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NEWSLETTER ACAY

METAMORPHO.SYS ON THE GO!

After its foundation in Marseille, coaching an association in Congo and then in Bacolod (Southern Philippines), ACAY is now in Iloilo, sharing its expertise in supporting young people and its Metamorpho.sYs methodology.

As a sister organization working with the same population of young girls who have experienced violence, Laurence Ligier, founder of Cameleon, and her local teams quickly placed their trust in us. I watched them persevere as we began the patient and demanding work of alignment, defining their indicators, and analyzing data—moving forward step by step, even when they did not always understand where the ACAY team was leading them.

Then, two weeks ago, the knowledge-sharing journey continued with an immersion in our School of Life in Manila. Their eyes were opened, and the vision became clear. As they discovered an environment designed to foster responsibility, reflected even in the way the house is arranged, and observed the strategies put in place to help young people become actors in their own lives rather than followers, they listened to the young women speak confidently about themselves during the Metamorpho.sYs sessions. Suddenly, a sense of wonder took hold of both their hearts and minds.

They are now a team that is convinced, motivated, and ready to reshape existing practices so that their organization can continue to grow and make the most of the potential it has been building since 1998.

In Manila, Metamorpho.sYs came to life through the concrete experiences of the young women, demonstrating how their transformation is rooted in a living, dynamic, adaptable, and transformative educational approach. In Iloilo, the methodology is gradually taking root in a new setting, revealing its capacity to be shared and embraced by other organizations.

Its journey will now be to travel, open new horizons, and adapt to the contexts and objectives of each organization seeking to advance its impact measurement, while keeping at its heart the conviction that every young person can take back the reins of their life and become a bearer of hope.

What a joy for ACAY to see the fruits of nearly 30 years of mission with vulnerable youth now being shared with other organizations.

Sr Sophie de Jésus



Our new website is now live!

www.acaymission.com

From the Philippines to Marseille: the power of mentoring

Diane and Pau's meeting with young people supported by ACAY France



What if the best way to give hope to a young person going through a difficult time was to introduce them to someone who had a similar experience and managed to rebuild their life?

This is all the meaning of the intercultural exchanges that have been part of ACAY's DNA for many years: on the one hand, young Filipinos come to France to share their stories; on the other, members of ACAY France sometimes travel to the Philippines to discover the mission on the ground.

Last July, the team had the joy of welcoming Diane and Pau, both former students of the School of Life, to Marseille. For two weeks, they shared their stories with youth in detention and with young girls supported by child protection services and students in SEGPA** as part of our prevention program.

Beyond simply sharing their experiences, these encounters open up new horizons: they show our young people that another culture and a different way of life exist in the Philippines, and above all, that it is possible to overcome hardships and move forward. In this interview, Diane and Pau reflect on the moments that left the greatest impression on them.

Why was it important for you to come to France to share your story?

PAU - I think some of them have experienced similar things (abuse, domestic violence, addiction, etc.), and that they may see themselves in my story or find hope in it. And for me, sharing what I have been through is also a way of continuing to heal.

DIANE - Looking back, I realize that sharing my experience can, I hope, encourage some young people. Sharing my story is also about showing them that it is possible to move forward and make choices that are good for them.

What reaction or moment with the young people touched you the most?

PAU - After I shared my story, several young people came to thank me. They told me that my story had inspired them. They took the time to talk to me and ask me questions… I felt that they were really listening and that my story had had an impact. It made me very happy.

**SEGPA: Adapted general and vocational education section.

PAU



FORMER SCHOOL OF LIFE PARTICIPANT

She recently completed the program and is now training to become a social worker.

"Sharing what I've been through is a way of continuing to heal."

DIANE



ACAY PHILIPPINES STAFF MEMBER

Having gone through the School of Life herself, she now supports the youth in Manila.

"Sharing my story is about showing them that it is possible to move forward."



DIANE - I was really touched by their curiosity. Through their questions, I realised that even though our lives are different, young people in France and in the Philippines share the same concerns and experience the same emotions.

What would you like young people to take away from your story?

PAU - I would like them to understand that our past does not define us. Even after difficult experiences, it is always possible to regain confidence, get back on your feet and keep moving forward. Whatever difficulties they are going through today, those difficulties will not determine their future.

I would also like to tell them that they are not alone. There will always be someone who cares about them, sometimes even someone they have not met yet.

> **IT IS OFTEN THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF OTHERS THAT WE FIND THE COURAGE TO MOVE FORWARD.**

They should not be afraid to ask for help. Whether it is from someone close to them or someone they trust, talking is always a good thing. I hope my story can give them hope.

DIANE - I would like them to understand that wherever we live, young people can go through pain, trauma or difficult periods. I would also tell them that difficulties are part of life. They exist when we are young, but also later, in adulthood or in our professional lives.
The most important thing is to remember that we are never alone. There are always people ready to support us. If someone reaches out a hand, we should not be afraid to accept that help. It is often through the support of others that we find the courage to move forward and make choices that help us grow.

Did you notice any similarities between ACAY France and ACAY Philippines?

DIANE - When we met the young people here, I found the same atmosphere as at the School of Life in the Philippines.
We share the same values and the same approach to supporting young people. The main difference really comes from the context and the way of life in each country.



> **EVEN THOUGH OUR LIVES ARE DIFFERENT, YOUNG PEOPLE IN FRANCE AND IN THE PHILIPPINES SHARE THE SAME CONCERNS AND EXPERIENCE THE SAME EMOTIONS.**

2 MEMORIES THAT MARKED THEIR STAY

The visit to Notre-Dame de la Garde with Juliette and Célia* (young women supported through our school-based program).
“Even though we did not speak the same language and communicating was not always easy, we had a really lovely time together.” - **PAU**

Sofia’s testimony* (a young woman supported by ACAY France while in detention and after her release) “She told us about her journey, including her time in prison. What a courageous woman! I found her story incredibly powerful.” - **DIANE**

The names have been changed to protect the young people’s anonymity.

Article by Lili Sall, Civic Service Volunteer, ACAY France

Seeding of Metamorpho.sYs - On the Go!

Immersed in the vibrant environment of the School of Life, **the CAMELEON* teams delved deep into the Metamorpho.sYs process.** Engaging in conversations with ACAY beneficiaries, observing their growth and development, and gaining a deeper understanding of the purpose behind each dimension of the program, their curiosity and enthusiasm grew. Knowledge became inspiration, the methodology became momentum. Minds were awakened, ideas were set in motion, and the team was brimming with ideas to rekindle the spirit of their own center.

Metamorpho.sYs enriched their thinking and revealed itself as a tool for professional development and for refreshing and strengthening their approaches. It also brought renewed energy to the way they support young people, think, and collaborate as a team. Ultimately, it has opened the door to a new era of organizational transformation.

Metamorpho.sYs

JOURNEY METHOD

A digital methodology developed by the Missionary Sisters of Mary based on 30 years of field experience with ACAY Philippines. It aims to place young people at the heart of their own journey and to measure the impact and evolution of interventions through specific indicators.



We already had a system in place, but what ACAY has shared with us seems more adapted and relevant. It gives us a clearer understanding of our success indicators and helps us better measure the long-term impact of our work on young people's development.

WHAT ACAY TAUGHT US FEELS MORE APPROPRIATE AND RELEVANT

"At ACAY's School of Life, this impact is very tangible: it can be seen in the way the young women behave, interact, and put what they learn into practice. We hope to be able to integrate these elements into our CAMELEON center and into the way we support young people."



PAULYN NICOLE LIGASAN
In House Counselor
CAMELEON

"During our discussions about what Cameleon culture truly is, we realized that each of us has a different interpretation of what this really means.

Now, we are equipped with new knowledge and experiences that can help us develop a common understanding.

Through this, we can ensure that we are all standing on the same ground where we understand the goal, we understand the path, and we are aligned in what we are trying to accomplish together."



SHERENA LIZADA
In House Social Worker
CAMELEON

CAMELEON: An organization working to combat sexual violence against children in the Philippines.

Yvonnie's Journey of Shared-Growth with Cameleon

"Today, we continue the seeding journey in Iloilo. With each team comes a new approach—discovering their dynamics, their working habits, their realities, and their potential for growth. The team mindset and lifestyle are fundamental. All the process of transformation will take root there. A key learning has been the importance that, for a new seed to grow in an organization that has existed for two decades, the team must be willing to let go of familiar ways and embrace new approaches. Openness to change is essential for transformation. From there, genuine evolution can begin. Helping another organization has not only allowed me to transfer knowledge but has also challenged us to keep innovating and refining our own methods. As we guide others, we ourselves continue to grow.

Yvonnie, Deputy Executive Director of ACAY Philippines

Article by Elaine, Partnership Officer, ACAY Philippines

Celebrating Second Chances and New Beginnings!

Can six months really change the direction of a young person's life?

Six months may seem like a short time, but for a young person detained, having the time and the space to reflect, revisit the past and understand events with a new perspective, it can mark the start of new choices.

On August 27, a hundred people, including their families, Youth Home staff, and the ACAY team, gathered around the young people to celebrate the completion of their six-month training.

We were deeply moved to hear some of their testimonies:

"Before, my life had no direction. Now, I have goals for myself.

Before, I was easily influenced by my friends to engage in wrong activities. Now, I have learned how to say no and make the right decisions.

Before, I only thought about myself. Now, I have learned to empathize with others.

When I leave, I want to continue my studies, become a working student, and pursue my dreams. The life that once seemed to have no direction now has a dream and a purpose."

-Aldo

> **"BEFORE, MY LIFE HAD NO DIRECTION. TODAY, I HAVE GOALS.**

"Although I have made many mistakes, you never gave up on me. Thank you for continuing to believe that there is still hope for me and that I can change my old ways. "

-Ron

"The Metamorpho.sYs Journey helped me recognize my own struggles and take responsibility for addressing them. It shifted my perspective from blaming others to recognizing my own shortcomings and taking action."

-Claudio

> **"YOU WENT FROM 'IT'S IMPOSSIBLE' TO 'I CAN DO IT, STEP BY STEP,' AND FROM "BEING SHY" TO "REVEAL YOURSELVES".**

"As a staff member, I feel honored to accompany these young men in this process of resilience and growth. Watching them today graduating motivates me to continue supporting each one as they take the next step in their journey toward becoming responsible citizens. A second chance is possible."

Rhona, ACAY Philippines Staff

For the 16 young people who journeyed through the G.O.A.L. Formation and Training Program, these six months became a journey of learning, discovery, and growth. Two were released earlier last month. ACAY staff felt encouraged with a touch of pride.

Families watched through tears as their children reached a milestone that once may have seemed impossible. For young people who had known so many failures, this moment became a light in the darkness: a moment to believe that a different future was possible.

"I am amazed to see you reach this day of graduation, and I am deeply moved to have witnessed your growth in self-awareness and wisdom.

From 'I don't really see the purpose of the training' to 'I understand that it is an opportunity for me,' from 'It's impossible' to 'I can do it, step by step,' and from "being shy" to "reveal yourselves". I am so happy to have witnessed your growth, my dear Kuyas."

Ombeline, ACAY Philippines Volunteer



*Kuya: "older brother" in Tagalog, an affectionate term.

Article by Elaine, Partnership Officer, ACAY Philippines



BECOME PART OF A YOUNG PERSON'S JOURNEY

Help young people build safer, more independent futures through ACAY's programs.

Your support, whether a one-time gift or monthly sponsorship, helps make this journey possible. **Every contribution matters.**

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1. Click the "**Bills**" icon
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