

AHON: Stories of Resilience and Recovery

The Childhope Philippines Foundation, Inc.
2021 Annual Report

INTRODUCTION

The year 2021 proved to be a challenging one.

With the pandemic still ravaging the world over, people at the outskirts of society continued to bear the brunt of its effects on economy, education, health and welfare. Unemployment rate soared—owing to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME's) closing their doors. Government aid was sparse, if present, and mostly insufficient. Education was in crisis, despite efforts to address inequality in access to technology and services that aid in learning. Health insecurity continued to be a major issue of concern, with high vaccine hesitancy rate even among urban areas who have easy access.

Amidst these continued challenges, there were silver linings. Childhope Philippines, along with other non-government organizations, continued to be at the forefront of responding to the needs and concerns of the most vulnerable groups. Stories of resilience of the Filipino spirit were found to be amongst the most dire situations. Recovery was high on the priority list of pandemic response. We were witnesses to all of these.

These two themes—Resilience and Recovery—are the ones we would like to focus on in the stories that we will share with you, with the goal of inspiring everyone to be part of the movement to uphold, protect and address the needs of vulnerable street children, youth and their families.

We owe it to the individuals, groups and institutions who supported us in our mission. We are truly grateful for the unwavering trust, dedication and commitment to work with us to make this world a better place for the children.

Maraming salamat po.

This is OUR story.

Dr. Harvey

Herbert Quilon Carpio, MD
Executive Director

2021 Accomplishments (Infographics, no need to include 2020 stats. Just focus on 2021)

Street Education and Protection (STEP) Program: Education

Activity/Session	Number of participants	
	2020	2021
Alternative Education	135	147
KalyEskwela MCLH	88	90
Basic Literacy and Numeracy (BLAN)	33	19
Alternative Learning System (ALS)	7	12
Parent Sessions	42	109

Street Education and Protection (STEP) Program: Formal Education

Level	Number of Enrollees	
	2020	2021
Elementary	181	184
Junior High School	151	156
Senior High School	12	17
College	15	14
TOTAL	359	371

Street Education and Protection (STEP) Program: Educational Assistance

Level	Number of Beneficiaries	
	2020	2021
Elementary	26	0
Junior High School	109	7
Senior High School	12	8
College	14	14
TOTAL	161	29

Street Education and Protection (STEP) Program: Psychosocial Interventions

Activity/Session	Number of beneficiaries	
	2020	2021
Individual counselling	130	130
Group counselling	93	64
Family counselling	23	14
Home visits	26	112
School coordination	-	7

Street Education and Protection (STEP) Program: Skills Development

ACTIVITIES/ SESSION/ PROJECT	Number of active participants	
	2020	2021
RockEd – Mobile Music School / MusiKalye	40	40
Junior Child Rights Advocates	20	18
Junior Health Workers	33	23

Special Projects: KliniKalye (perfect example of infographics 😊)



Special Projects: Street Youth Empowerment Project

KPI's	2020	2021
Training batches organized	2	2
Number of graduates	30	35
OJT	-	-
Employed in a private business	3	17
Started their own business	7	10

Special Projects: Family Development

ACTIVITIES	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES
Parent sessions	109 parents
Advocacy and Networking sessions	22 groups

FEATURE STORIES

Giving every child hope for success this school year

Benjie, 18, has been trying to learn his lessons on his own since classes started in October amid a coronavirus pandemic. This Grade 10 student from Araullo High School Manila self-learning convenient in the absence of classroom noise and other distractions. But he finds it more difficult to understand the complex of his lessons without a proper tool to study.

In the Philippines, a “blended learning” program involving online classes, printed materials and lessons broadcast on television and social media was launched in October, four months after the school was supposed to start. It has been overwhelmed with problems because of most the students in the Philippines do not have a computer, mobile gadgets or internet at home. Like many poor children, Benjie has no gadgets and internet for his shuttered school’s online lessons.

Benjie is a street youth who lives in the streets of Manila together with his mom who is a street vendor. He has one sibling, both of them are studying online. His mother’s income as a street vendor compelled to buy food only for a day.

“Php250.00 lang kinikita ng akin nanaymula kanya pagtitindasakalsada. At sakto lang ito para sapambili ng amin kakainsa loob ng isang araw,(My mother only earns Php250.00 from selling on the street. And it's just right for us to buy food for a day),” Benjie explained.

With a minimum income, Benjie admits his mother cannot afford to buy them gadgets nor can’t secure to pay for internet credits for their online classes.

During his first month of online learning classes, Benjie borrows a cellphone from his fellow youngsters on the street to attend his online classes and secretly goes under the train station so that he can connect to public wifi.

“Dahil bawal pa lumabas ang bata, patago kami napumupuntasailalim ng LRT station para duon kami maka connect ng internet. Nagtatagona lang kami satuwingmayroon may dadaanpulis o barangay officials’ para hindi kami mahuli (Since the children are not allowed to go outside yet, we secretly go under the LRT station so that we can connect to the internet there. We just hid whenever there were police or barangay officials passing by so that we would not be caught),” Benjie added.

Benjie always takes risks everyday just to avoid being absent from his online classes and he can pass all the needed requirements to his teachers.

It’s no secret that remote learning poses a lot of challenges for many Filipino students, considering street children and homeless youth continue to struggle to access basic education services. Additional to their burden, buying gadgets to use plus securing an internet connection aren’t something that all parents can easily do for their children because many of them lost their livelihoods due to current pandemic.

“Sobranghirap ng kalagayan namin ngayon. Mahirap para sa amin mgamahihirap dahil wala kami gadget o perang para makabili. Parang nakalimutanna kami ng gobyerno natin natulungan kami. Pero kailangan ko talaga magsakripisyo ngayon. Ayaw ko tumigilsaakingpagaaral. Nakakahanap naman ako ng paraan

para maka attend ng akingklase (Our situation is very difficult now. It's hard for us poor because we don't have a gadget or the money to buy it. Our government seems to have forgotten to help us. But I really have to sacrifice now. I don't want to stop my studies. I will find ways just to attend my class and finish it),” Benjie said.

Fortunately, Benjie is an active beneficiary of Childhope Philippines. That's why when he found out that the organization was going to launch a new project, “KalyEskwela Mobile Community Learning Hub”, he was very happy. He is one of the beneficiaries who regularly utilize the KalyEskwela Mobile Community Learning Hub. He no longer has to worry about where to borrow a cellphone or tablet and connect to the internet because he has free access to gadgets and the internet using the KalyEskwela.

“Sobrang laki ng tulong ng KalyEskwela dahil meron na akong nagagamitna gadget upang ako ay maka attend ng sa akin online classes ng saganyonmapagpatuloy ko ang akingpagaaral(KalyEskwela has helped me a lot because I already have a gadget that I can use so that I can attend my online classes every day and I can continue my studies.),” Benjie commended.

Aside from the free use of tablets and the internet, the free printing of his learning modules is also a big help to Benjie. He doesn't have to worry about where to print his modules for school. According to him, they save a lot of money here. And whenever he has a misunderstood lesson from his online classes he asks for help from his street educators who are always there to guide them whenever there is a KalyEskwela session in their area.

“Napakagandang tulong nito para sa amin mgakabataanlalona para sa amin mgamagulang. Marami magulang ng mgabatangkalye ang nawalan ng hanapbuhay o pinagkakakitaan dahil sanangyayaringpandemiya ngayon. Sapat lang ang kinikita namin ngayon at pantawidgutomna lang namin ito. Dahil saKalyEskwela, nakakaiwasna kami sagastusin. Hindi na naming iniisip kung saan at papaano kami makakabili ng load dahil may libreng internet nasaKalyEskwela. Pati narin ang librengpaprint nila ng amin modules ay sobranglakingginhawanarin para sa amin. Imbesnapangprint, binibilina lang naming ito ng pagkain(It is a great help for us youngsters especially for our parents. Many parents of street children have lost their livelihoods due to the current pandemic. We only earn enough now to buy food. But thanks to Childhope's KalyEskwela, we are able to avoid school expenses. We no longer think about where and how we can get mobile loads because there's a free internet at KalyEskwela. As well as the free printing of modules is a huge convenience as well for us),” Benjie said.

“Hindi rin kami pinapabayaan ng mga street educators. Sa tuwingmayroon kami hindimaintindihansa amin online classes ay mabilis namin sila nalalapitan at tinuturuan kami ng maayos (The street educators never neglect us. Whenever we cannot understand our lessons we just simply approach them and they teach us properly),” Benjie added.

“Dasal na lang namin ay sanamagtuloy-tuloy ang KalyEskwela hanggang samatapos ang pandemiya at makabalik kami sa school (We just pray that KalyEskwela will continue until the pandemic is over and we can go back to school),” Benjie concluded.

My name is Arnold. I am homeless 21 years old, and I am a survivor.

Way back, the only means for us to survive from hunger was through begging money from other people. My mother was a helper in a public market near our place and my father was nothing and had been addicted to illegal drugs since I was 10 years old. At a very young age, I already had a notion in my mind that I needed to help my mother in providing food to the family. So right after school, I ran out to the streets of Quiapo and beg something from people while carrying my youngest sibling with my skinny shoulders.

But the most tragic point of my life was to start at age of 14 when my mother died because of her chronic lung disease. Due to loss and pain, I started not going to school and joined the legions of rebel youths who fend for themselves by robbing and pickpocketing. I also learned from them how to use, buy, and sell illegal drugs. 30 packs of cigarettes and bottles of beer every day were my norm for four years. After experiencing emotional and physical pain at a young age, I found solace in alcohol, which helped me escape my family reality and fit in with those around me. My addiction had already taken me by age 17 and eventually I was sent to jail. Yet the binges continued. I was in and out of the system for years, moving to different places, until I spent weeks in jail. It was during this time that I learned about Childhope Philippines and I finally admitted could no longer outrun myself.

I was ready to stop the cycle. I describe it as a moment of self-realization. I needed to change, I needed to do something, I wanted to get sober.

How did Childhope Philippines help?

I finally accepted the power addiction had over me, I sought help from Childhope Philippines. With help from the Street Educators who challenged and motivated me, I realized that sobriety would be possible and that I could live a healthy and fulfilled life despite all that I had gone through.

While attending regular alternative education sessions, my days consisted of individual counseling, group discussions, and a bit of homework for self-improvement. Each of these activities not only taught me to speak about myself but to also learn about others. Childhope's social workers, who were willing to speak with me at any hour of the day, helped me develop new habits that replaced the ones I had developed in the real world. But when I reached a point in treatment where it was time to transition from full-day treatment to half-day, panic set in. Unsure of how I would react to a less structured environment, I began to apply the skills I had learned from my Street Educators. As I began attending VocTech training, it became clear that I was ready for life. I have come a long way since receiving help at Childhope Philippines.

I'm so grateful that God used Childhope to find me. I'm also grateful to the people who give their time and support so that I can have this wonderful opportunity.

At present, after finishing the training on Food and Beverage Services, Arnold was fortunate to get hired as an employee by the establishment where he finished on-the-job training and is now assigned in their newly opened branch in Angeles, Pampanga. His original plan after the training is to study in college after passing the Alternative Learning System Equivalency Test. But he decided to set aside it first and proceed to his employment. His decision is to allow himself to help first his other siblings who are currently under the care of a Christian church in Tayuman, Manila.

Street children strive to finish education amid of COVID-19 pandemic

"I know it's hard and everyone is adjusting now with a pandemic but I know that if I can do it, so can you. We just need to study and learn how to keep up with the new flow of life. Believe and trust in your abilities and the people who can help you reach your dream. This is not the end but only the beginning."---Arvin, Childhope scholar.

Arvin has been a beneficiary of Childhope Philippine Foundation Inc. since July 2008. According to him, during that time he used to beg or asked money from other people in order to survive the day.

The child has good social skills. He relates well with other children. However, he easily confides in people whom he has known longer. He was also observed socializing with them through talking and being playful around them. On the other hand, he easily learns and follows his street educators when reprimanded.

Talking about his studies, Arvin is very eager to finish his education. There was also a time when the he approached the street educator about his status as a student of the University of Caloocan. The child asserted that he developed his self-confidence and self-esteem with the help of the sessions (Alternative Education). According to him, what he learns from the session, he brings to the school and lets his classmates know about it especially the *KarapatangPambata* (children's rights).

Arvin recently graduated from high school with high honors. Because of continuous support from various donors, he was able to enroll in college. He is currently a 1st-year college student in the University of Caloocan taking up BS. Communications. He dreamt of becoming a doctor or a lawyer but because of financial difficulty, he rather chooses this course because he believed that it was fitted for his personality and he could apply it in the future.

When it comes to his family, his step-father was the one who provides for their basic needs. This is why one of the reasons why Arvin is determined to finish his studies so he can help his family's surviving against poverty. He and his family are very thankful for having a scholarship given by Childhope Foundation because it will not be a problem for them to support his school needs.

Childhope is committed to continuing to support street children and youth beneficiaries in pursuing their dreams and building on their outstanding achievements this year. Also, while some colleges are slowly starting to reopen their doors, many remain closed for face-to-face classes, so we are thankful to our staff and children who have risen to the challenge and adapted their learning to help all of our children continue their education in this challenging world we all currently find ourselves living in.

Health Recovery Plan: Strengthening of Primary Health Care Services of Mobile Health Clinic

Aside from the food relief distribution and hygiene kits, we also aim to strengthen our primary health care initiatives, carried out under our primary health care services provided by the mobile health clinic. This

includes free medical consultations and assistance for those who may need hospitalization. Moreover, health education is also an intrinsic part of the holistic solution that the organization has been doing for the past years--this time focusing more on understanding the Covid19 illness and how to prevent from being infected.

Childhope Philippines' recovery plan for its beneficiaries to help prevent and slow the spread of coronavirus includes the following:

1. Provision of psychosocial interventions, especially counseling and mental health awareness

As most beneficiaries have fear from uncertainty and other emotional and mental stress brought about by their experiences during this pandemic, our social workers have a great role to perform in counseling and mental health awareness-raising. They will continue their work on the streets and online.

2. Primary health care learning sessions

Online sessions on primary health care, particularly in understanding Covid19, are conducted by street educators. This also includes hygiene and prevention practices in order to help curb the spread of the illness. Children participants are given mobile load credits which they can use for the live online sessions delivered by the street educators at a specified time. The children often use mobile phones which are borrowed from their parents or relatives during these sessions.

3. Medical consultations

Clinical consultations are made via telemedicine and face-to-face consultations coordinated by social workers with the KliniKalye (mobile health clinic) medical doctor. Medicines are dispensed to beneficiaries through their respective street educators.

In order to carry out these plans, Childhope Philippines commits to continue raising funds, calling for donations and forming partnerships with different stakeholders.

Childhope PH rolls out "Kalyenderia" Mobile Soup Kitchen

In line with nutrition month, Childhope Philippines Foundation rolls out a mobile soup kitchen, Kalyenderia, which aims to provide nutritious hot meals to street children beneficiaries and their families.

Amidst the ongoing pandemic, food security has been a major concern for people who earn a living on the streets of Metro Manila. Living mostly by hand-to-mouth, poor families find it difficult to earn income to support basic needs amidst the restrictions. Continuous rains and subsequent flooding further aggravated their situation—displacing most street families without means to earn a living and provide enough food for their families.

With Kalyenderia, the beneficiaries are assured of receiving at least one hot nutritious meal in a day to give them a boost in energy to learn or work. On its pilot run, the Kalyenderia was able to provide food, which they shared with their families, for at least 100 street children in the area of Lawton. The same

children are participants of the alternative education sessions of Childhope's Street Education and Protection (STEP) Program.

Empowering Street Youth Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic

Despite the ongoing current situation due to pandemic, particularly changes in schedules due to lockdowns, implementation of the Street Youth Empowerment Project (SYEP) activities pushed through for the 2nd batch of FY-2021.

Key components of Alternative Education sessions for the youth participants were Skills For Life (SFL), Financial Education (FinEd), and Entrepreneurship Sessions (Entrep), all held at the SV Hall of Adamson University.

Skills For Life (SFL): These sessions help them to learn the different life skills that they need to develop among themselves and guide them in achieving their goals. The modules of Skills For Life consist of the following:

- Self Awareness
- Interpersonal Relationship and Communication Skills
- Coping with Emotion and Stress in a Positive Way
- Critical Thinking and Decision Making Skills
- Problem Solving and Conflict Resolution Skills

Financial Education (FinEd): Financial Education allows the participants to learn how to distinguish needs from wants and be able to identify the different levels of importance of their needs in order to prioritize with regards to spending their money. This is to help the youth in understanding the value of money by spending them wisely. Moreover, the sessions encourage the youth participants to develop their habits of saving. Thus, as an application of their learning, youth were encouraged to start saving voluntarily. The financial education sessions consists of the following topics:

- Preliminaries (Life Dream- Personal, Family, Peer, And Community; Need Vs. Want)
- Difference Between loanAnd Savings
- Importance Of budgeting and planning

Entrepreneurship: These sessions were interesting for the youth, which they were able to enhance their skills in terms of the micro-business and marketing strategy. These training sessions will help them to improve their knowledge of the marketing business. This will also help them to manage their budget in putting up a small business by their own strategy. The Entrepreneurship Session consists of the following topics:

- Marketing Strategy
- Entrep 101 Writing a business plan for Small Business

Hands-on skills trainings are also part of the project. These are divided into the following: Service Skills Training (SST), and Livelihood Training (LT)

Service Skills Training (SST): For this batch, Food and Beverage, and Barista courses were conducted for youth participants. The training sessions were facilitated by a resource speaker/trainer from Manila Manpower Development Center (MMDC), a TESDA-accredited LGU-training institute.

Livelihood Trainings: Of particular interest among youth participants were learning how to do silkscreen printing, home-based meat processing, as well as home-made health products.

As a commencement, youth learners participated in a Livelihood Fair, conducted at the Sacramento Library—offering products and services they learned during the project’s duration.

Street youth participants were observed to have prevented or reduced their engagement in some vices and negative habits, by participating in more productive activities. With this project, youth participants realize the importance of identifying goals or dreams in life that they want to accomplish.