



Thank you to our generous donors!

UPDATE FROM THE FIELD

Dear New Pathways' supporters,

This year has proven to be our most challenging. When COVID-19 hit, we quickly revised our 2020 strategic plan to create a *Pandemic Relief and Recovery Program* (PRRP), as we heard from our local partners and participants that many families were without any income and had no way to buy food and other essentials.

Thanks to donations from generous supporters who answered our call for assistance, we provided over 390 families on Luzon, Negros, and Samar Islands with PRRP relief packages of rice, groceries and other essentials. The *bayanihan* spirit motivated student members of the Rowan University Philippine American Coalition to donate \$4,000 toward our efforts. The recovery portion of PRRP is in process now, as we help entrepreneurs restock their businesses and upgrade infrastructure.

Never before has your generosity and caring support been more important to the women and families we serve! Thanks to all of you with the *bayanihan* spirit, aspiring entrepreneurs in the Philippines are starting micro-businesses and achieving their dreams of a better life for their families.

With best wishes for your health and happiness!

Christine S. Nielsen
President



Member,
Cal-igang Handicraft-Making Assoc. Samar Island

FEATURED COMMUNITY

New Pathways is honored to offer its *Learning to Livelihood* (L2L) program to 38 participants on Negros Island, in partnership with Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo (UUSM) on behalf of the UUCP Ulay Congregation members and individuals of other faiths from nearby barangays. New Pathways is grateful to UUSM members who have generously supported our partnership, and to Betsy Blosser, vice president, UUSM Board of Trustees, and member, UUSM Partner Church Committee; and Carol Cook, co-chair, UUSM Partner Church Committee, for their leadership and active participation. Reynic Alo, president of RVM Agricultural Consultancy, provides inspiration and guidance as our local program manager.



We have been waiting for this livelihood all of our lives. We are so grateful you are here.
Rev. Cayab, founding minister of UUCP Ulay Congregation with Chris Nielsen

At a September 2019 information session, we shared New Pathways' purpose and approach to knowledge-based entrepreneurship, and listened to potential participants' ideas about livelihoods they would like to explore. Based on what we learned, we carried out profitability assessments to determine which of these would be best suited for presentation at L2L Level 1: Business Idea Generation (BIG ideas) held in February 10-13, 2020. Based on individual interviews at program's end, the majority selected *Livestock Integrated Food Enterprise* (LIFE) as their preferred livelihood. A smaller group chose hog-raising. Upcoming next are L2L Level 2: Livelihood Skills Training for both groups, lasting several months; and Level 3: Business Skills Training, culminating in participants' graduation; leading to Level 4: Business Start-Up for which we will provide start-up capital as an equity investment grant in the form of poultry and livestock, plants and equipment, materials and infrastructure.



Envisioning the future: Participant teams produce murals, imagining how their communities will benefit once their livelihood opportunities become reality. The exercise encourages creativity, risk-taking, and group bonding - all important to entrepreneurial success.

Rowan University Students Inspired by the Bayanihan Spirit



Amid our fight against the pandemic, we are witnessing acts of kindness and solidarity around the world. In the Philippines, we call this *bayanihan*. Derived from the Tagalog word *bayan* (nation or community), *bayanihan* means "being in a community," and is central to Filipino culture: We work together as a community to achieve our common goal. The *bayanihan* spirit is deeply ingrained among Filipinos, especially in a crisis. This spirit led the **Rowan University Philippine American Coalition (RUPAC)** to donate \$4000 to New Pathways' *Pandemic Relief and Recovery Project (PRRP)* in the Philippines, assisting marginalized families, most without any source of income for daily needs due to the nationwide lockdown. RUPAC, a student-run organization, was founded to promote the richness of Filipino culture within the university community and beyond. When asked why they contributed to PRRP, Robert Tanteo, the outgoing President of RUPAC told us:

We are happy to help your amazing cause, and we're dedicated to giving back to the Philippines in every way we can, especially in times like these. We're truly inspired...; we've been proud to raise contributions for you in the past few years, and I hope that RUPAC and New Pathways might deepen our partnership in the future as well.

RUPAC's donation, along with other generous donors, enabled NEW Pathways to assist over 390 families on Negros and Samar Island, and in Metro Manila. Family packages contained 10 kgs. of rice, canned goods, grocery items, and essentials.



We are all grateful knowing that we still have these kinds of young people who are concerned and extend their hands in helping those who are in need. Knowing that you are there, we are in peace that our next generation still have you, down to earth, humble and righteous young ones...aside from doing our best in maintaining this opportunity, a simple thank you or even the grandest one that we could give, would never suffice how much grateful we are for being graced with such blessings.

- Henelyn Oben, President, NAKADA



Thank you so much New Pathways to Enterprise, Rowan University Philippine American Coalition and to all Donors for this Pandemic Relief and Recovery Project for MASALING WOMEN. Thank you, Doc Chris, for your unending love and care. You never forgot to help us during this pandemic situation. Thank you sir Reynyc for your effort sending this relief to us. We are so happy and feels so blessed.

MADAMO GUID NGA SALAMAT ♡ from Masaling Women





Greetings of Gratitude! On behalf of MALINGIN WOMEN ASSOCIATION, I would like to thank you [all] for your help in this pandemic period. Your help continues to give us hope that even though we are here and in lock down, which made us pessimistic towards these hard times. Your help does not limit to the members but to every family whose stomach is longing for food. There are no words how we can really express our thanks. But again we thank you, as our hearts and minds continue to be grateful in your timely help that gives us silver lining. Thank you and God bless you!

- Helen Gumata, President, MWA

To learn more about NEW Pathways and our projects, please stay in touch:

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