

RfP Philippines Youth Committee
Multi-religious Humanitarian in response to COVID-19
TO GET THERE: REACHING OUT TO THE UNHEARD

TENTH WEEKLY REPORT
12 to 18 July 2020

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 aims 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.

This week, the final distributions to both communities and facilities were made. On the 17th of July, the final two packages of food and sanitation essentials were distributed to two families of COVID positive patients with the help of the Good Shepherd Cathedral. On the same day, the final sanitation essentials package was delivered to the Hare Krishna Temple.

To complete the project, a Letter of Gratitude, a soft copy of the poster, the media pack and two-pager of the Filipino *RfP* Messages on COVID, and the publication materials on COVID created by the *RfP* Philippines Youth Committee were shared with the Good Shepherd Cathedral, the Soc Yan Temple, and the Hare Krishna Temple.

A. Distribution of Food and Sanitation Essentials Package with the Good Shepherd Cathedral

The final two packages of food and sanitation essentials were distributed to two families of COVID positive patients on the 17th of July. The volunteers of Good Shepherd Cathedral made their way to the residence of both families and made sure to practice safety measures such as social distancing, wearing of face masks, and regularly disinfecting their hands with isopropyl alcohol. Ricks Santos made sure to gather information on their demographics to add to the existing data that the team has collated.

B. Churches

On the 17th of July, after distributing the last two packages, Ricks Santos sent the Good Shepherd Cathedral a Letter of Gratitude, a soft copy of the poster, the media pack and two-pager of the Filipino *RfP* Messages on COVID, and the publication materials on COVID created by the *RfP* Philippines Youth Committee. This concludes the project with the Good Shepherd Cathedral.

C. Temples

On the 15th of July, Ms. Susan Garzon, the community representative of the Soc Yan Temple, sent the signed pledge to PPT Member, Ciara Piñol. In return, Ciara sent them a Letter of Gratitude, a soft copy of the poster, the media pack and two-pager of the Filipino *RfP* Messages on COVID, and the publication materials on COVID created by the *RfP* Philippines Youth Committee. This concludes the project with the Soc Yan Temple.

The perseverance and diligence of Louise Obispo and Ciara Piñol in looking for the last facility finally paid off on the 11th of July when Hare Krishna Temple from Makati City finally responded to the team's invitation. They expressed enthusiasm and gratitude for being invited to be a part of the project. Louise Obispo coordinated with them to gather information on their exact location, protocols for delivery, and the appropriate time to make the delivery. She also coordinated with Kaye Jimenez and Ciara Piñol to set a date for the delivery and to prepare the materials needed.

On the 17th of July, Kaye prepared the materials to be given and picked-up the sanitation essentials from Ciara's residence. She then headed to the temple where she was welcomed by Indravali Devi Dasi, the Officer-in-charge of Iskcon Sri Sri Radha Madha Mandir. She explained to her the packages that were given, as well as the posters with information about COVID and the Filipino *RfP* Messages on COVID. She also explained the pledge and had it signed. Prior to leaving the facility, Indravali Devi Dasi expressed their willingness and enthusiasm to be part of *RfP*'s future projects and programs since they usually participate in various interfaith activities. She also shared with Kaye a couple of burfi/burfa, which are Indian sweets that are usually offered to the gods and distributed to the devotees in temples.

After the delivery, Indravali Devi Dasi continued to share with Louise the different traditions and practices of Hinduism. The team intends to share these information in order to promote education and openness to other religions.

Finally, Louise sent them a Letter of Gratitude, a soft copy of the poster, the media pack and two-pager of the Filipino *RfP* Messages on COVID, and the publication materials on COVID created by the *RfP* Philippines Youth Committee. This concludes the project with the Hare Krishna Temple.