

New Pathways to Enterprise Midyear Report, including Trip (January 25 – February 10, 2023)
Over 200 women are benefiting from our programs in the first half of 2023

We are so grateful that you came to us because we need help. The government cannot do it alone. Without people like you, and organizations like New Pathways, we will not make the progress we need to make.

Dr. Imelda Angeles-Agdeppa, Department of Science and Technology, Food and Nutrition Research Institute (February 9, 2023).

Dates and Summary	New Pathways' Programs in Action	
<p>Jan 25: New Pathways' team members arrive! Pictured here at Silay Airport, Bacolod, on Negros Island. Photo from left: Rhea Racho, Director of Communications; Chris Nielsen, President; Reynic Alo, Local manager; Carol Cook, UUs of San Mateo, CA; Winston Tamayo, local asst. manager. (Josie Thompson, Vice President joined us later in the evening.)</p>		<p>Barangay* Captain Shirley Nacion, and her husband, Noel, Municipal Councilor of Valladolid joined us for dinner to discuss the potential for a Marketplace with Bakery in Valladolid, which would support hundreds of New Pathways' graduates through marketing and sales. Little did we know that showers and periods of heavy rain would be with us every day but one! (And this is the dry season, right?)</p> <p>* A barangay (brgy.) is a small governmental unit in the Philippines, referring to the village/community level.</p>
<p>January 26: Training and "hands on" demonstration of our newest livelihood: Vertical Vegetable Venture (V³) for 22 participants at the Masaling Women's Association meeting, Cauayan Municipality.</p> <p>Graduates of our 2018 Learning to Livelihood (L2L) program have shown their entrepreneurial persistence, joining our Livestock Integrated Food Enterprise (LIFE) program shortly before the pandemic hit. Five members are teaming up to continue their LIFE Food House business, and the rest will take part in V³; they will have a vertical vegetable garden adjacent to each of their homes.</p>		
	<p>Dinner with Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation (NWTF) leadership to discuss opportunities for continuing our partnership (Photo right: Reynic Alo, New Pathways' local manager; Gilbert Maramba, NWTF Asst. Director of Operations; Josie Thompson, New Pathways' V.P., Carol Cook, UUs of San Mateo; Rhea Racho, New Pathways' Director of Communications; Suzzette Gaston, NWTF Executive Director; Chris Nielsen, New Pathways' Pres., Corazon Henares, NWTF Pres., Dunggannon Bank; Raymond Serios, NWTF Director for Admin. and Special Projects.)</p>	

Jan 27: Vertical Vegetable Venture (V³) training and “hands on” demonstration with 27 participants hosted by the Sagua Banwa Women’s Association

Eleven members have opted to begin V³ now, many others are on our waiting list. This group has shown great determination, despite hardships starting with the pandemic, and its aftermath of inflation and increased unemployment. The Association first organized around soap-making and selling, but that business deteriorated when the licensor died, and supplies were cut-off. **One team experimented with our LIFE program, and another team has chosen LIFE.**

In the late afternoon we traveled to Brgy Bunga, Don Salvador, Benedicto; picked up mangos and settled down for the night at Nay Del Resort (Photo son left: Reynic and Rhea; Reynic, Winston, and Chris



Jan 28: Graduation day for 25 participants in LIFE, in Sitio Ulay, Barangay Prosperidad, San Carlos City

What a thrill it was to celebrate with Carol Cook, representative of our partner sponsor, Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo, for our first graduation ceremony after the pandemic. The project sponsored extensive small-scale farming and business training, and the construction of 5 LIFE Food Houses (FHs) and 1 hog fattening project. These participants persisted through a tough period of start, pause and begin again! Yet they didn’t give up! 25 family members joined our celebration.

In the afternoon we visited the Dr. Cecilia D. del Castillo Community Center, San Carlos City, in consideration as a site for our new Marketplace & Bakery location.



Jan 29: 21 leaders of our seven oldest L2L graduate communities met to brainstorm ideas for a major opportunity: Establishing a Marketplace with Bakery, Sugarland Hotel, Bacolod.

A summary of the women's priority requests included: 1) A permanent showroom and store; 2) Online selling with cell phone capability, and other platforms such as FaceBook, 3) Expansion to baking products; 4) Catalog of products; 5) Participation in shows and fiestas ("Pop Up Store"), and a Training Center.

The Marketplace would provide a permanent site for showcasing and selling our artisans' exquisite work and the healthy, nutritious products of our food producers and agricultural entrepreneurs. This vital space would include a training site to further New Pathways' mission to offer innovative livelihood opportunities to many more women.



Photo left features **Hannahley Pesquera**, leader of our Sagua Banwa community since 2013.

Seven graduate communities met in breakout groups, then presented ideas for how New Pathways' proposed Marketplace could help their businesses flourish.

Barangay Captain Shirley Nacion; and Jun Rey Tingson, Maena Lou Samillano, and Maide C. Pinu of NWTF joined our New Pathways' team for this significant discussion.

Following this important reunion, our team reviewed artisans' product inventory that has been completed over the past two years, with **project coordinator, Rosemel Alvarez.**

January 30: Vertical Vegetable Venture (V³) training with 9 participants hosted by the Alijis Women's Association

These entrepreneurs don't give up! They have experimented with food processing and sandal-making before settling on small-scale agriculture as their business. Women with our V3 gardens will provide nutritious vegetables for their own families. This is a big help as store prices of produce are high, and not as fresh. V3 produce is grown without high inputs of pesticides, a problem with produce available in the stores.

Following our training, we made a courtesy call to the Valladolid Mayor's office.



Jan 31: Our New Pathways' team flew from Negros Island, through Cebu, to Camiguin Is.

(Photos right: Josie with her mother, our gracious host, Salome Mosqueda; Josie and Rhea; Beautiful Camiguin)

We toured this beautiful island and had the best Halo-halo, a dessert with crushed ice, coconut milk, ube— a purple yam— jam, delicious ingredients, topped with ube ice cream.)



Feb 1 – New Pathways Information Session and Strategic Planning for L2L program in Barangay Cabuan, with 20 participants

It was so rewarding to meet with this group, keen to supplement their families' incomes through sustainable livelihood alternatives. This session precedes our entrepreneurial training. It is important for the women to learn about New Pathways' approach, and for our team to listen carefully to the livelihoods the women would like to explore further during L2L IdeaShop Level 1: Business Idea Generation. Then we flew to Cebu.



Feb 2 – Travel from Cebu to Samar; Meeting with 13 members of the Kapit-Bisig Sa Mawacat Association (KASAMA), agricultural entrepreneurs active in our LIFE program, and four seamstresses who have worked with New Pathways since 2017. (Photo near right). We learned that a freezer was needed for dressed chicken. We purchased one locally!

Northwest Samar State University (NwSSU) President Benjamin Pecayo hosted our team for dinner at the new campus hotel. Photo far right: Dean Donald Patimo, Florabel Canaman, and Esteban Sabar (College of Management); Rhea, Josie, Reynic, Chris, Dr. Pecayo, and other University leaders.



Feb 3: Meeting with 26 members of Nagkaurusa nga Kababayan-an san Danao I (NAKADA), our very first and most successful LIFE community. Under the extraordinary leadership of Helenly Oben, President since its inception (featured in photo far right), New Pathways has seen our entrepreneurial program thrive here, starting with L2L training in 2013. Based in large part on the business foundation we built, NAKADA's capabilities are being recognized by the City of Calbayog, and the Philippine government's Special Area Agricultural Development Program. Success through our project has had a multiplier impact for this community!



Feb 4: Celebrating the success of 39 women active in our NAKADA and KASAMA livelihood associations at the Bamboo Resort! This is the first time these two sister organizations have joined together, but President Oben of NAKADA has been helping President Mayran of KASAMA since its early days, especially in setting up their By-Laws and business registration.

How important are our visits! During our field visits we noticed that the translucent roofing of both KASAMA and NAKADA Food Houses were green with algae and this was affecting the quality of vegetable production; however, neither group had the tall ladders required to clean the roofs. So we bought ladders for both groups! Ladders are presented to KASAMA (top right); and NAKADA (bottom right). Photo far right features New Pathways team with our NwSSU partners (top row: Reynic, Esteban, Rhea; front row: Florabel, Chris, Donald, and Josie.)



Feb 5: Meeting with 44 members of the Cal-igang Handicraft-Making Association in northern Samar.

Cal-igang is a remote community; the majority of families are among the poorest in the Philippines. New Pathways has been assisting this artisan group since 2014. Our meeting was lively and productive; New Pathways ordered dozens of macramé plant and water bottle holders. This is one of the textile training programs we sponsored here before the pandemic. We learned that the weavers box looms for making doormats, which we supplied in 2015, have been destroyed through typhoons and flooding; 34 members requested replacements which we agreed to supply!



Photo above: Cal-igang artisans with our team; Barangay Hall; Photos right: Meeting in progress

Feb 6: Precious day for a team planning, and contracting with a company that will create and install our first business signage for NAKADA and KASAMA. Our team celebrated our last night together with a roof-top dinner overlooking the city.



KASAMA

KAPIT-BISIG SA MAWACAT ASSOCIATION

LIFE LIVELIHOOD CENTER

Nutritious Food for Your Family *Quality Sewing and Fashion*



LIVESTOCK INTEGRATED FOOD ENTERPRISE™ (LIFE) IS A PROGRAM OF NEW PATHWAYS TO ENTERPRISE
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NORTHWEST SAMAR STATE UNIVERSITY IN BARANGAY MAWACAT



NAKADA

NAGKA-URUSA NGA KABABAYEN-AN
SAN DANAO-1 ASSOCIATION

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SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE. PEOPLE. PROFIT. PLANET.



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Feb 7: Our New Pathways team shared an unforgettable two weeks together, inspired by the enthusiasm and energy of our livelihood participants. We flew from Samar to Cebu, where the team parted. (Photo near right: Chris, Josie, Winston, Reynic and Rhea; far right: Winston Tamayo, New Pathways' local assistant manager.)

Chris flew on to Manila for other project meetings.



Feb 8: Meeting with local leaders in Metro-Manila to discuss the possibility for a Looms for Livelihood (L4L) Training program in Taguig.

Photo near right: Jayces Garello, Director of New Pathways' Volunteer Programs; Millet Osorio Borjal; Remy Matreo Encanto; Chris Nielsen; Nelly Nacino, President of the Mother and Child Association (and New Pathways Advisory Council member); and Lito Balderrama.



Feb 9: Meeting with Director Imelda Angeles-Agdeppa, and senior scientists at the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Philippine Department of Science and Technology

We discussed plans to collaborate on the development of a multi-nutrient fortified spiced coconut vinegar aimed to contribute to the reduction of iron deficient anemia, and other micro-nutrient deficiencies in the Philippines, moved forward with our plans for a Memorandum of Agreement, and toured the Institute's exceptional facilities. (Photo near right: Jayces, Chris, Dr. Agdeppa, Ms. Arcangel, and Ms. Padrones.)



Feb 10: Heading home

Flight from Manila through Seoul, Korea to Dulles International Airport!