

OUR FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CYBERSEX CRIME IN THE PHILIPPINES

# more precious than diamonds



**Captivating  
International**  
One Act. Endless Impact.

JANUARY TO JUNE 2024



# in this edition

03 *Impact Numbers*

04 *Message from the Founders*

06 *Stop Cybersex Crime*

10 *Microfinance Program*

14 *Manila Slum Project*

18 *The Blessed Project*

20 *Self-Sustainability for Sanghaya Foundation\**  
\*Sanghaya Foundation is formerly Honor 1000 Movement

OUR THANKS TO OUR KEY DONORS  
HELPING TO UNDERWRITE OUR WORK  
IN THE PHILIPPINES

Jamoca  
Foundation

Penman & Johnson  
Families

The Crossing



january to june 2024

# IMPACT NUMBERS

28,837 individuals were reached through distribution of infographic materials in schools, community education, mobilization of students in universities, and online campaigns and activities

75 new community advocates were trained to be more vigilant and equipped to report cases of abuse as well as take steps to prevent online sexual abuse and exploitation of children

stop cybersex crime

5,590 women helped since our microfinance program started

34 women successfully repaid their loans and are now considered poverty-free

121 new women were added in the past six months

60 active loan groups are running that serve as support and accountability system for the members

microfinance

147 children are now back in school and regularly attending class

15 high-potential students have individual programs in place ensuring their progress

300 families received education on child safety, laws regarding cybersex crime against children, and human trafficking awareness

102 of the 147 mothers are participating in special training sessions designed to guide them through our three sustainable pathways: microfinance, job search assistance, and employment/business training

manila slum project

19 young women were already successfully reintegrated out of the 22

The three remaining women who are yet to be reintegrated along with their three dependents continue to be supported and trained at the Blessed Sewing Enterprise.

blessed project

96% goal achieved for the total income raised for the year (as of June 2024)

Three major sources of income come from in-country fundraising (highest source), microfinance, and sewing enterprise

self-sustainability

# message from the founders



*Sanghaya staff, along with Australian volunteers and the women from the first Manila Slum Project, visiting the second location for the program*

To our amazing supporters of Captivating's work in the Philippines,

At the end of another six months of hard work in each of our project countries, it's always so motivating being able to take a few moments to read and review the impact that was made possible. This is what this update is all about, and we hope you enjoy reading through some of the key things our hardworking team and grassroots partners have been able to achieve this January - June 2024 period.

As we always say, our first thanks go to you, our supporters, for getting behind our work financially. We work in an extremely competitive charity space, and your decision to support Captivating with your hard earned funds is both humbling and extremely appreciated.

Our work in the Philippines has had a terrific six months. The team at the Sanghaya Foundation (previously the Honor 1000 Movement) have made significant advancement in all of their four programs. Captivating International fully underwrites most of Sanghaya's work, and we are excited to see their willingness to expand and push for more. We also want to acknowledge the partnership we have with the Global Development Group who work with us to help our programs reach international development standards and benchmarks. A couple of highlights for us have been seeing the growth of the ONE HOPE Microfinance Program, as well as the expansion of the Manila Slum Project into another location which will impact several hundred families and their children. Especially exciting has been the employment of three of the women beneficiaries from the first slum program to help lead and facilitate the second program. We love that.





Of course, as we reflect on another solid six months of impact, we enjoy it for a moment, but then quickly recognize there is still much to do. Our 2024 theme, **“Standing with You”** keeps ringing in our ears and makes us remember the importance of our work to a girl or impoverished mom who, right now, is struggling to progress. We are constantly reminded that our work is not just about financial support helping these girls or women progress and learn new skills, but it’s also about the emotional support and encouraging words constantly being given by our amazing staff and program partners. This is the glue helping to hold everything together. This is only possible because ALL of us care enough to join hands together and make amazing things happen. As we say to each of these girls, “We’re standing with you,” we also say a big thank you to everyone reading this update for “standing with us” as we aim to do more in 2024.

*A.J. Colquhoun*      *J. Colquhoun*

**Andrew & Julie Colquhoun**  
FOUNDERS | CAPTIVATING



# stop cybersex crime

AND TRAFFICKING THROUGH EDUCATION

Ever since we started our initiatives in the Philippines, the goal of the Stop Cybersex Crime Awareness Program is to decrease the future occurrence of trafficking and cybersex crimes by implementing focused advocacy and community/school education strategies in high-risk locations. We strongly believe that education is the key strategy for creating systematic and sustainable change. That has still been our thrust for the first part of the year.

Some of the key initiatives we did this year include strengthening our partnership with the Department of Education and local police by conducting training alongside them so that we can all work together in raising awareness against online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC). We continue to expand our reach in the country, even reaching provinces in Northern Luzon such as Bataan. We were honored to conduct an online safety seminar for the Municipal Council officials of a town in Bataan. Municipal Council officials play a significant role in the local government unit, working directly under the mayor to oversee and manage local affairs, enact laws, and ensure all decisions are responsive to community needs. The town mayor and all 25 council officials actively participated in the seminar. Through this, we provided 400 anti-OSAEC awareness campaign materials to their municipal office.

As we prepare for a new school year, we worked on revising our anti-OSAEC awareness materials to stay relevant and updated. This includes an assessment form to get inputs from our beneficiaries on how the session impacted them. We will be able to gauge the effectiveness of our materials through this simple question. We are excited to implement it this new school year.

## impact

JANUARY TO JUNE 2024

- **28,837 individuals were reached** through distribution of infographic materials in schools, community education, mobilization of students in universities, and online campaigns and activities in the January to June period
- **75 new community advocates were trained** to be more vigilant and equipped in reporting cases of abuse as well as taking steps to prevent OSAEC. This group of community advocates is composed of teachers, community leaders, and representatives of organizations
- **27,200 people were reached** through community education campaigns

## empowering parents with Children International

Building on our ongoing partnership with Children International (CI) where we distributed 25,000 copies of calendars with relevant OSAEC information, we are also in support of one of their main programs for parents or guardians whose children have experienced various forms of abuse. These parents, through counseling and psychoeducation sessions, have shown the ability to care for children rescued from abuse and safeguard them from harm.

As part of this initiative, they attended awareness sessions on OSAEC to equip them with knowledge and resources that will help them protect their children from online threats. Additionally, we have distributed our 2024 calendars containing essential information about OSAEC, including reporting hotlines, to empower these parents with the necessary tools to protect their children. Through these efforts, we empower parents with the knowledge and skills needed to create a safe environment for their children, both offline and online.

CI reaches out to thousands of families in different high risk areas in the Luzon region through medical and educational support. We have been partnering with them in equipping these families in preventing the exploitation of Filipino children.





## broadening advocacy across communities

We are always honored and excited when word about our advocacy spreads across towns and provinces, and local public offices and schools invite us to conduct our OSAEC awareness campaigns in their communities.

Early this year, we organized an online safety seminar and distributed OSAEC information booklets to 200 parents in Old San Jose Elementary School. The principal extended the invitation after learning about our seminar at a neighboring school.

In Bagong Silangan Elementary School, we responded to the school's request to conduct an online safety seminar specifically for their teachers, following a successful one held for their students and parents. We were able to cater a total of 272 teaching and non-teaching staff.

As one of the trusted organizations known for its advocacy to fight OSAEC, the Philippine National Police (PNP) in the Visayas region invited us to conduct online safety seminars among local communities and students. This joint effort allowed us to reach more than 500 people through informative training and materials.

The seminars have always been eye-openers for our adult audiences, the majority of whom are unaware of the gravity of OSAEC in the Philippines. Witnessing videos of actual rescue operations and understanding the prevalence of online safety concerns often leave them shocked, but determined to take action. Parents, teachers, and people of authority hold significant influence over the children and play a crucial role in protecting them. We are grateful that they are equally committed to equip themselves with the right information and tools to fulfill their responsibilities to the younger generation.

We still have a long way to go, but we know that we are on the right track, thanks to the collaborative efforts of various members of the community.





## simple strategy, big impact



Continuing our commitment to broaden the impact of our online awareness campaign, we again partnered with Barangay Loyola, where our Manila Slum Project is located. This program serves five slum communities and 140+ beneficiaries. In close collaboration with barangay officials, the local police actively participated in facilitating the distribution of 500 calendars with OSAEC information across the neighboring slum areas. Calendars can be considered as common daily household items for Filipino families - you can almost see one in every part of the house - so having OSAEC information on the calendars make them more accessible and help strengthen recall. Additionally, the distribution also happened in key public spaces frequented by public transport drivers which piqued their interest as well.



We are grateful for our collaboration with the barangay, and the involvement of the local police force in our initiative is a testament to our shared commitment. By working together, we combine our resources and expertise to enhance our prevention efforts, safeguarding Filipino children from online threats.



# ERADICATING POVERTY THROUGH microfinance

## impact

JANUARY TO JUNE 2024

Our on-the-ground staff in the Philippines continue to focus on adding new clients and strengthening fellowship groups in our microfinance program. Last quarter of 2023, we challenged our staff to reach a minimum of 300 clients per loan officer. We are happy to say that the staff were able to add 96 new clients for the first quarter of this year! We also asked our group coordinators for their participation as they are the point person we trust in each of our communities. After this, we directed the staff to pace themselves again at 20 new clients per month. We want to observe the performance of these new clients and the effect it will have with our fellowship groups.

In addition to these initiatives, we are also helping Armand, our program manager, to improve the monitoring process of our clients' businesses to make sure they are growing and earning profit. We will continue to closely monitor our staff and make sure that our new clients are performing well.

- **5,590 women** helped since our Microfinance Program started
- **34 women** successfully repaid their loans and are now considered *poverty-free*
- **121 new women** were added in the past six months
- **60 active loan groups** are running that serve as support and accountability system for the members

## evangeline pivots her business for a better opportunity



There are times when some of our clients transition to another business because of unforeseen circumstances like economic changes; sometimes, it's because of better opportunities and good saving habits. This is the case for Evangeline when she changed her business from a roving vegetable stand to building a sari-sari\* store beside her house. Since their house is near a memorial park, this ensures good foot traffic for her store. She shares that since opening her store, she hasn't experienced a zero-gross-income day. No matter how small the day's income, she celebrates it as a win! Setting up her business beside her home also gives her the chance to care for her two kids. She continues to grow her store with the help of the small business loan we provided. Recently, they bought an air compressor and set up a vulcanizing area in their front yard. This would widen her store's target consumer and ensure a new stream of daily income.

We are grateful that through our microfinance program, we continue to serve and empower mothers like Evangeline. We are excited to see where she would take her business!

*\*local convenience store located in the neighborhood and usually attached to the owner's house*



## rechel's hope for her kids

In our continued effort to reach sustainability, our staff screened 90 new clients in the first quarter of 2024. All these prospective clients went through the process of attending fellowship meetings, submitting the required documents, going through business and credit investigation, and finishing our compulsory group training before finally getting their first loan.

One of our new clients is Rechel, who has three young children. She owns a small sari-sari store which she hopes would help her provide for her family's needs especially their basic needs and education. Her eldest is still in Grade 7, her second child is in Grade 1, and the youngest is still in Kinder. Rechel knows that there is still a long way to go in seeing all of her children graduate but she is happy that they are all in school. She hopes to see them succeed and finish their studies. She's grateful that she's found our microfinance program and its community of mothers who will become her support system in this journey.

## a new women's group blooms

In January, Bradley, one of our loan officers, visited the town of Hermosa, Bataan to get in touch with 12 new potential microfinance clients. Hermosa is the town next to where our current microfinance program is located. It is composed of 23 barangays (native Filipino term for village or district), and has a population of about 77,000. This gives us a great opportunity for expansion and reach more families in the region.

Efforts to start a new microfinance group in this town started in 2023 as we did courtesy calls with local officials, established trusted contacts, and surveyed the area for potential clients. Now, we are happy to share that in February, our new clients in the said town were able to meet for the first time. Just like other women's groups, we hope that this will serve as a support system for the moms as they share challenges and insights about their business endeavors. This new group will also be a valuable source of information to our microfinance program as we explore more ways to achieve sustainability.

We are excited not just for our Microfinance Program but also the opportunity to raise awareness against online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC).



*Bradley, our loan officer, during one of his potential client visits*



*Founding members of the Mabuco Fellowship Group (the name of the newly established microfinance group)*

# manila slum project

Our goal for our Manila Slum Project is to secure education for 200 out-of-school children in Manila slum communities. Without the appropriate intervention, most of these children are out on streets begging or selling flowers, and are at a significant risk of abuse, human trafficking, and cybersex crime. Thankfully, 147 children are now back in school as of June this year. A program sustainability plan has also been established and agreed upon by key community stakeholders and partners by the end of June 2024. Moving forward, we see long-term sustainability to include a range of interventions for these communities including life skills training, capacity building, educational support, and vocational pathways.

## impact

JANUARY TO JUNE 2024

- **147 children** are now back in school and regularly attending class
- **300 families** received education on child safety
- **15 high-potential students** receiving leadership trainings and educational trips
- **102 of the 147 mothers** are participating in special training sessions designed to guide them through our three sustainable pathways: microfinance, job search assistance, and employment/business training



MADE POSSIBLE  
THANKS TO OUR AMAZING KEY DONORS

**Penman and Johnson Families**

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**TJ & Michele**

**Paul Martino |  
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**John & Ann**

## academic excellence and youth representation

We continue to meet students in Ronas Garden (first partner village of the Manila Slum Project) whom we have identified as high achievers. In our discussion with them at the start of the year, we looked back on how their previous year had been, and shared what each one has set as their goal for this year. Fatima, one of the students, shared that she's aiming to continue improving her grades in school. She hopes to receive a school award as she perseveres in her studies.

These young girls are very grateful to receive educational assistance from our program, and we see their sincere gratitude through their determination and dedication in attending school.

Meanwhile, as we continue to work with the local leaders of Loyola Heights (where Ronas Garden is located) in establishing sustainable pathways for the youth, the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children recently inaugurated its own youth organization. This organization will regularly gather adolescents and teens, initiate programs for their development, and ensure that they are empowered to become positive contributors in the community.

We are proud to have two of our beneficiaries elected as officers in the organization! This is a huge step in strengthening our campaign against OSAEC as the children are able to represent themselves and advocate for their protection and other needs.



Since the program started, our team has been committed not only in putting children back to school but also in identifying and building up leaders among them. Witnessing our beneficiaries take on this vital role in their community is a testament to how much potential these young people have; they only need to be presented with the right opportunities. We see so much hope for the children in Ronas Garden as they continue to excel not only in their academics but as active participants in their community.

## a different path for alona's children

Alona grew up with no education. She doesn't know how to read and write. Because of this, Alona experienced being abused and tricked many times. When she had children, her children started begging in the streets while Alona would stay inside their small house in the slum most of the time, hiding from people.

We reached out to Alona when we were starting our Manila Slum Project. Our team was able to get to know her. Through our monthly parents' training, we were able to involve her in a small group that meets frequently for encouragement. Eventually, this same group became our first microfinance group in Manila.

Through these interactions and the friendship of other mothers in the neighborhood, Alona gained the courage to look for a more sustainable job to support her children. She has been working in a small manufacturing company for almost half a year now, able to support her two children in their education and daily needs.

Alona is grateful to our Manila Slum Project because her children can learn how to read and write. Now that they are able to attend school regularly, she is more hopeful that they will take on a path different from hers - far from the difficulties she went through, and toward a better future.







## a day of celebration and envisioning the future

In June, we met with our beneficiaries who just graduated Grades 10, 11, and 12. We congratulated them and appreciated their hardwork! Despite the financial challenges and family struggles they experience in their personal lives, these students persevered to finish well this school year. They were very proud to share their achievements and were grateful for the educational assistance they receive from the program.

We also discussed what they are excited about in the next school year, their plans after graduation, and how our team can further assist them with their education. From the discussion, we gathered that most of them see it helpful to be able to talk to older senior high and college graduates to give them advice so they can prepare for what's to come. Others see it helpful if they can talk to professionals who they aspire to be.

It was a fruitful discussion as we were also able to give guidance to these hardworking students and help broaden their view on the available educational and/or career paths they can take moving forward.

Before the day ended, the students again expressed their gratitude as they were granted additional educational assistance for the coming school year. By making education more accessible, they gain more opportunities to help build a better future for themselves and their families, permanently breaking away from the generational cycle of poverty.





# the blessed project

After being rescued, trafficking survivors are brought to The Blessed Project where they receive the physical, psychological, and educational support that they need. They are cared for at the shelter while they recover and heal, while being equipped with life skills that will help them get back on their feet in the future. The ultimate goal of this program is for them to be successfully reintegrated into the community, while ensuring that they will not be revictimized but instead become advocates against human trafficking and positive contributors to the society.

Of the 22 women, 19 have been successfully reintegrated. The three remaining women who are yet to be reintegrated along with their three dependents continue to be supported and trained at the Blessed Sewing Enterprise.

## a refuge for the children

In an operation by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), three child victims of OSAEC were rescued and were brought immediately to The Blessed Project for shelter and care. The said operation happened in the same town where our program is located, so we were able to quickly assist. We coordinated with the local leaders and the Department of Social Welfare and Development to ensure the safety of the children.

While the children are under our care, we are helping them resume schooling, assisting them in their meetings with lawyers and even in visiting their mom - the perpetrator - in jail.

Aside from the three children recently rescued, four siblings are also currently under our care after being rescued from their mom who had been exploiting them online. The mother is now in jail, while the NBI is still building a case against the father who is also a suspect. As the case progresses, the children go through a series of mandatory interviews with the NBI.

Such legal processes can be very stressful especially for children. As such, our social worker ensures that she always accompanies the children. She also conducts one-on-one counseling sessions with them after each interview to ensure that they are processing the situation well and are not experiencing any re-traumatization.

One heartbreaking reality in OSAEC is that in most cases, the children's trusted adults are the perpetrators. This makes the children's journey to restoration and reintegration even more challenging. Nonetheless, we strive to help them in their healing process. The staff at The Blessed Project become like second parents who provide holistic support to the kids. As it is still school break, they are able to play in our backyard, have coloring activities, and enjoy movie nights. These activities help the kids enjoy their childhood and maintain a sense of normalcy despite the trauma they have endured.





# self-sustainability

## FOR SANGHAYA FOUNDATION

Our goal is to enable our on-the-ground partner, Sanghaya Foundation (formerly Honor 1000 movement), progress towards their own sustainability. Currently, Sanghaya generates its own income through three income streams: (1) Microfinance profits; (2) The Blessed Sewing Social Enterprise; and (3) in-country fundraising.

In May, the team went through training sessions with Sam Gaukrodger, an Australian volunteer and an expert on Strategic Planning and Project Management. Since then, the team has been monitoring the number of active microfinance clients added, repayment % and interest collection. In the same quarter, Flo (Sanghaya Program Director) and Kayla (Financial Controller) met again with Sam to reassess our Microfinance Program. During the discussions, they looked at the program's mission statement, read through the entire manual, and evaluated how the staff were doing. Given that the program has been in close observation since last year, they all agreed that one of the goals is for the staff to be refreshed.

With this, the Sanghaya staff together with Sam and Nina (also a volunteer), planned for a two-day workshop with the Microfinance Staff. The second day was reserved for a fun team building experience! We are grateful for Sam's help in all this. He also expressed his commitment in helping us evaluate the team's performance even as he's back in Australia.



# impact

JANUARY TO JUNE 2024

- 96% goal achieved for the total income raised for the year (as of June 2024)
- The highest source of income come from Sanghaya's in-country fundraising.



## the growth of bayan-bayanan's fellowship group

It's been almost a year since we first started our Bayan-Bayanan Fellowship in Bataan. Our team, together with Sam and Nina, joined them in one of their meetings to see how they are doing in our program. It was an encouraging time as the mothers shared updates on each of the varieties of their business. Some sold balut (steamed duck egg), cooked food like snacks and viands, and some became rice dealers.

Tess, who is the coordinator for another fellowship group, was also with the team as she was the one who introduced us to the founding members and coordinator of Bayan-Bayanan. We were encouraged to see the support that Tess has shown to the group and the connection that they have with each other. We're inspired to continue looking for mothers who would become agents of change in their community like her.



## sewing partnerships supporting sustainability efforts

The Blessed Sewing Social Enterprise is grateful for the continued partnership with Winki Suits (an Australian clothing brand). After a series of adjustments and refinement of sizes, measurements were finalized and approved, and the team proceeded with the production. Seventy pieces of shirts and sweatshirts were shipped to Australia in time for the cold weather.

The team was also pleased to collaborate with Australian volunteers, Sam and Nina, on the creation of the "One by One Until All Are Free" shirts, featuring the Sanghaya Foundation logo on the back. These shirts were brought to Australia to promote Sanghaya and showcase the sewing enterprise. All profits from these shirts will directly support Sanghaya.



# YOU CAN BE INVOLVED today



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