APRIL - DECEMBER 2015

# KALIPAY TODAY

*A newsletter of Kalipay Negrense Foundation, Inc.*

# THE LITTLE ONES OF HAVEN HOME

**WISH LIST:**

1) **Infant Formula**
2) **Milk**
3) **Rice**
4) **Canned Goods**
5) **Meat and Vegetables**
6) **Multivitamins and Medicines**
7) **Diapers**
8) **Toiletries (soap, shampoo, etc.)**
9) **Underwear**
10) **Reference Materials**

**Sponsor a Kalipay child's education** for a year and help them fulfill their aspirations in life. Get in touch with us:

**www.kalipaynegrensefoundation.org**

The children being taught the importance of hand washing

The moment you enter Haven, three things greet you: warm greetings from the staff, laughter, and small arms hugging your leg.

After breakfast, the toddlers are placed in the play area, so they can run around, and even play basketball. The preschoolers are gathered inside the classroom for their daily morning classes where they are taught the basics: counting, alphabet, nursery rhymes, and activities for creativity like arts and crafts and pizza making.

These activities are important to develop the skills they would need when they transition to formal education. This is especially important, as most of our kids had never been in school before. So besides these activities, values are also emphasized.

"We teach them what they need to learn. But I think that it is very important for them to learn values in a family setting," says Marife, a licensed teacher who is in charge of the morning classes of the little ones in Haven.

It is after all, Kalipay's vision to raise these children in a fun and loving environment, where they can safely grow to become whoever they want to be.

**(continued on page 2)**

# The Little Ones of Haven Home (from page 1)

(L-R) Kids showing off their works after an Arts and Crafts class, Mar with a ball, and Baby Basketball in the mornings

MC on a swing

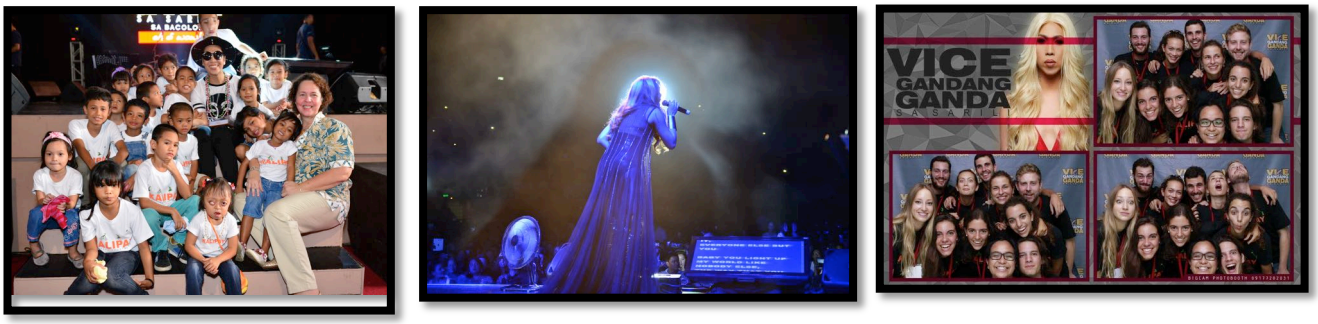
Playtime after morning classes

The babies after their afternoon nap

# KIDS' ACTIVITIES

Kalipay Summer Getaway at Lakawon Island, Cadiz City

Christmas in September at Recovered Treasures




Vice Gandang Ganda Concert for the benefit of Kalipay Negrense Foundation

Kalipay Family Christmas Party at The Quiet Place

# SPECIAL VISITS

## Golden Hearts and Gifted Hands

The Hearts and Hands Community Development, based in New South Wales, Australia, is a group composed of men and women dedicated to help out the less privileged communities through raising awareness and funds. They have been helping Kalipay for the past several years and not a year goes by without at least two visits from the group. Their visits have become some of the events that both the children and staff look forward to.

(L-R) Joy Hartley, Julie McCudden, Astrid Hocking, and Lynne Balcells

And just before the year ended, four women from the organization: Astrid Hocking, Lynne Balcells, Joy Hartley, and Julie McCudden came to visit Kalipay.

Astrid, Lynne, Joy, and Julie not only organized activities for the children, but as well as for the staff. The four women helped out as much as they could, and even treated the staff to a well-deserved day out for rest and relaxation.

*"I was on cloud nine the entire time. I loved everything I was involved in,"* says Julie McCudden, who was visiting for the first time despite having been involved in the project for a long time. "*I loved and appreciated everyone I met. I was energized during my entire time in the Philippines. I loved seeing the hope that Jesus brings wherever we went. I was so very thankful that I was welcomed in so generously. I made long lasting friendships and will always be forever grateful for the love and hospitality that I was shown."*

Hearts and Hands Community Development is also involved in Kalipay's programs in the Community, where they have done trainings to empower the members of the community in Gawad Kalinga Hope Alberto Balcells Village in Talisay City, and Kalipay Aldea (Victims of Typhoon Yolanda) in Cadiz City.

(L-R) Julie, Joy, Lynne, and Astrid with the staff of Kalipay

## RAFI-DACF gives scholarships to Kalipay kids

Maria Cristina Aboitiz (Executive Committee Chair), Maria Iris Andrino (Executive Director), and Jan Montilla (Project Officer) of Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. – Dolores Aboitiz Children's Fund (RAFI-DACF) with the Kalipay staff and children

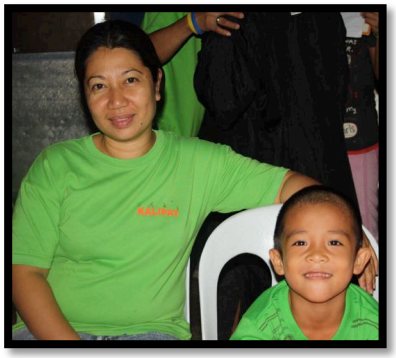
Maria Cristina Aboitiz with Anna Balcells during the MOA signing

## UnionBank USHARE Team

(L-R) Gina Valenzuela, Choy Mayuga, Anna Balcells, Samantha Libunao, and David De la Paz

USHARE Team with some of the kids at Haven Home

## NANAY ADELFA



**"The children have my heart."**
**- Nanay Adelfa-**

It was summer of 2013 when Adelfa first joined Kalipay's team as a Child Care Worker. Despite the challenge of having to deal with children who mostly came from difficult backgrounds, she had grown to love her role as a mother to the children entrusted to her care.

When Adelfa Mapas was told that she was going to be houseparent for Kalipay, her initial reaction was pure shock. Her first thought was, "Where do I begin?"

Adelfa hesitated at first as it would be a big challenge, but with the full support of the team and the children, she and Jen Juros, gave their resounding yes.

*"There are so many responsibilities,"* she further explains. *"So I'm grateful that I have Jen with me, because otherwise it would have been so much more difficult.*

*Jen was already working when I first joined, and I have always looked at her like a sister. So having her with me, and having a united staff make everything easier. We still have a lot to learn, but I know we can do it."*

Despite all the difficulties that come with the job, Adelfa focuses on what makes her stay: *"There was a time last year when I had to take a leave from work for a month. And I found myself unable to sleep at night, because I missed hearing the voices of the children. It was difficult. It's easy to just say you're giving up. But when it comes to actually doing it, I don't think it's possible for me. The children have my heart."*

# A NEW LIFE FOR JUVY ANN, CARL, BIMBOY, ROBINA AND ROMMEL

(From L-R) Juvy Ann, Carl, Bimboy, Robina, and Rommel

Adoption is a painstaking process – it may take many years, and in the end, there is no guarantee that things would work out.

However complicated and frustrating the process is, adoption remains something that is beautiful and sacred. After all, it is a golden opportunity for a child to start a new life with a family they can call their own.

It was an emotional year for the children at Kalipay. Five of our kids were formally entrusted to the care of their adoptive families from the United States, Spain, Italy, and Australia. The other children were sad having to say goodbye, but mostly happy for Juvy, Carl, Bimboy, Robina, and Rommel who are given a new life through their new families.

Anna Balcells with Robina and Rommel's new family

Anna Balcells with Bimboy's new parents

It has been a tradition in Kalipay to hold Entrustment Ceremonies for the children. It is a chance for the adoptive families to glimpse the family that their adoptees have been part of, and as well as for the other children to celebrate the new chapter of their brothers and sisters' lives.

The entire Kalipay family wishes Juvy Ann, Carl, Bimboy, Robina, and Rommel the best of luck as they start a new a new life.

# GOING HOME TO CHRISTMAS:
## A Night of Songs and Laughter

Jose Mari Chan during the concert at L'Fisher Hotel

Jose Mari Chan is a name we have all come to associate with cold December nights and warm Christmases. And with good reason – after all, it's his songs that usually take over all the radios as soon as September 1 (what is considered the start of the Christmas season in the Philippines) rolls in.

So it was not at all surprising that there was a perceptible buzz around the city when it was announced that Jose Mari Chan was holding a concert in Bacolod, 100% of the earnings of which would go to Kalipay Negrense Foundation, an organization he has been supporting for many years.

So on December 14, 2015, Chan serenaded the audience with classic, timeless music. He set a light-hearted ambience with his easy laughter and jokes, and brought the audience to a trance with his phenomenal hits.

The night was also the launch of Kalipay's Sponsorship Campaign, inviting the people to take part in a beautiful journey of holding children's hands as they tread the path towards healing and happiness. Atty. Lyndon Caña, Kalipay Board of Trustee, roused the crowd with a powerful, passionate speech detailing about Kalipay during its infancy stage, up to what it has become now.

Kids performing before the crowd

Chan serenading Founder/President Anna Balcells

"And if we ask, is there a reason to go on, is there a reason to keep on taking these children in? Is there a reason under God's heaven for us not to be weary and tired? The answer is YES."
-Atty. Lyndon Caña-

Chan serenaded Anna Balcells, who was emotional because of how well the concert turned out. Just a few days before the concert, a video went viral on Facebook – of Balcells speaking before the Sangguniang Panglungsod (City Council) to appeal the council's initial ruling against tax exemption.

The concert also featured performances from Johann Tan, and the Living Stones International School Choir. But one of the highlights of the concert was Chan's performance with some of the children of a Kalipay. A heartwarming number that jolted the audience back to the main purpose of why they were all there – for the children.

# VOLUNTEERS' CORNER

## Kalipay Volunteers Program: How it Started to How it is Now

Volunteers Carla, Robyn, Matthieu, Sylvia, Etienne, Dorine, Vera, Stephanie, and Ferran

*"It was one of those things that we were not planning on doing yet, but somehow, things just fell together,"* says Anna Balcells, Kalipay Founder/President on how the Volunteers Program started.

Kalipay was barely starting when individuals and groups from both the local and international community came to know about the work that Kalipay was involved in and expressed their desire to help out. Some would just show up and say, "I want to help. Put me to work."

It was then that the management sat down, and officially established the Volunteers Program.

It entailed a lot of brainstorming, trials and errors to come up with a system that would make sure that both the volunteers and the organization benefit from the partnership. Before anybody could fully grasp what was happening, the Volunteers Program was already beginning to grow its wings, ready for flight.

Anna Balcells with some of the July-September 2015 volunteers from France, Spain, Germany, and England

Fast forward to 2015, and a lot of changes have happened since then. A screening process was put in place, a Coordinator was appointed to manage the volunteers, and protocols were implemented.

2015 goes down as a milestone for the Volunteers Program. For July to September alone, a total of 35 volunteers came to work with the children of Kalipay. These volunteers have travelled from different countries including Spain, Germany, France, and England, staying for a duration of two weeks to even an entire year.

**(continue reading on page 9)**

# Kalipay Volunteers Program... (from page 8)

From tutoring the children, to teaching sports, organizing dance activities, helping out in the organization's events, these volunteers have poured out their hearts in working for these children.

Etienne Baudon, from France, first came to Kalipay in 2014, and decide to come again this year to be with the children. When asked what made him come back he simply replied:

"*The link I created with the kids and staff was so deep that I left a part of myself in Bacolod. A part of myself lives there. My personality didn't change, but my way of seeing life changed. The kids have experienced things we cannot imagine. But when I arrived in Haven and Recovered Treasures, it's impossible to say so. There's so much joy and happiness. It's not the last time I will come. It's so great to see the kids growing, and to be part of this experience. As I said, volunteering in Kalipay is leaving a part of yourself there.*"

Volunteers with some of our kids

*"We still have a long way to go. We could still improve on it. But we have come far from when we first started. The volunteers play a crucial role in the organization, and we are ever so grateful for the passion of these people who just come and help out,"* says Anna Balcells.

The Volunteers Program has become so much more than just managing people who are willing to help out. It has become an opportunity for the children of Kalipay to broaden their horizons, and for the volunteers to have a unique life experience.

## Communications Officers

**Kalipay's first batch of Communications Officers**
(L-R) Annette Gatuslao, Austere Gamao, Lenny De Asis, Kiefer Reje, and Jay Ann Chan,
students from the University of St. La Salle Bacolod

Communications Officers with some of the kids

# Two Artists, One Goal: Creating a Better World Through Art

Adrian Torres and Lesli Marshall working on the mural at Kalipay Village in Cadiz Viejo

Adrian Torres, a Spanish artist, has been collaborating with several non-government organizations in different countries including Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, and India through his project, Riding Colors. With the vision of "creating a better world through art", he has given art classes to children and involved them in his projects.

It was July of 2014 when he first came to bring color to the children of Kalipay Negrense Foundation, Inc. This year, Torres came back with Lesli Marshall, a designer, art consultant, and mixed media artist based in Dallas, Texas. For a month, the two artists shared their time and talent with the children of Kalipay through art classes and projects.

Torres and Marshall gave the children a glimpse of another world – of color, creative expression, and endless possibilities.

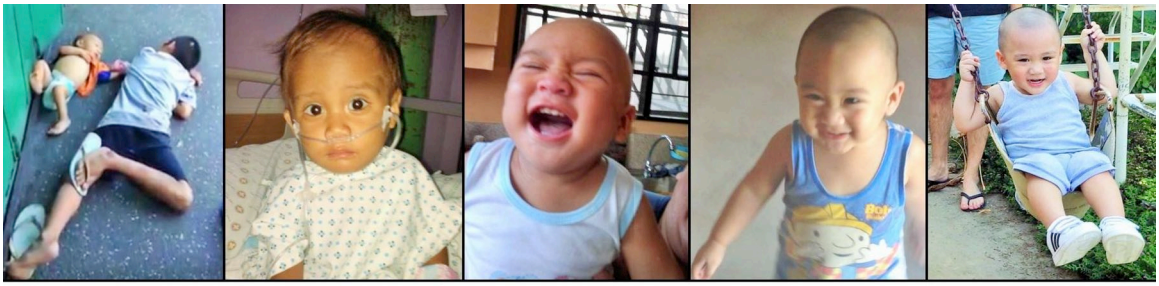
The two artists also worked on a project for the residents of Lakawon Island, an island in Cadiz Viejo, Negros Occidental that was severely affected by the Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda back in 2013. The mural stands at the entrance of the community, known as Kalipay Village.

The Kalipay kids in action during the art classes given by Torres and Marshall

## A Glimpse of Filipino Culture

Communications students from the University of St. La Salle organize a Cultural Exchange night for the Kalipay volunteers

# FROM THE STREETS TO A HOME



Ryan and Robert on the street | Ryan when he was rescued | One month after rescue | Ryan taking his first steps | One year after rescue

Ryan* had just turned one when Kalipay rescued him. Born to a teenage mom, he was left in the care of his maternal grandparents. However, it was his 10-year old uncle who took on the role as his primary caregiver. They were made to beg on the streets for their food. When they didn't bring money, their grandfather would beat them up.

It was by chance that Kalipay came to know about Ryan and his uncle. A man took a video of them sleeping on the pavement, and posted it on Facebook. It eventually reached Kalipay, and a rescue was arranged at once.

Ryan was severely malnourished then as he mostly was given coffee instead of baby's milk. He had pneumonia, skin disease, and had cigarette burns on his feet.

It has been a year since Ryan and his uncle were rescued. Since then, the wounds on his feet have healed and he has learned to walk. He is already learning to string along words, and enjoys playing with the other toddlers.

**The name was changed to protect the child's identity.*

## DONATE. VOLUNTEER. SPREAD THE WORD.

KALIPAY NEGRENSE FOUNDATION

Find Us On

www.facebook.com/kalipaynegrensefoundationpage

www.youtube.com/kalipaynegrense2007

www.twitter.com/knfi_pilipinas


**Main Office:** Room 1, Ground Floor
MARC Building, Ylac Avenue,
Barangay Villamonte Bacolod City,
Negros Occidental, Philippines 6100

**Tel:** +63-34 435 2496
**Mobile:** +63 917 700 2345

**E-mail:** kalipay@kalipaynegrensefoundation.com
**Website:** www.kalipaynegrensefoundation.org


bringing joy to disadvantaged children

**HELP US RESCUE MORE CHILDREN! DONATE:**

***Account Name:*** **KALIPAY NEGRENSE FOUNDATION, INC.**

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Bank:*** | **Banco de Oro, Gonzaga Branch, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, Philippines** |
| ***Account Number:*** | **00 0720 140 889** |
| ***Swift Address:*** | **BNORPHMM** |

**OR**

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Bank:*** | **Union Bank, Araneta Branch, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, Philippines** |
| ***Account Number:*** | **000 210021 214** |
| ***Swift Address:*** | **UBPHPHMM** |

**PayPal: kalipay@kalipaynegrensefoundation.com**