



# PRINCESS SHIANNE BALLEZA ANDRES

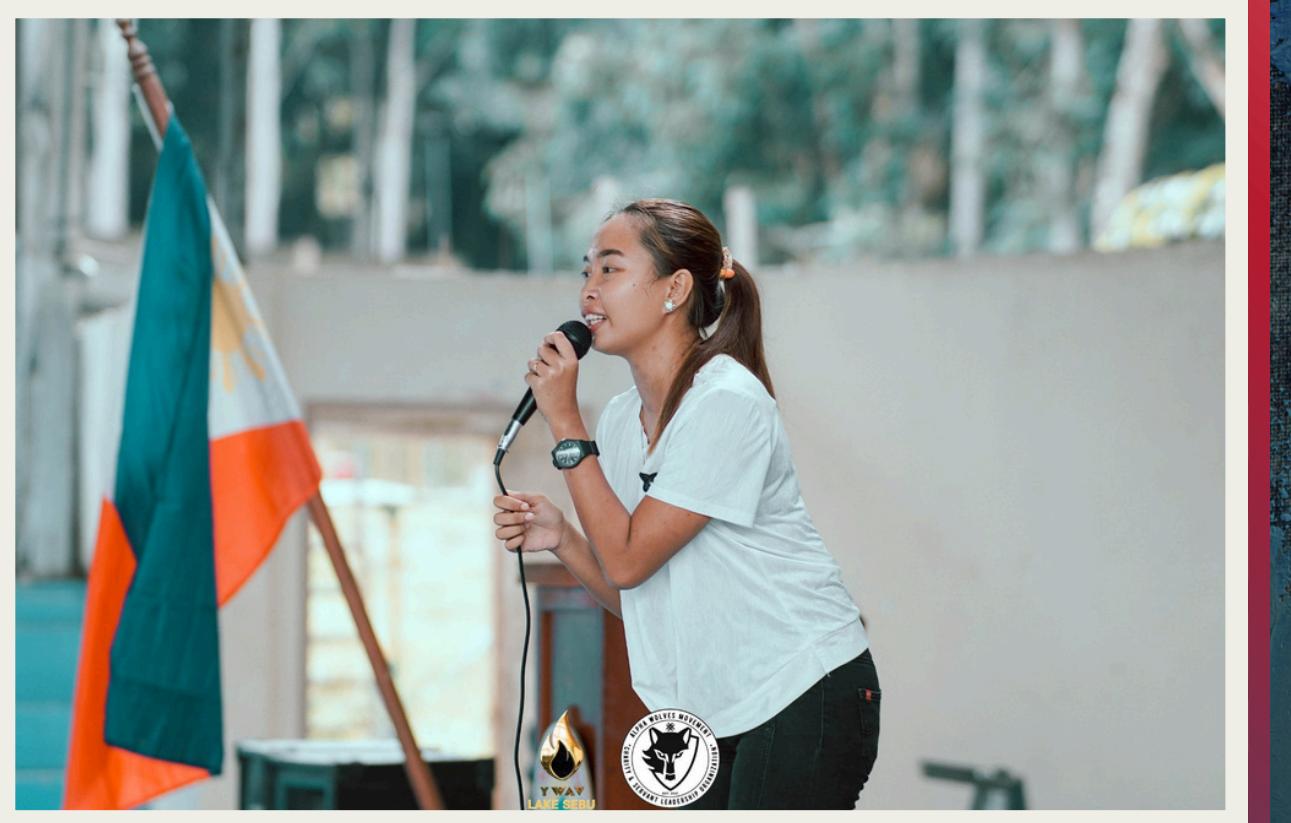
Search for Outstanding Volunteers (SOV) 2025 Regional Finalist - Individual Youth Category

## GOING BEYOND BEING JUST A PRINCESS

Ms. Princess Shianne Balleza Andres, 24 years old, a resident of Purok Ilang-ilang, Brgy. Poblacion, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, is the CY 2025 Search for Outstanding Volunteers (SOV) Regional Winner in the Individual - Youth Category.

Princess is a young leader of exceptional caliber. She is the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Chairperson of Barangay Poblacion, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato. Beyond her role as a public servant, she still wears different hats: a youth advocate, a beauty queen, a student leader, and an academic achiever. This truly defines her embodiment of service and volunteerism beyond personal achievements. She has consistently used her platform and influence to uplift marginalized communities, particularly children who are most vulnerable to educational inequality.

Her flagship initiative, BAHABI: Bahagi ka ng Paghabí, is a pioneering volunteer-driven program that started on August 2, 2022, and has helped her fellow youth leaders within their locality. Her project is designed to bridge educational gaps, which benefited approximately 350 children aged 4-6 years old who have experienced inequality in terms of access to education and school supplies. Through weekend learning sessions in reading and storytelling with the consent of parents, and the distribution of school supplies financed personally and through donations from fellow philanthropists, she has created meaningful interventions that directly impact learners' growth.



Her motivation for conducting this weekend learning session is to divert the attention of children from spending too much time using gadgets and online games, and to minimize their exposure to the lake, considering their safety. More importantly, BAHABI has cultivated a spirit of replication among beneficiaries, as explicitly stated by Ms. Princess Mhek in her personal testimony, one of the beneficiaries of the program. This emulation extends the cycle of volunteerism within their own communities - an inspiring ripple effect that multiplies her impact.





The relevance of her work is strongly grounded in the socio-cultural and economic context of Lake Sebu, a geographically isolated and disadvantaged area (GIDA) municipality in South Cotabato, Region XII, characterized by its diverse tri-people population of Indigenous Peoples, Muslims, and Christians. While rich in culture, the area continues to face challenges in poverty and access to education. By addressing these realities, her initiative strengthens inclusivity, nurtures unity across cultural lines, and provides hope and opportunity where it is most needed. Based on Small Area Poverty Estimates from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the Municipality of Lake Sebu was the only municipality in South Cotabato to record the highest poverty incidence rate of 42.1 percent in 2021.





Her significant contributions also align with national and global development goals, namely:

- Ambisyon Natin 2040 (Maginhawa, Matatag, at Panatag na Buhay): by ensuring that children gain access to education and opportunities that pave the way for a secure and sustainable future.
- Regional Development Plan (Human Capital Development and Social Protection and Inclusion): by investing in human capital through inclusive learning and mobilizing social support networks.
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 4 (Quality Education): advancing inclusive, equitable, and quality education; SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities): empowering disadvantaged and marginalized groups; and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals): forging collaborations with community members, donors, and youth volunteers to sustain the initiative.

Her efforts demonstrate that youth leadership is not measured by titles alone but by the transformative power of volunteerism and service to others. Her ability to inspire, mobilize, and sustain meaningful change positions her not only as an outstanding regional figure but as a potential national model of volunteerism for youth.

# MAJOR ACTIVITIES



## BAHABI: BAHAGI KA NG PAGHABI

No. of beneficiaries: 500

Venue: Brgy. Poblacion, Lake Sebu  
Sitio Tagaytay, Brgy. Talisay, Lake Sebu

Year: 2022



## RELIEF OPERATIONS FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

No. of beneficiaries: 700

Venue: Brgy. Lamlahak, Poblacion, Lake Seloton,  
Lake Sebu, South Cotabato

Year: 2022



## LSYN YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

No. of beneficiaries: 150

Venue: Municipality of Lake Sebu

Year: 2016