



SPOTLIGHT ON THE CULTURE OF RESPONSIBILITY!



In the Philippines, during the summer school holidays, the young people took a dive deep into the heart of our pedagogy: **the Culture of Responsibility** — a true catalyst for transformation and empowerment. Through the CrossRoad For Youth trainings, the driving force behind this culture, they reach decisive milestones:

- Young men in the **Second Chance Program**, along with their parents, consolidate six months of intensive training with ACAY.
- Young women explore a crucial phase of their journey, enabling them to consciously choose whether or not to join the **School of Life**, thereby affirming their role as active actors of their own future.

When we first arrived in the Philippines in 1997, our motivation was rooted in compassion and the desire to heal the wounds of often harsh lives. But soon, supporting young people—both victims and perpetrators of offenses—led us to an essential key in the personal development of youth aged 16 to 21: **personal transformation begins with taking charge of one's own life.**

For too long, young women arrived expecting to “receive” without fully becoming active participants in their journey. Today, no one can join the School of Life without having clearly expressed their choice. This respect for their decision marks the beginning of their transition into adulthood.

Meanwhile, young men in the Second Chance Program, both in France and the Philippines, tended to downplay the consequences of their actions or struggled to envision themselves with mature, responsible adult behavior, remaining trapped in the twists and turns of adolescence. It is for them that, over the past months, we have been rolling out the first tools of the **Metamorpho.sYs method**—adapted to community-based programs—to strengthen their grounding in the Culture of Responsibility and empower them to take control of their future.

But this transformation needed—and still needs—to impact our teams as much as the youth. Embracing the Culture of Responsibility in the early years meant creating an environment where the educator ceases to be the sole decision-maker, instead adopting the role of listener and coach, guiding the young person to gradually take the reins of their own journey. This shift represented a considerable challenge, especially for those accustomed to traditional models, but it has become a collective adventure that now bears fruit.

The Culture of Responsibility reveals untapped potential, fuels motivation, and opens new perspectives on the meaning of their lives as young adults. **May it become a compass for our youth so they can move forward into their future with courage and confidence!**

St. Louis de Jésus

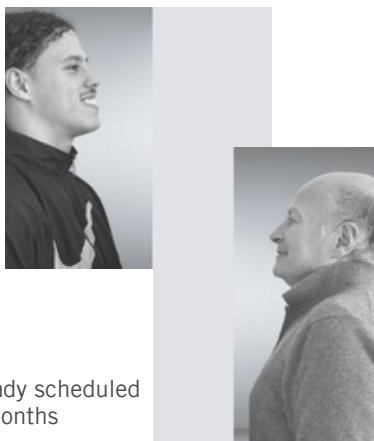
KEY FIGURES 2025

IN FRANCE

The Show “RASSEMBLE!”

11 Performances have taken place since January.

→ with **5** more already scheduled for the coming months



**IN THE
PHILIPPINES**

69 YOUTH **32** PARENTS
SUPPORTED AND TRAINED IN 2025



MY LIFE, MY CHOICE!

CrossRoad For Youth (CR4Y)- School of Life

They were all relaxing... A continuous stream of chatter and laughter filled the cozy corner of the School of Life's terrace.

The established SOL girls, together with the new ones, had taken over the outdoor sofas, comfortably nestled as they savored **these first moments of living together.**

In the midst of this cheerful bustle, I arrived, carrying a few questions. Questions that, for a moment, paused the chatter and **invited each girl to dive deeper** into the meaning of what she had just experienced: **that moment when you finally decide to take control of your own life.**



The CrossRoad for Youth training.

In just five days, they got a glimpse of **the very essence of the School of Life.**

"What does this CrossRoad for Youth training during which we asked you to decide whether or not you wished to join the School of Life, mean to you? Was it important?"

The spontaneous and immediate **"Yes"** filled the space. Then came a bouquet of their thoughts:

"When I did the River of Life training, I saw my life depended on others. But making my Vision Board, my Vision for my Life, this time I was the one making the decision."

"For me, it's the joy of having chosen what I wanted, for the first time."

"It's me who will live here, not my social worker, not my center; I'm happy I made my decision."

And suddenly, the shyest girl among them looked at me and gave one of the most striking answers:

"Sister, it's my life, it's my choice."

So, welcome to our 7 new young women on this path of metamorphosis!

By Sister Sophie de Jésus

A JOURNEY TOWARD MY FUTURE

Goal Training & CrossRoad for Youth - Second Chance Program

By Antoine Herbaut, volunteer ACAY Philippines

ACAY Philippines has established an agreement with the Department of Social Welfare and the Ministry of Justice to support 29 young people in a reintegration process aimed at reducing the risk of reoffending. For over 20 years, the Second Chance program has built recognized expertise in supporting young people under judicial supervision.

These training programs are all part of the acronym **GOAL (Graduated Opportunities for Achievement and Leadership)**:

- **Group training & personal development:** Life skills, restorative justice, coping strategies, life planning, and self-sustainability.
- **Individual Sessions:** Self-awareness and psycho-spiritual guidance.
- **Parallel Family Training:** reviewing their children's journey, strengthening family bonds, and equipping parents with communication skills to better connect with their children.

For the first time since the pandemic, and thanks to a special authorization from the judges, **ACAY enabled 13 young people to leave the rehabilitation center to take part in the CrossRoad For Youth training program.**

On the program: mountain hiking, reconnecting with nature, immersion at ACAY's premises in Manila, meeting with Alumni of the Second Chance Program, as well as moments of silence and meditation.

On May 9th, joy was evident on the faces of the young participants and their parents during the presentation of the **GOAL** training certificate, which is also sent to the judges. This program marks a crucial milestone in their journey toward reintegration into society.





BECOME THE DRIVER OF YOUR LIFE

and inspire others!

In 2023, we created a new program in Marseille: *Dare to Lead*, which meets the fulfillment needs of reintegrated youth seeking to **fully realize themselves in their integration journey**. By becoming ambassadors, they **embody the possibility of transformation and serve** as witnesses of hope to all audiences. Through their testimonies, they actively contribute to ACAY's mission.

The ambassadors experience a **rich journey filled** with individual coaching workshops, group training sessions, team-building weekends, testimonies, fundraising events, and immersion in the mission of ACAY Philippines. These are all opportunities to discover themselves, grow, and inspire others in turn.

A DYNAMIC OF RESPONSIBILITY

We are committed to supporting each young person to become a full actor in their own life, and this involves fostering **responsibility**.

They achieve this through their active involvement in organizing every detail: dividing daily tasks (housing, meals, cleaning, etc.), managing their own budget during the stay, and contributing a symbolic financial participation.

The ambassadors are no longer just beneficiaries—they **become true actors!** This gradual responsibility encourages them to move beyond the role of “receivers” toward becoming young adults capable of making their own decisions. They **experience** firsthand that their choices matter and that their commitment has **real impact**.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COHESION WEEKEND IN MAY

Having grown up just a few kilometers from here, I find it amusing to watch the ambassadors marvel as they arrive. They stop along the road to observe the cows and sheep. They also discover the scent of the countryside. The weekend accommodation is nestled between two farms, surrounded by endless fields — **a total change of environment** for these people from Marseille!



“Living this experience outside of Marseille pushed me out of my comfort zone and helped me discover a region I didn't know before. During my testimony, I felt a great sense of pride. That moment made me realize that I was in the right place and that my experience could resonate with everyone.”
- Idrisse

Near Yaniss's home, around Cholet, the ambassador team came together for a weekend of bonding. **A break from the daily routine**, a moment to refocus, reconnect, and continue growing together. This stay, deep in the quiet countryside, allowed for a complete disconnection, fostering rich moments of sharing.

We listen to each other, understand one another, and dare to speak about what weighs on us, what brings us joy, and what lifts us up. We **draw strength from the group** to move forward. ACAY's training sessions take on a whole new dimension—more lively, embodied, and shared. And often, we laugh, let go of stress, and enjoy the moment, **happy to be together!**

On Friday morning, we headed to Angers so **the ambassadors could share their testimonies at my former university, Ircom**. The ambassadors opened up in front of the attentive faces of these future social workers, who are currently in the same training program I attended before joining the ACAY adventure. Listening to them stirred many emotions within me, and when the testimonies came to an end, I felt joy and **great pride!**



To end on a memorable note, we enjoyed an outing to **Puy du Fou**. It was an immersive journey through history—a unique way to learn and be amazed.

“It made me want to learn more about our country's culture! We live in Marseille, a city rich in culture—and the oldest in France!” - Rayane

And when the time came to leave, we set off with our heads full of memories and smiles on our faces, **happy to have grown together. Thank you ACAY**, for letting me experience this timeless moment.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACAY

NEW
NEW
NEW



NEW
NEW
NEW

AN ALBUM TO SHARE TESTIMONIES

On Friday, May 23rd, the ambassadors took part in their first writing session, guided by rapper Relo. This musical project aims to create an album led by the ambassadors, **where they share their stories and messages of hope through music.**

This artistic journey includes writing lyrics, recording in the studio, designing the album cover, mixing the tracks, and producing a music video. A big thank you to AMADE for their support!



SCHOOL OF LIFE ADVOCACY IN UNITED NATIONS!

In partnership with the AMADE Mondiale

The School Of Life has joined the international campaign *Prove It Matters*, in partnership with AMADE and the United Nations. The youth of ACAY are encouraged to deliver a powerful message in support of children who are exploited, abused, abandoned, or affected by war. Each participant has taken up their pen to write a personal message addressed to world leaders, **advocating for the respect of fundamental children's rights.**

These messages are folded into origami doves, symbols of peace, and will be sent to New York, where they will be incorporated into a collective artwork displayed at the UN headquarters. A powerful act of awareness and hope, carried by the voice of the youth.

TESTIMONIES

“Sharing my testimony at Ircom was both a demanding and deeply rewarding experience. Demanding because I had to draw from an intimate part of my story and dare to make it visible. At the same time, I felt a great freedom in speaking out. Testifying is not just about telling a story: it's about opening a breach in silence, creating connections. Seeing the touched faces and hearing the thanks, I realized that our stories can truly illuminate paths.”

– Yaniss, ACAY France ambassador

“My name is Rose, I'm 18 years old. My journey at the School of Life has been **truly transformative**. If I had to sum it up in one sentence, it would be: **“the transformative power of a restored dialogue.”** For years, I buried feelings of anger, unresolved situations, and deep pain. I longed for my mother's love — a love I had never truly received or felt. I felt hopeless, convinced that the gap between my mother and me could never be bridged. She hadn't protected me. She hadn't stood up for me when I needed her most. My time at ACAY helped me grow. After two years of inner work, **I was finally able to sit down with my mother and open my heart** — to share my struggles, my traumas, and that deep longing for a mother's love that I had missed so much. I came to understand how she had passed on her own wounds to me, inherited from a grandmother who was just as distant. Through this dialogue, I made the decision to **break these cycles of generational pain**. Now free from the past, I'm entering a new chapter — one where I can build a peaceful, renewed relationship with her. **I was able to tell her that I am taking charge of my life, choosing my professional path, and moving toward independence** — with her by my side. Thank you, ACAY. **I am deeply grateful** for this new beginning.”

– Rose, SOL Alumni



Let's continue Metamorphosing Youth's lives... Together!

ACAY NEEDS 20 NEW SPONSORS

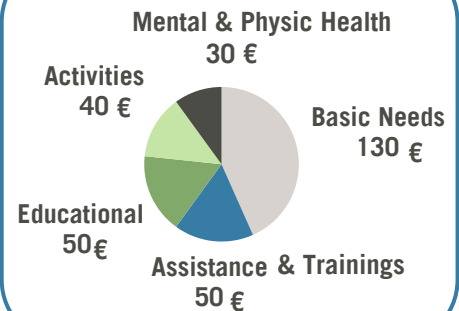
We'd be grateful for your monthly sponsorship—even the smallest amount counts.

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BE PART OF A MOVEMENT SHAPING YOUTH'S FUTURES.
LET'S CREATE IMPACT... TOGETHER!**

If you are already a sponsor, **THANK YOU** so much!
Please feel free to **share this call to action** with your
friends and family.

SPONSORSHIP OF A SCHOOL OF LIFE BENEFICIARY:

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