

Cagayan, Easter 2014

Dear Partners,

A blessed season of Easter!

A religious composer wrote "I know who holds the future." – "...I don't know about tomorrow. I don't seem to understand" is the song that children of Gugma sa Kabataan had been singing. Indeed, no one knows what lies ahead of the 42 children and the sustainability to the programs and services of our organization. As an organization, all our resources, both material and human, come unexpectedly. We are grateful to the many named and unnamed individuals, families and organizations who journeyed with us for the development of our 42 children who are survivors of abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination.

On the other hand, we recognized the many gifts of children on perseverance, hard work, humility, resilience, creativity, willingness on their social development specifically on education. They are achievers becoming survivors journeying with faith from their predicament.

To cite some achievers:

- **Erica Kaye Mante** and **Abegail Gallamora**, who recently received their high school diploma are able to get sponsors from New York ,U.S.A. Both are very thankful to get support for their university education. The girls successfully passed the university exam. Abegail is interested to be in the field of psychology while Erica dreamt to be an educator working with children who have special needs.
- **Judy Ann Cloma**, who is a contemporary of Erica and Abegail successfully passed the university scholarship program. She would like to be a teacher in the secondary school.
- **Albina Augustine Leonor**, who got the highest academic award as Valedictorian from the secondary school in 2013 is enjoying her scholarship from the University of the Philippines. She is working on her Bachelor's degree in Economics.
- **Meann Ibanez**, graduated Salututorian where she finished secondary education in 2012. This school year 2014, she will be on her junior year working on the degree of Bachelor in industrial engineering. Also, her competence qualified her to be a scholar of the Cagayan de Oro City.
- **Hosen Gamos** and **Devine Grace Dagang** are now on their junior year working on the degree of Bachelor of Science. Both of them obtained their secondary education diploma in 2012.
- **Anna Fay Edulsa** has been a consistent academic awardee from elementary to university. In 2012 she obtained her Bachelor's degree in Information Technology as Cum Laude. In December 2013 she was awarded as outstanding web analyst by the organization she works for.

Looking back, these children were on the street because of bad circumstances. They knew where they came from. Not one of them knew where they were going. However, there is one thing they are assured, they know WHO holds their future and there is SOMEONE who holds their hand.

Thank you for being a partner holding the hands of these children.

Iluminada Domingo

Executive Director of Gugma sa Kabataan