

## My Impact Story

I am J-Ann Carmel Pestaño. I am from Cordova, Cebu. I am born deaf because my mother had German measles when she was three months pregnant with me. My mother said, I grew up as healthy baby. I did not experience having fever and diarrhea like other kids. My parents were surprised that at that age of 2 years. I could not speak. My parent brought me to different medical doctors. I had undergone speech therapy for six months with a certain doctor from the states but nothing happened. I was referred to different pediatricians but still the doctors did not find anything with me. My parent told me that I was brought to a child psychologist and pediatric neurologist who referred me to an audiologist. I was examined and from the result it was found out that I am deaf that's why I can not speak. At the age of two, I was enrolled at Gualandi Mission for the deaf for 6 years.

Despite of my being deaf, I was able to graduate in Cebu Normal University and worked at Shangri-La Hotel for 9 years but due to the pandemic, I was retrenched from work. I joined Ironman for 3 years and other marathon to prove myself. I can do things like other normal persons do and even better than they are in some ways. I can easily relate to people and work harmoniously with them. I teach my son about sign language and some basic skills for a little child. I can deal people with different walks of life and inspire those who have less courage to face and overcome the challenges that comes their way.

Now I am a mother of a 3 years old boy. Currently taking Training in Virtualahan. I learn a lot in the training. It will equip me with more knowledge, gain, confidence, and develop my skills.



Graduate in CNU



Ironman



Running 42km



My former colleagues  
in Shangrila Hotel



Prep in Gualandi  
Mission for the deaf



Im with my son