

Talking Hands Project

Last August 16, 2015, the MBA-H 2014 Section B class together with their HUMRES Prof. Maria Victoria Castillo and MARKMAN Prof. Daniel Wong Barranachea spent a day of fun and gift giving at Bahay Bata 127, Our Children House of Hope, Community service and church ministry, the home and refuge of over 350 Deaf children and young adults. Most are victims of child rape, abandonment and neglect. This project came about when the class were asked to develop a CSR project from HUMRES class and a MULAT DIWA project for MARKMAN.



The class developed a two-pronged program sustainability project for the children of Payatas, each project being distinctly different but complementary. The Talking Hands Project was born. The components of the project include (1) Train the Trainers Program (2) Gift of Speech Program.

TRAIN THE TRAINERS PROGRAM

A child being born deaf, a parent unaware, a rape victim unable to describe how it happened, abandonment, neglect. These are just a few of the harrowing stories of children and young adults with hearing impairment in Payatas.

PROBLEM: LANGUAGE



The class coordinated with the Philippine Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf to provide training to 5 mothers and 5 volunteer teachers in Bahay Bata 127. Its purpose is for the first batch to learn how to sign and be able to teach the knowledge and skills gained to the next group of mothers and volunteer teachers. This program allows deaf children and

parents be able to communicate effectively thus improving the social dynamics within the home brought about by the gift of sign language. "Thank you for helping us learn how to speak to my child and my child to me through sign, I thought it will be a lifetime of banging walls, throwing objects and guilt feelings and frustrations." said one mother.



GIFT OF SPEECH PROGRAM

Some hearing impaired children are able to hear sound through hearing aids. Last year, over a hundred hearing aids were donated through a foreign NGO. Unfortunately, receiving hearing aid is not the end-all solution. A child needs to understand the meaning of



the sound heard for the first time. This gadget, ended up being sold, unused, thrown by most children, unable to understand the meaning of the sound. The class created the GIFT OF SPEECH program by creating a speech laboratory program in coordination with

another university. This program will utilize Bahay Bata 127 as the community service training arm of the Speech Therapy Department of the university. This program will allow recipient of the hearing aid to have access to speech therapy that help them learn spoken language.



And of course, THE GIFT OF LAUGHTER!!