



KALIPAY TODAY

A Newsletter of Kalipay Negrense Foundation, Inc. 2017

VOLUME NO. 2



Right Photo: Kalipay Christmas Party family picture. Left top: Children, Staff and Board of Trustees playing "Pinoy Henyo". Left Bottom: Picture for gifts with President/Founder, Anna Balcells

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM KALIPAY!

December 8, 2017. It was a fine day, the weather was splendid, in fact, one can say that the weather was cooperating with the festive and joyous mood of everybody in Kalipay, especially the children of both homes – Haven Home and Recovered Treasures.

Days before the 10th annual Christmas party, the staff and the children were all excited for the once-a-year fellowship. There was the most-awaited swimming party for the kids after all, and some children with their home-parents were already busy preparing for their swimwears.

As some were swimming and playing, others enjoyed the grilled hotdogs, sandwiches and juice prepared by the home-parents and cooking staff, Nanay Evelyn, Nanay Myrna and Nanay Reggie. It was just so heartwarming to listen to the crisp laughter and soft chitchats from each table while savoring the food. Truly, it was a good day for fellowship and camaraderie.

At 10 in the morning, the groups Team Snowman, Team Rudolph, Team Santa and Team Elves were all thrilled to start the games. There were four games but the most loved was the popular "Pinoy Henyo". All was on their feet, shouting, teasing and laughing as each member of the board of trustee with their co-player had to guess the word correctly as fast as they could.

Lunch was served past 12 noon. Everybody partook of all the food with gusto. The Kalipay family is blessed with these delectable food because of the generous and loyal donors.

Kalipay Foundation Founder and President, Anna Balcells then led the traditional gift-giving to 105 children and 44 staff. Each one was delighted to see what they had in those

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Baby Emmanuel upon rescue.

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK!

On November 7, 2017 at 2:45 in the afternoon, Kalipay Foundation received a referral information of a severely malnourished toddler beside a fastfood store on Lacson Street, Bacolod City. Kalipay Foundation's Social Services Team with the Department of Social Service and Development (DSSD) immediately facilitated the rescue operation.

With his father's consent, Baby Emmanuel as we call him, was then brought to the custody of Kalipay.

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HALLOWEEN PARTY, ART EXHIBIT AND CONCERT ORGANIZED FOR KALIPAY



Left Photo: At the American Women's Club benefit Halloween party, with Mhel Sillador, Kalpay Executive Director (left) and Ginnette Yanson-Dumancas, Vice President (second from right). Right Photo: At the Solenn Heusaff benefit art exhibit, with (left to right) Trustee Belinda Tanpinco, Solenn Heusaff, Joana and Raul Francisco, and Mhel Sillador.

Last October 14, 2017, the American Women's Club of the Philippines (AWCP) organized a Halloween Charity Party to help raise funds for the construction of a Special Education (SPED) classroom at the Kalipay Learning Treasures. The "spook-tacular" event was attended by more than 250 guests who enjoyed dinner, dancing, silent auction and raffle along with Halloween entertainment and prizes for best costumes. The construction of the SPED classroom will begin in the first quarter of 2018 and will become a beautiful legacy to mark the community service of AWCP in the Philippines.

Renowned filipina celebrity Solenn Heusaff opened an art exhibit inspired by everyday people she has seen and met while going around the Philippines. The exhibit was entitled "Kalsada" and was available for everyone to see last October 20 to November 5, 2017 at the Provenance Art Gallery in Shangrila at the Fort. The paintings were actually done in collaboration with Heusaff's nephew Kaeden. Solenn said, "The series of paintings we came up with are all so colorful, even if some of the surroundings and expressions are quite sad. It was actually Kaeden who used so much color, and I guess it kind of makes you

appreciate how children naturally see things in a positive way. And that's why I did this with him – so our people's stories can be brought to life in a much brighter light." The "Kalsada" art exhibit was done in partnership in Globe Telecom and Provenance Art Gallery.

OPM Balladeer and hitmaker Nony Zuñiga and contemporary Rey Valera held a benefit concert last December 7, 2017 at the SMX Convention Center in



Top Photo: Kalipay children performing onstage. Bottom Photo: Kalipay staff with Nony Zuñiga.

Bacolod City. Zuñiga said he is happy to share his gift of music to the people of Bacolod and Negros. The Kalipay Children's Choir were the front act talents for the Filipino music icons. Zuñiga and Valera sang their hit songs and their favorite music from yesteryears.

CHRISTMAS...

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...big presents. Sounds of rips and tears filled the room as children excitedly opened their gifts.

Wide eyes and big smiles were all seen on their faces as one showed his new clothes to other kids while another tried so hard to put on his new pair of shoes. Still another was already circling the floor with his new toy car while others just hugged their gifts tightly still unopened. What a lovely sight to see! The room was filled with Christmas spirit of giving, sharing and most importantly, the spirit of love!

After all, that is the true essence of Christmas.

As each one left the venue, the joys and bliss that every family member of Kalipay felt during that Christmas party will remain in their grateful hearts always.

A BROKEN LIFE *Mise en place**

by Alan S. Gensoli

The mind, we know, is a terrible thing to waste, not just to idleness, but more so to tragedy. At five years of age the mind of JR knew of a mother who committed suicide, a father guilty of sexual abuse, and siblings dispersed for care to different homes. Whew!

JR's mind definitely needed a break, and education provided it.

Every day, Kalipay Negrense Foundation opens its doors to sad stories, some sadder than others, but all seemingly too hard for little ones to understand. And so they are swept under the rug, dragons left un-slayed. Soon, they influence attitudes, and worse, they mold behaviors.

One of the most critical components of growth in Kalipay is being able to go to school, a sort of special school where everyone comes to class with a heartbreaking story. So no one is the bully, and everyone is on equal footing.

The Kalipay Treasures Learning Center in the campus of Recovered Treasures in Bago City was built in 2016 through the generous donation of Jorge Ortoll and Nena Ortoll. It is now on its 2nd school year.

It is this elementary and high school facility that prepares the children of Kalipay for college courses in other schools of higher learning, helped along by a life-program called Independent Living. At IL, the more matured dependents of Kalipay are ushered into a productive life in mainstream society.

JR Canillo, who first came to Recovered Treasures in 2002, is a successful product of IL, in fact he's already been living in an outside boarding house closer to his school, the Carlos Hilado Memorial State College. In the process, through education, JR has overcome the ghosts of his childhood misfortunes. At almost 21, he just graduated from his Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology degree, major in Food Trade Technology. And through the kindness of one of Asia's top chefs, Tony Boy Escalante, JR was able to undergo valuable training at Antonio's, a landmark restaurant in Tagaytay City.

You guessed it, back home in Kalipay, JR helps prepare food. But when done with chores he finds himself strumming his guitar and singing to his younger brothers and sisters at Recovered Treasures, as if life was always swell. JR is also known to be quite neat and



orderly with his things, perhaps practicing *mise en place* in every aspect of a broken life, setting its parts back in place. To this child of meager means, it must feel, putting clothes in order, is like putting life itself in order. Indeed, for people who have so little, it takes very little to learn a whole lot. With help, through scholarships and love, theirs can be mended and returned to health.

Today, JR's memories include happy times, thanks to education that has opened his mind to accept new ideas, change, and possibilities. He even dreams of managing his own restaurant someday. Kalipay does not doubt that for moment.

There are now over one hundred children at Kalipay. Like JR Canillo, it is a challenge to afford all of them education. But what is their option? And what is ours? 🌱

**Mise en place (MEEZ ahn plahs) is French for "set in place". In culinary arts, the technique of preparing all ingredients and kitchen tools before cooking, believed to hasten food preparation.*

NEW KID...

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Simultaneous with the rescue, it was found out that Baby Emmanuel's mother was giving birth to her second child at a nearby hospital.

Baby Emmanuel was immediately brought to the hospital for emergency care and later stayed for a week for treatment of bilateral pneumonia and severe malnutrition.

After almost three months with Kalipay Foundation, with proper love and care, continued treatment and medical assistance, Baby Emmanuel's weight dramatically improved from 5.3 kgs to 7.8 kgs. However, because of his low immune system Baby Emmanuel was readmitted to the hospital due to pulmonary complex. Still, he continued to regain weight and strength. He began to smile and laugh, mumble a few words, and soon started walking a few steps with support from his homeparents. 🌱



Baby Emmanuel after three months.



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