



KALIPAY TODAY

A Newsletter of Kalipay Negrense Foundation, Inc. January - March 2021

VOLUME 4 NO. 1



The grand entrance of Haven children accompanied by Building and Grounds Maintenance Manager Rey Ablero being welcomed by Recovered Treasures children.

THE BIG MOVE

Last March 8, 2021, Kalipay's babies and toddlers said goodbye to Haven Home in Bacolod City and moved to Recovered Treasures Home in Bago City. It was a bittersweet moment for the children as some of them have only ever known Haven as their home. The Big Move, as we called it, was done in an effort to curb the high expense of running two shelters, and with the new dormitories at Recovered Treasures Home, there was enough space for all the children.

Both homes prepared for the merge in advance. The small kids from Haven were allowed to have sleepovers at Recovered Treasures prior to the permanent move to get them acquainted with their new home and new housemates. In turn, the children at Recovered Treasures were briefed at what life would be like with the additions to their family.

That Monday, the Haven children arrived at Recovered Treasures to a welcoming number to greet them. They sang the quintessential song, Welcome to the Family, and waved a welcome banner. It was a touching moment when some of the Haven kids got reunited with their older siblings. They all ate lunch together and even had one of the Haven kids lead them in prayer. The older kids helped the Home Parents unload all the things from the service vehicles and arrange them into the nursery room. The smaller children helped entertain the Haven kids, the two youngest additions, a four month old baby and a toddler, were doted on by adoring children and staff. The day had the air of a great family reunion. For the first time, all the Kalipay children were going to live under a single roof. This will add to the diverse and energetic family dynamic of Recovered Treasures. And as with most experiences and milestones, some life lessons may be learned and nurtured, in this case, responsibility, empathy, and sibling relationships. The Kalipay family is unconventional, yes, but is it a caring, loving home? Absolutely.



It's one thing to be hospitalized, and quite another to be confined and have no one to care for you.

Dina's Story

Dina, not her real name, is seven years old. She was rescued at the height of the pandemic in July 2020. She had already spent a month at a nearby provincial hospital for severe malnutrition and a broken leg. At the time of her hospitalization, Dina was living with her stepfather and stepsister. Dina's mother had passed away just a few months earlier and her biological father was no longer in the picture. She had been physically abused and neglected ever since she was a baby.

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TWO KIDS READY FOR ADOPTION

The Certification Declaring a Child Legally Available for Adoption (CDCLAA) is a document issued by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to officially proclaim that the child has been legally proven to be abandoned, neglected, or voluntarily committed by parents or legal guardian. This document is a major step in the adoption process, and is a cause for celebration especially for the social worker who has spent time working with a child.

In the first quarter of 2021, two Kalipay children were awarded their CDCLAA. Anya, not her real name, is six years old. Gavin, also not his real name, is four. The next step is to find local, regional, or inter-regional matches for the children and prospective adoptive or foster parents.

Kalipay's Case Management team is constantly processing legal papers to hasten adoption proceedings so children finally find a happy home.

Kalipay is proud to have helped 11 Kalipay children be adopted to countries like the US, Spain, Netherlands, Italy, Finland and Australia, and two currently fostered in Antique, Philippines. 🌱



Anya striking a pose in front of one of Kalipay's murals.

Gavin is all-smiles after completing his achievement tests.



Kalipay children taking their Achievement Test.



100% PASS ACHIEVEMENT TEST

Twice a year, the learners at the Kalipay Learning Center take Achievement Tests as their exams to determine if they are ready and capable to proceed to the next year level. Last January 18-22, a total of 59 learners took the first Achievement Test and were able to have a 100% passing rate. The Kalipay Learning Center has been using the UST-Angelicum Re-entry Education Agenda for the Poor (REAP) Program since 2018, which uses a modular, un-synchronized approach, similar to what has been adopted by other schools for remote learning due to the pandemic. The teachers have reported the highest scores in the following subjects: English, Christian Living, Science and MAPEH. The second Achievement Test is scheduled at the end of the School Year in April 2021. 🌱

KALIPAY WELCOMES FR. JULIUS

Kalipay Negrense Foundation cares for the children's spiritual health as much as their other needs. In the past months, the Home Parents have noticed a rise in questions about spirituality from the children. This prompted Kalipay President and Founder Anna Balcells and the Kalipay Board's Spiritual Committee members, Francis Campos, David Villanueva, Benedict John Uy to invite Rev. Fr. Julius Habana to celebrate mass at Recovered Treasures Home. Honorary Board Member Sylvia "Gigi" Campos has known Fr. Julius for years with the latter's involvement with the youth of Bukas Loob sa Diyos Movement. Fr. Julius is also the Dean of the Sacred Heart Seminary in Bacolod. This comes from the desire of the Kalipay Board of Trustees to create a sense of spiritual stability for the children, to have a trusted, familiar face to ask spiritual advice from. Every mass is followed by a group sharing session where Fr. Julius interacts with the children to address questions and give advice. The children enjoy these talks immensely and consider Fr. Julius a trusted confidant. 🌱



To the children of Recovered Treasures, Fr. Julius' mass and sharing are like a threshold into spiritual growth.

KALIPAY SOCIAL WORKERS GET UPGRADE ON SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE



Kalipay Social Workers (L-R) Rosie Jane Britanico, Michelle Belleza, Reshelle Aringa, and Gelime Fia Lumawag during their training at Nature's Village Resort in Talisay City, Negros Occidental.



Social Workers and Kalipay Psychology Associate, Nejmar Panizales during the Hilom Online Workshop last February 16-18, 2021.

Attending to the care and growth of disadvantaged children is a never-ending learning process. The diversity of cases and the sensitivity required to handle them need constant upgrade if abused children, already slowed down by misfortune, are to catch up with a fast-changing world. After all, integration into mainstream society,

albeit hard, remains the goal to which failure may not be an option. Recently, Kalipay's social workers attended two major workshops. The first was "Hilom by World Hope International: Therapeutic Interventions for Survivors of Sexual Exploitation," conducted online last February 16-18. The second seminar was "DSWD Technical Sharing

Session on Alternative Family Care," held last March 24-26. These comprehensive workshops provide our social workers with the latest studies and methods for handling sensitive cases, like sexual abuse, and best practices for alternative family care programs. 🌱

Dina...

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Her stepfather hit her with a piece of wood in a fit of rage, breaking her leg and landing her in the hospital. In the month that she was admitted, she had nobody. The only people looking after her aside from the doctors and nurses were the watchers of the other patients in the hospital ward. The stepfather refused to care for her as he insisted that Dina wasn't his child and no other members of her extended family offered to help.

Her case was referred to Kalipay by a Social Worker from City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) of

Victorias City. After her treatment at the hospital, she was admitted to Kalipay and brought to Recovered Treasures Home. She was on a wheelchair because she was unable to walk.

She was greeted with a grand welcome, with all the children at the home flocking excitedly around her. In the first months of her stay in Kalipay she was subjected to therapy and exercise to strengthen her body and was put on a special diet to help her gain weight. Soon, Dina was able to regain her strength and her appetite and is now a lively, energetic little girl with nary a hint of her limp. 🌱



With the opening of our new dormitories at Recovered Treasures, and the unification of our kids in this one roof, Dina comes to Kalipay as a permanent reminder of our mission—to embrace and nurture recovered treasures like little Dina.



Dina after staying a few months in Kalipay.



DONATE.

VOLUNTEER.

SPREAD THE WORD.

TEL. NO.

+6334 435 2496

Mobile No.

+63917 700 2345

EMAIL:

kalipay@kalipaynegrensefoundation.com

WEBSITES:

www.kalipay.org

www.kalipayspain.org

Account Name: Kalipay Negrense Foundation, Inc.

BANCO DE ORO

Gonzaga Branch, Bacolod City,

Negros Occidental, Philippines

Peso Account No: 00 0720 140 889

Swift Address: BNORPHMM

UNIONBANK

Mandalagan Branch, Bacolod City

Negros Occidental, Philippines

Peso Account No: 000 210021 214

Dollar Account No: 13 021 000 5089

Euro Account No: 13 021 000 5703

Swift Address: UBPHPHMM

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

Capitol Branch, Bacolod City

Negros Occidental, Philippines

Peso Account No: 1321032016

Swift Address: BOIPHMM

EURO ACCOUNT

Account Name: Fundación Kalipay Negrense España

LA CAIXA BANK

Barcelona, Spain

Account Number: ES87 2100 1366 1602 0032 9890

PayPal: kalipay@kalipaynegrensefoundation.com

Credit/Debit card: <http://submit-form.kalipay.org/>

Wish List

1. Eggs and Milk
2. Formula Milk
3. Meat, Fruits, and Vegetables
4. Rice
5. Medicines and Multivitamins
6. Toiletries
7. Slippers
8. Underwear
9. Computers
10. Electric Fans
11. Reference Material

(Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, etc)

12. Emergency Lights

13. Fire Extinguishers

14. Sports Equipment

(Volleyball, Badminton, Ping Pong, Basketball etc.)



SOCIAL MEDIA



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