't matter to anyone.

Then ACAY came quietly and unexpectedly. They asked for nothing, but offered open hearts and arms. Little by little, they became my second family, not by blood, but by love.



I am no longer the broken, hopeless girl I once was. I've learned to fight, stand on my own, and believe I am worth loving. ACAY became my guide, strength, and safe place, giving me the courage to rise and rebuild.

Thank you, ACAY, for believing in me. Because of you, I'm no longer alone. I have a future, a family, and a life I'm proud of.



I finished my 2nd year in Business Information Management. Thanks to ACAY's guidance. I worked in a big company for almost six years, and now I focus on what matters most: my children and our small business.

Today, I have what I once thought impossible, a loving, responsible husband and two beautiful daughters who remind me that love can grow even from the most painful places.





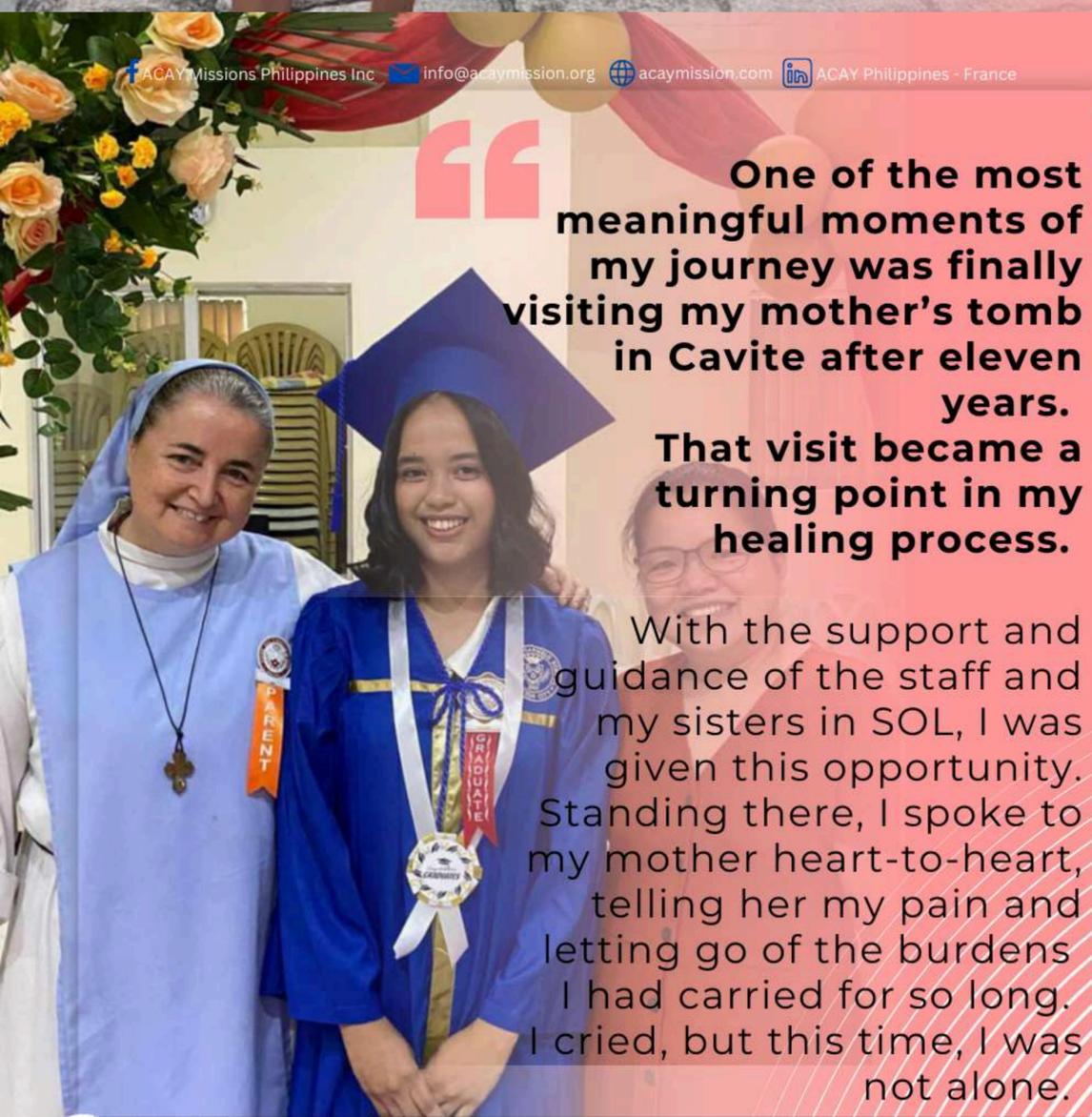
Meet Joanna!

Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis



“Before SOL, my childhood was far from easy. My father abandoned us when I was born, and my mother passed away when I was just 10 years old. I was left in a chaotic situation, facing insecurity, fear, and the need to escape from painful family circumstances.

I stayed in two other foundations, where I began to heal from my feelings of abandonment. But it was only in ACAY where I was finally able to process the deep grief of losing my mother, accepting that she was gone and that I would never have her by my side again.



“One of the most meaningful moments of my journey was finally visiting my mother’s tomb in Cavite after eleven years.

That visit became a turning point in my healing process.

With the support and guidance of the staff and my sisters in SOL, I was given this opportunity. Standing there, I spoke to my mother heart-to-heart, telling her my pain and letting go of the burdens I had carried for so long. I cried, but this time, I was not alone.



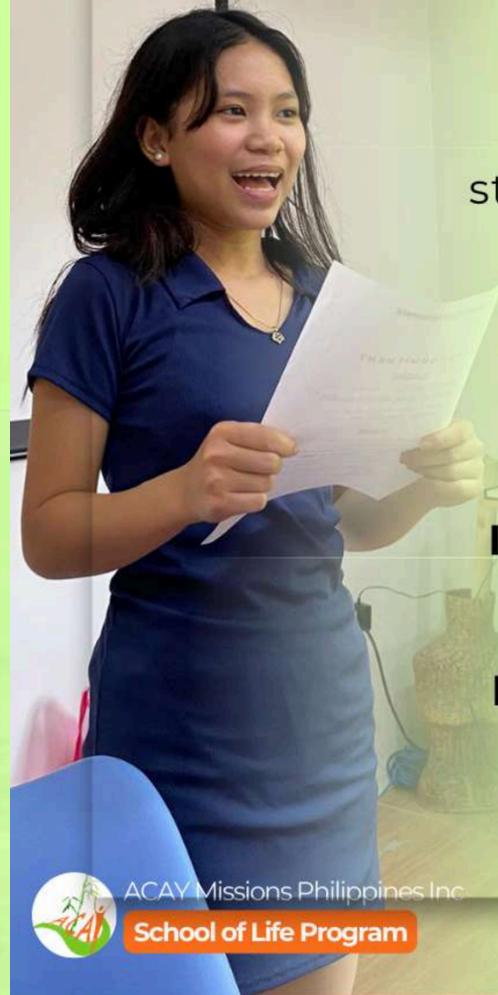
“Through this journey, I learned to never give up, to face and overcome my negative emotions, and to embrace my feelings rather than run from them.

Today, I am a Caregiver NCII student and a part-time Office Assistant. I am slowly learning to live independently as a young adult, taking the pilot seat of my own life, and steering it toward a future filled with hope and purpose.



Meet Rain!

Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis



For three long years, I lived within the walls of a Social Development Center in Olongapo. Then one day, my social worker spoke of ACAY — and with hope stirring in my heart, I said yes without hesitation..

At 16, I found in the School of Life the healing and family I had prayed for..

I began my healing journey through counseling and mentorship. I learned to understand my past, forgive, and rebuild myself.



The family spirit of SOL showed me love, truth, and a deeper connection with God. Trainings helped me gain confidence, discipline, and communication skills.

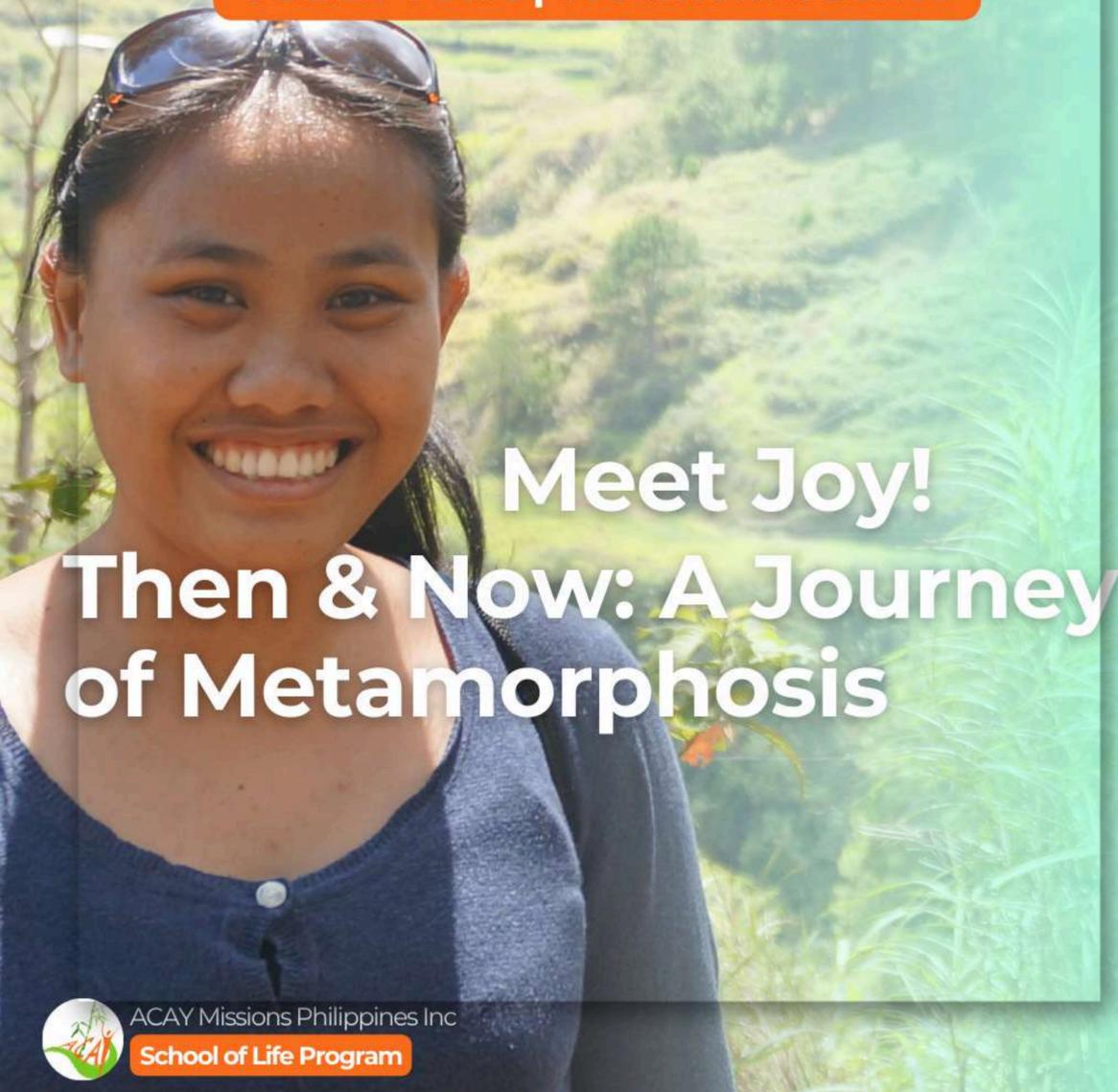
I learned how to care for myself, speak in public, and even start a small business. Metamorphosis guided me in setting personal goals and preparing for independence.



Today, I'm in the Aftercare stage, adjusting to life outside SOL residence. I'm studying Practical Nursing, a dream I've had for years. SOL continues to support me even beyond its walls.

I was recently hired at Foundever — passing every test felt like a miracle. Thanks to SOL, I now face life with courage and purpose





Meet Joy! Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis



I entered the School of Life Program in 2013 after spending six years in a government shelter because of family abuse that I experienced.

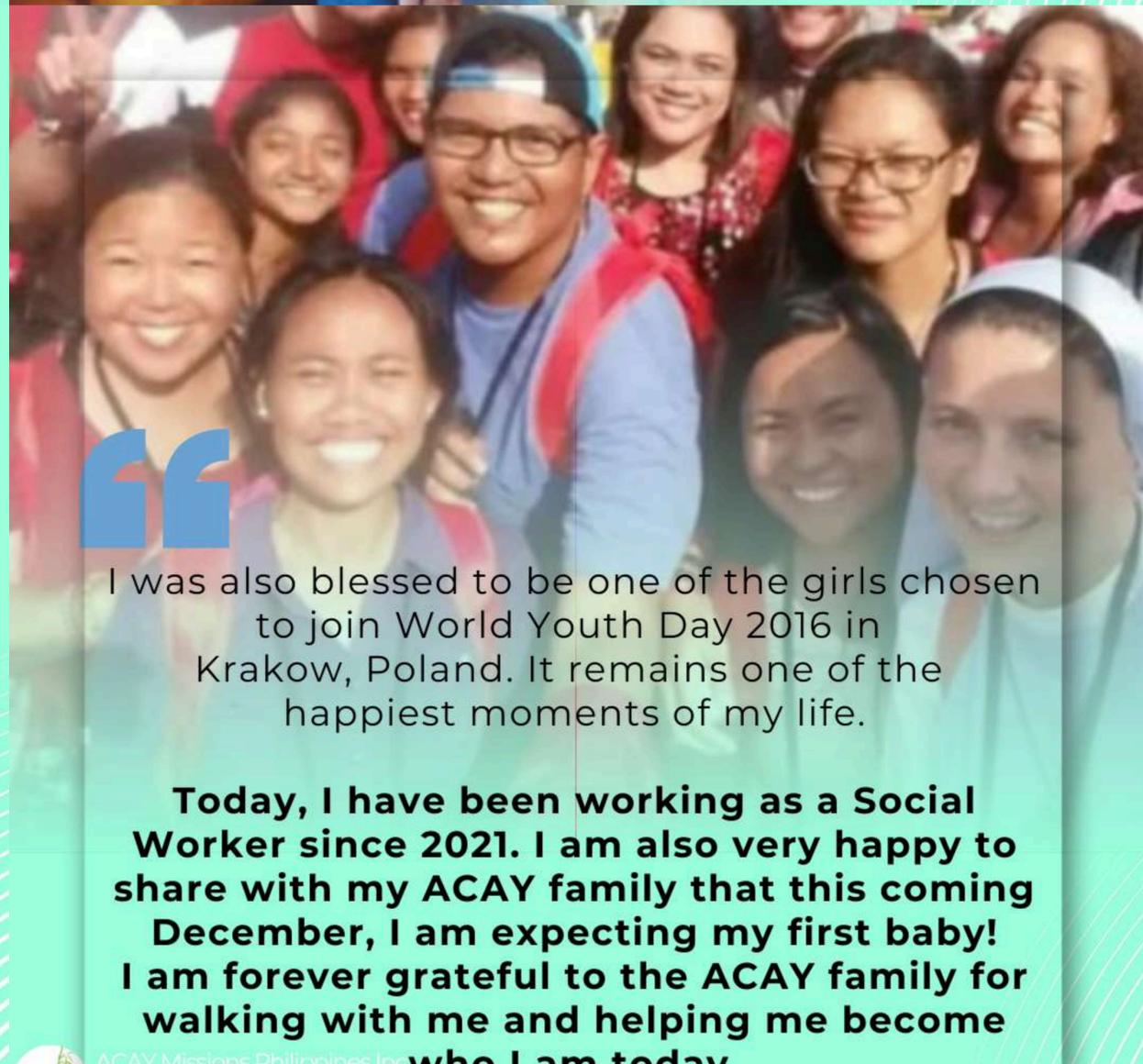
It was a difficult time, and I had lost hope especially about my education..

When I joined SOL, the first thing I felt was a sense of belonging. For the first time in a long time, I experienced what it meant to be part of a family.



I regained my dignity, began healing from my past, and rediscovered my identity as a beloved child of God. Through life skills training, counselling and coaching I was transformed. . I was also supported spiritually by my guides and the Sisters, who helped me rebuild my faith in God

During my time in the program, I pursued a degree in Social Work. I graduated in 2018 and passed the Social Work Licensure Exam in the same year..



I was also blessed to be one of the girls chosen to join World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow, Poland. It remains one of the happiest moments of my life.

Today, I have been working as a Social Worker since 2021. I am also very happy to share with my ACAY family that this coming December, I am expecting my first baby! I am forever grateful to the ACAY family for walking with me and helping me become who I am today.

SOL 25 Years | Testimonial Series

Meet Alexandra!

Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis



I was 8 when my father passed away. This time has been the start of insecurity for all my family, especially for me and my little brothers.

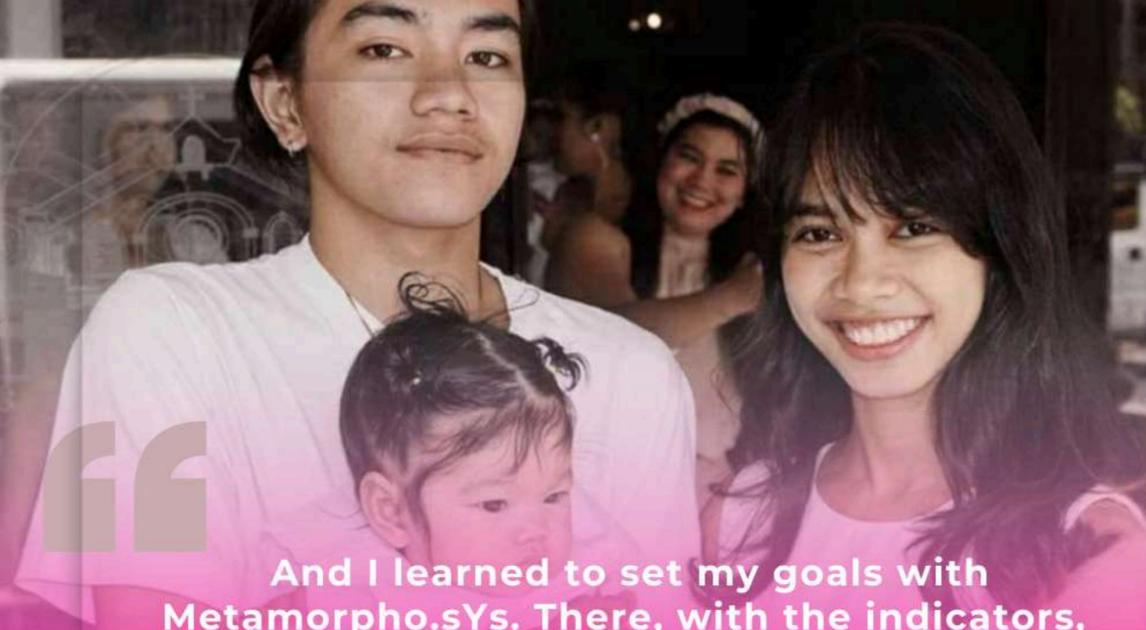
Exposed to street life, beatings, and dangers, my dreams on that time were to eat three times a day.

Thanks to a street educator, I was rescued and brought to a governmental center. There, I started studying again.



After three years, I was proposed to enter the School of Life. It had been more than a year since I was waiting for my 16th birthday to be able to enter the program. So, as soon as I arrived, I embraced fully the program.

My life has taken a new turn there. Besides the trainings, I received a place where I could open what had been locked for so long. I have received peace within myself. My relationship to my family has been restored.



And I learned to set my goals with Metamorpho.sYs. There, with the indicators, I could capture the journey I had already accomplished and the journey to achieve more to be ready for society. It has built in me the capacity to plan, to set my goals in life.

After 4 years of being independent, I now live with my partner and our daughter. I work as a Customer Service Representative at FedEx, while my partner is an administrative assistant. Thanks to the security I experienced with the ACAY Family, I can now give my daughter a better life and the same sense of security.



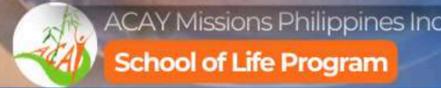
SOL 25 Years | Testimonial Series

Meet Chelsea! Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis



Before entering ACAY, I was trapped behind emotional walls, driven by pain and resentment especially toward my mother which prevented me from healing.

I wore a mask to cope, suppressing my true self and burying my emotions just to get by.



When I learned that ACAY could help me face my trauma, I chose to take a step forward. Through the Crossroad for Youth (CR4Y) and School of Life (SoL) program, I quickly realized that healing was possible.

The School of Life then provided me with the tools to understand and accept my emotions, enabling me to move forward without being held back by the past.



I am deeply grateful to ACAY for guiding me through this transformation. One powerful lesson I've learned is that embracing your true self is the first step to healing.

Today, I'm proud to say that I am working full-time as a Customer Experience Specialist at Isentia, a software-as-a-service (SaaS) Company, and building a better future.

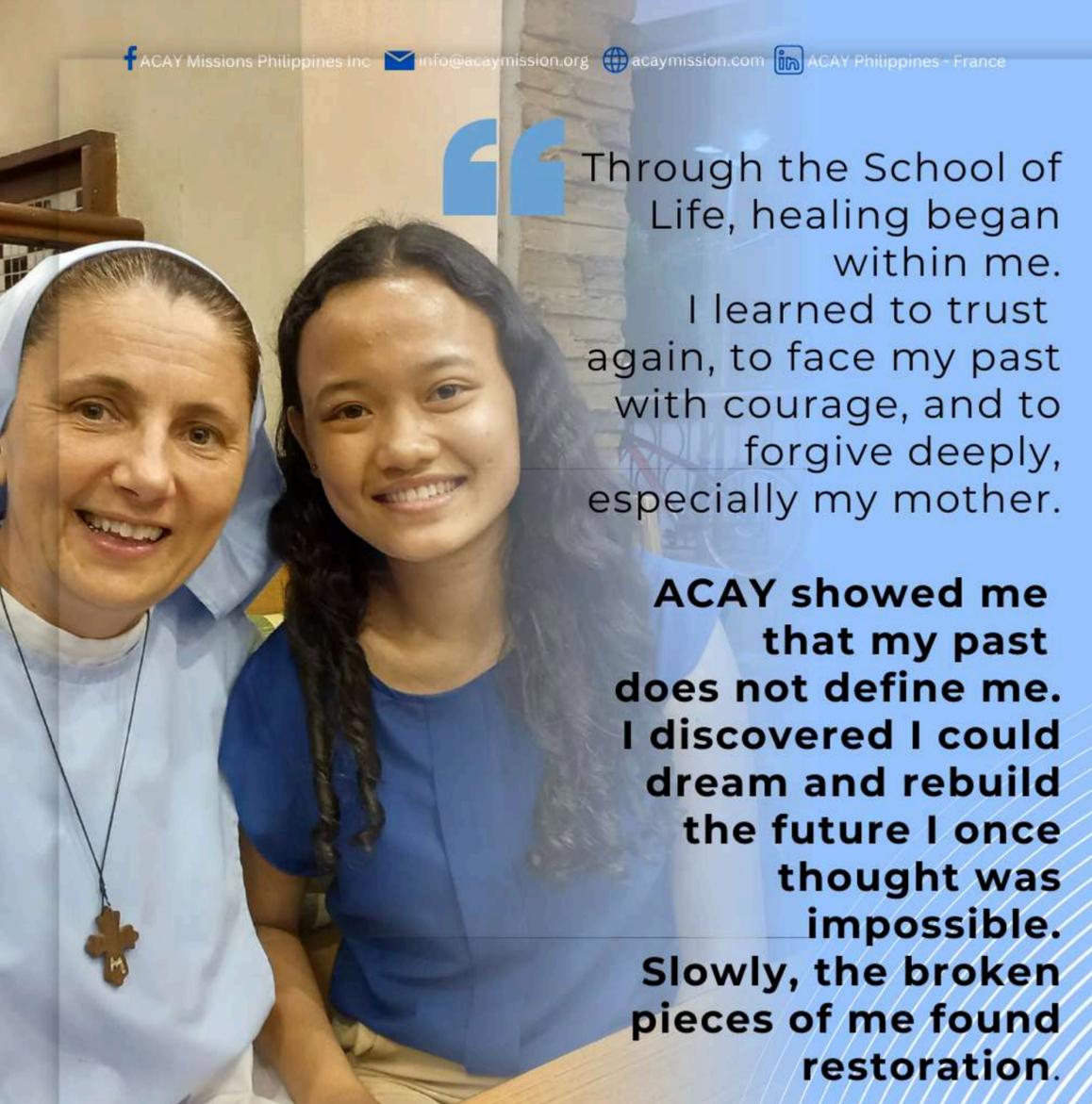


Meet Erika! Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis



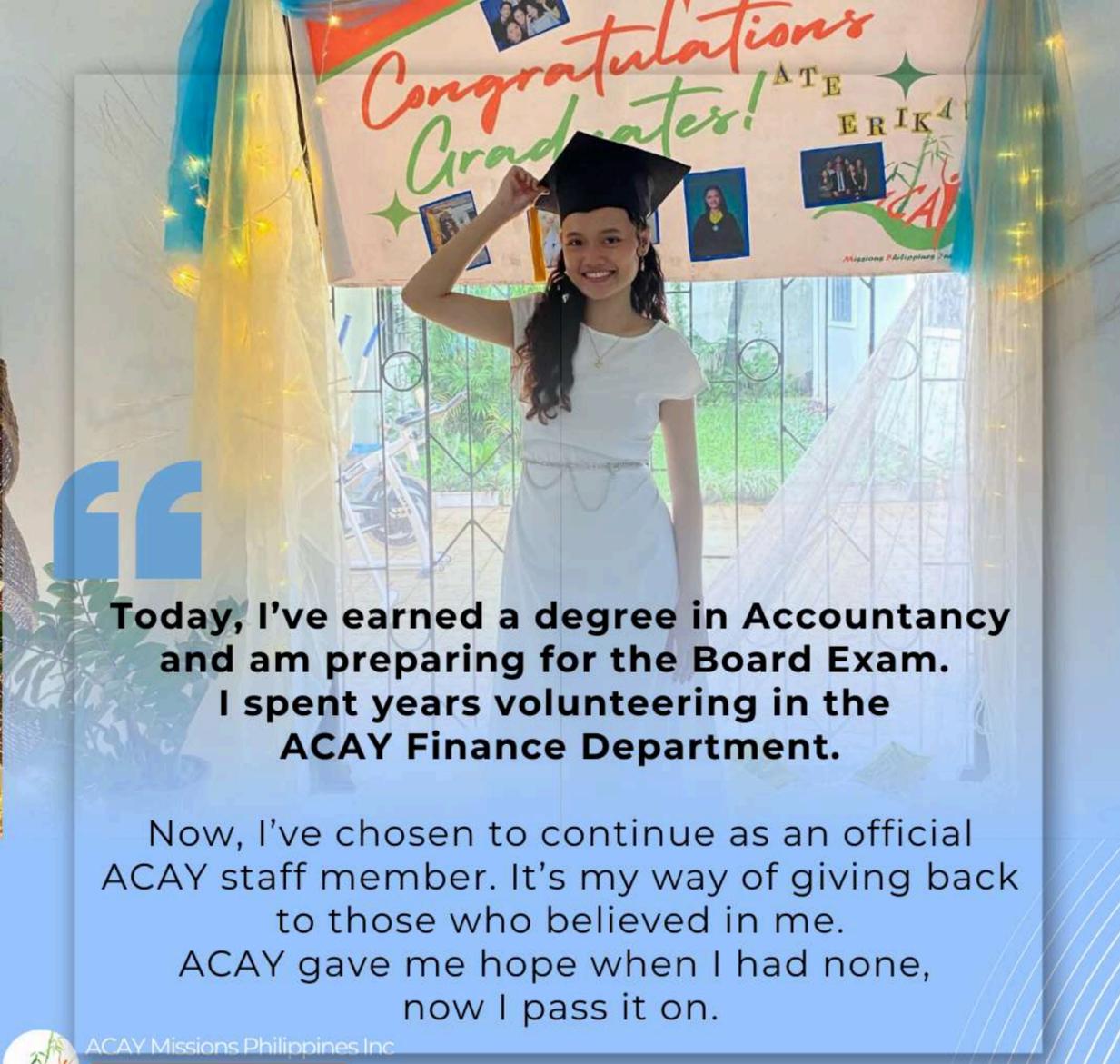
Before ACAY, I was a broken young girl, abandoned, unheard, and carrying pain no child should bear. I grew up without a mother or father's love and never felt I truly belonged.

At 15, I met ACAY through a School of Life alumna. I joined CR4Y and, for the first time, I felt safe, welcomed, and seen. I said to myself: This might be the place — my "home."



Through the School of Life, healing began within me. I learned to trust again, to face my past with courage, and to forgive deeply, especially my mother.

ACAY showed me that my past does not define me. I discovered I could dream and rebuild the future I once thought was impossible. Slowly, the broken pieces of me found restoration.



Today, I've earned a degree in Accountancy and am preparing for the Board Exam. I spent years volunteering in the ACAY Finance Department.

Now, I've chosen to continue as an official ACAY staff member. It's my way of giving back to those who believed in me. ACAY gave me hope when I had none, now I pass it on.



Meet Kennie! Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis

ACAY Missions Philippines Inc
School of Life Program



ACAY Missions Philippines Inc
School of Life Program

I come from a barrio which had been harshly struck by Typhoon Yolanda in 2013. These years were dark and sad. ACAY adopted our barangay.

I was 15 years old and I joined the School of Life Program. Before I entered the School of Life, I was just this little girl who was very shy, afraid, hopeless, and uncertain about my future.



This journey became very beautiful and a meaningful experience of self-discovery for me, a journey of growth and a healing process. Through all the trainings, continued guidance of the sisters and staff, I felt a strong sense of belongingness and having a second family.

I learned again to trust, to ask for help, and to express my thoughts and feelings. Through this, I began to build my self-confidence, facing challenges with courage and purpose. I was truly given a chance to know more about myself and to discover a meaningful direction in life.

ACAY Missions Philippines Inc
School of Life Program



ACAY Missions Philippines Inc
School of Life Program



Today, I am working as a Head Pastry Chef in a coffee shop in Makati. It was only a dream to me before.

Thanks to ACAY, such professional experience would not have been possible without all the people who supported me and believed in me. I'm so grateful.

I am still striving towards excellence, carrying gratitude within my heart, and living a meaningful life. **For this, I will always be grateful for being part of this ACAY Family.**

SOL 25 Years | Testimonial Series

Meet Lovely! Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis



“

Before ACAY, I was lost, broken, and overwhelmed by pain. I felt like I was a burden to my family and had no future.

Through the School of Life, ACAY embraced me and extended healing to my family, helping us rebuild our family once again.



ACAY taught me how to rise from my past and to believe that I am worthy. I was finally able to forgive. They didn't just transform my life; they restored my family, gave us hope, and taught me the value of compassion and purpose.

ACAY supported me in completing my short-term course, which became a stepping stone for me to finish the ladderized BSBA program, majoring in Marketing Management.

“

“

Today, I live with a full heart, working hard, standing strong, and guided by my life mantra: pay it forward, because the love and healing I received are too powerful not to be shared with others.

I'm currently taking my last two semesters in Bachelor of Science in Social Work — the course that has always been close to my heart and my true dream. I have also been working as a Project Development Officer in a Government Office for 1 year now.

SOL 25 Years | Testimonial Series

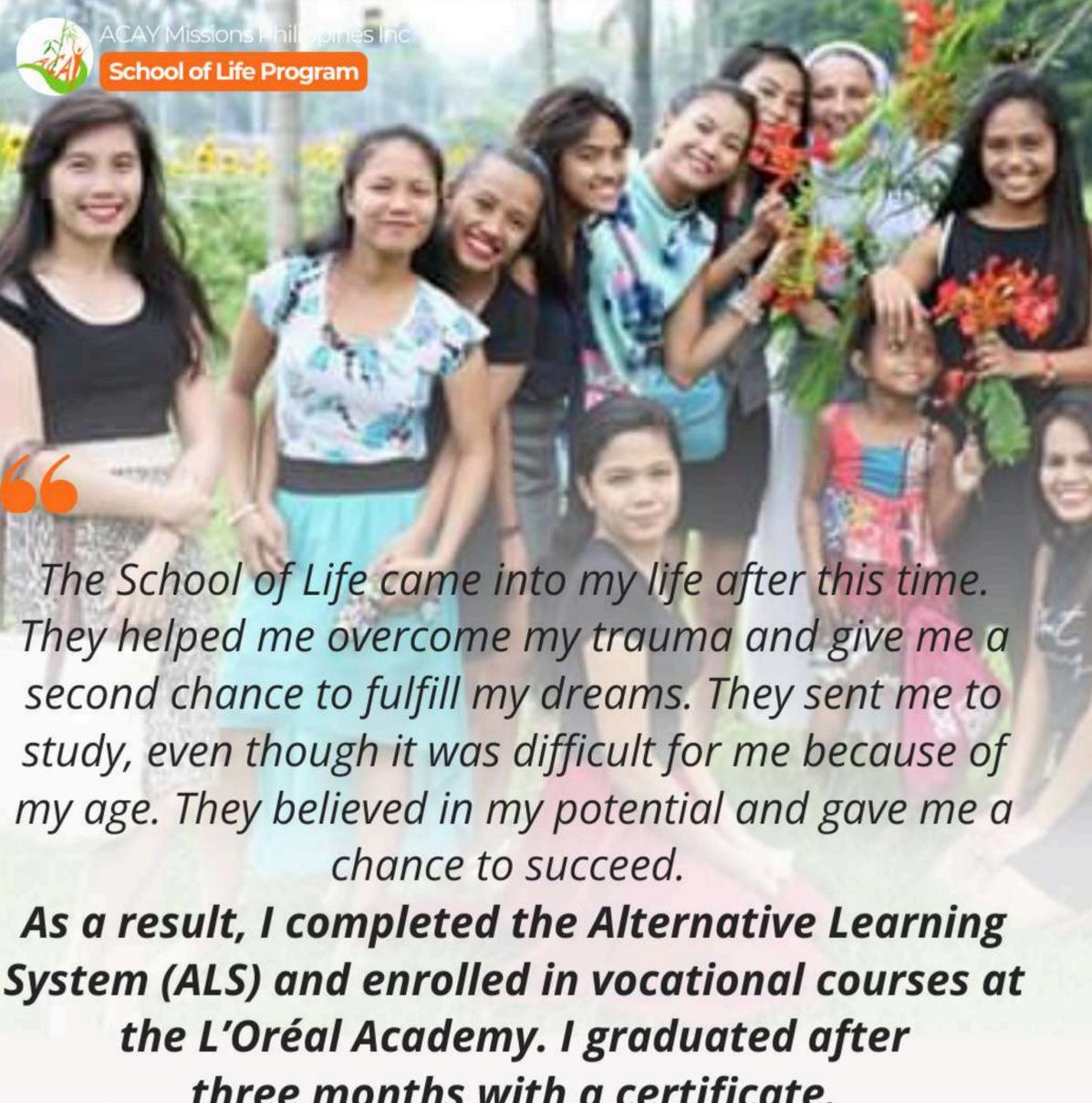
MEET AINA!

Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis



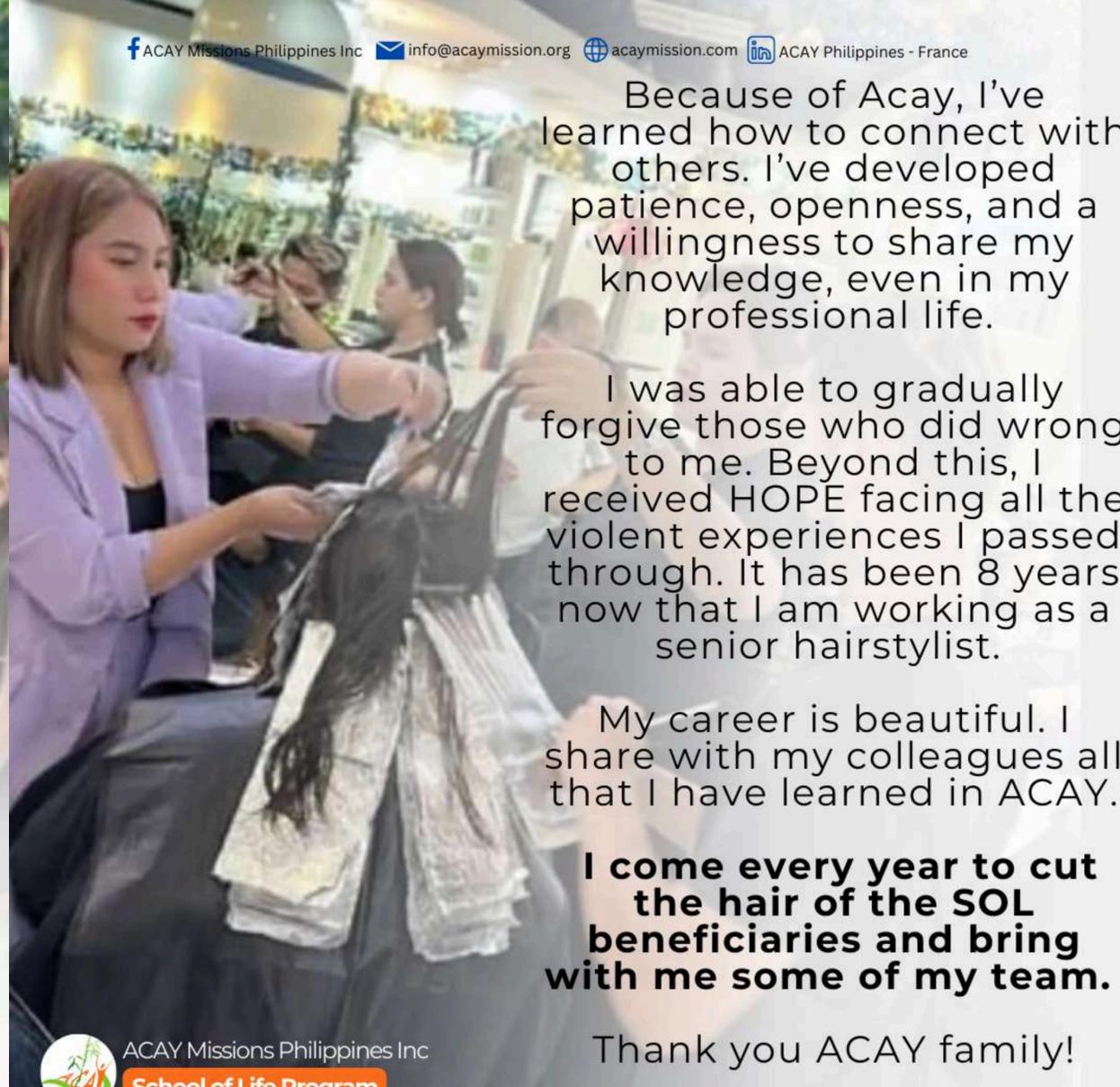
When I was a child, I was lost. After being kidnapped as a child, I was forced to sell drugs. Thanks to the police, I was rescued and transferred to a governmental Youth center as I was still a minor at that time.

After three years in this center, my case was finally resolved.



The School of Life came into my life after this time. They helped me overcome my trauma and give me a second chance to fulfill my dreams. They sent me to study, even though it was difficult for me because of my age. They believed in my potential and gave me a chance to succeed.

As a result, I completed the Alternative Learning System (ALS) and enrolled in vocational courses at the L'Oréal Academy. I graduated after three months with a certificate.



Because of Acay, I've learned how to connect with others. I've developed patience, openness, and a willingness to share my knowledge, even in my professional life.

I was able to gradually forgive those who did wrong to me. Beyond this, I received HOPE facing all the violent experiences I passed through. It has been 8 years now that I am working as a senior hairstylist.

My career is beautiful. I share with my colleagues all that I have learned in ACAY.

I come every year to cut the hair of the SOL beneficiaries and bring with me some of my team.

Thank you ACAY family!



Meet Bella! Then & Now: A Journey of Metamorphosis

School of Life Program @25th



Before, “

being in School of Life,
I was lost, uncertain,
afraid, and unsure of what
life had in store for me.

At 17 years old, in 2016, I
entered the School of Life.
That moment marked the
beginning of a meaningful
and life-changing
transformation.

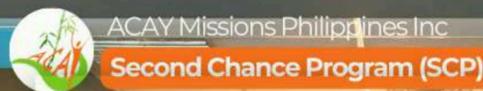
I was given not just another
chance, but a whole new
direction. ACAY helped me
rebuild what I thought was
beyond repair.



Empowerment Through Holistic Support

“ Through the guidance of the sisters , the training
given by our staff, and the deep inner work from
counseling, I found the strength to forgive, both
myself and those who have hurt me.

*For the first time in a long time, I began to
dream again... not with fear, but with hope and
purpose. ACAY taught me that even a painful
past can be the beginning of something beautiful.
That truth gave me the courage to rise.*



Today,

I've been working with the same employer for
8 years. I am a full-time mother to a joyful
little girl, and I live a life that is not just
stable, but meaningful. And that, to me, is a
second chance worth living.

Bella, A School of Life Alumni