This work is like all the other works of Assisi in the past 40 years: it is an instrument that communicates our organization’s commitment to the work of loving and serving the poor whom God loves without condition nor end.

In its pages, the reader will find the many ways by which God has made use of Assisi as a humble servant of peace, justice, and development. May you see in the many words and pictures contained here the very fingerprints and footprints of the Lord.
Celebrating 40 Years of Loving Service to Our Country through Justice, Peace, & Development Initiatives.
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The founders of ADF established the organization upon the inspirations that the life of St. Francis of Assisi had on them. They were motivated by the simple yet effective power of Christian service that the venerable saint gave in his lifetime, especially towards the poorest of the poor; and all for the love of Christ. This same spirit would guide Assisi in its formative years as it pursued the mission of serving others with a faith that brought about justice in the lives of people and society. This approach to development work gradually became the very heart of Assisi.
To you, our partners in this monumental yet humbling mission:

You are our co-pilgrims in this journey towards a better Philippines and more dignified lives for millions of our people. You are our friends in both times of great victories and overwhelming challenges. You are the wind that drives our sail. Thank you to all of you for all these years of partnership.
Benigno S. Aquino Foundation, Inc.
Cardinal Santos Memorial Hospital Eye Clinic
CARITAS Manila
CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Indigenous Peoples
CBCP-NASSA Caritas Filipinas Foundation
Chito Foundation, Inc.
Consuelo Foundation, Inc.
Corporate Network for Disaster Response
Educational Research and Development Assistance Foundation
Family Rosary Crusade, Inc.
Foundation for the Philippine Environment
Gado Jalandoni Scholarship
GMA Kapuso Foundation, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity Philippines
Lay Communities of Jesus Christ the Returning King
League of Corporate Foundations
Marian Council
Metrobank Foundation, Inc.
Mirant Philippines Foundation
National Children’s Hospital
Office of Ms. Margie Moran-Floirendo
Partnership for Development Assistance in the Philippines Inc.
Peace and Equity Foundation
Petron Foundation
Philam Foundation
Philippine Business for Social Progress
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Pondo ng Pinoy Community Foundation, Inc.
Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation
Simeon Dee Family
SM Foundation, Inc.
Sun Life Foundation
Sycip, Gorres, Vilayo & Co.
Unilab and Unilab Foundation
Wack Wack Golf and Country Club
WWF Philippines
Yellow Pages
Zuellig Family Foundation

GOVERNMENT AGENCY
Armed Forces of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform
Department of Agriculture
Department of Education
Department of Health
Department of Interior and Local Government
Department of Public, Works and Highways
Department of Social Welfare and Development
League of Cities of the Philippines
League of Municipalities of the Philippines
National Commission for Indigenous Peoples
Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines

OTHERS
Various Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) of the Philippines
Community/Peoples Organizations of various sectors
Church Partners, Archdioceses, Dioceses, various religious groups, and missionaries
Various academic institutions
We, the trustees of the Assisi Development Foundation, Inc., are moved by a deep sense of gratefulness as we reflect on what our organization has achieved in the past 40 years and the challenges ahead as it continues its work of service for 40 and more years to come. We are grateful for both our past achievements and future challenges. Gratefulness is the experience and value that links us both to the past and the present of Assisi.

We are grateful for being a part of the lives of different sectors in Philippine society in these past 40 years. Through the work we have accomplished and the programs we have established, we were given the blessed opportunity to share in the lives of tens of thousands of Filipinos. These were men, women, and children who needed love and compassion, poor and marginalized families that needed understanding and support, entire communities that needed inspiration as they strove to improve their lives. We are grateful for having journeyed with all of them, and we are grateful for the many more opportunities in the years ahead for us to be their companions towards peace and development. In a profound sense, they are our reason for being what we are today. They are the impetus for the very existence of our foundation. And so our deepest gratitude goes to them. Thank you for accepting us as your own; thank you for allowing us to serve.

We are grateful to Fr. Francisco Araneta, SJ, whose faith in the possibility and realization of a just society has inspired the board in its early years and continues to do so to this day. The foundational principles of Assisi that he drafted in our early years continue to guide us in our decisions and actions. The spirit of Fr. Araneta, along with the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, has been our bedrock throughout these years. Our programs may have evolved in different ways as they responded to the current needs of the people and the sectors we help, but the direction remains the same, thanks to the powerful vision that Fr. Araneta has passed on to us.
We are also grateful to our local and international partners who have accompanied us in many different ways through the years as we responded to the challenges of development. Truly, they are our companions in the mission that we have set for ourselves. We indeed form a real family in the sense of being unified by something bigger than ourselves. The work we have done together is proof that all things are possible for those who are united in mind, heart, and spirit. Thank you for trusting us. Thank you for walking beside us.

We are grateful to the members of the Dee family who have generously shared their lives in responding to the call of the times across four decades. In their humble and sincere ways, they have made themselves the very wind that lifts and propels Assisi forward. In their way of life, we constantly find the very representation of the Assisi vision of tireless and passionate service to the poor, of a faith that works for justice. Their impact on the lives of the many people we have helped and on those of us who work with them in Assisi can never be measured. They are our models and mentors, friends and family. Our gratitude to all of them goes beyond words.

As one united board, we reinforce our commitment to the continuous growth of Assisi so that it may do the work of development with even greater fervor and effectiveness in the decades ahead. We are grateful even for this, and our gratefulness moves itself forward into the future of Assisi as we widen and deepen the impact of our work in the lives of the people we serve. It is with deep gratefulness, therefore, that we welcome the many years ahead, and say “Yes!” to things yet to come.

We are grateful for being a part of the lives of different sectors in Philippines society in these past 40 years. Through the work we have accomplished and the programs we have established, we were given the blessed opportunity to share in the lives of tens of thousands of Filipinos.
As we complete forty years, one generation of Loving Service to the poor living in the margins of our society, with profound gratitude in our hearts, let us give thanks:

First and foremost, to our Lord and Master and His Mother to whom we are consecrated and our works are dedicated, for the privilege of serving Him in the poor and forsaken, for sending the Holy Spirit to guide us, St. Joseph to shepherd and protect us, St. Francis to direct and inspire us, and his priests to instruct and nourish us and to forgive our transgressions against our fellowmen.

We thank our families for their sacrifices, our trustees for their wise guidance, our co-workers in the Assisi vineyard of Our Lord, our officers and project managers for their leadership, our field and office workers for their dedication to work, that make possible our bountiful harvests for the poor of our beloved land; and

We thank our donors, partners, benefactors, collaborators, supporters and friends, for sharing their treasures and blessings with us and lending us their helping hands; and

We thank those who have gone before us: H.E. Jaime Cardinal Sin, Fr. Francisco “Fritz” Araneta, Alejandro “Ding” Lichauco, Armando “Balty” Baltazar: may they rest in the Peace of St. Francis of Assisi.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam 🙏

As we celebrate the 40th year anniversary of Assisi Development Foundation we pay tribute to the people whose vision and commitment for loving service established the fundamental principles and values of the organization. We are particularly grateful to our founder and current chairperson - Ambassador Howard Dee and his family, their generosity and genuine concern for others have been our constant guide and inspiration for all these years. We are deeply grateful for all the people of different faiths and cultures. While our work has given us the chance to contribute to the development of their lives, their life stories and journeys have also enriched our lives and helped us in our service. Our work and mission would not have been possible if it were not for the tireless and selfless efforts of our colleagues, partners and fellow workers, especially our project managers/officers and staff. They have been and are our companions in our shared mission of accompanying the most vulnerable communities in the Philippines. We are one team. We are friends and partners in service, and for life, which makes our labor, our work much more meaningful and extraordinary.

Finally, we are also grateful to all our institutional partners and collaborators. Our work in the past 40 years would not have been realized without your help and generous involvement. Thanks to your boundless dedication and commitment to our shared values and principles. Together, we have given hope to our numerous partners all in the name of loving service, rooted in faith that promotes peace and justice. Indeed, our hearts are filled with gratefulness as we continue to accomplish milestones and face greater challenges that will propel us towards another 40 years.

As we look forward to another 40 years in our mission, we shall continue to carry with us the spirit and charism of St. Francis of Assisi — our inspiration for Faith in Action, and the guidance of our Loving Lady, the Blessed Mother — our model for loving service. For God’s Greater Glory! 🙏
Celebrating
40 Years of
Loving Service
to Our Country through Justice, Peace, & Development Initiatives.
We Thank God for Assisi

On our 40th year of development work and service to the Filipino poor, we, the men and women of Assisi Development Foundation, Inc., find our hearts to be overflowing with gratitude and thanksgiving.

We are one in remembering the many people, organizations, and institutions who have helped us in our work of helping others. As one family, we remind ourselves of the countless blessings and gifts that God has so generously given us across the 40 years that we have served as instruments of His compassion and peace here in the Philippines. We tell ourselves once again how fortunate we are for having a genuine Christian community in our place of work, where we come to live out our shared values and beliefs, and where we always find a sense of belonging and purpose.

We have reached 40 years of existence as an organization. We have worked and served for four decades. We have overcome every challenge and difficulty that came our way. These are achievements for which we can only say with all our hearts: Thank you. We thank God for all of you. We thank God for Assisi.
Celebrating 40 Years of Loving Service to Our Country through Justice, Peace, & Development Initiatives.
40 Years of Development

1975-1985
A FAITH THAT DOES JUSTICE THROUGH WORKS OF DEVELOPMENT

1986-1995
PATHFINDING THROUGH INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO DEVELOPMENT
1996-2005

ENGAGING IN MULTI-FAITH AND MULTI-CULTURAL DIALOGUES FOR JUSTICE & HUMAN SECURITY

2006-2015

PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE & TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP IN VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS
STATISTICS

4,123
PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

12.5M
PEOPLE SERVED
CHILDREN, YOUTH, WOMEN,
FISHERFOLKS, FARMERS, PWDS,
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE, URBAN POOR,
RURAL POOR, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

2,500
COMMUNITIES SERVED

1,314
PROJECT PARTNERS
PO, ACADEME, RELIGIOUS GROUP,
NGA, GA, LGU
The Assisi Development Foundation, Inc. was founded in 1975 with only the faintest vision of the mission it will accomplish, four decades later.

It was founded with the basic motivation of performing developmental work in ways that affirm the fundamental message of Christian love and peace as expressed in the spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi. In naming the organization after the great saint and mystic, the founding and pioneering members of Assisi came to speak with one voice about their shared mission of loving and serving the poor in imitation of Christ.

From its foundation years, the men and women of Assisi embraced as their own personal vocation the need to live out the meaning of “faith that does justice.” This is the very spirit that guided them in the establishment of development programs that empowered the poor towards the restoration of their own self-dignity and economic capacity.

Then and now, the work of Assisi has really been all about announcing God’s reign over the resources of the earth, which are to be shared by all human beings who are children of the Heavenly Father – equal in worth and dignity, and called to care for each other and the world. This belief is at the very heart of Assisi and guides the organization in all its projects, initiatives, and programs.
Many women, due to unemployment or low earnings of their men-folk, increasingly assume a greater share in providing and augmenting family income by engaging in small business ventures. Often, they turn to informal credit sources with usurious terms that further undercut family income.

Assisi reaches out to these women and self-employed earners through its BIYAYA NI MARIA Social Credit Program. The challenge to Assisi is in providing financial aid with easily accessible and understandable terms to “non-bankable” low-income earners.

Conceived and tested since 1977, the Program’s innovative approach to lending uses non-conventional collaterals as the basis for loan assistance. Traditional socio-cultural values such as “pagkatao” (personal integrity, character, sense of honor) serve as substitute collaterals. Building on the value of “damayan” (sense of community), the financial aid is sourced through a community group organized for the purpose and to which loan beneficiaries are held accountable.

Integral to the Program process is participation of beneficiaries in sessions on Christian community-building, values formation, group work relationships, basic bookkeeping and related skills. Group-building and technical inputs ensure the viability of the credit club and individual livelihood projects.

Assisi’s experience with this Program indicates that given a moral, social and technical support system, the values of communal responsibility can provide an effective substitute collateral for financing schemes among the urban and rural poor.
Rural villages throb with life and industry as farming communities develop equipment suited to their needs, process their produce into consumer goods, manufacture their own implements and develop their own seeds. Ultimately, Philippine agriculture and technology, harnessing the vast reservoir of human ingenuity, industry and expertise of local farmers and scientists seek to wean the country from its debilitating dependence on imported input and put the locus of development back to the Filipino.

Village development founded on self-sufficiency constitutes the thrust of Assisi’s Rural Technology Program. The Program was conceived to determine which type of technology, machinery and tools would promote national and village self-reliance, particularly among small farmers and landless workers in rice and coconut areas. The Program also seeks to develop the capacity of these marginal farmer-beneficiaries to own and manage machine-based livelihood projects as collectives or cooperatives.
Joselito is 12 years old, and out-of-school. While his family lives in a shanty in the pits of the city, home to Joselito is a side-walk along the busy streets of an urban neighborhood. Here, together with several other boys, he spends most of his day selling for a living. A central figure in the boys’ lives is Tony, a 25-year-old “gang leader” who supplies them with the capital and the goods but demands in exchange, their beholden loyalty and a major part of their day’s earnings. Sometimes, Joselito feels he would rather go back to school. But his family counts on him to help out, and the little he makes sees him through the day. Besides, Tony will not hear of it. And Joselito likes the independence and camaraderie of his companions in the streets. So he stays on the streets, yet wistfully gazes at the imposing building of a private school in the neighborhood, so near and yet so remote from his world.

Assisi’s Program for Street Children responds to concerns such as Joselito’s in two ways: 1. indirectly, by providing social credit to low-income mothers for income-generating projects that enable their children to return or stay in school and 2. directly, the Program will enable street children to gain access to alternative non-formal education while maintaining their livelihood activities. Under the Program, Assisi seeks the cooperation of private schools for the use of school facilities, personnel and students for the conduct of non-formal education functional classes for street children in the neighborhood, after regular school hours. The program will also organize street children into groups, provide them with the capital for their livelihood activities. Street children like Joselito not only develop functional tools in literacy, numeracy and other skills including values formation; they also earn more within a shorter period as the percentage share that would go to the gang leader would accrue to the boy instead. Private schools, on the other hand, by simply maximizing the use of their existing resources help serve the poor in their vicinity.
Bahay Maria and the National Marian Year Program

The driving force behind Assisi’s various programs is to give expression to a simple, tender love for our queen, Mary, and childlike faith and love for God in the spirit of St. Francis.

Bahay Maria, a House of Marian Apostolate for social and spiritual development, is a project of Assisi in collaboration with several Marian organizations, under the leadership of Jaime Cardinal L. Sin of Manila.

Bahay Maria activities combine the three essential elements of true Marian devotion: Prayer, Service to the Poor, Study and propagation of the Good News.

Bahay Maria acts as national secretariat for the Marian Year. The Marian Year 85 celebrations seek to address a change of social values in a national renewal in prayer, fasting and almsgiving for peace, justice and reconciliation. Thirty Marian organizations are collaborating with the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines in this effort.

A Marian Chapel for continuous adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is provided in Bahay Maria. A program to launch this new apostolate in the parishes will be undertaken.

Bahay Maria publishes the AVE MARIA, a bi-monthly national Marian magazine and promotes and distributes Marian literature.
Social Credit for Urban & Rural Housewives Grants to Communities 3 Basic Conditions

1. The grant is a revolving fund to be loaned to members without requiring any material collateral
2. The individual loan (ranging from P100-P800) finances a livelihood activity
3. The group’s elected leaders administer the common fund. The loan terms and conditions are worked out by the group.

Bahay Maria and the National Marian Year Program

- A cultural and spiritual development program for Muntinglupa prisoners
- A livelihood and housing program for the blind and the physically handicapped
- Assistance in organizing program for the mentally handicapped

1 A bi-annual consultation of the Social Credit group in Bagong Silang, San Jose, Navotas with Edith Viloria of Assisi. The original six members have increased to eleven.
2 A view of the Bahay Maria.
3 Jim Carmichael of CIDA makes a field visit to the third Assisi cooperative ricemill in Bario Banca, Nagcarlan, Laguna.
4 Jaime Cardinal Sin, Chairman of the National Marian Year Committee, with Ambassador Howard Q. Dee, Vice-Chair and the Secretariat
5 September 8 celebration at the Luneta.
A locally-fabricated juice extraction is used to press out the milk from grated coconut meat. A joint venture with Filipinas Foundation.

The street children of Manila who benefitted from Assisi’s Alternative Education program.

A farmer heats the coconut milk (gata) to extract edible oil in Pila, Laguna. A joint venture with UP Social Laboratory.

The efficiency and appropriateness of a locally-fabricated ricemilling combine is fieldtested with a farmers’ cooperative in Barrio Gatiawin, Arayat, Pampanga. A joint venture with Spes Institute.

Rural Technology for Marginal Farmers
Major Experiments

- Establishment of Cooperative Rice Service Mills
- Village Production of Coconut-Based Products
- Blacksmithing
- Research and Training on Alternative Rice Technology
It was early on in its history when Assisi began applying an empowering development philosophy that would guide it through the many years ahead.

Firstly, it adapted a capacity-building approach to development. This was at that time a new and pioneering way for doing development work. It initiated various programs that developed peoples’ skills and values towards self-reliance. With this approach, Assisi was able to look more into the development of people’s capacities and communities as a more effective means of uplifting lives away from the clutches of poverty and destitution.

Secondly, Assisi created and nurtured multi-sectoral partnerships and used a collaborative approach in the planning and carrying out of its development programs. These linkages enabled Assisi to establish poverty reduction initiatives that achieved high levels of success and sustainability throughout its first decade of service.

This twin-approach would grow in the able and caring hands of the men and women of Assisi who helped shape the organization into what it is today, a community of development agents who work in genuine partnerships to bring lasting development in the lives of people.
Even before the sugar industry crisis, several groups and individuals in Negros Occidental had already begun to address the centuries-old paternalistic socio-economic system of mono-cropping that brought wealth to a few and bred poverty and dependency among sugar workers. Among the most innovative programs of land sharing and socio-cultural transformation between planters and workers was Hacienda Tagbanon, owned by Mr. Eduardo Locsin.

The 1983-84 sugar crisis signaled that the old ways could no longer endure and a radical re-orientation of perspectives and bold measures was paramount. First, the issue of land and the diversification of crop production had to be addressed. The prospect of a peaceful but radical change through voluntary land reform offered a hopeful and an immediate alternative.

To expand the Tagbanon experience of land sharing, a joint pilot project was launched by the Chito Foundation, a Negros-based agency headed by Mr. Locsin and Assisi. With the support of the Canadian Mission Administered Fund, the program called PLOW (Planters in Land Ownership with Workers) was aimed at granting formal access, control and eventual ownership of portions of sugar farms to organized groups of sugar workers. The Program also sought to: 1. generate immediate employment for sugar workers; 2. initiate the planting of subsistence crops for their consumption; and 3. generate income for shelter, health education needs of sugar workers’ families.

Under the Program, the planter and his workers would enter into a lease-purchase agreement.

In the past, herbal medicines, herbolarios and hilots were integral to community and family health care practices.

Amidst the spiraling costs of health care and medicines, accessible and affordable health care and medical remedies have become imperative for the Filipino. Alternative health care has become a crucial buzzword.

Assisi’s Herbal Program is a Community-based Health Program (CBHP). Important features are to train local health workers acquire skills in the identification and use of herbal medicines.
over a portion of the farm. At the end of the seven year lease period, the land would be owned by the workers, organized into an association.

The program initially involved 11 sugar farms but with possible area expansion. Other schemes such as long-term lease agreements and home lot grants were also explored.

Food production and crop diversification to wean the economy away from dependence on sugar were made possible through grants provided to sugar workers for the purchase of seeds, fertilizers and other inputs. Crops harvested were used for consumption or additional income. Income generated from cultivation of this communal land went to: 1. amortization land rental payments to planters; 2. wages of farm workers for labor on communal land; 3. continuing social education program; 4. revolving capital for future crops; 5. and other needs of the workers’ cooperative (shelter, health, etc.)

or acupressure techniques and help the community, analyze problems causing poor health and organize concerted actions to solve these. Aside from these, the project also hopes to foster a spirit of concern and generosity within the community.

The project is generally introduced into the community through the parish and other organized groups. Main activities consist of training of health workers, propagation of herbal plants, production of herbal medicine and values formation.

First initiated among inmates in Camp Sampaguita, Muntinlupa, the project has trained inmates-health workers who can now successfully treat ailments such as fever, headache, stomach pains, allergy, diarrhea, chestaches, and cough. In collaboration with resource groups such as medical students from two universities, National Science and Technology Authority, UPLB, AKAP Pangkalusugan, the project has developed herbal gardens and a library of herbal medicine manuals and alternative health care.
Medical Assistance to Indigent Children and the Visually Impaired

Assisi’s Medical Assistance Program grew out of the Foundation’s effort to respond to the critical medical and health needs of two sectors it considers among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in Philippine society: (1) the abandoned, or poor, sick and dying children, and (2) indigents suffering from eye diseases.

Advocating the right of these groups to life and health care, the Program is a collaboration with and among health professionals and institutions so that critical facilities, technology and medical expertise are made available to the poor.

Medical Care for Needy Children. The Program supports the efforts of the Missionaries of Charity of Mother Teresa of India to care for abandoned children in their “Alay ng Puso” Homes in two depressed communities in Manila. The program includes twice-a-week visits by volunteer doctors in both Homes. The program also finances the hospitalization, medicines and meal allowances of Alay ng Puso children and other needy children at the National Children’s Hospital.

Treatment of Eye Afflictions. The Philippines ranks third worldwide in terms of visual impairment, with at least 13 million Filipinos afflicted. An estimated 17 million Filipinos suffer from correctible forms of eye defects, and yet there is only one ophthalmologist for every 200 potential eye patients.

Under the Program, a laser equipment and related facilities for the treatment of certain eye diseases were procured by Assisi and installed at the Cardinal Santos Memorial Hospital, a project partner. An important feature of this project is that fees from the use of these equipment are used to defray costs of servicing the diagnostic and treatment expenses of indigents suffering from eye diseases. A Doctors’ Group, another project partner, also offers its services to indigent eye patients for free.

The project also serves as a research center to explore the use of laser to treat various types of glaucoma among Filipinos and the possible use of fluorescent angiography in the diagnoses of tumors and neuro vascularization.
The Program “Pagkaon” (Food) is an emergency feeding and livelihood development project for the landless sugar workers, displaced and other unemployed families in Negros Occidental who face starvation resulting from the sugar industry crisis in the province. The program provides short-term emergency food relief to some 3,000 families in 12 parishes identified to be in need of food aid. At the same, the Program incorporates a community-building mechanism and a livelihood component that would develop the collective capacity of the beneficiaries and volunteers to cope with the crisis, and free beneficiaries from dependence on food aid.

The Program is a joint effort of Assisi, Chito Foundation, the local parishes of the Diocese of Bacolod and volunteers from community-based or parish-based organizations.

Under the Program, beneficiary families are provided a subsidized rice ration daily for three months, with each family paying a nominal amount of PhP2.00 for every kilogram of rice. The Program then doubles the funds contributed by each beneficiary family. Total amounts generated are earmarked for livelihood projects to be selected and organized by beneficiaries. Priority livelihood projects involve the cultivation of subsistence or cash crops.

Major components of this relief and rehabilitation program are the integration of community-building and values formation sessions, technical assistance and livelihood skills training.

Major supporters of the Pagkaon Program are Mrs. Cory Aquino, Business Day Care, and The Canadian Mission Administered Fund.
The eruption of Mt. Pinatubo on June 15, 1991 was the second largest volcanic eruption in the 20th century. The effects of the event were felt worldwide, but in the Philippines, Pinatubo’s eruption brought untold suffering to thousands. Among those severely affected by the eruption were the Aetas of Pampanga and Tarlac. Not only were they displaced from their homes, which were all overtaken by lahar, but also uprooted from their own ancestral lands.

Shortly after the catastrophe, the National Peace Conference (NPC) launched a solidarity call for the victims of Mt. Pinatubo. As one of the 17 sectoral members of the conference, Assisi responded to the call by offering to take the lead on the entire project of resettling and rehabilitating the Aetas from the devastated areas. This was to be the first involvement of Assisi with the Indigenous Peoples of the Philippines (the IPs), and it was to set the standard for development work that emphasized the total rebuilding of people’s lives from the harms done by natural or man-made calamities.

Assisi partnered with the Archdiocese of San Fernando, Pampanga as well as with the sisters of the Religious of the Virgin Mary (RVM), several church-based groups, various government agencies, and other non-government organizations to begin and complete the project. Together, they provided some 1,200 Aeta families with two resettlement sites that offered
PATHFINDING THROUGH INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO DEVELOPMENT

basic housing, sanitation facilities, a water system, a drainage and sewage system, medical facilities, livelihood projects, and government-sponsored facilities such as a schoolhouse, a multipurpose center, a tribal market, and a recreation center. Services for cultural and social formation were also established in order to help the Aetas overcome the losses they have experienced from the tragedy, and direct them towards further development as a community.

The Pinatubo Resettlement and Rehabilitation Program was a milestone for Assisi as it emphasized the important role of multi-sectoral partnerships in the successful delivery of developmental services to poor and marginalized communities. Its involvement in the program made Assisi recognize the plight of the Filipino IPs and how they constituted the poorest of the poor in Philippine society. And with this recognition came the new mission of responding to the needs of peoples who have been forgotten and laid aside by decades of social injustice.
Engaging in Multi-Faith & Multi-Cultural Dialogues for Justice & Human Security

1996-2005

The continuation of Assisi’s work in the 80s and 90s coincided with a movement that was taking place in many parts of the world: a greater openness towards other faiths and cultures, for the sake of achieving ends that were more universally humanitarian.

These were years that characterized Assisi as a private development organization that truly worked for the promotion of peace among all peoples, whatever their faith or ethnicity may be. In the many projects and initiatives it created in this era, Assisi showed itself to be a true agent of development as it emphasized genuine partnerships with the very communities and families it sought to serve.

In these decades, Assisi came to understand that the work it had been called to do goes beyond any religious or political convictions. For as the fires of Martial Law spread to consume so many good and worthwhile things in Philippine society, Assisi found itself embracing all the more its identity as a servant of God’s Kingdom. It came to understand its work in development as nothing else than the work of Love.

More so than before, it was in these times when Assisi found itself contributing even more to the vision of nationhood for Filipinos. Its programs became expressions of its lasting commitment to the establishment of “peace through development with justice” across the entire Philippines. In the words of its founder and chairman, Howard Q. Dee, Assisi holds “a commitment that goes beyond boundaries and barriers, transcending time, culture and politics, but always keeping the faith.” It is a commitment that aims not so much for success in development work, but for the privilege of being “a witness to the quest, which continues from one generation to the next, until God’s Kingdom is established on earth.”

Beyond the crossroads of the 1980’s and 1990s, Assisi’s programs were to become the very instruments that enabled the organization to contribute significantly to the massive effort of healing an entire nation and building it up towards a better future. 😊
Tabang Mindanaw I was formed on 24 April 1998 to respond to the food crisis in Mindanao caused by the El Niño that affected more than 900,000 families, including the indigenous peoples (IPs) of Mindanao, also referred to as the Lumads. It started as a multi-sectoral initiative of church, business, private foundations, media and the academe in partnership with various government agencies. Task Force Tabang Mindanaw (Help Mindanao) raised over 93 million pesos through the joint efforts of the Philippine Daily Inquirer – Bank of the Philippine Islands; Ayala Foundation; NASSA/ECHO-Caritas Internationalis, and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). This facilitated rice rations to help more than 255,000 families or 1.5 million persons, mostly Lumads, survive the heavy drought months. Grains of rice were transformed into grains of life and hope. It also provided medical assistance to more than 60,000 families or 300,000 individuals.

The crisis that moved Tabang Mindanaw to organize brought to fore two realities: First, hunger is a constant threat to the Lumads. Second, for their long-term survival, the Lumad families can no longer depend on the fast diminishing resources for their sustenance.

On 7 September 1998, Tabang Mindanaw in partnership with IP desks and/or Social Action Centers of the Catholic Dioceses in Mindanao launched a long-term food security program through the practice of sustainable agriculture (SA), complemented by basic services delivery (i.e., functional literacy, community-based health program and water systems development). Since then, the TM Framework has evolved towards a more integrated sustainable development program of the indigenous peoples upholding their cultural integrity and human security.

**TABANG MINDANAW I PROGRAMS**

- Sustainable Agriculture Learning Farms
- Water Systems Development Project
- IP Education
- Health Programs
The escalation of the armed conflict between the government military forces and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in April 2000 had been alarming. People were ravaged by violent conflict that claimed the lives of thousands of civilians and left thousands more displaced from their homes. The war’s devilish effects were manifested in the inhuman conditions of severely congested evacuation centers.

The task of rehabilitating the war-torn communities in Mindanao is more than just a project. It is a mission that promotes healing, reconciliation and unity among people and the government. It is a journey of displaced people who struggle together in rebuilding their lives and their community from the ashes of war. It is a commitment of people who continually search for genuine and lasting peace in Mindanao.

It is this same spirit that gave the internally displaced people (IDPs) the inspiration in converting the impassable grounds of battle into “Sanctuaries of Peace”.

The mission of the IRRP is to take an active role in peace building and rehabilitation through a comprehensive and human development program.
1996-2005

- Peace Building & Advocacy
- Advancing Women & Health Causes
- Capacity Building
- Rebuilding Homes
- Constructing Water Systems
- Reconstructing Infrastructures
- Establishing Viable Community Livelihood Projects
- Targeting Food Security Through Sustainable Agriculture
The plight of thousands of Filipino deportees from Malaysia is an event that has been happening over many years. It was critically highlighted in 2002 when the Malaysian government imposed stricter measures of arresting the penalizing Filipinos with no official documents.

Many of these Filipinos went to Malaysia in search for job opportunities. The fact is also that Malaysia remains to be historical trading partner for many of these communities that are much closer in proximity to Sabah. Others left to avoid armed conflict and pursue better economic conditions. Majority are fishermen and construction workers.
Thousands of Filipino workers from Mindanao – mostly fishermen and construction workers – in search of job opportunities in Malaysia who went in through the southern backdoor were expelled and deported back to Mindanao – straining the resources of the Philippine government. This required a concerted response from civil society. Thus, in September 2002, Tabang Mindanaw III was launched to initially assist Filipino deportees from Malaysia, and to help address the grave absence of human security in the three poorest provinces of the Philippines: Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

Tabang Mindanaw III sought to enhance conditions in the region by providing options for Filipinos to stay in their homeland through the creation of permanent workplaces. With the formation of Pagtabangan BaSulTa, created in July 2004 in partnership with the AIM-Mirant Center for Bridging Social Divides and Synergos Institute and the help of nine (9) organizations, the group undertook a collective response to the situation of poverty, conflict and marginalization in the region, building on existing programs and initiatives undertaken in the provinces. Pagtabangan BaSulTa also developed a common human security framework and the bridging leadership engagement process.
The Pope John Paul II — Program for Children’s Concerns (PJPII-PCC) seeks to help children in especially difficult circumstances by providing them with the means and opportunities to achieve full human growth and development.

PJPII-PCC is named after His Holiness Pope John Paul II as a tribute to his unrelenting concern for suffering children all over the world.

PJPII-PCC’s Education Program supported a total of 50 thriving community schools in Luzon and Mindanao using the culture-based approach to learning. The program served 941 children beneficiaries distributed in 29 community schools in Mindanao. A year after, the figure had grown to some 2,060 IP youth and children beneficiaries distributed in 64 community schools in Luzon and Mindanao.
Most of the community schools are for preschool children, even as similar schools are also made available to the primary, elementary, and high school levels. Some community schools have a provision for adult literacy sessions. The adult literacy program with PJPII-PCC-Mindanao project partners benefitted 55 adults and then increased to 453 adults.

PJPII-PCC’s Education Program strategically envisions the sustainability of the IP community schools it has set up in various communities in Luzon and Mindanao. To achieve this, it partnered with DepED with the end goal of turning over the community schools to the government agency’s jurisdiction.

The 4 C’s Mapping (Community Vision, Community Realities and Challenges, Culture and Traditions, and Competencies) process was undertaken in 19 IP communities toward developing an indigenized curriculum. Twenty-two (22) schools in Luzon and 28 schools in Mindanao have been using an indigenized curriculum.

Complementing the indigenized curriculum is the development of learning materials by the IPs themselves that include, among others, the Aetas of Tarlac, Mangyans of Mindoro, and Kabihug of Camarines Norte. Learning materials consisting of story books from different tribal communities were developed to fit the indigenized curriculum designed for IP children.
The Pamulaan Center for Indigenous Peoples Education is an educational institution dedicated to Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in the Philippines. Its main thrust is to create culturally appropriate and relevant pathways of training and formation for indigenous children, youth, community leaders, and development workers. The Center aims to produce graduates equipped with knowledge and abilities to initiate collaborative actions toward the sustainable development of IP communities in the country.

Pamulaan is a Lumad-Matigsalog term meaning “seedbed”. The term was chosen as the name of the IP school to stress the education program’s commitment to root the development of the IP students in the realities of their life and culture.
Established in 2004, the Pamulaan Center offers a variety of school- and community-based academic and non-academic programs addressing critical needs of various indigenous communities. This ladderized approach to education offers full-time degree courses as well as short-term training courses on Education, Agricultural Technology, Anthropology, Peace Education, and Social Entrepreneurship.

The Living Heirtage of Philippine Indigenous Peoples is the heart and soul of the Pamulaan Center for Indigenous Peoples Education. Living Heritage is a home of living traditions of indigenous peoples. It is a distinctive and honorable place where past and present experiences, as well as IP dreams and aspirations, are celebrated and shared. Through this place, they hope to reach out to the world as one people — the Filipino Indigenous People.
Isaiah 61, originally a Medical Assistance Program was created by ADF as a response to the critical medical and health needs of: 1. abandoned, sick and dying children; and 2. indigents suffering from eye diseases. The program was designed in collaboration with health professionals and institutions so that facilities, technology and medical expertise would be made available to the poor. This program is a joint effort of the Missionaries of Charity “Alay ng Puso” Homes for abandoned children from depressed communities in Manila who benefit from twice-a-week visits of volunteer doctors and hospitalization at the National Children’s Hospital.

In partnership with a Doctor’s Group and the Cardinal Santos Hospital Eye Clinic, Assisi procured laser equipment and related facilities. Revenue from the use of these equipment defrayed diagnostic and treatment costs of indigents suffering from eye diseases.

From 1990 up to the present, the program has and continues to respond to requests made by Assisi Program Partners to help children beneficiaries who require major surgeries or who are afflicted with cancer. Its working partners include the Philippine Band of Mercy, Makati Medical Center, the St. Martin Charity Hospital and the Philippine Children’s Medical Center. A highlight of its services was in 1999 when a medical mission team responded to the East Timor crises. In 2000, the Medical Assistance Program was renamed ISAIAH 61.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord and a day of vindication by our God, to comfort all who mourn. So will the Lord God make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.” Isaiah 61 😊
The Marian Program is the spiritual arm of the Assisi Development Foundation, Inc. In partnership with Bahay Maria, a House of Marian Apostolate for social and spiritual development, and the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) activities are organized for the Philippine Catholic Church for its national celebrations such as the National Marian Year (1985), National Eucharistic Year (1987); International Theological/Pastoral Conference of the Alliance of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary (1987), the Pilgrimage of Trust for Young People (1990), the 10th World Youth Day (1995) and the Preparatory Years for the Jubilee of the Year 2000 (1997 to 2000).

The Marian Program activities combine the three essential elements of true Marian devotion: prayer, service to the poor, study and propagation of the Good News.
The 2000s saw Assisi widening the impact of its partnership approach in development work through the establishment of direct linkages with local government units and civil society groups.

These partnerships were occasioned by the need for immediate and long-term solutions for critical situations that threatened the security and survival of millions of poor Filipinos across the archipelago. These crises include the displacement of peoples due to the decades-old war between the Philippine Government and Islamic separatists groups in Mindanao, extreme droughts and famine-like conditions in several parts of the country, and natural disasters caused by super typhoons and earthquakes that devastated entire regions, towns, and villages.

In each of the programs that responded to these crises, Assisi found itself taking on the role of coalition leader that worked tirelessly to unify and magnify the contributions of many groups, sectors, and institutions belonging to both the private and public sectors. It deployed its resources of personnel, funds, and knowledge to empower not just project beneficiaries but also, and more primarily in the case of rehabilitation work, the different agencies that have joined in the effort of attaining human security for thousands of disaster-stricken people.

Such growth in responsibility and scope of involvement made Assisi a true leader among the many development organizations in the Philippines. The valuable experiences gained from these collaborations now serve to inspire Assisi in promoting the need for genuine multi-sectoral partnerships for attaining the goal of building up an entire nation towards prosperity and peace.
The lives we have communities
touched; we have changed.
GOAL

Increasing access to formal education to children and youth of indigenous, rural and urban poor families and communities through partnerships with religious congregations, educational institutions, NGOs and dioceses.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2006-2015

7,899 SCHOLARS-GRANTEES

111 SCHOOLS & PARTNERS

2,614 TEACHERS/IP EDUCATION COUNCIL/IKSP HOLDERS

trained

87 IKSP CENTERS/CORNERS

set-up
My Story of Hope
BY MICHELLE LUMSIT

I spent my early schooling at St. Martin School, a school operated by missionary sisters. However, in Grade II, I transferred to Baguio Central School because we could no longer afford the tuition fee of my previous school. That same year, I was chosen by Sister Rose Peter of St. Martin as one of the scholars of the HOPE REACH-IP Project of the Assisi Development Foundation. The yearly financial support that I received was used to cover all my related needs. The HOPE REACH support continued through college. Now, I am a graduating student of the University of Baguio with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management. Inspired by your generous and continuing support, I am a candidate for either cum laude or magna cum laude. I also passed the scholarship exam that would allow me to pursue my OJT for one year at the United Nations in New York City.

I am truly blessed to be a scholar of HOPE International Development Agency (HIDA) and Assisi Development Foundation, Inc. (ADF) for 14 years. The HOPE REACH-IP project did not only help me financially, it also helped me grow as a person. The experience has taught me the value and importance of education, and how I can be of greater help to others especially my fellow IPs.

If Difficulty Doesn’t Challenge You, It Won’t Change You
BY CAROLYN NAOMI M. PAPAS

I am a Grade 3 teacher at the Paopao Elementary School in Brgy. Sinawal, General Santos City, South Cotabato. Most of my pupils are B’laan and Manobo. My story draws inspiration from the everyday difficulties my pupils face just to go to school for I too, share their story.

Empathy is borne out when I share my lunch to ease the hunger of a crying pupil. I have asked friends to sponsor a feeding program to motivate attendance and curtail absenteeism. As a teacher of the public school system it is not about a bigger salary, but in knowing the community of my learners. As long as I am with them, I will not give up. I will continue to encourage them in their discovery of life, understanding their story as it unfolds, and my own with it.
It Takes A Whole Village to Raise A Child

BY JOYCE ANN M. DANGPAS

I have been an Assisi scholar since 2009. As the Nigerian proverb attests, my village, not just my whole clan is my backbone.

My parents are farmers and I am the eldest of three children. Life is hard but we continue to persevere. Fortunately, I have my scholarship and I look forward to graduation to enable me to give back to my community. At the university I serve as secretary of the Future Mathematics Mentors’ Society. I am also dormitory president. I take my responsibilities seriously. I have a year more of study to earn a degree in Secondary Education (Mathematics). This means that I will have less material concerns, and should be ready for the experience of volunteerism soon. 😊
GOAL  Improving health, wellness and food security in marginalized communities in the country.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS  2006-2015

INDIVIDUALS  22,110
served through the farmers provided with farm equipment, tools and inputs, poultry and livestock

FARMERS  3,685
trained & replicating Sustainable Agriculture Technology

COMMUNITIES  202
Assisted
I am very thankful that Assisi provided us the opportunity to attend Sustainable Agriculture trainings. These made us realize the importance of making our farming system more appropriate to our community realities. We learned farming techniques which are inexpensive and are utilizing organic sources of materials available in our own farm.

We were able to acquire seeds, farm tools and goats that enabled us to establish more productive backyard gardens and farms. As a result, we were able to produce more vegetables, which have become sources of safe and nutritious food for our families as well as additional income.

We are like seeds planted on fertile land. These seeds now bear fruits because we learned a way of farming which is safe, healthy, environmentally-friendly and culture sensitive.

I hope that the Sustainable Agriculture Program of Assisi will continue for many more years. There are still many farmers and IP communities that need help. May God continue to bless Assisi. 😇
Before, it was difficult for us to make vegetable gardens because our farm tools were crude and limited. Farm labor was our only source of income. Life was very difficult then.

With the help of Assisi, I no longer buy vegetables in the market. I can save money and feed my family nutritious and chemical-free foods. I also sell our surplus vegetables and use our earnings to buy other household needs. We are also able to share our vegetables with other farmers in the community.

I now know how to care for my vegetable garden because of the trainings I attended. Our farm expenses have gone down because we now use alternative fertilizers. We have also planted cacao, which will hopefully provide us additional income.

I am very happy to be part of the program and I hope it will continue to serve fellow IPs in other communities. Thank you and God bless.
GOAL
Promoting sustainable management of natural and physical resources focusing on conservation, protection, rehabilitation and maintenance of ecological stability.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2006-2015

- INDIVIDUALS 98,083 have access to quality and potable water
- LOCAL WATER TENDERS 315 trained
- COMMUNITIES 262 served
- WATER SYSTEMS 137 installed
How Water Provides Hope
BY ANITA G. MABACYAW
Mother, Sinuda, Kitaotao, Bukidnon

Before, life was difficult for us because our water source was very far. Our children were getting sick because our water was not clean. They could not go to school early because it took time to get water.

Now that we have a new water system nearby, things have improved. For us mothers, household chores like cooking, doing laundry and washing dishes are no longer burdensome. Our children can now go to school early and are no longer prone to sickness. Aside from this, it is now easy for us to get water for community celebrations, especially when visitors are expected.

Thank you very much to Assisi, Pamulaan and IPMNCHN for supporting the construction of our water system. 😊
How Water Transforms Lives

BY TIMUAY FELICIANO PALAO
Community Leader, Gawasan, Bentangan, Carmen, North Cotabato

As a Sitio Leader, I was worried about the serious water problem in Sitio Kiliy-ay. Our water source was far, scarce and unsafe. Our situation was very difficult.

We are happy that ADF selected our village to be one of the beneficiaries for its water system project. Now our homes are cleaner, and our residents bathe daily. Our children do not want to go to school without bathing. Parents have more time for farm work because they do not need to fetch water from distant sources.

We were also given training on sustainable agriculture and provided with seeds, farm tools and cacao seedlings. In addition, we were provided toilet bowls to construct our water-sealed toilets.

The residents of our village are grateful for the big transformation that happened in our sitio. Thank you, ADF. 😊
GOAL Empowering indigenous peoples (IP) communities in claiming, asserting, and exercising their rights to self-determination, ancestral domain and natural resources, basic services and peaceful co-existence.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2006-2015

4,509 LEADERS trained and functioning

105 PEOPLE ORGANIZATIONS organized and functioning

126 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS implemented
Our partnership with ADF transformed me as a leader. At the start, I was more concerned with infrastructure, farm to market roads, buildings and others. After undergoing a series of seminars, immersions and situation analysis workshops initiated by ADF, I realized that the health needs of my constituents must be given importance.

ADF taught us a model of looking into the poverty rate of our municipality and what causes this problem. Through this exercise, I understood that the poverty in my town is related more to the health and food production needs of my people. Thus, I focused on health and agriculture. With ADF’s assistance, we were able to capacitate our health workers by improving their health care services. We were also able to improve food production by providing small irrigation facilities, hand tractors, seeds and sprayers to our farmers.

ADF also provided us opportunities to see the best practices in Mindanao, particularly the IP Education in Pamulaan Center for IP Education, Alternative Medicine in AKAP Clinic, and Organic Farming in Dumingag. The learning experiences were instrumental in making our interventions on health and agriculture more sustainable and grassroots-oriented.

Mayor Maggay is a Kakana-ey. He completed his third term as Mayor of Cervantes, Ilocos Sur in June 30, 2016. In 2015, he and his LGU team received a citation from the Department of Health for upgrading the municipality’s local health delivery systems.
Six years ago, as newly elected mayor of Kauswagan I was unsure about rebuilding our war-torn and poverty-stricken municipality since I was new in politics. With the help of Assisi, I was able to draw up a road map for peace and development for Kauswagan with the help of my LGU team and our constituents. We called this road map Sustainable Integrated Kauswagan Area Development for Peace Agenda (SIKAD-PA). We realized that peace can only be attained not just by the absence of war, but also and most importantly, by eradicating hunger and poverty.

I learned the importance of empowering and capacitating our people in the communities. With Assisi’s support, we were able to put up the Doña Laureana Rosales School for Practical Agriculture where we held many trainings for farmers, fisher folks, former combatants, youth and other community leaders.

Real transformation requires not only the development of our communities, but also the establishment of a transparent, accountable, and responsive governance with ethical leadership. I did my best to get rid of corruption in our local government and closely monitored the use of resources in all our projects.

As a result, I am proud to say that Kauswagan’s poverty rate has gone down from 79 percent to 47 percent, our farm production has increased many times over, and the cooperation of our Muslim and Christian settlers has become formidable.

I thank Assisi for accompanying and bringing us closer to our dream for Kauswagan. 😊
GOAL
Contributing to the reduction of malnutrition prevalence in the country.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2006-2015

1.6M CHILDREN/PARENTS (Pregnant/Lactating)

99 SELF-HELP COMMUNITIES 1,423 members

3,000 LEADERS trained

151 PARTNERS
60 Dioceses
60 NGOs
31 GAs
Prior to 2010, word about the Hapag-Asa Feeding Program reached the diocese of Iligan, north of the country.

In 2011, we decided to get involved in the program. The initial phase was not easy. The program is after all a partnership; it is not simply a dole-out. As a partner, the diocese contributes financially, no matter how humble, through the Pondong Pinoy and in turn receives help though the feeding program for children aged six to twelve. The children are given nutritious food for six months to help them become healthy in body and spirit.

The program began on August 29, 2011 in San Antonio Parish, and since then, more than 900 children from the parishes of St. William the Hermit, St. Elizabeth, Our Lady of Visitation, Our Lady of Peace and St. Joseph the Spouse have benefitted. The program also encourages community-building and skills training for adults, especially parents who now provide services such as cooking, organizing and supervising the progress of the program. The parent volunteers from the six parishes also work in close coordination with the local government, which provides assistance in transporting and storing the children’s provisions. The Church and government people work together to ensure that the children receive the proper nutrition necessary for a bright future. 😊
“Believe not only hunger, but also anxiety and family strife that can arise when there is not enough food to feed a family.” – Jo Poshard

When the Hapag-Asa Integrated Nutrition Program was implemented in Talisayan Elementary School through the Center for Community Extension Services (CCES) of the Ateneo de Zamboanga University (ADZU) last September 26, 2011, Mark Catana, aged 12 was identified as one of the recipients because he was severely undernourished. He weighed only 22 kilograms, stood at only 130 centimeters and was also very shy. After six months of continuous feeding, his weight increased to 26 kilograms and he improved physically, emotionally, and socially. Mark did not only gain weight but he also gained friends, many of whom were also recipients of the feeding program.

The program helped not only Mark, but the entire Catana family. Evergilio, the head of the family became very involved with the program and learned to manage the nutritional needs of his family through the health sessions.

I am indeed pleased that Mark’s nutritional status has improved, and that through the Hapag-Asa Feeding Program, the body mass index (BMI) of other severely undernourished pupils of Talisayan Elementary School has tremendously improved. The school is so blessed to have such a program. I am thankful because gradually, the number of undernourished kids in the school has decreased. 😊
GOAL
Contributing to the socio-economic empowerment, development and sustainability of indigenous households/communities by establishing and supporting community-initiated enterprises.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2006-2015

25 COMMUNITY-BASED SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

110 IP LED FELLOWS trained

117 YOUTH VOLUNTEERS trained & deployed for community service

25 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS
I learned coffee growing when I was 12 in a coffee farm we did not own. Throughout my farming experience, we went through several challenges in coffee production and marketing. Our traditional coffee growing practices did not work well for our enterprise. Due to my lack of formal education, I felt I was unable to transact business properly and believed that I was sometimes cheated in the market place.

Then Assisi Foundation’s IP LED program through Tugdaan Mangyan Center for Learning and Development and Samahan ng mga nagkakaisang Mangyan Alangan came along. I was one of the 2nd batch of coffee growers trained under the program. The program helped us improve our coffee growing, harvesting, and post-harvesting technologies through trainings.

Our improved coffee farming practices and capacity building skills enhanced the quality of our coffee beans and enabled us to engage in more productive business. Our unity as Mangyan farmers also improved. Together, we are now able to raise and stabilize the price of our coffee berries and beans, as well as help each other maintain our respective farms.
I am already 37 years old, and it is only now that I feel empowered to stand up for my rights and for my people.

Before, people did not recognize or appreciate us in the land of our Ati ancestors. From a pristine island, Boracay has drastically changed through the years. As more tourists come and go, our world has literally become smaller. Every single space on the island was claimed by the affluent and the powerful. Our tribe was seen as an “eyesore” in what has become one of the world’s most beautiful islands.

We met the Assisi Foundation when we really needed help. Along with other partner organizations, they assisted us in crucial activities like cultural mapping and drawing up an Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP). They also supported the implementation of some infrastructure projects indicated in the ADSDPP. Through this partnership, my son was also able to go to college at the Pamulaan Center for Indigenous Peoples Education. In 2012, I enrolled in ADF’s IP LED academy, a capacity building program for IP leaders.

I am grateful for the support of Assisi. The leadership training they conducted is a constant reminder for indigenous peoples to speak up and be heard. I was once very shy to speak because I was always afraid to be mistaken. But through the program, I realized I have the capacity to become a leader. Now, I am in charge of our community’s Land Advocacy campaign activities.

Thank you to Assisi Foundation. May God bless all the people behind it. 😊
I was a nanny and a housekeeper when Sr. Herminia Sutarez, one of the Daughters of Charity nuns who had been helping our community since 2000 invited me to become one of the program management team leaders of our community.

When I was designated manager of our bath soap enterprise, I felt insecure because of my inadequate education and indigenous identity. I was extremely shy and struggled in my new position.

But after going through the IP LED program, I learned to converse and get along with other members of our community, visitors and travelers. The success of our enterprise helped me gain confidence in myself and in my Ati identity.

I shared with my family, especially my children, the things I have learned and realized from the IP LED program. I constantly urge and remind them to pursue higher education in order to reap its benefits in the future. 😊
I am thankful to Assisi, specifically the IP LED program for creating a big change in my life. Upon graduation from Tugdaan Mangyan Center for Learning and Development I was sent by Assisi to Ifugao State College, Ifugao. After completing their two-year Computer Secretarial course, I returned to serve my community.

I became the food processing coordinator of Tugdaan. Our products were calamansi concentrate, hibiscus concentrate, pure honey, guava jelly and pineapple jam. During the first few years of operation, we faced many challenges. The annual reports indicated significant monetary loss. I almost gave up but the Board of Trustees encouraged me to stay.

In 2012, I represented our enterprise in Assisi’s two-year program on entrepreneurial leadership and development. Though hesitant at first, I eventually gained confidence.

It has been two years since I finished the program and I was able to apply what I have learned to improve the operation of our community enterprise. I am committed to the scaling-up of the food processing center. My training has helped not only the sustainability of Tugdaan, but also the promotion of fair trade among our fellow Mangyans. We buy raw materials from them and ensure that these are bought at a fair price.

Moreover, I continue to share my knowledge on social enterprise with the students of Tugdaan so that someday, they could share it with others, too. 😊
I believe I was able to contribute something in the realization of ADF-CAP Volunteer Program’s vision, mission, and goals, in such a way that I have profoundly understood and appreciated God’s goodness through the spirit of volunteerism and the true meaning of service. I became more flexible, patient, and confident. Most importantly, I realized that my happiness and mission in life is to passionately serve other people.

**RAFAEL ROMANDA**  
CAP Volunteer Batch 8

During my volunteer year, I was able to meet people in the peripheries. Living with them allowed me to find inner happiness in helping others.

**KRIS ALGER SAAVEDRA**  
CAP Volunteer Batch 8

I believe I was able to touch the lives of other people during my 1 year volunteer journey. I have learned the value of selflessness through teaching, facilitating, organizing, guiding, linking and collaborating with the Matigsalog children, pupils, families and community members. I consider being a volunteer as best experience in my life.

**FAISAL MAÑALAS**  
CAP Volunteer batch 8
Essentially, I was able to help by doing what is good for the organization, community and people. I was able to work beyond my expectations and I am so blessed that I have learned a lot from those priceless experiences.

**KATHYL JANE ALISOSO**  
CAP Volunteer Batch 9

I learned to be more spiritual, positive, open-minded, committed, and loving because of this program.

**ANILYN MAULINGAN**  
CAP Volunteer Batch 9

Throughout the volunteer year, I became more efficient in responding to my responsibilities. The experience with Mangyan community enhanced my ability as a development worker.

**MARK MOLERO**  
CAP Volunteer Batch 9
I come from a poor, dysfunctional family. It is really hard for me to achieve my dreams because I have four younger brothers and sisters. It was difficult for me to go to school. I had to work odd jobs just to survive.

I am very thankful to be a beneficiary of the IGA program. It is really a big help to poor teenagers like me who wish to fulfill our dreams amidst financial difficulties. You give us hope. I know there are other teenagers who have aspirations and want to achieve something in life.

A lot has changed since I joined this program; it practically changed everything about me. From someone scorned and dejected, I have become someone admired and respected.

Formerly under the category of Commercially and Sexually Exploited Children
Partner Agency: BidiSiwi, Inc. (a Cebu-based NGO assisting street children, especially those who are sexually-exploited and disadvantaged under the Project: "Taking A Big Leap Against Poverty Through Education in Cebu Province.")

Dax Gimenes is now in college and fulfilling his dreams.
GOAL
Providing support to various charitable institutions, missionary groups, civil society organizations and peoples’ organization on programs related to ADF’s mission & thrusts.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2006-2015

INDIVIDUALS
12,349 assisted

ORGANIZATIONS
182 supported

PROJECTS
170 funded
Six years ago, ADF launched a new initiative designed to support vulnerable street children known as the Commercially and Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) prevalent in Cebu. Partnership was forged with various Cebu-based NGOs such as the Fellowship for Organizing Endeavors Inc. (FORGE, Inc.) which provides food, sanitation, shelter and educational assistance to “taxi” girls or female minors who engage in prostitution through taxi cabs within the city. Bidlisiw, Inc., has also reached out to sex workers by providing free health consultations and psychological assistance, including practical skills to help bring them back to their community. Subsequently, a consortium of seven different organizations: Balay Samaritano sa Sugbo, Cebu City Nutrition Council, Dilaab Foundation, FORGE Rescue, Providing Better Life for Abandoned Children
Groups Offer Alternative to Improve Lives of Abandoned Minors

Bahay Maria, Inc. and Pangarap Foundation, Inc. are both based in Manila and have offered an alternative to street life for young girls and boys. A residential service facility which has since been supported by the ADF provides resources to sustain the children’s education, spiritual and values formation as well as their medical, food and hygiene needs. In the last decade, these institutions have upheld the rights of abandoned and vulnerable children to a better education and improved their lives by giving back their dignity and right to a peaceful and caring environment.

Friends of the Poor and the Marginalized, Missionary Servants of the Holy Spirit, and SOS Children’s Village was formed, establishing the Cebu Network for Street Children (CNSC). Spearheaded by the Sisters of the Holy Spirit, CNSC provided peer education and assisted thousands of street children within Mandaue, Cebu City and Lahug City. These organizations independently sustained the program which provided for the college education of a number of street children, reintegrated others back to the community and improved their lives despite the many temptations of sliding back to the flesh trade for easy money. The program, among other things, is a reminder that without genuine love, no amount of money will make an individual’s life better—that time coupled with hope is the best resource available to all. With proper support and care, every child will have a fighting chance to steer her life in the right direction.
More than 100 peoples’ organizations, charitable, educational, and other development-oriented institutions have received assistance through grants. Projects were approved based on various criteria, including feasibility, sustainability, and scalability of their projects. One project which revived the Social, Political, Economic and Spiritual (SPES) Formation for Student Leaders and Mentors toward Nation Building (in memory of Fr. Francisco Z. Araneta, S.J.) has strengthened and mobilized a network of reform-oriented youth and student organizations to sustain political education of student-reformers and mentors within the country. The project focused on love and social justice as the core of Catholic social thought. Moreover, the project emphasized the dignity of the human person and the spirit of constantly seeking the will of God in all we do to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Fr. Pedro Arrupe, S.J.’s pivotal speech, “Men for Others,” which he delivered in 1973.
PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP IN VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS

Teacher Enhancement Program • Replication of Basic Health Service Practices
Establishment of Pharmacy • Indigenous Children’s Intervention for Poverty Reduction

OTHER NOTABLE PROJECTS

KARITON KLASRUM KLINIK AND KANTIN (K4)

HOME FOR DISPLACED YOUTH

SPES FORMATION

ADULT CAPABILITY BUILDING PROGRAM
I was elected barangay councilor and the most that I can do is plan for the community in the next few years. This town has a lot of possible economic and social mobility opportunities. I see that there is a need for people to move from one town to another by using simple dug-out, wooden boats since this is a coastal barangay. My plan is very simple yet feasible as I have received interventions from Assisi and feel empowered even though I am old. I know that I will be helping others, too. The simple exchange of resources and ideas can go a long way especially for us living in a rural, fourth class municipality like Barugo. 😊
GOAL

Collaborative partnerships with various stakeholders in responding to issues and concerns that pertains to sustainable development and poverty reduction.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2006-2015

5 networks organized/supported

11 major thematic projects consolidated/documented

216 partner organizations
Numerous fishing boats have been distributed to fishermen in some coastal communities in Iloilo. The boats were donated by Sun Life Foundation and various donors and partners through the Tabang Visayas Secretariat.
ASK FORCE TABANG VISAYAS (TV) is a humanitarian coalition made up of 22 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the League of Municipalities in the Philippines (LMP), the Union of Local Authorities in the Philippines (ULAP) and international aid agencies. The coalition represents an unprecedented convergence of local government leaders and private organizations in responding to the devastation that Typhoon Yolanda brought about in many towns and cities of the Visayas in November 2013.

Driven by its mandate of supporting the relief and rehabilitation of typhoon-affected communities, Tabang Visayas has created effective partnerships and systematic interventions in order to provide a comprehensive set of services to the millions of Filipinos whose lives have been forever changed by Yolanda’s fury. It sought to deliver complementary projects that emphasized both the early recovery and the rehabilitation of affected communities, while avoiding any duplication of services among the participating CSOs and local government units (LGUs). It also concentrated its efforts behind the goal of enhancing the local people’s capacities for managing the effects of climate change on the many islands of the Visayan region.

Tabang Visayas is now able to look back at a year of fruitful solidarity among its members—a unique partnership that replaced devastation with hope.

The Power of Solidarity

The Power of Solidarity

By the Numbers

**Php805M**
**total amount contributed by Tabang Visayas members in partnership with various organizations.**

**Php230M**
**total amount of cash and in-kind donations raised by the Tabang Visayas Secretariat.**

**2.262M**
**total number of individuals/families who have benefitted from the relief, rehabilitation and recovery initiatives of the Tabang Visayas coalition.**

**34,642**
**total number of houses repaired/constructed.**

**294**
**total number of classrooms constructed/reconstructed.**
A Radical Response

A n exemplar of the solidarity that worked in response to the Yolanda crisis is Tabang Visayas.

Initiated within a day after the super typhoon made landfall, Tabang Visayas was established as a coalition that will complement the efforts of government in providing relief and rehabilitation to Yolanda victims in the Visayas. The coalition is an independent task force made up of people and organizations who are all familiar with scenes of poverty and devastation. Many of them, after all, were brought together for the first time in 1998 in response to the massive drought in Mindanao that resulted from an El Niño. Witnessing Yolanda’s aftermath for themselves, they understood that the support needed had to go beyond dole out and the effective distribution of relief goods. They knew at the onset that the radical effects of the storm needed an equally radical human response.

It was for creating such a response that the members of the coalition quickly organized themselves into an effective center of support and compassion that would bring hope to millions of suffering Filipinos.

A Framework for Rebirth

Tabang Visayas is unique in its perspective and approach concerning the kind of help that was needed. The size and depth of the devastation made it clear to coalition members that a comprehensive and systematic program of interventions is what’s required if affected families and communities were to be empowered to care for their own security and future development.

It did not take long for members of Tabang Visayas to create a relief and rehabilitation framework that would guide their individual and collective initiatives.

First to be accomplished was the “Early Recovery” phase, which focused on securing the safety and physical well-being of the displaced and harmed people. Under this key initiative are the distribution of food and non-food items to thousands of families and individuals, the distribution of school supplies to children and personal essentials to women, and the immediate installation of emergency medical centers, water filtration units, feeding and nutrition centers, as well as mobile maternal-child care services.
Tabang Visayas was established as a coalition that will complement the efforts of government in providing relief and rehabilitation to Yolanda victims in the Visayas. The unity of its members was the key that enabled the coalition to attain the goal of rehabilitation and increasing people’s capacities for mitigating the effects of climate change on their vulnerable communities.

Rebuilding to rebirth

Typhoon Yolanda struck the Philippines with record-breaking devastation. It killed some seven thousand people, destroyed thousands of homes, and displaced some four million families. Its destructive force was to affect dozens of municipalities, hundreds of public facilities, infrastructure, and means of livelihood. A month after it hit the Visayan region, a total of 1,779 people were still considered missing.

The numbers, however, did not deter the members of Tabang Visayas from banding together in response to the call of rebuilding communities, homes, and lives. The numbers representing their joint response speak of the kind of outcomes that may be expected from a genuine partnership between civil society and government. The coalition’s many achievements to date are a fitting reminder that simple acts of generosity and well-organized convergent partnerships hold much power in gaining back what a natural calamity has forcibly taken away.

From the onset of their collaboration, members of the Tabang Visayas coalition were already in agreement: the crisis Yolanda brought about can be turned into an opportunity. Here was a chance to start from scratch, to renew entire cities and towns with the guidance of past lessons learned and driven only by the genuine concern for fellow Filipinos.
GOAL
Developing user-friendly knowledge management system on best practices and community of practice related to community development initiatives.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2006-2015

- **BOOKS and ARTICLES** published: 40
- **ANNUAL/SEMESTRAL REPORTS** documented/consolidated: 24
- **WEBSITE and SOCIAL MEDIA SITES** developed/maintained: 16
In response to the theme of Family Rosary Crusade Reaching Out to the World, “A Million Roses for the World, Filipinos at Prayer, Peace for All Nations” was launched 8th October 2011 at the University of Sto. Tomas — to enlist one million Filipinos to pray the five decades of the Holy Rosary everyday from October 10, 2011 to May 30, 2012, each day from Monday to Saturday dedicated to one nation in the world while the Sunday Rosary is reserved for our own families and nation, the Philippines. The goal is to bring all peoples in all the nations of the world to Jesus and His Father and the Holy Spirit... through Mary our Blessed Mother... to bring His Peace, Love and Joy and tranquility to every people and every nation, no matter how great or how small, as a gift of love, faith and goodwill from the people of the Philippines.
GOAL

Strengthening the faith through devotion to Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary following the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
2006-2015

PARTNERS

81 Religious Groups (Dioceses)
27 Mandated Lay Organizations
18 Academe - Religious Congregations
Our family’s first encounter with the work of the Assisi Development Foundation, Inc. was through Amb. Howard Dee in 2005. He was a guest speaker at St. Pedro Poveda College’s sacrament of Confirmation preparation for high school students and their godparents. He shared with us the books of Anne, a lay apostle. I was one of the godparents in attendance and I was so interested in the volumes of Anne that I ordered a lot of copies to be given to family and friends. I guess the Ambassador was so intrigued by the number of copies I ordered that he called me to a meeting at their Assisi office the following week. Since then, my husband, Alexander and I have been very active in the LARK community. Our group meets every first Saturday of the month. The books of Anne have truly transformed our family, especially our roles as spouses and parents. We have been blessed to meet Amb. Dee and learn about the books of Anne. We are very glad to be part of the Rescue Mission of our Lord. We are so grateful that the Assisi Development Foundation Inc. took on the role as Manila secretariat for the lay apostolate, as well as the bigger mission of propagating, through Anne, the Lord’s message to needy souls in this part of the world. Amb. Dee and the Assisi Foundation have been a helpful partner in our journey towards holiness.
Praying the rosary is a habit that I grew up. But living it and promoting in the most ordinary way is something of a miracle – as it also became part of my life’s advocacy as part of the Marian Program of Assisi Development Foundation. The most beautiful thing is also the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary. 1989 marked a simple faith-like experience of being part of the Secretariat for the National Eucharistic Year and the International Alliance of the Two Hearts. I didn’t know much of Secretariat work, but like a sponge I soak on learning from the women superiors of Religious Congregations. Assisi then became my “hands on” education mentor learning how to work with and for others. My work mantra then became if this God’s work that He will make it happen. The preparatory years leading to the 1995 World Youth Day became fertile grounds to practice daily Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, praying 3 Hail Marys, Daily Rosary and Holy Mass and working closely with the late H.E. Jaime Cardinal Sin and many young people in the Catholic Church. “Nothing was impossible if it is God’s work.” A brief personal encounter with Pope John Paul II, now Saint John Paul the Great in 1995 left me in awe... no words but a hand clasp, a look and a smile. Then he became a Saint. Amidst all the work that needs to be done, quiet visits to Lourdes and Fatima lead deeper understanding on the role of Mother Mary for our world and the urgency of her message to pray the Rosary daily. But the sweetest is the daily Mass and communion with Jesus. It provides the necessary courage to face daily life. This is my life journey. A journey with and in the Heart of Jesus and Mary. 🙏
& Beyond...
Hope for the Future

It was in the early years of the new millennium when Assisi began to implement various development programs that all responded to the call of the times as it emerged in the Philippine situation of grave and enduring poverty for millions of Filipinos. In response to systemic poverty that especially burdened the already poor and vulnerable, Assisi’s programs began to treat development as the work of rehabilitating, renewing, and recreating entire communities so that their peoples can become capable of determining their own survival, security, and development.

It was in these times when Assisi became all the more immersed in the very lives of the poor and marginalized, especially those whose voices have been silenced by cultural and political indifference. All the more, Assisi entered into partnerships with minority sectors long forgotten in Philippine society – the indigenous peoples, women, children, the elderly, and the youth. It focused itself more intensely in the work of empowerment and transformation so that the disadvantaged in society can attain their full human development even in the midst of armed conflicts and natural disasters. As in past decades, the organization’s efforts in these succeeded and flourished, to the great benefit of the communities and families it served.

In recent years, however, Assisi has come to see the need to reconfigure its foundational mission of development into the uncompromising goal of all-out poverty reduction. This is not so much a change of direction, as it is a change of emphasis. It comes directly from Assisi’s insight into the true causes of poverty and inequality in Philippine society, social ills such as corruption, greed, and indifference. With the intensification of its energies towards poverty eradication, Assisi commits itself in total solidarity with the many men, women, and social institutions in the country who all envision a more equitable distribution of economic resources among all Filipinos.

Assisi recognizes how long and challenging such a journey entails, considering that the ultimate goal of the movement is the liberation of millions of Filipinos from destitution within the next 15 years. Yet, the organization stands as hopeful as it was in its foundation years back in the 1970s, for it continues to believe that the very work it has been established to pursue and fulfill is none other than the very work of God in His great love for the poor.
Our Roadmap

Our Mission

We seek to empower and transform the marginalized in society towards attaining their full human development, through direct and participative interventions; in partnership with institutions and communities, as co-stewards of human and environment resources.

Our culturally-sensitive and peace-promoting services are rooted in faith, love and justice.

Our Vision

A multi-cultural Filipino society reclaiming its basic rights to peace and sustainable development in the spirit of faith and love; equity and justice.

Building Sustainable and Collaborative Partnership
Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Collaborative Partnership and Convergence Building

Our Roadmap for Six Years

We seek to empower and transform the marginalized in society towards attaining their full human development, through direct and participative interventions; in partnership with institutions and communities, as co-stewards of human and environment resources.

Our culturally-sensitive and peace-promoting services are rooted in faith, love and justice.
Our 10 Goals

**E**ducation
- 7,860 Scholars-Grantees graduated
- 75 Schools & Partners supported
- 720 Teachers/IP Education Council/IKSP Holders trained
- 27 IKSP Centers/Corners established

**A**griculture
- 3,000 Farmers trained & replicating Sustainable Agriculture Technology
- 6 Demo farms established

**R**esource Management
- 25,000 Individuals have access to quality and potable water
- 250 Local water tenders trained
- 120 Water Systems installed

**T**ransformative Governance
- 250 Leaders trained and functioning
- 12 People Organizations organized and functioning
- 12 Sustainable Development projects implemented
- 12 Certificate of Ancestral Domain Titles & Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development & Protection Plans

**H**ealth
- 1.5M Children/Parents (Pregnant/Lactating)
- 1,200 Self-Help Communities
- 600 Leaders trained
- 95 Partners 50 Dioceses; 25 NGOs; 20 GAs
for the next six years...

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<th>LIVELIHOOD &amp; LEADERSHIP</th>
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The Zero Extreme Poverty 2030 movement is a product of the Poverty Summit in 2015 with the theme “Building Pathways in Reducing Poverty and Inequality”. The Poverty Summit formulated its vision for the Philippines by 2030: “A Philippines where every Filipino enjoys the necessary goods that define and sustain human dignity, life, security, and engaged citizenship”.

In pursuit of this Vision, the participants agreed to formulate a 15-year Agenda to eradicate poverty and inequality in the country. The 15-year plan shall be broken down into three-year doable action plans.

Along this line, eight themes were identified: (a) Health; (b) Education; (c) Environment; (d) Livelihood and Employment; (e) Agriculture and Fisheries; (f) Housing and Shelter; (g) Peace and Human Security; (h) Social Justice. These thematic areas shall serve as the groupings for focused, multi-sector, collective action to tackle specific dimensions of poverty and inequality.
The enormity of the goal that the summit has set requires the concerted effort of many. It makes equally great demands on individuals and organizations who will commit themselves in long-term partnerships and collective impact for the attainment of poverty reduction in the Philippines.

But the work of pathways building for poverty reduction does not stand on mere aspirations. For behind this renewed effort are decades-long, multi-sectoral initiatives and landmark achievement that have cumulatively increased the possibility of realizing such a lofty goal.

It is upon this foundation that the conference builds its envisioned pathways. It is these experiences of success that define the conference with so much optimism, courage, and hope - that poverty in the Philippines can be dealt with once and for all; that no Filipino will be left behind in the development and onward growth of the nation.
TOGETHER WE COMMIT TO ZERO EXTREME POVERTY PH 2030

CONVENORS
The Eight Thematic Focus

A Civil Society-led Movement to End Poverty & Inequality by 2030

Who are involved?
Our Strategic Framework

TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP
BUILDING SUSTAINABLE & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

PEACE & JUSTICE

SPIRIT OF LOVING SERVICE

HOLISTIC & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
FOR MARGINALIZED & DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

EMPOWERMENT

DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

PEACE AND SECURITY

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIP & SOCIETAL SUPPORT SYSTEM

LGUs | NGOs | NGAs | Private Organizations | Faith-based Organizations | Individuals | Communities

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP CONVERGENCE BUILDING
Our Development Philosophy

**ADF affirms** the spirit of peace and Christian love as expressed in the life of St. Francis of Assisi—the Lordship of the Almighty Father over life and all the resources of this world by upholding the dignity and solidarity of all men and women as children and co-creators of God.

**ADF’s role** in society as a forerunner in announcing God’s kingdom on Earth made humans as the greatest of God’s creatures, endowed with the creativity and responsibility in transforming our world into God’s Kingdom coming to His people.

**ADF’s goal** is to return to society its lost ideal to “love your neighbor as yourself,” and through the love of God, all of His creations and thus every person are all brothers and sisters.

**ADF’s responsibility** is to espouse and practice a common philosophy of being a society of men, women and children responsible to God, to each other; by encouraging responsibility toward each other especially the poor and the disadvantaged in the society.

**ADF primarily seeks** solidarity with the poor, the dispossessed, and the outcasts by recognizing in them God’s presence in the world—by building with, and among them, human communities of hope, creativity and joy that ultimately become the cornerstones of a society aspiring for lasting peace, justice and love.

**ADF believes** that the fullness of life is due to every man, woman and child, particularly among the poor and the disadvantaged—by addressing their concern for basic economic security, opportunity for work, health of mind and body, spiritual and moral growth, access to education and cultural development, community solidarity, and care of the environment. Human development is the underlying work philosophy of ADF.

**ADF’s development initiative** is based on the realization that God prefers those who are poor and dispossessed—these qualities enables them to fully receive God’s peace, love and joy—and that we can be one with them.

We can achieve their full human development by using the resources and by putting Christ and St. Francis in mind—through respecting, giving value, recognizing their dignity and thereby returning to them their inherent rights as children of God and co-heirs of this world.

The poor and the disadvantaged have their own capacity and creative energies in improving their lives and contribution to the society. Their energies however, are hampered by lack of opportunities and ignorance of alternatives to re-create and provide personal options for their social mobility. Mindful of the complexity of their problems, ADF nevertheless seeks to respond by initiating and providing opportunities that will enhance capacities for the poor to help themselves and foster a sense of moral and social conscience within the society.

As a development agency, **ADF hopes** to reach the poorest of the poor by responding to their most urgent needs and concerns by providing short-term assistance and long term-solutions through meaningful and sustainable educational, livelihood, and human security interventions.

**ADF’s approach** in providing programs for social justice ensures short-term assistance by addressing equality in the distribution of resources and upholding reforms in the existing social structures.

**ADF believes** in the stewardship of God’s resources by bringing service to the poor as a duty and a privilege to sustainably provide for their needs and aspirations.

In solidarity with the poor and in partnership with institutions seeking to “make all things new,” **ADF recognizes** the spirit of goodwill innate within the human heart, with the resolve that all things are possible.

**ADF look** at all the challenges as a common cause and beyond self interest, provides a path ideal in building a responsible Christian society in working towards social development; bonded by a common goal, upholding brotherhood and genuine solidarity with the people.
The cross that cuts the frame into four sections represents Faith, which is the true center and foundation upon which stand all that Assisi does and aspires to accomplish.

The brown color motif surrounding the foundation’s name depicts St. Francis of Assisi, as the inspiration that led to the establishment of ADF and the guiding spirit at work in the heart of every member of Assisi as an organization.

The colors of the Philippine flag — blue, red, yellow, and white — symbolize ADF’s commitment to the development of the Filipino people, most especially the empowerment of the marginalized, the voiceless, and the neglected.

The warm colors of red and yellow speak of the loving service that directs all ADF projects and partnerships, while the color blue symbolizes Assisi’s vision of a lasting peace and well-being in the Philippines and around the globe.

The dove with a leaf stalk on its beak is symbolic of Justice, Peace, and Development, which are the very principles that guide all Assisi projects, partnerships, and initiatives.

The images of a book and a tongue of flame held aloft over it speak of how ADF’s work is directed towards education and capacity building on all levels of its various developmental projects and in every partnership that the foundation engages in.

Representing ADF’s commitment to the development of Filipino indigenous peoples and the environment is the image of an offering, depicted by two open hands and the lifting up of a leaf and a water drop, which themselves stand for the importance of partnerships in the work of the foundation.

The symbol of three human figures traversing the surface of a curve represents Assisi’s focus on empowering people, especially Filipino families and communities, towards responsible adaptation in the face of a constantly changing environment. The picture also signifies ADF’s dedication for the welfare, specifically the health and nutrition of poor and underprivileged children across the Philippines.
This publication is dedicated to the many people who in one way or another have all been part of Assisi these past 40 years. Truly, it is their selfless generosity and faith in God’s work for the poor that have strengthened and inspired us to journey onwards.