

## To Get There: Reaching Out to the Unheard

This project by the *Religions for Peace* Philippines Youth Committee is a response to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to the different communities in Metro Manila, Philippines who are receiving less attention and help in this time of crisis. The Youth Committee aimed to provide food packages and/or sanitation essentials to the communities of garbage collectors, indigenous communities, street sweepers, informal settlers, displaced contractual workers and small churches, mosques, and temples.

In order to efficiently provide aid to the target communities, the Youth Committee has organized a special team to work on the project. This team is further divided into two to distribute the different tasks needed to be accomplished for the success of the project. This team is both supervised and involved in by the two Project Heads, Louise Obispo and Kaye Jimenez, and the Chair of the Subcommittee on Projects and Advocacies, Ricks Santos.

The first team, the Food and Sanitation Essentials Team (FSET), is composed of Selena Lim and Fatima Lotoc. While the second team, the Point Persons Team (PPT), is composed of Gino Sanchez, John Medina, Ciara Piñol, Ricks Santos, Fatima Lotoc, and Kaye Jimenez.

On the 18th of July, Ricks Santos conducted an inventory of all the excess food and sanitation essentials. He found that there was an excess of 36 kilograms of rice, 14 pieces of canned goods, five pieces of instant noodles, seven pieces of body soap, three pieces of 250 ml Isopropyl Alcohol, and 105 eco-bags.

He, together with the Project Heads, decided to group these items into four packages and distribute them to individuals on the street. After preparing all packages and materials, Ricks went on to the streets of Fairview, Quezon City on the 21st of July. He distributed all four packages to street vendors, and he also provided them with the flyer with COVID-19 information and the Filipino *RfP* Messages on COVID. At the same time, he had pledges for each individual signed and gathered their demographic information.

### A. Distribution of Extra Food and Sanitation Essentials

After the last day of distribution on the 17th of July, Ricks Santos performed an inventory of all the extra food and sanitation essentials. He was able to gather an excess of 36 kilograms of rice, 14 pieces of canned goods, five pieces of instant noodles, seven pieces of body soap, three pieces of 250 ml Isopropyl Alcohol, and 105 eco-bags.

Together with the project heads, they decided on grouping the excess items into four packages and distributing it to individuals on the street. Among Filipinos, this act is more commonly known as *bayanihan*. Although *bayanihan* is usually defined as the collective efforts of a community to make a difficult task easier, it is currently applied in society when individuals give items or perform acts of kindness towards individuals who are in need.

On the 20th of July, Ricks prepared all of the packages as well as the printed materials for distribution. He grouped the items into three packages containing three pieces of canned goods, one piece of instant noodles, nine kilograms of rice, one piece of 250 ml Isopropyl Alcohol, and two pieces of body soap. He also assembled one package containing five pieces of canned goods, two pieces of instant noodles, nine kilograms of rice, and one piece of body soap. The monitoring form for demographics, the flyer with COVID-19 information, the Filipino *RfP* Messages on COVID, as well as the pledge were also prepared.

On the 21st of July, Ricks set out to the streets of Fairview, Quezon City and distributed these four packages to individuals who are street vendors. He handed out these packages along with the printed materials. He made sure to have the pledge signed for each person and to gather their demographic information.