



volunteer

for the Visayans, inc.

CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM



SPONSOR HANDBOOK

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ABOUT US

Volunteer for the Visayans (VFV) is a non-profit, [SEC No: CN200427692] non-government organization (NGO) located in Tacloban City, Philippines.

We are dedicated to the on-going growth of sustainable project development efforts in the Philippines, particularly working in the areas of child welfare, education, social welfare and healthcare.

Since our founding in 2004, we have recruited international volunteers from around the world to help participate in our various on-going project efforts whilst at the same time educating our visitors about the unique people and culture of the Philippines.

HISTORY & STRUCTURE

The origins of **Volunteer for the Visayans (VFV)** dates back to the early 1990's when U.S. and Canadian volunteers travelled to Tacloban City on their own initiative to participate in community development projects. The volunteers continued to return on their own each year, and in 2004 were instrumental in establishing the Volunteers for the Visayans as a non-profit organization.

With every year that passed, our organization strived to reach out and improve the lives of communities and individuals in a manner that was responsible and sustainable; this led to a number of projects developing under VFV's **three core programs**.

As an organization, VFV is sub-divided into three core programs; the first is what is known as the **Volunteer Program** whereby we recruit international volunteers to participate



in offering assistance to our local community partners. Over the years, VFV has offered vital assistance to orphanages, social welfare institutes, rural health clinics, public nutrition programs, rural elementary schools and city high schools. Volunteers pay a program fee to help provide the resources to accommodate them and to also provide financial empowerment to our ongoing projects. During their stay volunteers are accommodated with host families in our small close knit community and are looked after by our small team of friendly local staff who are readily available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to meet any concerns of our volunteers.

Our second program is the Sponsorship Program, which assists children from socioeconomically stressed families to remain in school. The program is supported by the annual donations of international sponsors.

More than 150 children are enrolled in the VFV sponsorship program. About 90 of these children attend our Community Center daily for tutoring and enrichment activities. These services are provided by our international volunteers, who in many cases are devoting extra hours of volunteer work beyond their regular commitment.

Finally our third program is the **Community Program** which consists of both **Local**

Community and **Outreach** programs across the Eastern Visayas.

Of our various Community Program projects, our Dumpsite Program has probably been our most challenging and rewarding initiative. We have been successful in getting many children to leave the dumpsite and enroll in school. This project is founded on VFV’s social enterprising model whereby the international volunteers pay a program fee.

In addition to the Dumpsite Project, the Community Program also coordinates a number of local community empowerment groups including a **Mothers Club** which serves as a micro financing, skills training and women’s empowerment project for local mothers; a **Boys and Girls club** for local adolescents which offers skills training and peer bonding and a Arts & Craft based livelihood project called **Laura’s Craft** (named after a previous VFV volunteer).

The Community Program is also responsible for the following VFV projects: the Adopt-A-School project, which enlists donors to contribute school supplies to remote rural schools in Eastern Visayas; the Build-A-School project which renovates or builds school facilities; and the Build-A-Home project, which renovates or builds homes for families who are living in unsafe structures.

Each year VFV also coordinates a **Medical Mission** in a rural town outside of Tacloban City; this typically takes place in the last week of May/first week of June and is created with the purpose of providing **free medical services** to rural towns outside of Tacloban City.

In summary, it is the combination of these three core programs that makes Volunteer for the Visayans a successful, broad-based social welfare program.



ABOUT THE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

The Volunteer for the Visayans Child Sponsorship Program began life as a small project that aimed to provide social welfare services for a handful of disadvantaged children.

One of the most frequently asked questions is, “How does VFV select the children to be sponsored?” Since the number of impoverished families here is overwhelming, we identify the children most in need, based on an extensive assessment process that includes interviews of the children, their parents, and local officials.

In addition, we choose communities that are strongly committed to working with us, as the support of the district (barangay) councils is vital for us to carry out our work. Currently all of our sponsored children reside in Leyte - in the Bliss neighborhood of Tacloban City, where we are based, in the nearby towns of Palo and Tanauan, and in Ormoc City. Our goal is to build our sponsor base so that we can serve other communities.

Starting with a handful of children in 2004, more and more children were gradually added to the program until as of today we have over 150 children enrolled in our program.

We monitor the progress of the sponsored children very closely. This includes tracking their attendance and progress in school, their participation in VFV activities and meetings, their adjustment at home and in the community, and their health status.

The children are required to attend school regularly and participate in our tutorials and other programs. If a child is having difficulty complying with these requirements, we do

our best to work with the child and the family before dropping the child from the program.

We believe that correspondence is an important means for a child and sponsor to develop a positive relationship. For this reason, we work closely with the children to ensure that they write to their sponsors periodically.



We will do our best to work with each sponsor on an individual basis as we understand that sponsors may have special interests and differing expectations. This would include coordinating with individuals who wish to sponsor a special needs child, with those who are interested in working more closely with the sponsorship program, or with organizations who are interested in sponsoring a child. We welcome constructive feedback as we want to continue to improve our program. VFV is keenly aware that there would be no sponsorship program without the continued involvement of sponsors.

We feel very fortunate to have the support of so many caring and generous sponsors all over the globe. With their support, the program has truly made a difference in the lives of our sponsored children.

PROGRAM BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN

We believe that only through education can we break the poverty cycle; which is why the majority of our welfare programs revolve around providing resources to enable the children to obtain successful mainstream education. The services we provide to the sponsored children are summarized below:

School Fees: All the major fees, including enrolment and graduation fees are covered by the program.

School Supplies: Distribution of school supplies such as notebooks, pens, pencils, erasers, rulers etc are issued to the children on a regular basis.

School Uniform: We help to purchase school uniforms (shirts or blouses, trousers or skirts, and shoes) for the children.

Daily Feeding: We believe that children need to go to school on a full stomach, which is why we provide daily feeding for children enrolled on our program. This feeding is often supervised by our Nutrition Public Health Volunteers.

Subsidy: We provide a monthly grocery subsidy to the families of our sponsored children.

Social Welfare Support: Regular meetings with Volunteer for the Visayans Social Worker are conducted to address any issues of children or their families. Children are reviewed throughout the year with particular focus on their school progress and general attitude.

Parental Training & Seminars: Whilst the program primarily targets children, it also offers training and educational seminars to the parents and extended family.

Annual Medical Check Up: Once a year, all of our children are examined by a local doctor. In addition, the children’s height and weight are monitored throughout the year by our staff.



The sponsored children also receive the following services:

After School Tutorials: During the school year, the children at our Bliss site participate in daily after-school tutorials; sessions are held less frequently but for longer periods at our other sites.

Excursions: The sponsored children are taken periodically on volunteer-escorted educational and recreational excursions.

WHAT A SPONSOR CAN EXPECT

Sponsorship Webpage: A sponsorship log in account on our webpage will be opened for you, and we will assign you a password and issue access instructions. You will be able to view progress notes and health updates on your child, and view photos taken of your child during excursions and monitoring visits. You will also be able to check your payment status and your personal information form to ensure that the information is correct. We discuss this webpage in detail later in this handbook.

If you do not use the internet, we will provide you with all pertinent information through postal mail.

Correspondence: You will receive a brief introductory letter from your sponsored children within a month or two. Please feel free to be the first to write though we suggest you keep your first letter brief as this will make it easier for your sponsored child to respond. You'll find detailed guidelines on correspondence in the following section.

Update Reports: Our program staff will send periodic emails to update you on Child Sponsorship program activities. You will also find updates on all of our VFV programs on Facebook. You can access our Facebook account through our regular website, www.visayans.org; you will need to register with Facebook only if you wish to enter comments. Our Facebook site is at www.facebook.com/volunteerforthevisayans. We occasionally post videos on YouTube; you can access VFV's videos at www.youtube.com/volunteerfortheyvisayans.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH YOUR CHILD

We strongly encourage you to maintain regular correspondence with your child. The following section will provide you with detailed information on corresponding with your sponsored child.

Our Role

After you are enrolled, we will contact you by email or by letter, if you do not use the internet. We will inform you of your sponsored child's current progress and we will attach a family bio form. Within a month or two, you will receive a brief introductory letter from the child.

All correspondence must be sent through our office. This is the general practice followed by child sponsorship programs for various reasons. One is that it helps us keep track of ongoing correspondence. If a child has not responded to a sponsor's letter, we will help the child set aside time to write a letter and we will encourage the child to at least write a simple letter. If necessary, we will give the child tips on writing letters, while being mindful not to dictate a response for the child. As you are aware, some children would enjoy writing letters while others would not, even though they are happy to be sponsored. Also, by reviewing outgoing mail, we can deter a child or a parent from making an inappropriate request for aid.

Since the sponsor's letter is usually read immediately after we hand it to the child, we can observe the child's reaction to the letter. We can validate that the correspondence has been well received or has not. We may give you suggestions, such as using simpler language.

A sad reality is that sexual predators have used child sponsorship programs to access children. These individuals will avoid a sponsorship program that reviews correspondence.

Please correspond with your sponsored child through postcards or letters and not by email. We believe that letters written in your own handwriting or at least signed by you are more meaningful to the child than email correspondence.

Letter Writing Tips

Use simple, age-appropriate language. While children in the Philippines learn English from grade one, English is a secondary language for the children.

Keep your letters brief, especially if your sponsored child is young. For older children, generally a one to two page letter would be appropriate. Keeping your letter brief makes it easier for the child to respond.

Your sponsored child is interested in knowing who you are. Share information about yourself – about your family, your job, your neighbourhood, and your interests. Do your best to avoid discussing material possessions or an affluent lifestyle. Include a few personal photos. Please keep in mind that dress standards differ in different countries. This is the reason we ask that you not send photos of anyone in swim attire.

The family bio sheet that we send will provide general information on the child and the child’s family. A good way to make an immediate connection is to discuss common interests. For example, if you have played the same sports or engaged in the same activities as the child, let the child know this. Ask a few questions about your child’s school and his or her family so that the child has something specific to respond to. As the relationship grows, you should have little trouble finding things to discuss.

Children in the Philippines have learned to address anyone older with respect, and they generally would not feel comfortable referring to sponsors by their first name alone. We suggest that they address you as Kuya or Ate, followed by your first name. These are local

terms referring to older brother/sister, uncle/aunt, cousin or friend.

VFV is not affiliated with a church and it is our practice to refrain from discussing religion with the children. We ask that sponsors follow this practice. Our sponsored children live with one or both of their parents (or infrequently with a guardian) and are learning moral and spiritual values from them. If your sponsored child brings up religion on his or her own, do acknowledge the child’s comments and respond in a manner that is respectful of the child’s faith. If it reflects your beliefs, it would be appropriate for you to conclude your letter by saying that you are including the child in your prayers. This would be recognized by the child as an affirmation of your deep regard for him or her.

What should your role as a sponsor be? We suggest that you see yourself as an interested and committed friend of the child. The fact that you have decided to sponsor the child, after reading about him or her on the sponsorship page, sends a powerful message of acceptance to the child. Keeping in contact with your sponsored child through correspondence will enable the relationship to blossom.

Mailing letters

For sponsors in the US, please refer to the U.S. Postal Service (U.S.P.S.) website, <http://pe.usps.com/>, for information on mailing letters and packages to the Philippines. You will find a list of items that cannot be mailed to the Philippines. Postal rates and instructions on addressing of envelopes can also be found at this site. Each country provides similar guidance in its on-line postal services website or in hand-outs that are available at the post office.

The cost of international first class postage is usually a little more than double the cost of domestic postage. The weight limit for a letter sent first class from the U.S. is 3.5 ounces. Larger items up to 4 pounds can be sent first class in large, flat envelopes or packages. For

priority mail, large flat rate boxes, which are available at the post office, can be used. The U.S. post office also accepts packages for express delivery by Global Express.

We are requesting that you cover the cost of postage for mail sent to you by the child. You can send a “coupon response international” with your letter. This coupon, which can be purchased at post offices, is traded for local postage in another country. Or, you could contribute a small amount to the Group Sponsorship Fund to cover the cost of postage; this is cheaper than the “coupon response international,” which includes a handling surcharge.

Sending Large Items

Some international donors utilize “balikbayan box” cargo shippers to send bulky items to VFV. These firms generally are located worldwide in areas with a large Filipino community and typically provide door-to-door delivery service. A Google check, noting your location and “balikbayan box shipment” will provide you with the names of the nearest firms.

Using a balikbayan box shipper is the cheapest way to send bulky items to the Philippines; however, delivery from the US usually takes two or three months.

Postal Address

Please include the child’s full name inside the envelope or package that you send. Mail your letters and packages to:

Sponsorship Program
Volunteer for the Visayans
Brgy 64, Lot 63, Cluster II
BLISS, Sagkahan
Tacloban City, 6500
Philippines



CHECKING YOUR PROFILE

In 2010, Volunteer for the Visayans established an administrative database on their webpage to enable sponsors to log in and review their account information and the progress of their sponsored child. Beneath is a step by step guide in operating the database.

1. Visit www.visayans.org
2. Click on the Sponsorship Tab and then select ‘Sponsor Log In’
3. Enter your username and password (if you have not yet received your log in instructions, please contact the program coordinator at leoma.godinez@visayans.org)

Viewing Your Children Information

1. After log in, click on the link marked ‘details’; this will bring up your child’s profile.
2. Basic information on the child’s background is provided on the profile page.
3. To view photographs of your child click on the ‘more photos’ link located beneath the child’s profile picture.
4. To view recent updates on your child click on the ‘view child updates’ link located beneath the child’s profile picture
5. You can find health and growth related tables at the foot of the child’s profile

Viewing/Editing Your Account Information and/or Password

1. After log in click on the tab at the top of the screen marked ‘My Account’
2. If you wish to change your account password you can do by click on the ‘change password’ link at the bottom of the screen.
3. If you wish to update your profile, please send your new information to leoma.godinez@visayans.org

Monitoring Payments

1. After log in, click on the tab at the top of the screen marked ‘payments’
2. Unfortunately due to some limitations in the system we will only be able to post records of payments made since 2010.

Help I forgot my password!

If you forget or lose your password simply drop an email to leoma.godinez@visayans.org, you will promptly receive new log in details shortly after.

MAKING PAYMENTS

Sponsoring a child is an important life changing decision, which is why we ask all sponsors to think hard about if they’re ready to make a commitment.

The cost of one year of sponsorship is \$300 US Dollars, which can be paid by a number of different options.

Mail a Cheque to the GoAbroad Foundation

The GoAbroad Foundation is our charitable 501 (3) tax-exempted sister company operating out of the United States; they help collect our donations, offer tax-deductible receipts and also handle all of the international transfer fees when sending us donations. You can pay via two options.

Option 1: Post a cheque to:

GoAbroad Foundation
324 East Oak Street
Fort Collins, Colorado 80524
U.S.A.

Note: If you are a new sponsor please include our sponsorship form located at http://www.visayans.org/downloads/sponsorship_form.pdf

If you are renewing sponsorship please let us know if your account name differs from that of your registered name.

Option 2: Bank Wire

Routing #: 063000021
Bank Name: Wachovia Bank, N.A.
Bank Address: 7107 Merrill Road, FL 0207
Jacksonville, Florida 32277
Beneficiary Account Number:
2000053590028
Beneficiary Account Name: GOABROAD
LLC
Swift Code: PNBUS33

Note: After payment, please send an email to vfv.info@visayans.org noting the date and amount sent.

In addition you can also send your sponsorship payment directly to our account in the Philippines. Payments made to our Philippines account are not eligible for charitable tax deductions in the U.S. We kindly request that sponsors handle the international bank transfer fee.

Please use the following details for your transaction.

Account Name: Volunteer For The
Visayans, Inc
Account No: 232235000020
Routing No: 026 003004
Bank Name: Philippine National Bank
Address: Justice Romualdez St., Tacloban
City, Philippines
Phone No: +63 (053) 321-2053
Swift Code: PNB MPHMM
Note: (No IBAN)

SPECIAL FUND

The sponsorship program fee paid by sponsors allows us to provide a basic level of sponsorship services. However, the children also receive enrichment services (such as tutoring, excursions, and recreational activities) from VFV. We can provide these additional services because of the financial contributions we receive from our international volunteers and donors, and because many of our international volunteers have been willing to use their off-duty hours to work with the children.

Because we have set our sponsorship fee as low as possible, there is nothing left in the sponsorship program budget to help children who have special needs. When we learn that

one of our sponsored children requires extra help, we will first check to see if help is available from government or community resources. If no help or only partial help is available, we will turn to the Special Fund for Sponsored Children. The extent of assistance we provide will depend on availability of funds.

Examples of expenses that the Special Fund would cover are: 1) Paying for medication or medical, dental and optical care. Some of the children are covered under PhilHealth, the national health plan, but this plan does not pay for medication or cover the full cost of all medical services. 2) Helping the child and family when there has been a personal tragedy. 3) Providing emergency food rations, while we also work with the parents on their financial situation. 4) Assisting a child who has not yet been sponsored, if no other funds are available within the organization. 5) Covering the cost of postage for letters sent by children to their sponsors.

Please contact our sponsorship program coordinator if you are able to help your sponsored child with any special need that may arise. We are keenly aware, however, that many sponsors are not in a position to help. This is the reason we have established the Special Fund.

We are soliciting donations from anyone able to help. This would include individuals who want to help the sponsorship program but cannot commit to long-term sponsorship of a child; a church, school, or civic group that wishes to make a one-time donation; or sponsors who choose to include a contribution to this fund when paying their annual sponsorship dues.

Donations to this fund can be made through any of the previously mentioned payment options.



BUILD-A-HOME PROJECT

The Build-A-Home Project is a collaboration project among all three of VFV’s core programs that aims to provide a safe and secure home for our neediest families.

In our rural communities, it is not uncommon to see families living in makeshift houses constructed of scrap material. These houses – shacks would be a more accurate description – have dirt floors, crumbling walls, and leaky roofs. When it rains heavily, which happens often during rainy season, the family members try to keep dry under tarpaulins.

Whilst there is absolutely no obligation for a sponsor to contribute to the renovation of a child’s home, some sponsors have inquired about this.

The cost of building a house will vary, with a simply constructed structure costing about 30,000 to 40,000 PHP (around \$800) to something more accommodating costing about 100,000 PHP (around \$2275)

Through its Build-A-Home project, the Volunteer for the Visayans is attempting to help those whose homes are unsafe physically and environmentally. In 2010, we were fortunate to complete three build-a-home projects which were financed through a number of different ways. If you’re interested in helping us with this ongoing endeavour, please drop our director an email at aldous.moro@visayans.org



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

1. How much does it cost to sponsor a child?

You can sponsor a child for \$25 a month (\$300 annually), payable in 6-month installments.

2. Will the sponsorship fee increase in the future?

We will do our best to maintain the sponsorship fee at the current rate by continuing our careful financial planning and by working on a lean budget. If an increase is needed in the future to keep up with inflationary costs or devalued exchange rates, we will allow sponsors to continue sponsorship at current rates until they feel they can increase their contribution. Please note that the only administrative cost included in the sponsorship program budget is the cost incurred by our sponsorship staff during monitoring visits. All other administrative costs are covered through our other programs

3. I can't commit to sponsoring a child right now but I want to help in some way. Could I make a one-time donation or occasional donations?

Yes, your donation will help immensely. We will place your donation in a Sponsorship Program Special Fund, which is used to support children who have special needs or who are waiting for a regular sponsor. A donation of \$50 will provide three malnourished children with vitamins for a full year. \$75 will provide three families with medical insurance for a year and \$100 will maintain a child in the program until a sponsor is located. We often feature the activities of our children on our website and social networking channels, so you can see how your money has been put to good use.

4. Are the sponsorship fees and any other financial contributions I make tax-deductible?

Yes, the GoAbroad Foundation, which is based in the United States provides us with administrative support. Send your contributions to the GoAbroad foundation, which is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt charity. GoAbroad will cover all costs related to transfer of funds. (Contact information is listed [here](#)).

5. How will the sponsorship fee be used?

50% of the annual payment goes directly to daily feeding programs and monthly grocery supplement, 20% of the payment contributes to medical support, a further 20% to educational materials, school fees and school supplies. The final 10% is used for educational trips, recreational activities, Christmas gifts, and travel expenses incurred by our volunteer staff during monitoring visits.

The children also receive additional benefits such as after-school tutorials conducted by staff and local and international volunteers; involvement in our volunteer program, including activities and outings to places of cultural and historical significance, close social welfare monitoring for the whole family and scheduled meetings and awareness presentations for parents.

6. What children are eligible to participate in the sponsorship program? How long does sponsorship last?

The children come from impoverished families that need help to keep their children in school. We select children most in need, based on an extensive assessment process. At least one of the parents must participate in ongoing family-strengthening sessions, and the child must continue to attend school and fulfill academic requirements.

Children generally are eligible for sponsorship until they graduate from high school, with

some exceptions. Since the educational system in the Philippines does not include a middle school, children typically complete high school by age 16. Some of our children, through no fault of their own, have not attended school regularly in the past and will not graduate on schedule. Our goal is to continue sponsorship for these children until they finish high school.

Some of the children in need of sponsorship are older teens who will complete high school within a year or two. Sometimes we may have a teen who needs help for a year or two on a vocational-training course. Please consider sponsoring one of these older teens if you feel you cannot commit to a larger period of sponsorship.

7. Will I be able to continue sponsorship if my sponsored child goes on to college or technical school?

If you have sponsored a child up until graduation, you have helped to provide the child with a solid foundation for future success. You are not expected to continue sponsorship once a child graduates from high school, though we suggest continued sponsorship for a three month transition period.

We do try to help our children obtain post-high school vocational or professional training, or enroll in college if it is a viable plan. Our sponsor-a-scholar program allows a sponsor to help an individual through college, although it comes at a higher sponsorship fee.

We work closely with the schools and enlist their help with career planning. There are some higher education scholarships and work study grants available in the Philippines, however even if a child qualifies for a full scholarship, the scholarship covers just the tuition and not the costs of books and other educational requirements. Fortunately the cost for public college education and training in the Philippines is low, compared to other countries worldwide. Should your sponsored

child desire to attend college or vocational training and and you wish to continue sponsorship, this is possible. You should discuss this with our child sponsorship coordinator.”

8. How will I know how my sponsored child is doing?

When you sponsor a child, you will receive additional information on your sponsored child and the child's family. You will receive email updates and photos at least twice a year.

9. Will I be able to correspond with my sponsored child?

We actively encourage you to write to your sponsored child and send personal photos. Your sponsored child wants to know who is helping him or her, and your letters can often be a source of encouragement. Some children may be eager to write back to sponsors, whilst others might not, especially since English is not their primary language. Whenever possible, our program volunteers will assist children who need help with these letters.

We want to ensure that your relationship with your sponsored child gets off to a good start. For this reason the exchange of letters should be conducted through our office. We will provide you with additional guidelines and practical suggestions on corresponding with your sponsored child.

10. Could I send gifts to the child? Am I expected to send gifts to the family?

Your child will be thrilled to receive a card or small gift on special occasions like on birthdays or at Christmas. Gifts, such as games or books, which can be shared with siblings, make the best gifts.

The family understands that the child is being sponsored and not the family. However should you chose to do so, you can send a gift to the family. However we recommend that

all gifts be sent through our office. Again sending gifts is not expected; we are addressing this question as it has been asked by our sponsors.

11. Could I visit the child I am sponsoring?

Yes, visiting your sponsored child can be an incredibly rewarding experience for both you and the child. We will arrange for you to meet your sponsored child and the child's parents at our community center. In most instances, you will then be able to visit with your sponsored child and family members on your own; generally, one of the parents should accompany the child on these visits. For everyone's protection, all visits with your sponsored child must be authorized and arranged by us. Contact our [sponsorship coordinator](#) at least a month in advance if you plan to visit. There are certain busy periods when we may have some difficulty accommodating visits. These periods include May to June, when we are busy with start-of-school preparations and December to early-January, when we are tied up with holiday activities. If at all possible, try to visit at other times so that we can offer you more assistance. We will be also be able to give you suggestions on accommodations and places to see.

12. Could I sponsor more than one child at a time?

Yes, some individuals do sponsor more than one child. If you wish to help other children you could also consider contributing to our Sponsorship Program Special Fund, you may also contribute to other projects featured on our website.

13. Could a group sponsor a child?

Yes, some of our children are sponsored by churches, schools or service groups. These arrangement have worked out well. There should just be one person who serves as the group's liaison. Generally, it would be best if

just one letter is sent to the child by the group.

14. Could I also sponsor the child's sibling?

Because there are other children waiting to be sponsored, we try to limit enrollment to one child per family. However we do make exceptions when siblings also are at risk of dropping out of school. We do our best to help families through our other projects, such as the [Build-A-Home](#) project. If we determine that a sibling should also be sponsored, we will inform you of this before featuring the sibling in our sponsorship site. Also, should you wish to sponsor a sibling after your sponsored child has completed the sponsorship program, please discuss this with our sponsorship coordinator.

15. Okay, I do want to sponsor a child, what should I do now?

To sponsor a child, please download the sponsorship form ([PDF](#) | [Word](#)). Send your completed sponsorship form with a check to cover six months of sponsorship (\$150) or one year of sponsorship (\$300) to the GoAbroad Foundation at the following address:

GoAbroad Foundation
324 East Oak Street
Fort Collins, Colorado 80524
USA

Please also visit our donations page for additional information on donations. Donations made to us through the GoAbroad Foundations are tax-deductible in the U.S. Donations made directly to us in the Philippines are not.

OUR STAFF



Aldous B. Moro
Director

Aldous B. Moro is a graduate of Sacred Heart Seminary in Palo, Leyte with a degree in Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. After college, he left the seminary and enrolled in a computer school where his career as a computer instructor started. He taught computer courses in different schools and colleges in the region including one of the country's leading computer universities and prestigious international business schools. His outstanding track record in the academe earned him various awards and recognitions in teaching excellence. A humanitarian in his own right, Aldous has been involved in different volunteer works sponsored by the Archdiocese of Palo. During his final year in the seminary, he was sent to a year-long apostolate work in the Archbishop Residence where he worked as secretary to the Bishop. Aldous is a hardworking, creative and positive person. He is committed and dedicated in achieving the organization's goals by developing the best programs that would meet the highest standard of community welfare. He is prolific in ideas on how to help people in their best interests.

Email: aldous.moro@visayans.org

Tel: +63 (0) 53 – 325 - 2462



Leoma B. Godinez
Sponsorship Program Coordinator

Leoma Godinez, a Registered Social Worker, is a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Social Work at Leyte Normal University. During her Third year in College, she practiced Casework and Group Work in handling clients in DSWD Home for Girls where she was assigned. During her Fourth year, they had their Community Immersion and she was assigned in Pastrana, Leyte under the supervision of the Municipal Social Welfare Officer wherein she practiced Community Organizing. She organized a Children's Organization in the community and she conducted community surveys, orientation for the whole community about a certain legislation and also Parent Effectiveness Seminar. Towards the end of her practicum, she helped the community where she was assigned, in coming up with a Community Development Plan, addressing the problems of the said community. Prior in working with Volunteer for the Visayans, she worked as an enumerator at Department of Social Welfare and Development. Today, Leoma is responsible for delivering welfare services to the 150 children enrolled on VFV's Child Sponsorship Program.

Email: leoma.godinez@visayans.org

Tel: + 63 (0) 53 – 325 -2452



Ma. Crisel P. Macabare

Assistant Child Sponsorship Coordinator

Crisel is a graduate of Bachelor of Education at Eastern Visayas State University. Before working at Volunteer for the Visayans she was a local volunteer and worked closely alongside both the VFV Volunteer and Child Sponsorship Program. As of today she acts as an assistant to the Child Sponsorship Coordinator helping to organize and deliver social welfare services of 150 sponsored children. In particular Crisel supervises and organizes the after-school tutorials for all of our sponsored children which occur daily between 4.30pm and 6.30pm as well as assisting with the distribution of social welfare services.

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