NEW Pathways to Enterprise™ Learning to Livelihood (L2L) Program
2016 Mid-Year Report by Christine Nielsen, President

“I know a lot of people are trying to do what you’re doing, but no one is as tireless and organized as you are.”

Dr. William Helferich, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Within a three week period (May 19 – June 7, 2016), NEW Pathways reached 4 strategic milestones:

- Signed agreements with Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation and Northwest Samar State University to expand our L2L program* across the Visayan Islands.
- Completed advanced crochet training for 30 women in NEW Pathways’ Valladolid IdeaShops: Empowering Women (VIEW) program, Negros Island.
- Advanced Business Start-Ups and Development with IMPACT to 330 graduates of L2L IdeaShops on Negros and Samar Islands.
- Conducted Sensory Testing of iron-fortified Sasawan Vinegar with 123 volunteers to explore the potential for a profitable microenterprise with University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign team traveling with Dr. Christine Nielsen, President, NEW Pathways; Dr. William Helferich, Emely Lopez, and Shashank Gaur (College of Agriculture, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences, Food Science and Human Nutrition Department.)

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<th>Dates and Summary</th>
<th>NEW Pathways’ Learning to Livelihood Program in Action – May-June 2016</th>
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<td>May 19-25: Advanced Crochet Training</td>
<td>From left: Emely Lopez, graduate student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, with Grace Teodosio, Barangay Councilor, Alijis, Negros Island.</td>
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<td>Participants: 30 women, including 20 from the Bagumbayan Crochet Women’s Association (BACHROVA), and others from the barangays** of Central Tabao, Mabini, Alijis, and Quintorient. Training was offered by NEW Pathways in cooperation with the Philippine Department of Industry (DTI). Shirley Nacion, Municipal Councilor of Valladolid, provided local assistance.</td>
<td>NEW Pathways and University of Illinois partnered with Bago City College in Bago City, Municipality of Valladolid, Negros Island. Chris Nielsen joined the team for meetings with the administration, student volunteers and to finalize preparations on May 26.</td>
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<td>May 23-26: Advance Team from the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign arrives in Bacolod. Preparations for sensory testing of iron-fortified sasawan in order to determine its acceptability to potential consumers was a first step in establishing a profitable food processing microenterprise. Our team was welcomed to Bago City College in Bago City, Municipality of Valladolid, Negros Island. Chris Nielsen joined the team for meetings with the administration, student volunteers and to finalize preparations on May 26.</td>
<td>This iron-fortification research study serves as the basis for Emely Lopez’ master’s thesis at the U of IL Urbana-Champaign.</td>
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** A barangay (brgy.) is the smallest governmental unit in the Philippines, referring to the village/community level.
May 27: Testing and Results.

Participants: 96 student volunteers took part in a sensory study comparing 4 versions of sawsawan, a coconut-based, spiced vinegar. Three of these were fortified with iron (Fe-Sulfate, Fe-Fumarate, and Chelated Iron); the fourth served as the control (non-fortified vinegar).

May 28: Integrated Marketing Performance And Commercial Transactions (IMPACT). Meetings held with our women’s livelihood associations in four barangays.

Participants:
16 in Bagumbayan, crochet
19 in Central Tabao, loom weaving
10 in Sagua Banwa, soap-making
16 in Tabao Proper, macramé handbags

27 women in Bagumbayan and Central Tabao participated in the sensory study for iron fortification.

Rica Española, President, Bagumbayan Crochet Women’s Association (BACHROWA)

Table Top Loom weavers of the Valladolid Loom Weavers Association (VALWA) of Central Tabao & Bagumbayan

Sensory testing of iron-fortified sasawan in Central Tabao

Soap-makers of Sagua Banwa with Chris and Joseph Guevarra, Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation

Barangay Tabao Proper Macramé and Weaving Association meeting.
May 29: IMPACT meetings continued.

Participants:
40 from Doldol, garments and doormats
8 from Malingin, various
18 in Alijis, rice-based products

A proposal to establish a Rental Gown Business was introduced in Doldol. Women were thrilled with the idea!
The U of IL team discussed dried herbs and spices, and the fortified sasawan project with women in Alijis.

May 30: MoA signing with Dr. del Castillo at Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation (NWTF)!

“NEW Pathways’ Learning to Livelihood (L2L) Program Expansion through NWTF’s Project Dungannon Branches” is an Agreement that will dramatically expand our L2L program across the Visayan Islands. NEW Pathways has granted a non-exclusive, no-cost license to NWTF to offer the L2L program across all 100 of its branches, with over 250,000 micro-credit clients on seven islands.

Tuesday, May 31 - June 1: Travel from Negros Island to Manila, Luzon Island, then on to Calbayog, Samar Island!

June 2: MoA signing with Dr. Avelina Bergado, President, Northwest Samar State University, Calbayog, Samar.

“Learning to Livelihood Program for Samar: A Cooperative Agreement between NEW Pathways to Enterprise and Northwest Samar State University” provides NwSSU with a non-exclusive, no-cost license to offer the L2L program across Samar Island beginning with a 3-year program for the barangays of Mawacat, Amampacang, and Binaliw.
June 3 am: Strategic Planning Meeting for January 2017 Launch of our L2L program in Barangay Mawacat

Morning meeting with College of Management Faculty & Extension Coordinators who will serve as the local management team under our NEW Pathways-NwSSU Agreement.

June 3 pm: Field Visit to Danao 1 with experts from the Animal Sciences Dept., College of Arts and Sciences, NwSSU, to view planned piggery site.

June 4: Nagka-orosa na Kababaihan sa Danao-1 (NAKADA – “United Women of Danao-1) and their plan for “Integrated Management for Piggery And Current Technology” (IMPACT)

Participants: 34 members of NAKADA. Henelyn Oben, President, led the meeting. We discussed the business status of each group; Plans for piggery and lot purchase; Results of supplementing feed with organic food; Status of plans to register with the Dept. of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

June 5- Travel from Calbayog to Catarman by van, for an afternoon meeting with the Cal-igang Handicraft Making Association.

Participants: 29 members and 1 guest designed an action plan:
1. Search for better raw materials supply;
2. Set up an Association Face Book page to advertise doormats and handbags;
3. Expand sales through schools, festivals, offices, restaurants, and hotels;
4. Institute entrepreneurship awards;

June 6-7: Homeward Bound!

Chris flew from Catarman, Samar Island, through Manila, Luzon Island, to Guangzhou, China, and on to New York, then Washington, D. C. and home!