

All the Little Lights

Sun-tinted hairs bounced in the atmosphere of regenerated air flowing back and forth the light rooms and dancing trees along giggles and laughter, and happy feet tapping under the canopy on steady grounds. The nine (9) teachers of Bagumbuhay Elementary School in Brgy. Igpit were in full force attempting to regulate the bright-eyed little kids scattered all over the newly-built mini gym, in anticipation of the incoming *ates and kuyas*. Immediately, a crowd of yells immersed when the bus appeared into view.

The volunteers were just as excited as they waved to the children through the bus windows. As the boxes were being unloaded, the pupils and parents were facilitated to their respective places for assembly. Donated books were being transported to the library built in 2015 with the fundings raised during the “*Takbo Para sa Libro*” Fun Run on October 25, 2015. In the classrooms, there was an ongoing seminar about Financial Literacy for the parents and academic tutorials to the students by young volunteers.

Under the administration of Cor Jesu College-Basic Education Department (CJC-BED) Principal, Mr. Kirt Anthony R. Diaz, PhD, the Bagumbuhay Community was adopted by the CJC-BED Community since 2014. CJC-BED has conducted already numerous outreach activities ever since, even before the official adoption has taken place back in 2007.

From a primary school, Bagumbuhay had been renovated to cater pre-school up to grade 6. The classrooms built on Arakan walls are now on solid foundations. Unsecure cyclone-wire fences surrounding the campus are now shielded barricades. Today, the kids are able to dance, play, and operate activities on a covered court with volleyball and sepak takraw nets. A big extension for help for those flickering lights willing to shut down, but with CJC, it gave them high hopes to spark towards their journey as learners.

Every bit of help we extend to the Bagumbuhay Community means opportunities for a future to the little children back in Brgy. Igpit. They are hopeful and shine so brightly. The words and influence shone upon these children extremely affect their drive, given the external conditions of hardships and poverty that could easily take over their light. Now that we have given them the chance to spark again, it's their challenge to maintain the glow they felt inside.

We took our step and felt the cold ground, but the song of their burning hearts made us feel even warmer. As their eyes shimmer as they follow our wake, I saw a future, another new step of the cups of gold to fill. These children are not only children; they are the little lights that shine up the dark, and the cups of gold to fill. These children are not only children, they are the little lights that shine up the dark, and future for them will open up one day.