



Annual Narrative Project Reports



STAIRWAY FOUNDATION INC.
a learning and resource center for children's rights

GENERAL REPORT

Introduction

For the next five years, SFI will be investing in program-based and organizational/structural goals that serve the overall purpose of expansion, enhanced organizational capacity, and focusing on prevalent concerns that directly affect children locally and internationally. In order to meet these goals, our objectives include the following:

- to develop structures that can mitigate SFI organizational vulnerabilities, and secure sustainable and effective implementation of local and international operations;
- to enhance organizational self-learning capacity;
- to continuously motivate and further capacitate staff and management.

Stairway's programs are divided into three major components: the Residential Program, the Community Assistance Program, and the Advocacy and Capacity Building Program.

Residential Program

The Residential Program of Stairway Foundation Inc. was established as an effort to help eliminate the increasing number of children living on the streets of Metro Manila. There are agencies in Manila which can meet the needs of street children. However, there are children who do not respond positively to these services as they prefer to stay on the streets. Stairway was established for the children who find it difficult to adjust to the city centers. Our program lasts 10 months (June – May), which is equivalent to a school year.

Our priorities are children with tuberculosis and those who are particularly disadvantaged or endangered and in need of temporary shelter. The basic needs of the children which include education, socio-cultural, spiritual, and medical are provided while they are in Stairway. The foundation uses creative activities as form of therapy in the rehabilitation process. The therapeutic activities help the children to develop new skills, values, behaviors and attitudes needed for their re-integration into their families and into mainstream society. The overall objectives of this program are:

- to make imperiled children become physically and mentally strong, and mold them to become productive members of society;
- to initiate additional mechanisms in direction of self-sustainability.

A total of nineteen (19) children were served from January to December: eleven (11) in the first batch and eight (8) in the second batch. Six (6) children from batch 2011-2012 were reunited to their respective families and five (5) remained in the program: three (3) Peer motivators and two (2) are undergoing training as Peer motivator.

Community Assistance Program

The Community Assistance Program is focused on providing scholarships, community education, sports and culture, and crisis intervention to local people. We also provide livelihood services to the local indigenous Mangyan Iraya. Objectives of this program include:

- to promote community multi-stakeholder awareness on CRC-CSAEP;
- to develop a continuing Crisis Intervention Program for the local community;
- to contribute in the protection and development of capacities of the community youth;
- to contribute to the protection, the health and socio-economic well-being of the indigenous people in the community.

For this reporting period the Community Assistance has provided educational assistance to 107 financially-disadvantaged but deserving students from Puerto Galera. The assistance may include one or more of the following – allowances, payment of school fees and school bus service. For SY 2012-2013, SFI provided shuttle service for 25 student passengers residing in Brgy. Aninuan.

Moreover, SFI continues to provide different consciousness-raising sessions on Children's Rights, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and other issues relevant to children. At the same time, we continue to provide community crisis intervention to those who seek assistance. These may include therapeutic counselling to children who are victims of sexual abuse, general counselling sessions, referral to different agencies, financial assistance – related to medical and educational needs of children, transportation to person/s that need to be brought to a hospital for medical attention and other related issues such as burial assistance. SFI also provides assistance to different local projects which aim to promote the welfare of children such as conducting workshops and providing financial assistance for sports facility improvements.

Our livelihood services for the Mangyan of Puerto Galera continue to expand. SFI continues to showcase their hand-woven baskets and different products in different bazaars and exhibits in Manila. For year 2012, SFI also operates an educational program for the students of Baclayan Mangyan School. The program for the Baclayan Mangyan School includes provision of school supplies, raincoats and slippers, and provision of full lunch meals to all the 153 students from Monday- Friday.

For this reporting period, a total of 440 students were direct beneficiary of the Community Assistance Program

Client	Period Covered		Total
	SY 2011-2012	SY 2012-2013	
Stairway scholars	100	107	207
Baclayan Mangyan School	80	153	233
Total	180	260	440

As a Stairway scholar he/she may receive any of the following assistance: allowances, payment for school contribution and school service. At the start of SY 2012-2013, there were 110 students being supported by SFI. The decline in number was due to drop-out of 2 high school scholars and non-passing of a tertiary scholar due to excessive absences.

For the Baclayan Mangyan School, the surge of student enrolment for this school year was motivated by 2 factors – presence of Stairway and the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. A lot of new parents wanted to enrol their children in Baclayan because no fees are collected, school supplies are provided and more importantly there is free lunch meal. On the other hand, 4Ps requires elementary school aged children to be in school in order for a household to become a beneficiary of the cash grant.

For the scholarship program, factors that led to school drop-outs despite home-visits and counselling would include school and home environments. Handling children's behaviour inside the school continues to be a challenge to school personnel. Home environment also poses a challenge to encourage children to stay in school.

On the other hand, these trends in Baclayan Mangyan School are not only affected by 4Ps but also with teachers' attendance, changes in weather and availability of work for parents. Whenever a teacher is absent, the students do not attend school anymore. Though raincoats are provided, the cold weather is another challenge to conquer. As there are times when it's so cold in the mountain, parents would go anywhere just to earn money. There are times when parents find work to nearby municipalities of Puerto Galera. If this happens, the children will have to go with their parents and thus they will be absent.

Advocacy and Capacity Building Program

The Advocacy and Capacity Building Program involves all trainings under the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention campaign of Stairway. This includes provisions of trainings on basic Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, Training of Trainers on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, Para counselors Training, Technology Related Crimes against Children, and more recently, Child Sex Trafficking and Pornography. These trainings are geared for individuals, groups and institutions working directly or indirectly with children such as police, teachers, social workers, students, NGO workers and others.

Part of this program is also the development and production of advocacy materials, primarily, our advocacy animation toolkits. Currently, we have 3 animation toolkits namely *Daughter: A story of Incest*, *A Good Boy: A story of Pedophilia* and most recently, *Red Leaves Falling* which is about child sex trafficking and child pornography. These animations serve as the main platform for our Advocacy Program.

The objectives of the Advocacy Program are:

- to pursue a strategic advocacy and capacity-building program that puts in place mechanisms for the distribution of advocacy and creative educational tools with effective training components on CRC-CSAEP;
- to identify and capacitate local and international networks towards the establishment of CRC- CSAEP resource centers;
- to promote broad public and multi-stakeholder awareness on CRC and CSAEP;
- to develop and disseminate information on best practices and advocacy on CRC and CSAEP.

The major highlights of what we have achieved for 2012 are reaching out to more than 16,000 individuals with the different child protection trainings, providing it to more than 40++ organizations in the Philippines and 30++ organizations outside the Philippines. Aside from the people directly reached by Stairway, another substantial result was conducting ancillary child protection sessions done by the Break the Silence partners which include some KNH partners. This network of 40++ NGOs have been trained by Stairway in order to reach out to their own communities. Another significant update is the selection of one of Stairways advocacy and training officers as a KNH Philippine trainer, as well as one of the Asia Regional trainers for the KNH Child Protection Policy project.

2. Work in the project

2.1.

Residential Program

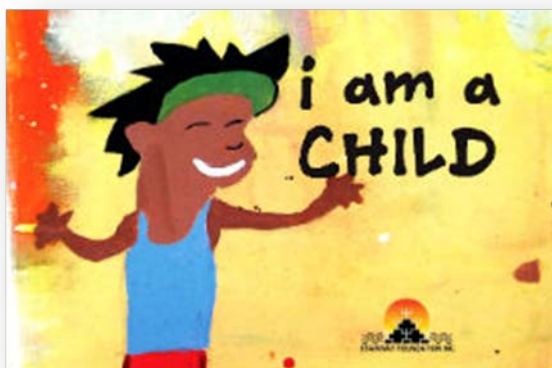
To facilitate holistic development and change among the children under the residential program, various activities and services were carried out. We are able to attain higher success in reintegrating children to their respective families and in developing and capacitating selected children as Peer motivators.



Batch 2011-2012

The six (6) children who were reunited to their respective families are adjusting very well and were enrolled to school. One (1) child who was reunited was referred for scholarship in an International School while one (1) child who underwent operation from contraction of mandible is receiving continuous monitoring for his health. The five (5) children who remained in the program displayed positive behaviour; they are responsible in the daily tasks and showed happy disposition. They manifested confidence as observed from their interaction with people from different walks of life and have shown capacity to facilitate activities for children during camps hosted by the Stairway Foundation Inc. The Peer Motivator program is a strategy to increase children's participation in helping and guiding the new and younger children in the program.

The exposure of children from people coming from very different backgrounds through the Youth for Change Camps which includes well-designed activities and the nurturing, loving and encouraging people around them --- helped in developing their self-esteem and sense of meaning. Other activities which facilitated their development include skills building, case management activities, health, sports, socio-cultural, spiritual and involvement of children in special activities such as the Youth for Change Camps, Deaf camp, camp for mentally challenged children, treasure hunt, children's month celebration and other special events.



Another major output of this batch is the 8 storybooks written and illustrated by the children. These can be accessed at www.stairwayfoundation.org. As part of the culmination of the Pagbasa class, the children were provided with a 2-week storybook writing session. A story telling session was held for the children. The session required them to make and present their stories in the big group. The storybooks were presented and shared to the children of Elsie Gatches Village during their annual Summer Camp held at Stairway.

The story book illustrated by Stairway Children

Batch 2011-2012 graduated in April last year. Their educational program officially ended April 3, 2012 which was done with a simple "Moving-up Ceremony." During the ceremony, the theatre was decorated with the children's art work. The children sang and danced to their favourite tunes. The day was filled with fun, laughter and hope – for the boys' new journey. Moreover, in preparation for this day, all of them were required to undergo a physical examination and series of laboratory examinations. All children posed good health during the medical assessment.

The six (6) children who were reunited to their respective family were prepared prior to the reintegration. We also coordinated with the local social welfare and development office to request assistance in monitoring the child while they are adjusting in the reintegration. The five (5) remaining children in the program have undergone capacitating activities such as baking, gardening, sewing, and clay stove making. They were also provided orientation on the Child Protection Policy, basic information about the organization and lessons regarding Adolescent Reproductive Health.

Batch 2012-2013

There were eight (8) children admitted on June 18, 2012. They were provided with sets of clothing and hygiene kit. To prepare and help them adjust in their new environment, series of orientation were conducted such as tour around the vicinity of the center and in the community, house rules and household chores, daily schedule, expectation setting, policy making and getting-to-know activities.



They also learned about children's rights and prevention of child sexual abuse. All of them underwent physical examination and laboratory procedures during their fourth day in the center. Four (4) of them have some medical problems and were given treatment. Two (2) children have ova parasite (ascariasis) and were cured after a week. Two (2) children have pulmonary problem who undergone treatment and cured.

On June 22, 2012, the eight (8) new boys underwent the Basic Literacy Assessment. The result showed

that four (4) out of the eight (8) children can read simple words and phrases and can answer simple word problem while the rest of the boys need to be taught how to recognize letters and numbers. The Educational Program provides the educational needs of all the children under the SFI Temporary Home. The children are grouped according to the results of their Basic Literacy Assessment conducted upon admission. There are three (3) groups/classes for batch 2012-2013 namely Group A, B and C. The first group is composed of four (4) boys. They are those who can identify numbers, letters and sounds of the alphabet. The next group is Group B which is composed of five (5) boys who can read and write simple words and phrases in Filipino and English. They can also perform addition and subtraction of two to three digits. The last group is Group C which is composed of four (4) boys who have passed the A&E Test in October 2011.

After five months in the program, the boys had a busy yet fruitful stay at the Residential Program. The boys had a lot of fun working with facilitators. The children were taught how to read and write phrases in Filipino and English, read the clock, add and subtract three digits. Also, the boys were able to develop strong verbal communication skill. They became better in expressing their thoughts and feelings.

In December 2012, the boys attended their first Youth for Change Camp. During the camp, they were able to interact with the students of International School Manila. The camp allowed them to play and work with other children from different racial backgrounds and social classes. The camp provided opportunity for the boys to exercise what they have learned in the past five months.

For the said school year, we are happy to be assisted by volunteers from Belgium, Germany and Denmark. To prepare the children, short presentations about the country of origin of the volunteers were given to them. Stairway is still in search for new local teacher who can work with the children.

Community Assistance Program

It is really a community effort! The Community Assistance Program was able to accomplish a lot with the help of the scholars and their parents.

For School Year 2011-2012

Last March 2012, 26 out of the 100 scholars graduated. These included two (2) elementary students, 22 high school students and two (2) tertiary students. One (1) of the 22 high school scholars graduated with honors. She took the 5th highest ranking among 1200 students. Another high school graduate received a scholarship grant from De La Salle St. Benilde. She is taking up BS Human Resource Management.



Scholars helping other scholars

Four (4) tertiary scholars volunteered to work with other children during the Summer of 2012. The scholars were assigned to do tutorial sessions with SFI children and other scholars. In relation to this initiative, the scholar-volunteer were required to attend a one-day Child Protection Policy Orientation. This is to orient the scholar volunteer about certain code of conduct that is expected from every staff or volunteer at Stairway. After the orientation, the scholar-volunteer expressed that the session allowed them to reflect on their practices and beliefs in dealing with children around them.

Beach Clean-up

Stairway Scholars continue to do their share in keeping the environment clean. The Community Assistance Program is SFI's best effort to make each scholar conscious of his/her responsibility in taking care of our Planet.

Scholars continue to do Saturday beach clean-up. During Summer 2012, scholars clean the beach twice a week – every Monday and Thursday. Tertiary scholars help in supervising the conduct of the activity.

School Visit

For School year 2011-2012

From the months of January to March 2012, six (6) school visits were done. The school visits resulted to stronger partnership between the management of Puerto Galera National High School (PGNHS) and Stairway. The school is more active in reporting delinquent and non-performing scholars. PGNHS taps the assistance of SFI in conducting home visits and follow-up visits to scholars who are non-performing. The partnership also paved the way for SFI to conduct Online-Safety Orientation to its 800 students in February 2012.

Online Safety Session

The session was facilitated by Ms. Susan Serafico, SFI Computer Teacher and Child Advocate. The two-hour session was held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the PGNHS Library. The session aims to raise the consciousness of the students regarding the dangers that can happen on the internet. It was found out that students are able to access different pornographic sites such as, among others, Red Tube, UGIS, Boy Love Mama, Spankwire and Camp Frog.

Viva Circus Workshop

On April 23 and 24 last year, scholars were invited to attend the Circus Workshop at Stairway. The activity was facilitated by the members of Viva Circus. The scholars were taught how to do rock ballet, hip-hop dance, robot mime and yoga. As a way of summarizing the day's activity, the participants were asked to do a short performance.

School Service

Thirty one (31) students rode the school bus service last SY 2011-2012. One (1) of the school service passengers reported that the driver of the service violated the Stairway Child Protection Policy. The incident was investigated and an incident report was taken from the scholar. The case was addressed and the driver was given a 1 week suspension. As an organization, Stairway reiterates that in all its engagements it will put the children's best interest first.

Propeller Club

Stairway continues to partner with Propeller Club. This is a CSR initiative of different Maritime Companies in Manila. It provides scholarship assistance to 17-22 male, out-of-school youth. They provide a 2-year vocational scholarship on Fitter Machinist. In March last year, 17 OSY from different communities in Puerto Galera came to Stairway and six (6) of them passed the pre-qualifying test.

SY 2012-2013

Home visits and Family Assessments

Home visits and Family Assessments were conducted prior to the opening of the SY 2012-2013. A total of 67 applicants were visited and screened. Out of the 60 applicants, 40 were accepted into the program. The screening took place during the first week of May 2012.

The benefits and the opportunities offered by the program were hugely appreciated by the scholars and in return, they helped in the dissemination of information and assisting home visits for new applicants for the scholarship program.

School Supplies Distribution

Tertiary Scholars and high school scholars from Barangay Aninuan assisted SFI staff in the inventory packing and actual distribution of school supplies. As per Stairway's attempt to support the "NO Plastic" project of the Puerto Galera Municipal Government, the scholars made recycled paper bags and used them as pouches for the school supplies for distribution.

General Assembly for SY 2012-2013

The General Assembly was held on June 1, 2012 at Stairway Foundation. A total of 105 scholars attended the activity. The assembly included reporting of accomplishments for SY 2011-2012 and revisiting rules and policy of the program. The new scholars were also recognized and welcomed during the event. The volunteer scholars helped in the registration booth, filling up of information sheet and ushering the parents to their seats.

For SY 2012-2013, Stairway is assisting 110 scholars composed of nine (9) elementary students, 91 high school scholars and nine (9) college scholars. Out of the 110, there are 10 Mangyan scholars in the program. This is composed of nine (9) high school students and one (1) who is in 3rd year of college taking up Bachelor in Elementary Education at Puerto Galera Prince of Peace. For high school Mangyan Scholars, the benefits include school supplies, payment of PTA fee and other school wide contribution, payment of daily lunch meals and a complete set of school uniform.

School Service

For the said school year, there are 20 scholars from Barangay Aninuan expected to ride the bus every day but the children opted to share the empty seats in the jeepney with other students. There are days when the jeep will take 22-24 passengers at a time including scholars and non-scholars. The extra passengers go to PGNHS San Isidro Annex.

Scholars get to help in the setting up of the SFI Library

With the opening of our new dormitory building, SFI is also opening a new library that will house its collection of books. Every Saturday since August 2012, scholars take time to help in setting up the library by wrapping the books with plastic cover.

School Visits

Twelve (12) school visits were conducted. Issues and concerns discussed during the visit included scholars' attendance in school, coordination for services of scholars and meetings regarding problems presented by scholars in school.

Program for Mangyan Community

Stairway continues to support the basket-making industry of the Mangyan. It continues to buy, showcase and sell the baskets in bazaar or exhibits in various partner institutions and organizations in Manila.

For School Year 2011-2012



For SY 2011-2012- SFI is assisting four (4) Mangyan Scholars. They are graduates from Baclayan Mangyan School and they are all in their 1st year. They have passed their current levels and had diligently gone to school.

Four –day Computer Literacy Class

A four-day Computer Literacy Class was provided to six (6) Mangyan students on May 16 to 19 last year facilitated by Ms. Susan Serafico, Stairway Computer Teacher. The children were taught how to operate and use different programs of the computer. They used the Jumpstart application to make them comfortable in using the keyboard and the mouse.

Assistance to the Baclayan Mangyan School

Another attempt of assisting the Mangyan community is the launching of the Baclayan Community Development Program. One part of the program is addressing the immediate needs of the children in order to keep them in school. On January 9 last year, SFI started providing full lunch meals to all the students of Baclayan Mangyan School. With its operation, the participation rate from January to March had increased. Before the implementation of the feeding program, there were only 20 to 40 students out of the 137 students registered were able to go to school. But after the implementation, the number surged to around 70 to 80 students in school.

Community Social Services and Community Advocacy against Child sexual abuse/exploitation

Numerous social services were provided to the community. It's apparent that more and more people are aware of the existence of the organization and they see the organization as a resource center in terms of child protection and in meeting their family and community needs. We were also confronted with some child abuse cases and these were handled in partnership with local authorities.

For this semester, we were able to provide the following social services in the community: 1) educational assistance to a graduating student for his on-the-job training and ship familiarization course; 2) financial assistance for the school improvement of Aninuan and Palangan Elementary schools and for sports activity in Barangay Talipanan; 3) donated paint for the basketball court in San Antonio; 4) donated construction supplies for school improvement in Palangan Elementary school; 5) financial assistance and vehicle use for burial and medical related concerns to four (4) families; 6) facilitated rescue, transfer of custody and filing of case of children victims of sexual abuse; 7) reported five (5) cases of child sexual abuse to the local authority; 8) counseling sessions to the siblings, parents and victims of child sexual abuse; and 9) provided manpower services in the road

maintenance of one community; 10) financial assistance for sports activities in Talipanan community; 11) donated two electric fans to the community chapel

We also continue to provide community awareness sessions. The following are the different orientations/workshop conducted in the community.

- Awareness session on Anti-Child Sex Trafficking to one hundred fifty three (153) public school teachers
- Online Safety orientation to eight hundred twenty six (826) high school students.
- Thirteen (13) scholars were oriented on Adolescent Reproductive health, thirty eight (38) new scholars were provided orientation on CRC/CSAP and twenty six (26) were provided orientation on Online Safety
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) orientation and film showing of A Good Boy to 871 parents from Puerto Galera National High School
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) & Child Sexual Abuse Prevention (CSAP) orientation to 916 children
- CRC & CSAP orientation to 27 parents who are Indigenous People from the community
- CRC & CSAP orientation to 48 parents who are officers of Parents-Teachers Association
- CRC & CSAP orientation to four hundred eight (408) indigenous children

The number of community people who sought assistance is a clear indicator that more people are getting aware of the existence of the organization and they see the organization as a resource center in terms of child protection and in meeting their family and community needs.

The incidence of prostitution and sex trafficking in Puerto Galera compelled us to provide awareness session on child sex trafficking and child pornography among the public school teachers. Generally, majority of teachers are not aware of the prevalence of the problem around the globe. There is also common understanding that poverty is the cause of sex trafficking. In addition, they consider women involved in sex industry as lazy, promiscuous, immoral and materialistic, among others. In short, the understanding on the issue is very limited and some even blame the victims.

An orientation of Adolescent Reproductive Health was provided to local children. One of the issues confronted by young children today is on reproductive health. We encountered children being sexually-harassed in school and in the community. Children need to understand their own sexuality and be prepared for potential risks in relation to their reproductive health. Based on the current trends, children are becoming very much focused or even become addicted to online computer games. Through this comes another problem when children become exposed to online pornography and other crime committed online. The two-hour orientation provided by Stairway gave students ideas on how to be safe online and served as an opportunity for the children to share their positive and negative experiences online.

A school for Indigenous children was confronted with the issue of child sexual abuse and inappropriate sexual behaviours of children. This prompted the school principal and teachers to avail the services and program of SFI to confront the issue. Counselling to the involved children and their supportive parents were conducted. Four hundred eight (408) children were provided orientation on CRC & CSAP while 27 IP parents were provided orientation on CRC & CSAP. The Department of Education from Oriental Mindoro recognized the prevalence of child sexual abuse and they

requested SFI to conduct awareness sessions to the officers of Parents-Teacher Association.

Ancillary initiatives

There are 48 parents who attended the orientation on CRC & CSAP in a neighbouring town.

In order to raise the consciousness of the members of the school community on Children's Rights and Protection of Children, Stairway was invited to participate in the Project LITA (Loving Intervention through Accountability). A UNCRC Orientation and film-showing of Good Boy was done to 871 parents of PGNHS.

Capacity building session on how children can protect themselves from abuse is SFI utmost concern. It is mandatory for all scholars to attend the different awareness sessions conducted. The Department of Education has released a memo making it mandatory to all its school to come up with a Child Protection Policy and Committee. Local Advocacy arm of Stairway is still in the process of networking with DepEd elementary and secondary schools on this matter.

Advocacy Program

As an organization involved in advocacy and capacity building, Stairway in the early years of program implementation of its CSAP (child sexual abuse prevention program) has traditionally done this via direct sessions for beneficiaries. Directly, we have reached the following persons directly:

Direct child protection sessions done by Stairway
13,501 persons provided CSAP Training of Caregivers.
124 persons trained to be CSAP trainers.
97 persons trained on Paracounseling.
1,564 children provided online safety and anti-child pornography sessions
660 adults have gone through online safety and Anti-child pornography sessions
153 persons reached with anti-child sex trafficking training.
70 persons reached with the child protection policy training

capacitate them to be become advocates themselves.



As our skill set and knowledge progressed by accumulating experiences, we have gradually branched out to train other NGOs on the issue. A natural progression for the advocacy and capacity building team was to not only train organizations and groups, but rather, to

The ultimate goal of the advocacy and capacity building project of Stairway is to reach out to as many people as possible with our message, in a sustainable manner, and the only way to achieve this considering our limited resources (both human and financial) is to train others to do the advocacy themselves – the replicating effect. Currently, the Break the Silence campaign is achieving this by developing local child sexual abuse resource centers thru these partner NGOs. We have seen exceptional cases wherein BTS partners have developed to the extent that they are being seen as crucial resources for advocacy on children's rights and child sexual abuse prevention in the communities they serve. Reaching about 20,000 persons with the CSAP Advocacy, 60% of which are

children, the BTS network is reaching its goal of conducting massive advocacy in different parts of the Philippines. The expansion of the BTS network started its dramatic increase this 1st half of the year and continued up until the end of 2012, with the addition of several other Break the Silence partners from key areas in Luzon, Visayas and the Mindanao Region. Presently, there are around 30++ Break the Silence partners implementing the Break the Silence campaigns, reaching out to schools, government partners and communities. The number of BTS partners who have been capacitated has increased and started doing their own advocacies.

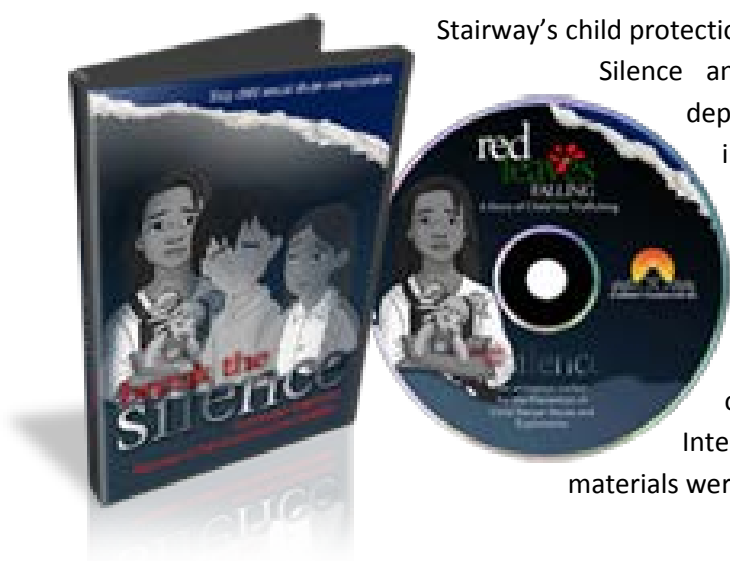
30++ organizations inside and outside the Philippines are conducting CSAP sessions because of Stairway training
1,250 persons provided with CRC/CSAP orientation by Ancillary trainer in Silang, Cavite
20,000++ persons provided with CRC/CSAP orientations by the BTS network
1,500 children given basic CSAP by Police recruits trained on CSAP
The 30++ organizations who have been conducting CSAP sessions have integrated the program at different levels, some have adopted it as activity based initiatives, while some have included it at the organizational program level.

The extent of the BTS campaign is not only limited in the Philippines, as active BTS campaigns are conducted right now in Thailand, especially in the town of Sangkhlaburi, bordering the Myanmar-Thai area. BTS facilitators are reaching out right now to vulnerable migrant villages with the BTS campaign. In June last year, training was also conducted in Chiang Mai, Thailand for different local NGOs working there, of which, these groups were trained on how to use Stairway's animations. Several NGOs and government partners were trained in India on CSAP thru the BTS campaign. A partner in Vietnam called NGO Fontana received training also on CSAP and the use of the animations.

Another strong partner of ours is the local social welfare and development office of Silang, Cavite, of which, has allocated a fulltime child protection advocacy worker who conducts regular CRC/CSAP sessions in their locality.

Also fascinating to note is how our work in the 17 regional police training schools thru the provision of 1 day CSAP sessions for police trainees has produced ancillary child protection sessions in the form of police trainees themselves conducting CSAP sessions when they are given area assignments.

Stairway's child protection trainings revolve around the use of our Break the Silence animation trilogy. Several trainings are offered, depending on the set objective. Stairway was also invited in the International Child Protection Network conference organized by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Center of the United Kingdom, which was held in Cambodia. Stairway presented its experiences in conducting its Online Safety Campaign, which is considered one pioneering effort in the Philippines. International trainings on CSAP and the use of our materials were also conducted in India, Thailand and Vietnam.





Stairway being involved in a major child protection training project by KNH Germany

Another milestone for Stairway is being tapped to conduct and assist in the development and delivery of a child protection policy capacity building program by KNH Germany. Because of this initiative, Stairway's animation Daughter is projected to be shown to several NGOs based in Asia, Africa and Latin America thru the said international partner. One of Stairway's advocacy and training officer

has also been tapped to serve both as a

Philippine trainer, as well as an Asia Regional Trainer (to serve North India, Pakistan as well as Ethiopia in a co-regional trainer capacity).

Stairway is always on the search for organizations which are interested in taking on the CSAP advocacy, and which have people who have the potential to serve as advocates themselves in the communities they operate in. Aside from the trainings, a major aspect of our work revolves around linking up with organizations and networks in order to offer our child protection trainings and spread the advocacy via the replicating effect.

Very notable achievements for 2012 in the area of establishing collaboration partnerships include the following:

- Finalization and endorsement of the signing of the MOA with the Department of Social Welfare and Development 4Ps program, which is the biggest social development program of the National Government. Under the said agreement, Stairway shall train 4Ps workers in order for them to have the capacity to bring down the CRC/CSAP campaign to their target household beneficiaries, as of this date, numbering to about 3million households, or approximately 21 million people.
- The confirmation of Stairway as one of the official NGO representatives to the National Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography, based on its strength of developing the advocacy film "Red Leaves Falling" together with its pioneering efforts in Online Safety in the Philippines.
- Training of Rotarians from Malaysia and NGOs operating in Chaing Mai, Thailand was conducted.
- A partnership with NGO Fontana on CSAP, based in Vietnam.
- Initial linking with organizations in India thru the Break the Silence campaign.
- Continued partnership with the 17 Regional Police training schools in the Philippines of which 11,000 police trainees are provided child protection capacity building sessions annually.



A BTS partner in a community CSAP session

Another means for advocacy is thru theatre. Cracked Mirrors, which is about child sexual abuse and exploitation is played with striking conviction by our own theatre group TASK (Talented Ambitious former Street Kids). Four (4) monologues are presented to audiences depicting issues of child sexual abuse and exploitation. What sets the theatre piece apart from the issue it portrays are the short talks provided by TASK



members after each performance, wherein they share how they relate to the roles they portray since they themselves are survivors of child sexual abuse. Cracked Mirrors gives a human face to the problem being discussed in the different child protection trainings being done by the advocacy and capacity building team, of which, considers it as the most powerful tool in making people understand and care about the issue. For 2012, 871 persons have seen the Cracked Mirrors.

2.2

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

To gain healthy body, the children were provided with various health-related services and activities which include the following: physical check-up, laboratory examinations, provision of nutritious food and multi-vitamins, regular sports activities and enough rest and sleep. Children with medical problem were provided appropriate medical intervention.

The child who was operated from contraction of mandibles gained healthy body and self-

esteem. He was reunited to his family who committed to continue facilitating his quarterly medical check-up. One (1) child had a successful operation from appendicitis and four (4) children were circumcised and given oral medication. All children from the first batch gained height and weight; they showed healthy appearance and no one got sick since the start of the year until they graduated in the program. The second batch that arrived on June 18, 2012 was provided physical examination and laboratory examinations on their third day in the center. Two (2) children had ova parasite that were given treatment and got cured. Two (2) children had pulmonary problem, were provided



medication. Both of them got cured. The newly admitted eight (8) children were given scabies treatment using sulphur soap and medicated lotion. They were also provided orientation on personal hygiene. Their height and weight were documented and this will be monitored on a monthly basis.

Four (4) children from batch 2011-2012 took the Acceleration and Equivalency test of the Department of Education and all passed the examination. This means, they are qualified to be enrolled in a secondary school. We are now challenged to bring their literacy to a higher level. The six (6) children who were reintegrated to their respective families are all enrolled in the local school. They were also prepared educationally so that they will be ready to continue their schooling when they leave Stairway. Aside from improving their literacy, the children also learned different skills such as in handicrafts, music, arts, sports and creative arts. The first batch learned to make dream catchers, friendship bracelets and tie-dye. The children also learned how to play the guitar and percussion instrument. They can now also paint. All of them earned money from making handicraft products. Sports class and other activities were also conducted seven times a week. The children learned how to play football, basketball, table tennis, sailing and gymnastics. Computer classes are conducted twice a week. All children learned to navigate the different programs on the computer and they are also able to improve their computer literacy.

For school year 2012-2013, 13 children were given literacy a class inside the center while one (1) is enrolled in formal schooling in the local secondary school.

From September to December 2012, the boys have attended every afternoon Creative Arts classes under the supervision of Ms. Monica D. Ray, SFI Creative Director. The sessions do not only aim to train the children how to perform on stage but most importantly, it gives them the opportunity to gain their self-esteem back in a positive way. The result of these sessions is the performance of One Wish Christmas Play. For two weeks, from December 21 to 30, 2012, the children performed One Wish for the Puerto Galera Community.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For the Scholarship Program, we can say that the scholars are more connected and together. The activities provided through the year gave them opportunity to meet new friends and deepen their relationship with their classmates-co scholars. They expressed that what they love about being a Stairway scholar is attending SFI initiated activities because it gives them time to bond with other scholars in a meaningful way.

Due to our new services for the Mangyan Community students at Baclayan Mangyan School, students are more motivated to go to school. The students go to school even during rainy days. Stairway recognizes there are still gaps in the program implementation but little gains are enough to keep the program running.

One mother has expressed that before the Feeding Program, her daughter has difficulty in waking up in preparation for school. She has to do a lot of spiels in order to convince and motivate her daughter to go to school. With the Feeding Program, her daughter wakes up on her own and is very excited to go to school.

Parents are now able to understand their roles in the implementation of the feeding program. With continuous reminder of their roles in the operation of the program, parents are able to do their share in its implementation.

Students still tend to go home whenever their teacher is absent. These affect the operation of the feeding program. Attendance drops whenever a teacher is absent. Discussion with SFI Executive Director and Baclayan Mangyan School Head Teacher has already happened and ways to address this concern are currently being identified.

Advocacy Program

Being capacity building in nature, Stairway's Advocacy program focuses on building up the capacity of stakeholders who work with children in terms of raising their awareness about the issue, providing the necessary knowledge and skills, and most importantly, setting the right mindset on how stakeholders should develop the proper heart for children.

All of our efforts in the advocacy program eventually leads to building up what we call protective and pro-active child protection safety nets for children. These safety nets put into place pro-active approaches that train children themselves, as well as adults on how to deliver social technologies to children and families that will enable these children to protect themselves from child sexual abuse and exploitation. It also puts into place the necessary safety nets in order to address cases of child sexual abuse when disclosures happened during the advocacy CSAP sessions done either directly by Stairway, or thru our numerous partners in the Break the Silence network.



We would like to believe, based on the many anecdotal experiences of victims and survivors, that child sexual abuse plays a major role in hindering children towards discovering their full potential. By addressing the issue directly, we are in effect not only confronting the issue of abuse in itself only, but also maximizing other efforts not necessarily related to the issue of abuse (e.g. education, etc).

2.3. Which problems or difficulties has the project been faced with and how has the project tried/is trying to cope with them? Please also describe the lessons learned.

The residential program was faced with the same challenges as last year in terms of placing children to other centers that would cater to their needs. Our partner organizations changed criteria in admitting children: one partner only admits orphaned or abandoned children while one partner caters younger children. We also had difficulty locating the parents and relatives of abandoned children. To date, we are unable to locate the parents and relatives of four children.

The distance of our center from Manila City also posed a challenge for us to comply with the new national law on filing adoption for children who are abandoned, neglected and dependent. The filing and procurement of documents needs to be conducted in Manila City thus making this activity resource intensive. Another difficulty is the limited medical services available in Puerto Galera. We have to go to Calapan City or in Manila to facilitate delicate medical treatments.

Challenges encountered in the Educational Program for this reporting period include teacher's attitude. Teaching boys with different backgrounds and experiences poses challenge to the capacity and skill of a teacher. It does not only require good set of teacher skills most of all it requires positive attitude to share with the boys.

Another challenge is the composition of the boys. For this batch, we are confronted with boys who are fast and very slow learners. There are children who can read simple sentences and phrases while there are also boys who can't recognize the letters of the alphabet.

For the scholarship program, children and their parents are better at submitting/doing their part in the program. Record shows that 93% of the students are able to submit their Report Cards on time.

The Community Crisis Intervention program continues to expand its scope and as more people are able to know about SFI programs and services, there is a tendency for people to think that SFI can help solve "all their problems." This is common for those who needed financial assistance – those who may require medical attention, burial assistance or to pay for their children's school requirements. The organization can only provide minimal support such as transportation and provision of small financial help.

Despite massive awareness campaign the challenges in terms of reporting cases of abuse or assisting victims of abuse, remains the same. For the school community, it is becoming more evident that teachers are afraid to report cases of child sexual abuse. While Barangay Officials lack motivation to report suspected cases of sexual abuse, a lot of them still think that *"this is a family matter and that the family should be the one to settle it."*

In working with the Mangyans, it will still be a long process for adults to imbibe the value of education. Believing that education is important is one but acting on it is another issue. Regular PTA meetings are being held to remind parents of their duties in the implementation of the feeding program.

The situation with the advocacy and capacity building program is that the level of our implementation, both in quantity, scope and "intensiveness" is always on an upward trajectory yearly. This level of implementation stems not only from a professional commitment, but also, from the personal commitment of members of the organizations. In order to mitigate any dire difficulties, an additional advocacy worker was hired March, 2012.

However, the main difficulty right now stems from maintaining a balance between doing what we want to achieve vis-à-vis what we can afford to do with the resources we have right now. There are present and potential opportunities for collaboration, and there are engagements already being done that have been reached by Stairway because of the long years of striving to link up with crucial sectors like the law enforcement, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, as well as the vast network of NGOs amongst other groups not mentioned here. The challenge therefore lies on the fact that we are coming to a point that no matter how "thrifty" we are with the resources entrusted to us in conducting our advocacy and capacity building initiatives, our resources right now are on a level that there is a high possibility that it will be difficult to sustain what we are presently doing as reflected in the annual reports we have submitted if we don't secure additional resources.

3. Outlook and thanks

3.1. Future plans

With the completion of the children's quarter, we will be able to accommodate more children next year. We will continue to capacitate the Peer motivators to become child advocates and be role models of the new and younger children. In addition, the peer motivators will be prepared to take a higher education by adopting the Alternative Learning system curriculum of the Department of Education. We will also renovate the construction of the music room so that children will have appropriate venue to play percussion instruments without disturbing the people around the area.

We will conduct massive awareness on Children's Rights and prevention of Child Sexual abuse/exploitation in the community in partnership of different stakeholders. We will also continue to extend assistance to the community such as medical, sports, education and socio-cultural and people in crisis situation.

In terms of local advocacy, we hope that we can identify and work with at least one school in Puerto Galera who can make a model Child Protection Policy for the Municipality.

For this reporting period, we are happy to report that we were able to test the organic farm. The organic farm has been able to produce banana, beans, copra, pechay, green papaya, kamote tops, jackfruit, eggplant, coconut milk, ginger, white radish, moringga leaves, and mustard. Stairway was also able to grow herbs like basil, parsley, coriander, dill, lemon basil and lemon grass. However, sustaining these products is the next step. Stairway is still in search for an Agriculturist who can sustain the above mentioned produce.

With the increase of enrollment rate at the Baclayan Mangyan School there is a pressing need to expand the feeding program kitchen. This will be constructed during the summer of 2013.

We are in the process of hiring new teacher who can help us accomplish our vision for the boys that are under our care.

For the Advocacy program, we shall still continue with our present work. We are currently exploring expansion work in Nepal thru another partner and we plan on further improving our training materials in order to reflect the existing trends right now in child protection work. A concrete project in the pipeline for 2013 is the implementation of a child protection policy project with the Philippine Department of Education.

3.2. Our gratitude for the sponsors and donors:

We are always thankful for the support of donors and partners who continuously made our work possible. Many disadvantaged children benefited from your generous contributions and more children will be reach with your continued support. As an organization working for the promotion of children's rights we see the need to further our cause towards the realization of children's rights.

II. SPECIFIC ASPECTS

1. Organizational level

1.1. Major events

We were able to obtain a three (3) years renewal of our Registration/License and accreditation from the Department of Social Welfare and Development last Nov. 16, 2012. Our Manila office was equipped with necessary facilities, equipment's and manpower for its effective operation. A furnished therapy room was established to cater the needs of sexually abused children.

After three years, Stairway's child protection policy was reviewed, revised and disseminated again to all SFI staff in order to ensure that the organizations commitment to child protection, both external and internal is followed through.

1.2. Changes in the partner organization, such as key staff, board composition etc.

With the resignation of the Admin/Finance officer, we restructured our staff and a senior social worker has taken on the position as admin officer. The finance officer position was taken by another senior social worker, who is already the coordinator of the BtS program.

At the board level, one member is also a paid staff in the organization, which means she has no voting right at board level. She is, however, still sitting as a representative of the staff.

1.3. Major challenges and related responses at the organization

One major challenge was submitting Financial Statement for Security Exchange Commission (SEC) requirement which was overlooked for some years. Action had been conducted to comply with the said requirement. Another challenge was the fast turnover of staff because of inability to meet the standard, difficulty delivering the assigned tasks or personal plans in life. Majority of separations were induced, because the staff did not meet the standards of the organization. It was a deliberate move in order to heighten our standards.

2. Program/project management

A new Psychologist was hired last January 12, 2012 as a replacement of resigned employee last December 2011. The advocacy officer, admin/finance officer, agriculturist and teacher resigned which prompted us to restructure the staff and utilized volunteers to take the tasks of resigned employees.

With the resignation of one of the house fathers (March 2012), Stairway promoted a project employee from the doll production (former client and one of the scholars of SFI on Social Work course) to the position of house father. He immediately underwent training with the residential manager and the social worker on the tasks and accountabilities of the position. At the end of this year he was regularized. A cook was also hired last June after one cook resigned. The newly hired cook was also regularized at the end of this year.

One in-house training on Fire Safety was conducted which was participated by twelve staff. The Residential Officer attended "Training on Handling Children in Conflict with the Law" and the

Psychologist attended a conference on “I am for a Child” which targeted to battle bad behaviors and enable adults to respond positively and effectively to children. Our Program Coordinator attended a Regional Forum on the Social Protection Handbook. An Advocacy officer attended an Orientation on the Implementation of Modified Cash Transfer for Families in Need of Special Protection. The residential social worker attended training on RA 9523-Declaration of Abandonment as administrative procedure.

The construction of the new children’s quarter was completed in September last year. Building a concrete structure is for the purpose of replacing the dilapidating wooden structure of the old quarters. It has more stable and spacious rooms for children’s dormitories, classrooms, library, computer room and large terraces at each level. The children transferred in the new building in September 2012. However, the new building still needs interior furnishing.

The Youth Camp Center was completed in August last. It is a three storey-structure made of bamboo and ‘nipa’ (native material from coconut tree), but with a solid concrete foundation reinforced for earth quake safety. Built on the top of Baclayan mountain, surrounded by tall coconut trees, exotic plants, organic vegetation and animal farms, it is conducive for camping and creative activities for youth camps and trainings.

Our Manila office is equipped with necessary working facilities and equipment. It has been used also by our Break the Silence partners. The therapy room is equipped with child friendly materials, interior design and wall painting. The interior designing was spearheaded by our Danish Volunteer Consultant assisted by SFI staff.

3. Networking

3.1. Networking activities with like-minded organizations and KNH partners

Residential Program

To locate and assess the capability of parents of children under the residential program, we regularly sought the assistance of the City Social Welfare and Provincial Social Welfare offices. We also constantly coordinated with these offices every time we reintegrated a child to his family to request assistance such as monitoring while the child is adjusting with his family, parenting effectiveness seminar and livelihood assistance for parents. The new batch of children admitted in the center came from three different government centers and one non-government organization. An agreement with these organizations had been established in achieving the treatment plan of each child.

Community Assistance Program

Stairway continues to partner with the Rural Health Unit of Municipality. This is to identify available services for Mangyan and address bottlenecks in accessing these services.

3.2. Coordination activities with other stakeholders concerning the project

For the local advocacy on Children’s Rights and Prevention of Child sexual abuse/exploitation, we were able to get the support of the local chief executive in our advocacy to create a child safe environment. The local Mayor requested the organization to show the animation on child sex trafficking and child pornography in every Barangay in Puerto Galera. This activity is also part of the

activity of MIACAT (Municipal Inter-agency Council against Trafficking and Violence against Women and their Children) where Stairway is a member. Partnership with other local stakeholders in the community is also maintained. Stairway regularly coordinated and work together with the local social welfare and development and Philippine National Police office in handling cases of child sexual abuse from the community. To date, we coordinated with the local authority in the rescue, filing of cases and counselling session for the child and the families of victims. We also established partnership with the Department of Education in our advocacy against child sexual abuse prevention.

In the advocacy program, we have established as what we have mentioned before, the “Break the Silence Network”. All members of the network have been trained intensively on child protection, and currently, the membership of the network includes the following organizations:

Stairway Foundation, Inc.

Break the Silence Project – Philippines

LIST AND DESCRIPTION OF PARTNERS as of November 2012

I. 2008A Partners

The 2008A Partners are NGOs trained by Stairway from the 1 year pilot project (in 2008) who decided and who are capable of continuing with the 5-year BTS-CSAP Network Project.

1. Food for the Hungry Philippines (FH Philippines) – National Capital Region
2. Northern Samar Children’s Ministries Network (NSCMN) – Region VIII
3. Bakyas Community Development Center, Inc. (BAKYAS) – Region VI
4. Katilingbanong Pagtagad Alang sa Kauswagan, Inc. (KAPASKI) – Region VII
5. UCCP Pag-ugmad sa Kabataan Foundation, Inc. (PAG-UGMAD) – Region XI

II. 2011A Partners

The 2011A Partners are NGOs that joined the BTS Campaign at the start of the 5-year BTS-CSAP Network Project (in 2011). They are trained directly by Stairway.

1. Share A Child Movement, Inc. – Region VII
2. Gitib, Inc. – Region X
3. Social Action Center of Zamboanga – Region IX
4. Support and Empower the Deaf Children, Inc. (SEADC) – deaf group; National Capital Region
5. Gualandi Volunteer Service Programme (GVSP) – deaf group; Region VII

III. A+ Partners

The A+ Partners are NGOs that expressed interest to join in the CSAP advocacy in 2011. They did not go through the same pre-training process and their level of commitment and agreement to the project differs with that of the NGO Partners in the 2011A Group

1. SOS Children’s Villages Philippines
2. Center for Family Services Philippines, Inc.

IV. B Partners

The B Partners are NGOs selected and trained by the 2008A and 2011A Partners.

Food for the Hungry Philippines

1. Onesimo Foundation
2. Ugnayan ng mga Samahan na may Adhikain, Dedikasyon at Damayan (USADD)
3. Kamuning Bible Christian Fellowship Operation Paglingap Foundation, Inc. (KBCF)
4. Christian Compassion Ministries International
5. Relief Mission International Association

Northern Samar Children's Ministries Network

1. Plan International, Inc. Northern Samar Program Unit
2. WESTERN SAMAR DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (WESADEF)
3. WESTERN SAMAR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NETWORK
4. EASTERN SAMAR CHILD RIGHTS ADVOCATE (ESCRAN)
5. YOUTH WITH A MISSION (YWAM)

Bakyas Community Development Center, Inc.

1. Quidan-Kaisahan of Negros Occidental, Inc. (QK)
2. Creative Community Foundation - Project
3. International Care Ministry of the Philippines, Inc.
4. Christian Advocates for Justice and Development in Negros, Inc.
5. Simag Foundation

Kapaski

1. Gender Watch Against Violence and Exploitation (GWAVE)
2. Bright Lights Community Learning Center (BLCLC)
3. Silliman University-Kindernothilfe-Kaugmaran Child Development Center (SU-KNH-KCDC)
4. Christian First Mission, Inc. (CFiM)
5. Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (PKKK)
6. KABU-Nagkahugpong Kababayan-an Sa Litid (KABU-NKL)

UCCP Pag-ugmad

1. Talikala
2. Tambayan
3. Bantay Bata

Gualandi Volunteer Service Programme (GVSP)

1. Cebu Deaf Association
2. Davao Deaf Association
3. Dumaguete Deaf Association
4. Bohol Deaf Association

4. Monitoring and evaluation

Each project conducts yearly annual assessment using the SWOT analysis to see how we are in achieving the goals of the project. Annual performance evaluation of employee was also conducted before the year ends. Inventory of materials/supplies and tools and a system of discharging supplies/materials have been in place for the efficient used of assets.

The Residential Program team meets once a week to discuss and address issues encountered within the program. Case conferences and intervention plan were also conducted to difficult cases. In addition, each team members submits a monthly performance report of the children which helps the social worker monitor the individual development of the child. Last May 2012, the residential team conducted an annual evaluation of the program. The community educational assistance conducts quarterly monitored the progress of the children through their report cards and continues feed backing with the school personnel.

5. Incidents related to the anti-corruption and child protection codices

None to report.

6. Planned changes for the next period

The Residential Program plan to set-up an “Independent Living program” for the older children who had been more than one year in the project. We will also focus on capacitating them on the skills of the hand that would enable them to acquire income generating skills. With the local advocacy, we hope that we can identify and work with at least one school in Puerto Galera who can make a model Child Protection Policy for the Municipality



