



KALIPAY TODAY

A Newsletter of Kalipay Negrense Foundation, Inc. April - June 2022

VOLUME 5 NO. 2



Kalipay kids assisting our Agriculturist in feeding the chickens.

EGGS HATCHING JOY

However common eggs may seem to be for many people, KALIPAY finds them precious. While eggs are a cheap source of protein, when consumed daily by over a hundred children and staff, it certainly takes up a large portion of KALIPAY's modest food budget.

In April 2022, several kind-hearted donors who wish to remain anonymous offered to jumpstart the KALIPAY Farm with the installation of a small chicken egg farm on the grounds of Recovered Treasures (RT). The initial setup allowed RT to harvest up to 120 eggs a day, safely covering the home's daily egg consumption.

The children are also involved in the care and feeding of the chickens, with harvest time being their favorite part. Aside from teaching them responsibility, maintaining the egg farm has also taught the children the value of food, that however small and common eggs may be, it takes hard work to ensure that the farm is in good condition and the chickens are healthy so they are productive. 🌱



PLAY2LEARN PLAYROOM

The Play2Learn Playroom is the result of Biking4More, a fund-raising project initiated by former volunteers from Germany, Lukas Schmid, and Lea Fritsch. Biking4More was a biking journey across Europe from Germany to Turkey that began in August 2021. Along the route, in every city they passed through, they would talk about KALIPAY and raise funds. Out of

OF PAINTS AND PLACES



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BRIGHT SMILES ALL AROUND



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OF PAINTS AND PLACES

Since 15 years ago when she co-founded KALIPAY with now President Anna Balcells and current Board Treasurer John Gayoso, Gigi Campos, who remains an Honorary Board Member, continues her support for KALIPAY children through her art.

On June 15, 2022, Gigi Campos launched PLACES, an online exhibit showcasing her watercolor paintings inspired by her travels all over the world. Each painting is her way of transferring her personal experience in each country she has visited to her artworks- her impressions of local architecture, customs, and culture. PLACES comes almost a year after her highly successful first online exhibition, Visions and Versions, in 2021. In both exhibitions, a portion of the proceeds is donated to KALIPAY.

PLACES may be accessed through <http://gigicamposart.mypixieset.com> 🌿

REUNITING FAMILIES: THE STORY OF LEXTER

Lexter's remarkable story in KALIPAY began in June of 2020 when he was rescued off the streets begging for money and food. When his Social Worker asked him about his family life he could recall very little, except that he was originally from Leyte and was brought to Victorias City in Negros Occidental. His half-sister was very unkind to him prompting him to run away.

KALIPAY's Social Worker continued to look for more information about Lexter's original family. After further searching, KALIPAY reached Lexter's mother Cherie who was then living in Jiabong, Samar. A photo of Lexter was shown to her and she immediately burst into tears, recognizing her long-lost son. KALIPAY wasted no time in coordinating with the Department of Social Services and Development (DSSD) in Jiabong to reunite mother and son.

Cherie shared the circumstances which caused her to be separated from her son. She was in an abusive relationship with Lexter's father for 11 years. When she mustered the courage to finally leave him, she only managed to take her three daughters in her haste but vowed to return for Lexter. Unbeknownst to Cherie, Lexter was taken far away to Negros, an island in southern Philippines; where he was yet again neglected and abused.

Finally, on June 20, 2022, Cherie arrived in Bacolod City to be reunited with Lexter. Cherie and Lexter both personally thanked Anna C. Balcells, KALIPAY Founder and President, for everything she has done to reunite them. On June 22, mother and son left for Jiabong, Samar, together at last. 🌿



Lexter (wearing blue shirt in the middle) and friends with Anna C. Balcells upon rescue.



Lexter with Anna C. Balcells and his mother Cherie upon reunification.

Playroom

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that effort, they chose to build an educational playroom, as both Lea and Lukas understand the importance of playtime in the development of children.

Both their experience working as volunteers in KALIPAY showed them firsthand how abuse at an early age deprived children of valuable playtime, and how that impacted their personal development. Their careers – Lukas being a social worker and Lea a preschool teacher – have given them a sound understanding of how essential play is to children, exercising both physical and cognitive abilities, critical thinking skills, and emotional strength, all while enriching their creativity and imagination.

Both Lukas and Lea have worked closely with a group of preschool teachers in Germany to create a simple yet effective design conducive to educational play. The playroom includes a reading nook with pillows so they can lounge while reading, and a construction area where the kids can play with building blocks, and Legos. A fish tank where kids are assigned feeding duty to teach them responsibility, and an area where the kids can create and display their artwork. The playroom was finished in June 2022. 🌱



Young adults of Kalipay proudly showing off their voter's mark.

ROCKING THE VOTE

Last May 9, 2022, 17 eligible Kalipay beneficiaries voted in the 2022 Philippine Presidential Elections. All 17 teens were first-time voters registered in Bago City the year prior. All of them were excited about this new experience.

In the weeks leading up to the elections, the children at Recovered Treasures were allowed to watch news programs and electoral debates. The teens were free to choose whichever candidate they felt worthy of their desired positions and were encouraged to discuss their choices safely and respectfully.

On election day, the teens prepared their list of candidates and came to the voting precinct early to cast their votes. All of them shared that they felt a sense of pride in being able to exercise their right to suffrage. 🌱

KALIPAY GRADUATES

KALIPAY's school, the Kalipay Learning Center, located inside the Recovered Treasures compound, follows the UST REAP Curriculum (University of Sto. Tomas Re-entry Education Agenda for the Poor) which offers education from Preschool to Junior High School (JHS). For School Year 2021-2022, KALIPAY is proud to have five JHS graduates: Isaac Belano, Joebert Despi, Angel Mae Celis, Gellaine Bidlan, and Bernadette Barbasa.

The five graduates flew to Manila to attend the in-person graduation ceremony on June 4, 2022, at Sto. Domingo Church inside the UST Angelicum campus in Quezon City. Due to the pandemic, it has been two years since KALIPAY sent students to attend the completion rites. All five teens have never been to Manila, let alone ride an airplane. In addition to the trip, they also spent a day at SM By The Bay where they enjoyed the rides. This trip was made possible through the sponsorship of Montse Dosta, Kalipay Spain Board Member and former volunteer. The students were chaperoned by KALIPAY Head of Educational Services Mayette Mijares and were accompanied in Manila by Romela Pagdato. Romela is a former beneficiary and one of the first KALIPAY graduates. Now working in Manila, she volunteered to tour the children during their stay in the city. 🇵🇭



Alyn Amelin



Jericho Mahumas



Rex Servancia



Janiza Mahumas



Angel Ramirez



Jessica Mahumas



(L-R) Teacher Mayette Mijares, Isaac Belaño, Bernadette Barbasa, Gellaine Bidlan, Angel Celis, Joebert Despi.

Kalipay Negrense Foundation, Inc.'s Class of 2022.

KALIPAY KIDS OUT AND ABOUT

As travel restrictions are gradually easing up, the Case Management Team of KALIPAY has resumed exposure trips for the kids, visiting establishments around Bago City and Bacolod City. The main objective of these trips is to teach the children independence – how to manage basic life skills, such as using public transportation, budgeting money, and how to properly interact with other people. Before leaving RT, the children are given a small amount of cash as an allowance to spend on fares and food. Each group is accompanied by a Social Worker and a Teacher.

Notably, a group of small children visited the Bago Fire Station and were given a quick tour, including a close look at a fire truck. Meanwhile, a group of teens visited various establishments in Bacolod, including the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos (UNO-R), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Social Security Systems (SSS) Office, Hall of Justice, and the San Sebastian Cathedral. Afterward, they spent time at the Provincial Capitol Lagoon. The Special Education (SPED) class also made a trip to McDonald's. With very little assistance and much encouragement, the boys completed the ordering process on their own. On all occasions, the children were made to pay for their transportation fares and purchase snacks using their allowance. They were motivated to speak up, ask questions, and interact with the people of the establishments they visited to help them overcome shyness and develop confidence in speaking.

For KALIPAY children, these exposure trips are a valuable way to learn about life outside the walls of KALIPAY. And a treat, since the kids have not left RT in well over a year due to the pandemic. Many more of these exposure trips are scheduled throughout the coming months to ensure all children can participate and learn from them. 🌱



The little ones enjoying their exposure trip to Bago City Fire Station.



Kalipay teens walking through the streets of Bacolod.

BRIGHT SMILES ALL AROUND

Volunteer dentists from Spain Alvaro Babiano and Claudia Sola came to KALIPAY in July 2022 for a dental mission, checking and treating the teeth of all the KALIPAY children and staff. From July 19 to 29, over 95 children and 30 staff were treated with fillings, extractions, and dental prophylaxis. Assisting the dentists was Recovered Treasures Resident Nurse Dinah Deoful.

Alvaro and Claudia are the second contingent of dentists from Spain from the group, Dental Squad Philippines. In 2019, the first group donated two dental chairs to KALIPAY to use during the medical mission. These chairs, in turn, were donated to the Bago City Health Center with the understanding that when the next batch of dentists arrive, they can use the clinic and its facilities.

Before they arrived in the Philippines, the dentists raised funds for medical tools and supplies, and medication which they all donated after their mission. All the children have reported very positive feedback with the procedures, none of them cried, even the small ones. 🌱



Alvaro Babiano (left) and Claudia Sola (right) with the Kalipay kids during their dental mission in Bago City, Negros.



DONATE. **VOLUNTEER.** **SPREAD THE WORD.**

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Account Name: Kalipay Negrense Foundation, Inc.

BANCO DE ORO

Gonzaga Branch, Bacolod City,
Negros Occidental, Philippines

Peso Account No: 000 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: BOIPHHMM

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. 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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