

DEPED DAVAO DISPATCH

LIFE IS EDUCATION. EDUCATION IS LIFE.

The Department of Education Region XI



Leading with compassion

They have many things in common. One was a seminarian; the other was a nun. They both lead with compassion, and they were both teachers before they held the top positions in the Department of Education (DepEd).

They see to it that they start the day with prayers. One goes to the Our Lady of the Assumption Parish every day before going inside his office; the other spends her morning saying the rosary. They prepare themselves heartily and spiritually before they meet people during the day.

In their 50s, their wisdom grew mainly out of their experiences and reflections in life. Their words are wisdom to the teachers, personnel, learners, parents and community members. They are still teachers until now leading their flock to pro-

duce and never go astray.

Yes, their personalities are so interesting. One is seen as jolly and funny but gets serious -- really serious -- when needed; the other looks firm and strict but gets very friendly and sweet when the time calls it.

Who are they? They are God's anawims, angels in disguise, leaders whom DepEd can depend on.

Those who have worked with them could testify who they really are -- how their influence gets to the lives of people.

Let's start with DepEd Regional Director (RD) Allan Gabriel Farnazo. Like Angel Gabriel, one of the archangels known as the heavenly messenger, he sends good vibes to DepEd Davao Region. He did not rock the boat, but he made sure his pur-

pose is felt. His aim to make Davao Region better than it was looks achievable every day.

He has been with DepEd for around two decades and he started in this region when Soccsksargen (South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, and General Santos) was part of Davao Region. This is why he knew many people here and Davao became instantly his home.

He had served as regional director in other regions since 2012. He left a significant mark in all the regions he handled as he shared his expertise in educational administration, supervision and management, curriculum materials development, research and development, guidance and counseling, and special education among others.

(...to be continued on the back cover)

Desire it, will it, make it happen

Her influence as a teacher extends beyond the classroom from a typical four walls into the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region. She displays pioneering leadership leaned into a challenge of progressing through the new and uncharted learning environment of Region XI.

Cherry Lyn Balbacal, a Grade 6 teacher, made her mark when she became one of the teachers who mooted the quality of teaching to Korea for the Korea-Philippines Teachers Exchange Programme in 2019. She is also an advocate of Global Citizenship Education.

Teacher Cherry embraces three of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 which are focused on Quality Education, Good health and Wellness, and Partnerships for the Goals.

“Kindness is free,” she states with compassion. For this reason, she continues to flourish her dreams and aspirations as a teacher to share some inspiring innovations with the flagship title “Project Wellness”.

Teacher Cherry institutionalized various activities related to wellness with the integration of Philippine cultures and traditions to holistically develop the learners. She was able to accomplish the following undertakings which are a package of the overall blossoming of her learners: Let’s Get Physical, Let’s Talk about Emotions, Let’s Go Green, Let’s all learn How to Fish, Let’s

Create Job Link, Let’s Connect, Let’s Give Intellectually, and Let Spirit Lead.

She launched the Project LIDERES of Global Citizenship Education that served as her Re-Entry Application Project. She has sustained strong partnership with Debiassi Custom Design Foundation from Michigan, USA.

Being a Supreme Pupil Government (SPG) adviser for seven consecutive years, she is persistent in her aspirations to engage the young leaders in charity works and to ignite the spirit of generosity and volunteerism in them. Thus, they initiated the Pamaskong Handog and became a regular outreach program from 2017 up to present.

They shared school supplies, books, slippers, backpacks, and food packs to the selected pupils from Rizal Elementary School, Katualan Elementary School and Barayong Central Elementary School in Magsaysay, Davao del Sur in the succeeding years.

She also conducted feeding activity as part of the Community Health and Wellness Program with its tagline #WeCare at Tubod, Carmen, Davao del Norte. No amount of fear must stop her to carry on with her goal to serve that even amid the threats of CoViD-19, they distributed for free face masks to teachers, SPG officers, and other non-teaching personnel.

As she has already established a reputation for her tireless advocacy on health, wellness, and charity, compounded with her exemplary leadership, she was awarded as the 2020-2021 Division Most Outstanding SPG Adviser, along with her is Precious Cherubim B. Paño who was also awarded as the Division Most Outstanding SPG President.

Teacher Cherry Lyn is one of the regional nominees of 2021 Gawad Siklab Most Outstanding SPG Adviser; 2021 Gawad Siklab Best Implementing School Maka-tao.

As a woman of empowerment, she maps out again the 2021 Online Korea-Philippines Teacher Exchange Programme as Lead Coordinator. Teacher Cherry is at her best when everything she has passionately believed will happen with the utmost support of the school led by Ramelyn F. Antalan, the school principal, whose exceptional servant leadership is known. For this years’ World Teachers Day celebration, the school commends Cherry Lyn Vidad Balbacal as one of the dedicated teachers who gets connected to her heart in her desire to inspire others.





DIRECTOR'S DESK

education can take place anytime and anywhere and with anyone. Education can occur in any setting. And any experience that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels, or acts may be considered educational.

This is where we are heading to in this opening of classes. We do not have face-to-face interaction yet inside the classroom, but our learning continues.

The pandemic that resulted to sudden shift to different learning modalities was also a test for all of us. But we have overcome all those for one whole school year. Education continued. Learning continued. And the more we are educated, the more we are prepared to face life's challenges.

For our teachers, I believe that you are ready again to face new challenges, if there are any, in this school year. This is the time to learn, unlearn, and relearn.

You are learning to adapt to the circumstances and you are learning to let go of those that aren't so essential now. Let us strip the old ways so we acquire a new layer of fresh learning.

It is true that teachers become better when they voluntarily and constantly take steps to develop their knowledge and skills.

For our teachers, may you not be discouraged of what seems like a continuous battle against the effects of the pandemic. This is just temporary although this could be the start of something new.

Trust the magic of beginnings. When you begin to feel comfortable with everything around you then you are allowing yourself to grow.

A famous speaker once said, you can only grow if you're willing to feel

awkward and uncomfortable when you try something new.

In this third quarter, we also celebrate the National Teachers' Month, and we celebrate it for many reasons. We show our love and gratitude to our dearest teachers as they continue to take all challenges to deliver education. We express our respect for all their creativity and innovations. We convey a significant message by making this month-long celebration part of our lives.

A teacher, in this time, is doing laudable deeds from preparing the modules to visiting the learners to ensure they have learned. This is a herculean task for anyone facing the fear to get infected by the Covid-19 virus. Yet, we see teachers traversing rivers and mountains to reach the community of their learners.

Some of these stories were featured in the weekly online broadcast of *Diri sa DepEd Onse*. We have witnessed how they strive to reach their learners. We have seen how they double their efforts to ensure the learners learn.

All these are heroic acts of teachers. Even those in the cities have their share of stories too. They attend to all calls from parents and learners anytime of the day from early morning to midnight. Some of their weekends are spent preparing the next sets of modules to be given for the week.

Along with the teachers, our school heads, supervisors, superintendents, and all teaching-related and non-teaching personnel are all doing their responsibilities. The work of one is the product of all.

I salute all of you. You are truly a public servant.

The school year 2021-2022 has started and it has always been a challenging journey for all of us in the Department of Education. In the third quarter of this year, both the closing and opening of school year took place.

I know we were all exhausted and some of us have not recovered yet from all the fatigue. But it is inspiring to see teachers and personnel smiling as they continue their work. We did not allow our fears to cripple us and our country.

DepEd has always stood the test of time. When the K to 12 was initially planned up to its implementation, people had mixed reactions. Some thought that the idea of adding two years in the curriculum is a waste of time and money.

But the Department, after its full implementation, proved that learners have discovered their potentials and developed their skills in their senior high school years.

Now, the so-called 'waste of time and money' is no longer an issue. The benefits naturally unfolded, and people have accepted the system.

Yes, education is part of our system. It plays a great role in the development of our culture. And above all, education is more than school.

A school is a specific place, but

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Meet Sir Ash, the Youtube EduCreator

Who would have thought that a simple Mathematics teacher at a school in Davao City would influence massively on social media particularly on YouTube because he was recently selected as a Youtube Educreator?

Let's get to know how he earned all the honors.

Hazsher B. Munjilul or better known on his YouTube channel as Math Teacher Ash is currently a Mathematics teacher at Sta. Ana National High School. During his college years, Sir Ash worked as a service crew at Jollibee Incorporated to support his studies.

He went to school every day and work after school to earn extra income for himself and to help his family as well. But despite the difficulties in combining studies and work, Sir Ash graduated with Latin Honors as Cum Laude at the University of Southeastern Philippines for his Bachelor in Secondary Education major in Mathematics degree. In the same school, he also completed his master's degree in Educational Management in 2014. He made it to the top through his hard work, courage, and perseverance.

During a decade of his public-school teaching, he was assigned some other tasks than teaching. In fact, he was one of the Prefect of Discipline for three years and a Curriculum Head in the Grade 9 Level from 2016-2021.

Through these years, he made an extraordinary achievement by being one of the National Trainees and became a Regional Trainer in Mathematics Regional Mass Training for Teachers in Mathematics for two consecutive years. Currently, he holds the position as LIS Coordinator and TRBI Chairman in Sta. Ana National High School.

Although many teachers are like Math Teacher Ash who promotes other school activities besides teaching, he has one trait that goes beyond the majority. It was this quality that made him an extra-ordinary teacher.

How did he achieve an honor that most people dream of especially in the

field of vlogging on YouTube?

It was his simple dream to have a YouTube Channel that he would use to help students who have difficulty especially in Mathematics. It will only serve to stabilize the channel with a platform that can continue education even despite the pandemic.

Math Teacher ASH established his **PROJECT PLAY-ML** also known as *Practical Learning Access in YouTube for Mathematics Lessons*. This project was established at the height of the pandemic to help the students and to give them a little time to answer the modules even without the teacher in front of them.

This is only the main purpose of establishing channel. But recently, he has been honored as one of the very first teacher vloggers across Philippines to be given the Youtube Educreator award. His efforts have been replaced with joy because it is one of the most prestigious honors awarded to all teacher vloggers around the world including the Philippines. Currently, his channel has more than 21, 000 active subscribers.

He is one of the selected YouTube Educreators in the entire Philippines and foremost in the whole of Mindanao. His knowledge widened in the field of content creation and in promoting education on social media platforms.

From all the learnings he learned during the seminars given by Youtube with distinguished guest speakers like Team Lyqa and Mathbender and other speakers from other countries like Argentina, he will surely apply these acquired knowledge to make and share more learning videos on social media.

This is a proof that being a teacher does not only revolve around teaching inside a classroom, but modern technologies and the internet is used expanding the dissemination of knowledge everywhere in the Philippines and even around the world.



Corazon Relente Nerves is a Junior High School Science teacher at Gabi National High School where she spent the last 15 years of her 22-year teaching career sharing her expertise, enthusiasm, and love for learning.

Prior to teaching in a public high school, Ma'am Cora, as she is called, had spent five years teaching at Assumption Academy of Compostela. It was from that work experience that she found her calling.

"People are learning from me. People are improving themselves. And from there, I saw joy in teaching that I said to myself I would do anything, what it takes to become a teacher," she said.

As a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, Ma'am Cora decided to teach in a state college for two years. She took her education units at Ateneo de Davao University and finished her master's degree in Teaching Science at the University of Mindanao-Tagum College.

Ma'am Cora, as the school's Head of Academics, manages and oversees all aspects of operations required for the delivery of the school's academic programs and curricula, fulfills her duties and responsibilities to the school, consults with her colleagues, and, most importantly, her learners.

She has been identified as a part of the solution rather than a problem, which reflects her magnanimity in this world of negativity.

This vivacious and energetic school performer drove different activities and programs of the school during face-to-face learning, proving the adage, "If you want your work done, give it to a busy woman."

One of these activities was the Girl Scout Encampment, which took place both within and outside the school. It provided students with activities, friendships, experiences, personal growth, and enjoyment. This also provided every girl with the opportunity to be a member of a powerful sisterhood that binds them together, allowing them to focus on the worth of life rather than on issues. The campers learned to face their worries and never be scared to attempt new things. Thanks to Ma'am Cora's spiritual retreat

activities which inspired the campers.

Ma'am Cora was also the adviser of the YES-O (Youth for Environment in Schools' Organization), a school-based co-curricular organization in which students were encouraged to play a role in environmental protection and Mother Earth's preservation. She participated in this camp all the way up to the national level, and she taught the learners what she had learned. Ma'am Cora, as a Science teacher, instilled in them the importance of protecting, conserving, and safeguarding the environment for future generations, therefore, promoting and encouraging a pollution-free and greener environment.

Ma'am Cora, a dedicated and pious educator, tirelessly led the Monthly Mass, where instructors and students may nourish their spiritual life by singing spiritual music, hearing God's holy words, and partaking in the sacrament of communion. By attending this monthly mass, students' lost hope and optimism were restored, and their faith in the Almighty grew, allowing them to comprehend the purpose and significance of their lives.

She is a born reader who enjoys reading in her spare time at school or at home. The Compostela Research Center, where she is the Chairperson, has provided her with tons of information and expertise on any subject under the sun, allowing her to express her views and remarkable vocabularies in a way that even English majors find difficult to comprehend. This enables her to face and befriend any type of person and participate in community services, where she devotes her time to the Children's Ministry.

Tita Cora, as her friends and the community call her, is a woman who lives next door. Her eloquence, combined with her competence and diligence, gives her a pleasant personality that shows brightly in any setting. Her brilliance, combined with her natural grace and charisma, has propelled her to become a strong leader at school, assisting the school principal in a variety of programs and activities to achieve the necessary results.

Kudos to this 64-year-old woman who has hurdled and surfed through the Department of Education's tide and ebb triumphantly.

Her person, aura, charisma

By **Mary Joy T. Trovillas**
Photos by **Ralf A. Tabanyag**



She's soaring ALIVE

By Paulo Morales and Miguel H. Panugan, Jr.



Davao Region's topnotch elementary teacher is showing everyone that beyond public service is just simply the willingness to serve others.

Arabic Language and Islamic Values Education (ALIVE) teacher Hadjuria C. Gonzales hikes together with colleagues on a hot May afternoon inside the flourishing and sprawling far highlands of Barangay Tagabakid in Mati City. Even under the pandemic crisis, she joins a group of few volunteers who are willing to help out-of-school youths and adults overcome their reading problems.

"I initiated the cause because I also wanted to reach out and help a number of illiterate adults in our community," Gonzales discloses of her Reading Home Visitation for adults who struggled in reading.

And despite the overwhelming challenges, Gonzales achieved in almost a year what no one of her predecessors has done before: reached out to the community's long-ignored marginal people and helped them read words they never dreamed they could read before.

Accompanied by her husband Alimoddin, Ustads and ALIVE teacher, the 39-year-old ALIVE teacher of Tagabakid Elementary School considers the community reading program as part of her job.

Not bad for someone who was hailed as the 2020 AGILA (Achievement of Great Instructional Leadership Award) awardee for Most Outstanding Inclusive Education ALIVE Teacher by DepEd Region XI.

Not only that, Gonzales is also this year's finalist and remaining nominee for Mindanao in the Civil Service Commission's Honor Awards Program under the Pagasa Award, which recognizes an individual or

group of individuals for outstanding contributions that directly benefit more than one department of the government.

"I never expected to win any award at all. I just wanted to work for my learners, the youths in our place and the people in my community to show my devotion to Him," the master teacher of Tagabakid ES confesses.

But as they say, you really do not need to search for public servants to recognize and reward them for their outstanding contributions, they will eventually find you.

And Gonzales did more than just find awards organizations, her actions and impact in her school and community pushed her in the limelight.

The 2020 National Festival of Talents winning coach collaborated with City Indigenous Peoples Council to pioneer the creation of Kagan Tribal Council in Barangay Tagabakid which greatly empowered the entire community as the tribe now has an overseer to offer development opportunities.

"She was there to help preserve our culture and heritage for future Kagan generations. She partnered with us and helped us strengthen the foundation of the tribal council," Ahmad Jovany Mustapha, the Kagan Tribal Council and Ancestral Domain Management Officer (ADMO), says.

Driven by her dedication to also empower the young people of the community, she sourced-out funds to conduct spiritual, livelihood, and recreational trainings especially for the out-of-school youths to cultivate the limitless potential of youths and their roles in the community.

As a Muslim, she served as facilitator, lecturer, and outreach volunteer of Jamaa Alhuda Mosque wherein she provided sessions on family, gender and development, and women's empowerment through religious education to identified clustered families to help them grow together spiritually and tightened their bonds as the sessions aimed to instill family resilience and faith and devotion to God.

"Above everything else, our devotion and sacrifices belong to Allah who is the center of our Muslim faith," Gonzales acknowledges.

As President of Tagabakid Teachers Association, Gonzales led the organization to raise 17,000 in cash donations from teachers and other stakeholders in the community which

led to the provision of food packs and face masks to the beneficiaries during the early months of the COVID-19 quarantine period following health guidelines.

"I admired her dedication and hard work to engage activities in the barangay and help our constituents in Barangay Tagabakid. She is a reliable partner in community development projects," Punong Barangay Elizabeth M. Munda divulges.

As part of her profession, she developed community-based learning materials in ALIVE from 2017 to 2020 which had been acknowledged regionally being a consistent regional awardee of AGILA for three consecutive years.

Even more, she competently represented the region's best after being awarded as the Coach of the 1st Place Winner in Islamic Values Education Quiz Bee in the 2020 National Festival of Talents in Iligan City, Isabela.

"She demonstrated her character and capability to develop our pupils and represent, not only our school, but even Davao Region in the national contests," Marissa C. Toloy, principal of Tagabakid ES, said.

But above all the awards and recognitions, Gonzales stood tallest with her personal qualities and character where she serves as a model of morality and integrity as attested by her superiors, her colleagues, and even from the community where she belongs.

"I could be that soaring eagle, but I am only soaring because I have them as my wings," she articulates in conclusion.



Extending love towards community

By Mark Fil L. Tagsip

Teachers are no ordinary people; they are heroes, not only to the eyes of their schoolchildren but also to the community that they are serving.

Rooting from his love for education, Dennis Dismas Awing, or Sir Dennis as he is fondly called in school and the community, is a public school teacher and the school head of L. Tamay Elementary School (ES). He greatly changed the people's perspectives towards education through his initiated projects and advocacies since his first day of service to the school.

More than being a teacher, Sir Dennis has championed in shaping the school community towards development and progress and in alleviating the situation of his learners, who are mostly suffering from vehement poverty, through partnership with the government agencies and private charity foundations.

Lately, one of his benevolent acts of service was notably recognized in Diri sa DepEd Onse episode of Davao Oriental when he, with his supportive donors, had built a brand-new house for a learner, and the trending online 'community pantry of

school supplies.'

He shared his advocacies which started when he was assigned at L. Tamay ES in June 2014.

"My advocacies are anchored to DepEd's Adopt-A-Child Program and Regular Home Visitation for Children At Risk of Dropping out from the class – the Edukasyon ngadto sa Balay-Tugkaran. We want to provide children under these programs with school supplies needed, improve learners' attendance; and improve their performance in class," he said.

When asked what motivated him to initiate those activities, Sir Dennis shared that he was a solo teacher in that school and he was teaching Kindergarten, Grade I, Grade II and Grade III. Every time he had meetings, conferences, seminars and other activities, the classes would be stopped since he was the only multigrade teacher at that time.

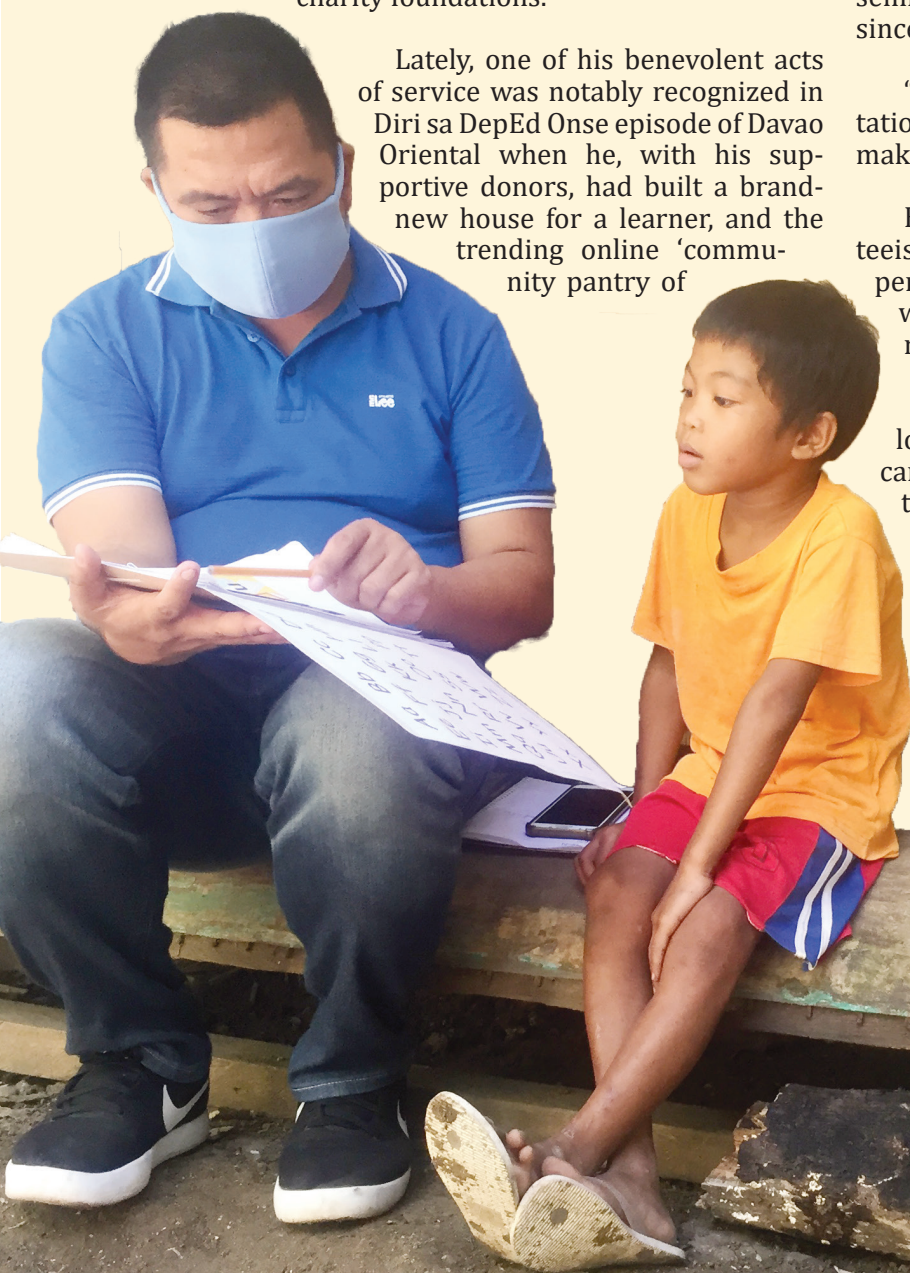
"So, that's the time that my advocacies on home visitation every Saturday and Sunday started. It serves as my make-up classes to children," he recalled.

Because of all his efforts, Sir Dennis saw that absenteeism was no longer a problem in school; the learners' performance improved; and they built good relationship with parents. From 17 enrollees in 2014, the enrollment now ballooned to 220.

Sir Dennis is a living proof that with dedication and love for work, and commitment to public service, one can achieve something out from nothing which will eventually become everything.

In fact, L. Tamay ES has been consistently awarded annually as one of the Best Brigada Implementers and top one in partnership.

Sir Dennis believes that in the nearing years, students from L. Tamay ES will become professionals and will be serving the same conviction as he had to their community.



Limitless drop of compassion

By Jucell J. Lauron



Nobody can carry the weight of any extraordinary challenge if it is not handled with pure and sincere love beyond the call of one's duty. It is of certain how selfless an act of teaching can be as embodied by Melchisedec J. Sulmeron and Donna G. Sulmeron, the teacher-couple assigned at Tagbay Elementary School-Pigasaan Campus of the Schools Division of Island Garden City of Samal.

Teacher Eding and Teacher Donna journey through the toughest walk of their lives as teachers in a remote multi-grade primary school in Sitio Pigasaan, Barangay Tagbay, Samal District. It has never been a simple thing to traverse hills and ravines just to reach their workstation.

Doing this all the time really takes strength but the more they travel along the tall trees, grassy areas, and steep roads, their hearts and souls become even centered to their purpose—make a difference to the community where they consider as their home.

“For eight years of teaching together at Pigasaan, we have found not only a job but a home. We become closer to the people in the community, and we share experiences with them. We are also a witness on how they fight for their living. And we realized that education could help them through teaching their children,” Teacher Eding said.

Both are rooted according to what they always believe in. They keep the fire burning and allow their learners to see the essence of their flame. With the intention to contribute impact, they continue to bridge knowledge to the students and fuel them with so much hope and inspiration.

“You can see in the eyes of the learners that they are happy to see us every time we arrive at school. Their smiles tell us their eagerness to learn despite the learning situation we have been facing brought by the pandemic,” Teacher Donna added.

As they continue to give quality education to this far-flung area, Teacher Eding and Teacher Donna strongly advocate the importance of literacy among their learners. They opt to stay for two to three days more at a bunkhouse within the school premise because they hold reading intervention to address the gaps in reading hence, they are teaching Kinder to Grade 3.

Moreover, they also source out different resources from the local and provincial offices which assist the needs of the respective families.

“We cannot simply leave Sitio Pigasaan. We are deeply connected to the people. If there is a chance that we will be transferred, then we will choose and insist to stay here. We need to be here because we want to build more dreams of Pigasaan's innocent children. This is how we truly love this place,” Teacher Eding affirmed.

Serving the community of Sitio Pigasaan routes Teacher Eding and Teacher Donna to a destination where they are destined to teach and motivate. With limitless drop of compassion, they are bound to continuously shadow each pupil's undertaking towards learning success, a trail which can never be forgotten in the lives of the learners they touched.

Making heroes

By Raymond S. Aquino
Photo by Elvis Ryan J. Millan

A search party sees bravery and finds real joy in seeing others' heroisms. Believing that some goodness resides in every heart, unleashing the gem to shine in them has become the passion of this so-called "hero-makers" -- the Davao Occidental Packaging Team.

Known for their exemplary services in the department being multi-awarded employees of Davao Occidental, this team is ably headed by Dr. Raymond S. Aquino who was awarded Outstanding Teacher of the Municipality of Malita and had coveted the AGILA (Achievement of Great Instructional Leadership Award).

The researcher, Mr. Jhoniell S. Razonable, was a Lingkod Bayan awardee in Region XI. The writer, Miss Gay Jindley P. Cagas, was an Outstanding Kindergarten Teacher and a Regional AGILA awardee as well. Her counterpart, Mrs. Rosemarie N. Rizaldo, was a Division AGILA awardee correspondingly.

The layout and graphic artists, Mr. Ivan P. Emperador and Mr. Elvis J. Ryan

Millan, together with the videographer, Mr. Nickson P. Gorre, are the finest artists in the division who have made names in the different division and regional stints.

This team vowed to carry on the honor and prestige of the Division of Davao Occidental. Now, they are bound to multiply the noble acts of heroism as public servants through nurturing and packaging others' exemplary performances in the department.

After having found and cultured jewels in the previous years, from the two well-known award-giving bodies, the Civil Service Commission and the Department of Education, several awardees rose through the benevolence of the team in affording technical assistance and packaging of entries to some of the searches.

The Lingkod Bayan awardees - Mr. Razonable and Mr. Manuel D. Camahalan; and the AGILA awardees - Dr. Almer T. Davis, principal, Mr. Arisleo P. Fontanilla, multi-grade teacher, Miss Gay Jindley P. Cagas, Teacher 1, Mrs. Lucilyn T. Sahibol, IP (Indigenous People) teacher, and Mr. Rhoden Villa, ALS mobile teacher.

Grooming them to be what they had become was truly a worthwhile journey of unleashing others' heroisms.

And with the great desire of the Schools Division Office (SDO) of Davao Occidental to instigate the institutionalization of the Rewards and Recognition (R&R) to hitch Prime HRM Level II aside from recognizing and motivating employees, the Human Resource and Development section empowered this Division Packaging Team to conduct capacity building of teacher who will package their entries to the Honor Awards Program (HAP) of the Civil Service Commission and the AGILA.

And so, the institutionalization of R&R commences with the upskilling District Packaging Teams including the Alternative Learning System in the 10 districts of the SDO. In the five different venues, the Division Packaging Team had empowered some 210 teachers, categorized as researchers, writers, layout and graphic artists who are hoped to bring out jewels to shine in the search of great leaders and heroes who will be bringing the name of the SDO to the HAP, AGILA, and other quests in the future.

This packaging team sets their quest to discover heroism in every individual.



Isip at lakas ang baon nya

Sulat ni Delsie L. Porras
Larawan ni Liza Pacifico

Ang kalupitan ng kahirapan ay hindi hadlang upang magkaroon ng isang matagumpay na buhay.” Ito ang pahayag ni Reynaldo G. Glodove, isang punongguro ng Dibabawon I Elementary School, Sitio Okapan, Gupitan, Kapalong, Davao del Norte.

Bago pa man naabot ni Glodove ang kaniyang propesyon ay naging biktima siya sa lupit ng kahirapan. Anim silang magkakapatid at siya lamang ang nakapagtapos ng pag-aaral.

“Sa murang edad ay mulat na ako sa kahirapan, may pagkakataon na ang kinakain namin simula agahan hanggang hapunan ay niyog lamang. Kaya napagtanto ko na mahalagang maging matatag at kailangan na magtrabaho upang mabuhay,” tugon ni Glodove.

P a r a

masuportahan ang pag-aaral simula elementarya hanggang kolehiyo, natutong magbanat ng buto si Glodove. Kahit anong trabaho ay pinasok niya. Siya ay nangisda, nagsaka, nagbalat ng saging, nagmimina ng ginto, at marami pang iba.

Ang mga ganitong trabaho rin ang naging dahilan kaya palipat-lipat siya ng paaralan. Ngunit kahit ganoon, hindi pa rin siya nawalan ng pag-asa. Higit pa niyang pinagtibay ang kaniyang sarili. Hindi siya nawalan ng pag-asa kaya naabot niya ang kaniyang pangarap na propesyon sa tulong ng Panginoon.

Ngayon, siya ay punongguro na, isang kakaibang hamon na naman ang muli niyang harapin. Hindi na ang kalupitan ng kahirapan kundi ang makulay na mundo ng Kagawaran ng Edukasyon.

“Nasabi ko noon na hindi na lakas ang aking kailangan sa ngayon kundi talino na. Doon ako nagkamali dahil ang kailangan pa lang ihanda at maging baon sa pinili kong propesyon ay hindi lamang isip kundi pati na rin lakas, at higit sa lahat ay kailangang pukawin ang ating natutulog na pusong wagas,” dagdag pa niya.

Sinisimulan ni Glodove ang linggo sa pagbiyahe nang ilang oras patungong paaralan, minsan kasama pa rito ang pagsalubong ng landslide at baha. Upang makatawid gumagamit ng balsang gawa sa saging o kawayan at sila na mismo ang nagsasagwan.

“Mahirap ngunit masaya dahil alam ko na ang aking ginagawa ay hindi lamang para sa akin kundi para sa kabataang nangangailangan ng aking serbisyo,” tugon niya.

Ang pagbiyahe sa malayo at mahirap na daan ay simula lamang nang pagbibigay ng taos-pusong serbisyo ng isang guro sa mga estudyante dahil si Glodove pagdating ng paaralan ay nagiging karpintero at mason na rin sa umaga at nagiging punongguro sa gabi. Siya mismo ang gumawa ng kanilang school gate, feeding center, school pathway, handwashing, wall divider of school office at marami pang iba.

“Ang dahilan kung bakit hindi na ako kumukuha ng karpintero ay upang makatipid at ang nakalaang budget ay maaari pang gamitin sa ibang pangangailangan para sa ikauunlad ng paaralan at kabataan,” sabi ni Glodove na may ngiti sa kaniyang labi.

Si Glodove ay malikhain, mapamaraan, maaasahan, at masipag sa lahat ng pagkakataon. Hindi alintana sa kaniya ang pagod sa pagtatrabaho dahil naniniwala siya na ang kaniyang ginagawa ay isang malaking tulong sa kabataang lumad sa kanilang paaralan. Samakatuwid, kasiyahan pa ang higit na namamayani sa kaniyang puso.

Nangangarap din siyang magkaroon ng kumpletong kagamitan o pasilidad ang kanilang paaralan katulad na lamang ng sariling kuryente at internet connection, sapat na kagamitan upang ang kabataan ay hindi rin mahuhuli sa mabilis na pagtakbo at pag-ahon ng makabagong panahon. Hiling niya rin na maging ang mga guro ay makapagturo ayon sa kasalukuyang kahingian ng pagkatuto at pagtuturo.



Meet our zero non-reader teacher

By April Delos Santos and Anwar Maadel



As the assistant to the principal, her unique, engaging, and dynamic instructional innovations helped in the unstoppable improvement in the performance of the learners in Mangga Elementary School (ES).

One of her instructional innovations is the Word Map where students identify the words they do not understand. Following text talk, students make a cluster map or web of related words that helps explain the word and contextualize it like its description or example. This, among other strategies she developed and implemented, helped her obtain the zero-non-reader classroom in her school.

When the pandemic changed our educational facade, she took a bold step to further innovate instruction by being involved in the production of radio-based and television-based instruction. Despite not belonging to the technologically advanced generation, she willingly learned the ropes of radio and TV production to further help improve instruction to our learners.

This is what sets Anecita A. Ang apart from her contemporaries. She has always been a big influence in fostering the love for learning to the learners. Her ability in building a positive partnership among parents and other stakeholders is another impact for the school. The learning institution which she belongs helped in developing and harnessing the full academic and artistic potentials of the learners.

In her 24 years of committed service, she has always been grateful for the opportunities to contribute to the success of

Mangga Elementary School as the only APPES accredited school in the whole City of Tagum and the realization of the Gulayan sa Paaralan, Brigada Eskwela, the Reading Program, and School-Based Feeding Program which are all under her supervision for the division and regional Level.

Despite her busy schedule with all the designations on her hands, she always teaches her pupils in the best way she can. This is because she loves teaching the most. It was the main reason why she was and is still serving in DepEd. It has always been a bliss for her to share her teaching strategies to her colleagues as she knows that she can impart vital knowledge and skills needed in the profession.

Along with her current involvement is the SBM System, to which the school had successfully passed both the division and regional SBM validation and acquired the SBM Level 3 of Practice. An achievement the whole school is so proud of as it shows their competence in the quest to provide quality education.

Recently, with her leadership, Mangga ES with its Project Mangga (MAGBASA NANG GUMALING AKO) intensified its reading strategies to help improve the reading proficiency of the learners. Awarded as zero non-reader teacher, she has indeed shown an exemplary performance as a reading teacher.

Regional Director Allan G. Farnazo, during his visit for the Regional Visitation of Mangga ES Brigadahan sa Pagbasa, he commended Ma'am Anecita for her leadership. She is an awardee of the prestigious 2021 Achievement of Great Instructional Leadership Award (AGILA) of the Division of Tagum City.

(...continuation from the cover page)

He has already built an inspiring relationship with the Communications Team as he joins in the regular meeting of all the members. Since we conduct our meetings every Tuesday, we coined it as Tuesdays with RD Allan. This is based on the bestseller book of Mitch Albom titled Tuesdays with Morrie.

Like Morrie, RD Allan always shares about living life with great purpose, building good relationships to inspire, and discovering oneself to grow more.

Now, let's get to know Assistant RD Maria Ines C. Asuncion who is eyed by many to be the next very significant RD of DepEd. With very strong faith, she starts her day with a prayer because she knows it will no longer be her doing the work but the Holy Spirit guiding her. She believes God makes her an instrument to accomplish His work.

Praying at the start of the day has not only become her habit but her way of life. She says she experiences a lot of enlightenment and Divine intervention. Difficult things are made easy, decisions are made clear, Graces overflow, and friendships multiply.

No wonder, we always feel safe and secured in her hands. We know we will be guided well, and we

know we will be supported all the way.

This former nun-turned-educator had her way up starting as a classroom teacher to superintendent to director. All her experiences in DepEd gave her all the credibility and buoyancy to lead the Department. She is well known for leading the Davraa (Davao Region Athletic Association) and Palarong Pambansa hosted by Davao City with grace and precision.

RD Allan and ARD Ines will always share some things in common. They get frustrated in work when the outputs are delivered with mediocrity, but they know how to put people together to produce something great.

While we greet our teachers in the celebration of World Teachers' Day on October 5, let us not forget to thank these two leaders who brought spirituality into the workplace. They have set organizational values that bring completeness and joy.

Thank you, RD Allan and ARD Ines. (MGCV)

