

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

NINTH WEEKLY REPORT

5 to 11 June 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.

On the 7th of July, six packages were given to the informal settlers from Sitio Basilio in Fairview, Quezon City. On the 11th of July, three food and sanitation packages were given to the Good Shepherd Cathedral on the same day. As for the remaining two packages, Ricks Santos is still coordinating with the Good Shepherd Cathedral for its delivery.

In the beginning of the project, Professor Arvin Eballo, the Director of the Simbahayan Community Development Office in the University of Santo Tomas supported the project through connecting the team to Bro. Martin Francisco of the Dumagat Community. As a show of appreciation, a Letter of Gratitude as well as a soft copy of the poster and flyer, 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 to him for the benefit of his community and the partner communities of the University.

The team is still diligently searching for the last facility to help. Louise Obispo and Ciara Piñol are tirelessly contacting and searching for temples that accept donations. Jaymee Albos, the Organization Representative from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is also taking part in looking for churches that are in need of help during this time.

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

After distributing 20 packages to the informal settlers in the Lumantad Area and three packages to the families of COVID-positive outpatients, Ricks Santos and the Good Shepherd Cathedral were left with 11 packages of food and sanitation essentials.

On the 7th of July, six of these packages were given to the informal settlers of Sitio Basilio in Fairview, Quezon City. The volunteers of the Good Shepherd Cathedral applied the same system for distribution that they had before. Volunteers were divided into different tasks to ensure that the process would be orderly. Furthermore, both the volunteers and the recipients practised safety measures such as social distancing, wearing of face mask, and disinfecting their hands through the use of alcohol. Ricks made sure to capture their demographics.

B. Dumagat Community

At the initial stages of the project PPT Member Kaye Jimenez reached out to Prof. Arvin Eballo, the Director of the Simbahayan Community Development Office of the University of Santo Tomas. She asked for his assistance in reaching the Dumagat Community. His support played an essential role in the project for this allowed the team to accompany the Dumagat Community during this pandemic.

In order to show the team's appreciation for his help, a Letter of Gratitude and a soft copy of the poster and flyer, 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 to him for the benefit of his and the University's partner communities.

C. Churches

On the 11th of July, three packages of food and sanitation essentials were given to the Good Shepherd Cathedral. These packages were centralized for the benefit of the ministry and the volunteers. Another pledge was signed by Jojie R. Dael, their representative, on the same day.

D. Temples

This week, the team is still working together and collaborating with Jaymee Albos in looking for another facility to help. Louise Obispo and Ciara Piñol are persistent in contacting Buddhist and Hindu Temples within Metro Manila. Despite numerous facilities that are neither responding nor accepting donations, the team is still persevering to look for another facility that could benefit from a package of sanitation essentials.