



Open Arms Giving Network September Newsletter

September 2020



Bring the internet to the remote village of Tagumpay

SAVE THE DATE ♦ OCTOBER 17th ♦ SAVE THE DATE

OAGN 2020 Annual Fundraiser

5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The events of this year continue to affect everything in our lives, including the Annual Fundraiser. To help keep everyone safe and healthy, this year's fundraiser on the 17th will take place all online.

We will miss meeting with you in person, but not only has COVID prevented that, it has made the need greater this year. With the Philippines government requiring families to stay in their homes and villages, families are experiencing increased poverty caused by lost jobs, lost income and economic hardship. School supplies are more expensive, and students in the villages are unable to travel to high school or college due to government restrictions. Your support will help us continue to bring hope and opportunity to these families.

Join us online via Zoom and hear from students, pastors and parents in the Philippines about the difference your donations have made in their lives. The board will also give updates on the impact made during the 2019/20 school year, outreach projects and updates on the plans for 2021.

Please R.S.V.P. to Michael Daly or Gigi Tiotuico via email at openarmsgivingnetwork@gmail.com. Your zoom invitation will be sent out in early October.



Parents learn the Dos & Don'ts for using the internet

BRINGING INTERNET TO SAN RAFAEL & TAGUMPAY

This year provided extra challenges for students and teachers in the remote villages in Ifugao and Isabella. Due to government travel restrictions, families were worried because their children would be unable to physically attend high school or college. The schools would provide online lessons, but families are struggling to pay for basic necessities like food. Many do not have electricity. Having access to computers or the internet is more than they can hope for.

The communities of San Rafael/Santo Nino & Tagumpay came together to ask OAGN to bring internet to their villages and supply them with the computers and equipment needed to host remote learning with the proper social distancing. With the support from the OAGN family, two internet towers were constructed, and each community received two computers, two printers and a flat screen tv. The parents and students received orientation on internet usage and signing up for timeslots for remote classes. College students have already started attending their classes online.

This hardship has provided new outreach opportunities for the OAGN. Remote learning will be available to all students in the village, not just scholarship recipients. This has allowed pastors and churches to connect with new families, sharing love and hope for the future. In addition, the community officials including the Mayor of Alfonso Lista (the equivalent of the county seat for Tagumpay) have personally met with the pastors and thanked them and OAGN for helping the community during this time.

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Student orientation for remote learning

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2020—YOUNG PEOPLE DETERMINED TO GRADUATE

Marie Chris with her family



Marie Chris Zamora lives in the mountain village of Tagumpay, Ifugao. Her parents are farmers, working long hours through fatigue and hardship to provide a better life for their children. Due to the remoteness of Tagumpay, Marie was worried she would have to leave her family and move into town with relatives to attend high school. Then in 2018, OAGN representatives visited Tagumpay with the offer of scholarships

“Poverty will no longer be an obstacle for a young person to achieve their dream in life. It is free to dream. That is why I am improving my study because the school supplies and transportation provided

by the OAGN family are free. Because of their help, my dream is within my reach” said Marie Chris. She graduated from high school with honors in 2020.

The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

- Proverbs 22:9

SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

1. Total family income must be at or below poverty level
2. Must not own substantial property (e.g. farm, business, etc.)
3. Family is NOT receiving substantial government assistance
4. No parent of applicant is working abroad
5. Applicant/child must pass all subjects.
6. Student must do volunteer work in the community
7. For High School: GPA is at least 80% and student must be of good character



KIM WALTER LAMPA

Kim Walter Lampa is the oldest of five children. His father has been paralyzed and bedridden for three years, leaving his mother the sole support for the family. She teaches at the Day Care Center for early childhood education, but her salary of 1,500 pesos a month (around \$31 US dollars) is not enough to send Kim to high school.

With the help of an OAGN scholarship, Kim was able to graduate from high school. He worked hard, participating in school, barangay (village) and town (county seat) competitions to help provide for his education. Kim started attending college online using the new remote classrooms set up by OAGN in August. He is dedicated to getting his education and helping his family.



The Lampa family



PRINCESS DIANA QUIJANO
Bachelor of Science and Business Adm.



RHODALYN M. AGLIPAY
Bachelor of Criminology

OAGN congratulates Princess Diana and Rhodalyn, the first scholarship recipients to graduate from college! Both students worked extremely hard to overcome financial and personal obstacles and reach their dream of higher education.

PARTNERING WITH LOCAL CHURCHES TO DELIVER AID DURING COVID 19

The impact of COVID 19 was wide-spread in the Philippines. In March 2020, the government implemented a total lockdown, forbidding people from leaving their homes and villages. Many people lost their job, causing them financial hardship. In addition, leaving the villages to go into the bigger towns to get food and medicine was extremely difficult. Public transportation was halted, and written permission had to be provided by the village Capitan in order to go shopping.

Pastors Wilmer & Jherome contacted the OAGN board to let them know about the urgent need for food for the families in Isabella. Because of generous donations during the 2019 annual Fundraiser & BBQ, OAGN was able to provide basic supplies such as soy, vinegar, oil, soap, toothpaste, shampoo, sugar, coffee and canned foods to 198 families in San Rafael and 220 families in Sto. Nino. Program volunteers worked hard to prepare and deliver bags of food to the struggling families. The aid was provided to scholarship and non-scholarship families, allowing OAGN volunteers to reach out to the whole community with a message of hope during a fearful time.



A message of thanks from San Rafael



Delivering food in San Rafael & Sto. Nino



Open Arms Giving Network (OAGN) is a 501(c)(3) charitable Christian organization whose mission is to give hope and share God's love to orphaned children and elders, disadvantaged families, and small communities by providing basic needs and financial assistance for education purposes. We work with local communities and organizations, and Christian churches and volunteers to effectively accomplish our goals.

Founders:

Ai-Hong Lee,
Gigi Villanueva Tiotuico
Leila Hasegawa

Board of Directors/Officers:

Chairman —Michael Daly
Vice Chair—Gigi Villanueva Tiotuico
Secretary—Faith Price
Advisor —Ai Hong Lee

Volunteer Staff:

United States:

Visayas Region Program Managers—Mike and Joy Florian
Fundraising and Volunteer Coordinator— Robert Tiotuico
Webmaster—Janelle Cortez
Accountant—An Norris

Philippines

OAGN Program Manager —Jane Andres

Local Partners:

Isabela—Pastor Wilmer
Ifugao—Pastor Timmy
Ifugao—Pastor Jherome
Leyte—Pastor Joel and Pastor Odango