



CHILDREN'S JOY FOUNDATION, INC.

Fulfilling the Mission of Love and Compassion through the Gift of Education

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*"The kindness, goodness, and love that we have invested are seeds that will grow and germinate in the hearts of these children who will also be able to spread this love all over the world." – **Pastor Apollo C. Quiboloy, Founder of the Children's Joy Foundation, Inc.***

Access to good, quality education – whether male or female – is every child's right. This is among the most vital and focal advocacies of the Children's Joy Foundation, Inc. (CJFI) since its inception in 1998. Yet how exactly do you define good and quality education? Is being learned in the fields of science, engineering, mathematics, or history enough? Does acquiring the skills needed to be competitive in today's "knowledge society" comprise quality education?

The Children's Joy Foundation, Inc. (CJFI) believes that a good education offers a child not only the means to achieve his or her dreams and full potential as an active contributing member of a nation's economy, but most importantly, trains and molds a child's character – a holistic approach to developing his/her complete well-being – to become socially responsible, God-fearing citizens who have compassion and love towards those who need it, and a sound judgment to always choose what is right, and what is best for the common good.

Major Challenges in the Philippines' Educational Landscape

The Philippines is a beautiful archipelagic country in Southeast Asia with more than 7,000 islands – one of the world's largest archipelago nations. Home to around 105 million Filipinos, the Philippines is known for its rich natural beauty – remarkable beaches, sunny weather, and rich biodiversity – with a unique and complex culture that attracts many people to visit the country.

Yet against the backdrop of this pristine beauty is a crisis that the Filipino people are struggling with.

Poverty. Amidst reports that the Philippines is now the fastest-growing economy in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the country has shed its reputation as the "Sick Man of Asia" and has now become "Asia's Rising Tiger".

However, unlike other countries like Singapore, South Korea, China, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates where the rise in economic conditions has also brought about enhanced competitiveness in their key sectors, the inclusive growth of the Philippines' most important sectors continue to elude the country – creating a gap where the country's macro-economic growth is barely felt in the grassroots. (*Manila Bulletin. The Philippines' educational crisis* | <https://goo.gl/yBi1uY>)

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority show a small percentage reduction in the country's poverty incidence – one of the major barriers to education in the country. The 25.2% poverty incidence in 2012 was reduced to 21.6% in 2015. (*Philippine Statistics Authority. Farmers, Fishermen and Children consistently posted the highest poverty incidence among basic sectors* | <https://goo.gl/vqzrGk>)

However, this reduction in poverty incidence within this period has not kept up with the Philippines' GDP growth rates. The bottleneck is attributed largely to the country's high population growth rate, high unemployment rate, high inflation rate, and wide income disparity between the rich and the poor.

Official Philippine government statistics for the first semester of 2015 showed that more than 26 million Filipinos remain poor with almost half of this number (more than 12 million) living in extreme poverty. The “poorest of the poor” sectors were consistently identified as farmers, fishermen, and children – most of them coming from generations of Filipino families who due to poverty were not given a chance to receive a good education. (*Inquirer. 12M Filipinos living in extreme poverty* | <https://goo.gl/6YYvkr>)

Although the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) expressed a positive outlook, stating that the statistics are actually showing good signs that the economic growth is reaching lower-income families, 44% of Filipinos still rated themselves poor in the latest Social Weather Stations survey conducted in the last quarter of 2017. (*Social Weather Stations. Fourth Quarter 2017 Social Weather Survey: One out of three Filipino families escaped poverty; One out of eight families fell into poverty* | <https://goo.gl/QbFVMP>)

According to the 2016 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey, 3.8 million children and youth, aged 6 to 24 years old, are out-of-school. That is 10% of the 39 million Filipinos within that age range. (*Philippine Statistics Authority. One in Every Ten Filipinos Aged 6 to 24 Years is an Out of School Child and Youth* | <https://goo.gl/YYirLy>)

With poverty also comes poor health among Filipino children. In a 2013 study by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute, 26% of children up to 2 years old suffer from chronic malnutrition – the highest number in the past 10 years.

Chronic malnutrition is a condition that develops when a child does not eat the correct balance of nutrients in the first 1,000 days of life (from conception to the age of two), resulting in the stunting of their mental and physical development.

As a result, identified factors like "Illness and Disabilities" and "Cannot Cope with School Work" ranked within the top ten reasons why millions of Filipino children and youth are out-of-school. (*Philippine Statistics Authority. 2013 FLEMMS – Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey* | <https://goo.gl/oL5PgV>)

Lack of Schools, Teachers, Classrooms, and Learning Materials. The Philippines has been fighting corruption for decades. Government administration after administration promises change, launching anti-corruption campaigns and initiatives. Yet it is not an easy feat for a country where such illicit system has been deeply embedded in all ranks and levels of government.

Corruption reinforces poverty by misallocating resources that could have helped the poor or improved public services for one's own personal gain. It also hampers economic progress since foreign investors who are wary of graft practices would rather not invest in such a country.

According to a report by Global Financial Integrity, the Philippines lost USD 410.5 billion between 1960 and 2011 on illicit activities. In the 2016 national budget, this amount is 154 times the budget for health, 52 times the budget for social protection, 39 times the budget for education and 25 times the budget for infrastructure. (*Rappler. In Numbers: Impact of Corruption on the Philippines* | <https://goo.gl/w5Yztt>)

2017 reports showed that the Philippines once again slipped in the global corruption index despite the Duterte Administration's aggressive stance on corruption. The Philippines got its highest CPI score in 2014 when it ranked 85th out of 175 countries with a score of 38. This ranking has steadily declined in the succeeding three (3) years with a CPI score of 35 in 2015 ranking 95th out of 168 countries, a CPI score of 35 in 2016 ranking 101st out of 176 countries, and a CPI score of 34 in 2017 ranking 111th out of 180 countries. (*Trading Economics. Philippines Corruption Rank* | <https://goo.gl/Js5pu7>)

It is, therefore, not surprising that for many years, public schools in the Philippines have been plagued with lack of classrooms, lack of teachers, and lack of educational books and learning materials.

Coupled with what many Filipinos believe as the “pre-mature” implementation of the [K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum](#), the opening of the school year last 2017 was met

with varied reactions among concerned sectors such as members of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT). The group expressed that it was a new school year with the same old problems – large number of students (average of 60 to 70 students) cramped into one class, temporary holding of classes in another school because no classroom is available yet, and numerous number of students waiting for their turn to borrow one of the very few books and learning materials available – that is, if learning materials were provided at all. If none were provided, the teacher will have to produce his or her own materials.

ACT Secretary General, Raymond Basilio, also emphasized that although the 2017 budgetary allocation for education increased by 17 percent (from USD 8.8 billion in 2016 to USD 11 billion in 2017), it is still inadequate compared to international standards.

Data from the Department of Education (DepEd), dated November 2016, showed the following shortages in public schools: 13,995 classrooms, 88,267 teachers, 235 million instructional and learning materials, 2.2 million school seats, 44,538 computer packages, among others. (*Bulatlat. New School Year, Same Old Problems: K to 12, shortages in classrooms, teachers* | <https://goo.gl/UZ2Wae>)

This data do not include far-flung rural areas and communities where a school is completely absent. One of the Children's Joy Foundation, Inc.'s (CJFI) adopted communities in the mountainous regions of Kitbog, Malungon, Sarangani Province in the Philippines is just one among the many places where children has to walk for hours just to reach the nearest school. When it rains, the children cannot go to school because the roads become unpassable.

These children come from very poor families. Most of them go to school with an empty stomach. This difficult situation leads many of them to drop out of school while others never attend school at all.

The emerging trend of private education in the Philippines which began in the 1990s, on the other hand, did little to supplement the need for a better and quality education in the country because sending a child to a private school is too expensive, requiring financial resources that majority of Filipino families do not have.

Teachers and educators leaving the country in search for “greener pastures” made the country’s educational crisis even worse. 2013 data from the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) showed that public school teachers in the United States of America (USA) earn 7 to 8 times more than teachers in the Philippines.

In the same study, it was quantified that in the United States alone, over 2,000 Filipino teachers have already been deployed from 2005 to 2010. These 2,000 teachers would have translated to 20,000 students catered in an ideal 1:20 teacher-to-student ratio. (*Rappler. US teachers earn 7-8 times more than Pinoy counterparts* | <https://goo.gl/Mk1Nv5>)

In an effort to improve education in the Philippines, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) reported that the Education sector got the highest budgetary allocation in the 2018 General Appropriations Bill (GAB) amounting to PHP 672.4 billion (or approximately USD 13.45 billion), ratified by both houses of Congress and signed by the President of the Philippines. (*Department of Budget and Management. 2018 National Budget Reflects Socio-Economic Agenda of President Duterte* | <https://goo.gl/xuM9js>)

This is by far the highest total budget ever allocated to the Education sector which is composed of the Department of Education (DepEd), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). Whether or not it will make a difference still remains to be seen.

CJFI Programs and Interventions to Improve Access to Quality Education through Innovation and Partnership

A strong proponent of children's rights, welfare, and protection, Pastor Apollo C. Quiboloy, the founder of the Children's Joy Foundation, Inc. (CJFI) longed to see a world where children are cared for, protected, and loved.

He sees himself in the plight of every poor, suffering child that he once was. Born in a destitute family and the youngest of nine siblings, Pastor Apollo knew how it feels like to sleep hungry, to face each new day with uncertainty, to bear the suffering and pain of poverty as a child.

As a young evangelist, Pastor Apollo C. Quiboloy traveled around the Philippines and everywhere he looked, he saw children – neglected, abandoned, abused, deprived – victims of a life they were born into and helpless to save themselves from the same bleak fate. He promised the Almighty God that if He will bless him, he will make a difference in every child's life. And this is how the Children's Joy Foundation, Inc. (CJFI) began in 1998.

Twenty (20) years later, CJFI has become one of the most reputable and highly regarded Social Welfare and Development Agencies (SWDAs) in the Philippines

advocating for children's rights, welfare, and protection, and establishing strong linkages with the public and private sectors from within and outside the country, as it pursues its goal to expand and strengthen its global operations.

OVERVIEW OF CJFI PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Under its Residential Based Support Program (RBSP), CJFI has six (6) 24-hour residential care centers that cater to abandoned, orphaned, neglected and dependent children providing them with a caring, nurturing, and structured therapeutic environment with the goal of reintegrating them with their families and communities as a socially functioning individual. It implements nine (9) important services geared towards a child's holistic development – social services, home life services, educational services, psychological services, medical and dental services, sports and recreation, spiritual or religious services, practical skills development, and after care services.

Under its Community Based Support Program (CBSP), CJFI extends its programs and services to disadvantaged and poor children in the countryside and grassroots communities primarily to assist in their early childhood education and development years.

RESIDENTIAL CARE CENTERS WITH EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Having recognized the shortcomings of the Philippines' educational system along with CJFI's growing number of children beneficiaries, Pastor Apollo C. Quiboloy saw the need to establish his own school to better cater to the children's educational needs.

Two (2) years after CJFI was founded, he established the Jose Maria Academy initially offering preschool to second grade education in the primary level. In 2003, Jose Maria Academy became the now known as [Jose Maria College](#) (JMC) – one of the most prestigious schools in the Philippines.

*"Knowing that higher learning is built on simple yet strong foundation, policies and systems employed in this academe shall help maintain and upgrade your abilities, and to test you frequently throughout your educational careers using meaningful, uncompromising performance standards. As an answer to today's educational quandary, we, at the Jose Maria College, give **quality education** top priority." – **Pastor Apollo C. Quiboloy***

Driven by the vision of its founder, JMC has become a dynamic institution that is committed to excellence in every aspect of its operations, providing the best educational services that each of its students deserve – most especially to underprivileged children whose families do not have the means to send them to a good school.

At present, more than 70% of JMC's students are composed of scholars, and children beneficiaries of the Children's Joy Foundation, Inc.

To better facilitate the growth and development of each child, a JMC campus extension was built inside the CJFI Residential Care Compound in Davao City, Philippines where all of the residents of the CJFI Davao Residential Center attend primary and secondary school. The presence of this campus extension also benefits indigent children from the community who are given full educational scholarships.

This best practice of establishing an educational facility for a residential care center for children was commended by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), urging other social welfare agencies to do the same and follow CJFI's lead.

Bound by the same advocacy to make a difference in the lives of children in need, JMC and CJFI has become valuable partners in molding future young leaders who can create, innovate, and contribute to the nation's progress.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Studies show that a person's life successes, health and well-being have their roots in early childhood. Significant evidence directly links the emotional, social and physical development of young children to their overall development as an adult. Therefore, optimizing the early years of children's lives is the best investment we can make in ensuring their future success. (*UNICEF. Why Early Childhood Development?* | <https://goo.gl/LgbRjS>)

CJFI recognizes this need and responds to this most important stage of a young child's development by providing a venue where they can start exploring the world around them, play and interact with other children their age, learn to speak and listen, and study how to read and write.

Through collaboration and partnership with Local Government Units (LGUs) and organizations with the same advocacy, CJFI is able to build Day Care Centers (DCCs) where young children, who come from low-income families and cannot afford the costs of preschool education, can jumpstart their emotional, social, physical, and cognitive

development. Supplemental feeding and regular provision of school supplies are also implemented in these adopted communities.

Among CJFI's beneficiaries for its Early Childhood Education and Development initiatives are municipalities and cities that were badly hit by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. The devastation brought by the super typhoon included the destruction of the existing Day Care Centers in the affected areas.

After launching massive Disaster Relief Operations for the Haiyan survivors, CJFI began its long-term recovery initiatives by rebuilding the Day Care Centers so the young children can go back to school.

To date, CJFI has built seven (7) Day Care Centers in Eastern Visayas and four (4) Day Care Centers in Mindanao which are being revisited regularly for supplemental feeding programs, distribution of school supplies for the children beneficiaries, and other forms of needed intervention.

COMPUTER LITERACY PROGRAM

Knowledge of basic computer applications is among the most vital skills needed to thrive in today's modern world. Unfortunately, the poor quality of education in the Philippines also means the country is facing a poor computer literacy rate.

According to data, 60% of public schools in the Philippines only have one (1) computer equipment or none at all. These public schools do not offer computer education to their students. 40% of public schools, on the other hand, have computer laboratories but lack a competent computer teacher to teach the subject. Moreover, the computer-to-student ratio is depressingly low.

With most of the country's school-age population found in public schools, this is a problem that needs to be urgently addressed.

True enough, CJFI witnessed this situation as our Computer Literacy Program Team continue to visit different towns, cities, and municipalities in the Philippines to implement the program.

One of CJFI's partner elementary schools in Quezon City has a computer laboratory with 20 computers. Its total student population, however, is around 5,000 students. This is equivalent to an alarming 1:250 computer-to-student ratio. When asked if the school is able to conduct computer classes using the existing computer laboratory, one of the faculty members replied that they do not have an ICT teacher and no one from the current faculty is qualified to teach.

On the other hand, a partner elementary school in Kalon Barak, Malungon, Sarangani Province do not have any computer units. When CJFI first visited the school, the students were awestruck when they handled the computer equipment for the very first time. The expression on their faces evokes mixed emotions of happiness and sadness – joy because it is such a heartwarming experience to be able to make an impact in these children's lives but at the same time, it is saddening to know there are millions of unfortunate children like them who face the same challenges.

Through CJFI's partnership with Dell Technologies, CJFI continues to impart the Computer Literacy Program to thousands of beneficiaries across the Philippines – not only to children and young people but also adults who need computer education.

Fulfilling the Mission of Love and Compassion

As the Children's Joy Foundation, Inc. (CJFI) touches and transforms the lives of more underprivileged children not only in the Philippines but also in different countries around the world, the people behind CJFI will always remember the words of its founder, Pastor Apollo C. Quiboloy – that what we are doing is more than just helping to solve a social illness or to contribute to the nation's progress – most importantly, it is an act of love.

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