



PROGRAM PAGHILOM REPORT: 2020

BACKGROUND

Program PagHILOM is an integrated, holistic program that aims to help the widows and orphans of EJK victims rebuild and re-create their lives. As extrajudicial killings continue, PagHILOM reaches out to more victim survivors in partnership with other human rights groups that address their psycho-spiritual, legal, and economic needs. There are five Developmental Stages of PagHILOM Intervention:

Phase 1: Food and Health Care

Phase 2: Eight (8) to Twelve (12) Saturdays of Psycho-Spiritual Intervention (PSI) plus:

2a) 3-Day Retreat in Tagaytay City

2b) 3-Day Theater Workshop and Showcase

Phase 3: Legal Assistance

Phase 4: Educational Assistance

Phase 5: Livelihood and Employment

During the first quarter of 2020, Batch 8 consisting of 14 families from Brgy. Holy Spirit, Marikina, Pureza, Navotas, Tondo and Pateros continued their PSI on February 1, 8 & 15, 2020.

The same families participated in a *3-day spiritual retreat* on February 21 to 23, 2020 at CasaMara, Tagaytay City. They participated in a *3-day Theater Art Workshop* on March 2-4, 2020 and presented their showcase at the Don Bosco Technical Institute, Makati City. The showcase was presented to 500 students and teachers.

The year 2020 has been a challenging year for everyone. The global pandemic has dictated the “new normal,” and the AJ Kalinga Foundation Inc. had to re-strategize its implementation of programs. *Program Paghilom* has been focusing on the health of the families, both physiological and psychological, as well as developing educational and livelihood programs to ensure sustainability of interventions.

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Food security is currently the priority for all. Our 168 families (Batches 1 to 9) continue to receive a monthly allowance to help them during the pandemic, as many had lost their jobs or are unable to work during the lockdown period. Thus, direct Financial Assistance (P2.9M) was released to 250 EJK families (families outside Program Paghilom included) during Covid19. In addition, the Kuok Foundation, through De La Salle Philippines, has generously been providing weekly food packs, since September 2020 and will continue until May 2021. The assistance has been extended to even those outside our network – reaching over 270 families.

PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH

Through the Ateneo CEFAM counselors' facilitation, eight (8) Psycho-Spiritual Intervention (PSI) sessions for each Batch were conducted through online Zoom meetings. Counselees reported improvements in their well-being and disposition, such as easiness to open up and being able to overcome anxiety during zoom sessions, due to the psychological processing.

- Batch 9: 15 graduates
 - PSI Sessions: September 05 – October 24, 2020
 - PSI Retreat: October 26 – 28, 2020 (with Fr. Ted Gonzales, SJ)
 - Areas where PSI participants came from: Bocaue & San Jose Del Monte Bulacan; (Smokey Mountain) Tondo, Manila; Agora, Navotas

- Batch 10: 28 graduates
 - PSI Sessions: November 07, 2020 – January 16, 2021
 - PSI Retreat: January 25-27, 2021
 - Areas where PSI participants came from: San Jose del Monte, Bulacan; Bagong Silang, Caloocan; Tala, Caloocan; Holy Spirit, Quezon City; Tondo, Manila; Salba, Montalban; Agora, Navotas

- Batch 11: 28 participants (ongoing)
 - PSI Sessions: December 02, 2020 – present
 - PSI Retreat: 2021
 - Areas where PSI participants came from: Bagong Silang, Caloocan

EDUCATION

Each family was given one slot for the educational assistance – the closest kin to the victim and closest to graduate. Program Paghilom supports 155 basic education students who receive monthly allowances for the school year 2020-2021. There are 42 orphan-scholars from Batches 1 to 8 who were given tablet computers (costing P370,000) to support them with their online classes. In addition, Luis Co Chi Kiat Foundation, Inc., through De La Salle Philippines provides tuition, stipend, and allowances for 11 tertiary scholars.

LIVELIHOOD

At the beginning of 2020, a Financial Literacy program was launched for 68 members. However, only 18 were able to attend due to forces beyond the foundation's control, such as some members could not leave their children at home, some got ill, some got short-term jobs, among others. Then, with the pandemic, COVID19 protocols limited our interactions with the members.

By the last quarter, a partnership with a Manok at Liempuhan (Chicken and Pork Barbecuing) company was made to provide a livelihood opportunity to 5 communities. Further, in January 2021, the PagHILOM Livelihood Program with an initial amount of P200,000 was launched, providing loan granting assistance to those who would want to augment their businesses or make their own. An agreement with a women's organization (FINEX) likewise provided eleven (11) trike carts for women's livelihood.

LEADERSHIP

The PagHILOM 16 (sixteen) Batch Coordinators were formally identified in September 2020. Their roles and responsibilities were made clear and an agreement was signed between AJKFI and the respective coordinators. These are as follows:

- *To represent their respective batches;*
- *To become a medium of communication between the members and the Program*
- *To become the bridge in sharing the program with other victims of “Tokhang;”*
- *To become vigilant advocates of human rights violations (HRV) in their communities and*
- *To become catalyst of renewal within their communities*

Paghilom Point Persons have established a regular monthly meeting to share updates on the batches and to be informed of Paghilom’s programs. These leaders were likewise given computer tablets to facilitate coordination with their respective members.

The 13 Batch Coordinators were trained through Project BRAVE.

ADVOCACY

Program Paghilom, in partnership with IDEALS, rolled out Project BRAVE (Empowering and Building Resilience Among Victims of Extrajudicial killings). This seeks to empower the EJK victim survivors to become Human Rights advocates. 13 of the Batch Coordinators have been chosen to be trained from October 24, 2020 to March 6, 2021. The project included basic legal training, communication, networking, and program development skills.

NEXT STEPS: in 2021

- Deepen and provide special PSI for the Orphans and Teenagers victims of EJK
- Provide additional counseling services for EJK survivors with serious traumas.
- Strengthen livelihood and employment opportunities for the EJK survivors.
- Strengthen the formation of the “Batch Coordinators” enabling them to become more involved in assisting the healing, empowerment and organizing of their fellow survivors. Also, to harness their skills in empowering their own community.
- Strengthen the campaign in reaching out to other victims who have not received any form of assistance from any organization