

GAWAD KALINGA FACT SHEET

No more slums. No more violence. No more poverty.

www.gawadkalinga.org

What is GK?

Gawad Kalinga (GK) translated in English means “to give care”, and it is an alternative solution to the blatant problem of poverty not just in the Philippines but in the world. GK’s vision for the Philippines is a slum-free, squatter-free nation through a simple strategy of providing land for the landless, homes for the homeless, food for the hungry and as a result providing dignity and peace for every Filipino.

What started in 1995 as a daring initiative by a charismatic prayer community to rehabilitate juvenile gang members and help out-of-school youth in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, then the biggest squatters’ relocation area in the Philippines, has now evolved into a movement for nation-building. Together with its partners, Gawad Kalinga is now in the process of transforming poverty stricken areas with the goal of building 700,000 homes in 7,000 communities in 7 years (2003-2010). To date Gawad Kalinga is in over 900 communities all over the Philippines and in other developing countries.

Gawad Kalinga is more than about building houses for the poorest of the poor. Providing a decent home is just the beginning of the transformation of the people and the community.

GK VALUES

“Bayanihan” – Becoming a Hero to Each Other
Everything we do begins with stewardship and moves towards community empowerment. The crucial starting point is the appointment of a caretaker team – a group of volunteers committed to visit the community to educate and train but more importantly to build relationships with the residents and learn with them. The hand-holding stage of relationship-building, values formation and skills training is absolutely necessary to help the community become independent and sustainable. GK addresses the root cause of poverty – not simply the absence of money

but an absence of shared values, sense of community and higher purpose.

Massive Mobilization: GK Partners & Volunteers

GK begins with ‘padugo’- or ‘to bleed for the cause.’ This means devoting one’s own time and resources to initiate work within the community without expecting outside funding or support. Architects and engineers design houses, doctors and nurses attend to community health care, teachers share knowledge to the young, and business leaders become mentors for economic enterprises. Rich and poor, Christians and Muslims, government and private sector, first world and third world nations can work together to uplift the quality of life of the poor, contribute to prosperity and peace to the larger society. Funds will help upscale and expand the work, but our starting point is the heart, not the pocket.

Patriotism in Action

Gawad Kalinga is not just a work with the poor but more importantly a work of nation building from a simple but daring initiative to a growing multi-sectoral partnership driven by the same spirit and vision --- a new Philippines with NO MORE SLUMS. The problem of poverty is huge but not without end. Since it is man-made, it can also be man-Unmade. In a world where there are enough resources for all but not enough sharing for all, our motto is “less for self, more for others, enough for all”. This country has struggled with poverty long enough. Together, we can bring this country out of poverty by restoring dignity of the poorest Filipinos and motivating them to help themselves and one another.

GK Programs

1. Shelter & Site Development

Through TATAG, GK builds colourful, durable and secure homes for the poorest of the poor. TATAG in the Filipino language means “to build” or “to establish.”

The program also provides other physical structures such as pathwalks and drainage systems, water and toilet facilities, a school, a livelihood centre, a multi-purpose hall and a clinic. In some areas, other structures such as basketball courts and libraries are also constructed once basic infrastructure needs are set up.

2. Child & Youth Development

GK provides value based education for preschool children, aged 3 to 6 years old through its program called SIBOL, which means “to grow” in the Filipino language. GK provides a support program for street children of elementary age, from 7 to 13 years old. They are provided with academic tutorials, sports and creative workshops as well as a very solid values formation program through a program called SAGIP, which means “to save a life” in the Filipino language. Through the SIGA program, scholarships are provided to those with the mental aptitude to pursue higher education. There is also a strong youth rehabilitation program where juvenile delinquents are provided with a range of activities and counselling sessions to help them live productive lives without committing them to rehab institutions. They are then integrated into the social mainstream and are eventually gainfully employed. SIGA in the Filipino language means “to light.”

3. Health

LUSOG, meaning “healthy” in Filipino, is GK’s program for community health care. The health profile of every family in a GK community is carefully monitored by a volunteer team of doctors and paramedical practitioners; most GK areas now have a clinic. Malnutrition especially among children is addressed and arrested not just through feeding programs but also through parent education regarding proper nutrition and hygiene.

4. Productivity

Through GAWAD KABUHAYAN (translated to “to give livelihood” in Filipino), GK conducts livelihood and skills training, provides start up capital and materials for microfinance and micro-enterprise, and assists in the marketing of the GK communities’ products. Food self sufficiency is highly encouraged by teaching technology for backyard farming, urban agriculture and poultry raising. Even the very act of building homes and common facilities teaches new masonry and carpentry skills since the poor “pay” for their homes through “sweat equity” or by building their neighbour’s house side by side with the GK volunteers. This not only builds community spirit but also contributes to greater peace. After all, how can a GK Homeowner fight the neighbour who helped him build his house?

5. Values Formation/Community Empowerment

Every GK community is organized into a KAPITBAHAYAN Neighbourhood Association, which is established to inculcate stewardship and ensure accountability, cooperation and unity. Guidelines for community living

are decided upon by the members, and new leaders who espouse the values of the association start to emerge. Peace is achieved not by force, but by mutual adherence to an agreed set of values. This new culture is the key to the community’s sustainability, and sets the community on the road to self reliance.

6. Environment

Gawad Kalinga is pro-poor and pro-environment. We empower the poor to become caretakers of the environment instead of being its exploiters. GK teams are encouraged to plant fruit-bearing trees in and around GK communities and produce seedlings for tree-planting. We also educate the poor in solid waste management in partnership with environment groups and government agencies who provide their expertise and resources in these projects. Finally, GK communities are provided with clean, potable water for consumption and cleaning as a response to providing total quality of life for the poor.

7. Mabuhay

Our communities showcase the best of the Filipino -- warmth, hospitality, and the many colours and dimensions of our rich culture. We aim to make every GK Village a tourist spot showcasing the inherent charm and uniqueness of each community. The beauty of the Philippines lies not only in its natural resources but in the triumph of our people against poverty and oppression. Inspiring stories are well told in the vibrant smiles and shining eyes of our residents in our GK communities. Visitors are welcomed by happy residents of our GK communities, proud of their homes, grateful for their blessings and hopeful for the future. GK is introducing performance arts such as painting and sculpture and literature to the communities to strengthen the Filipino identity and to make the GK residents proud of their roots.

On the local front....

www.gkancopaustralia.org

GK ANCOP Australia supports the more than 300 children each year with their schooling, ranging from kindergarten to college level education. There are over 25 Australian funded GK villages in the Philippines and one in Papua New Guinea.

www.gk-youth.org

GK Youth Australia, the youth arm of GK ANCOP, has organised over 100 young Australians for the past 2 years to travel to the Philippines and live in a GK village to help in building homes and forming relationships with the GK beneficiaries. It has also organised volunteers to travel to Papua New Guinea and Cambodia.

