

2025 Message from the VP of Sponsorship

Mabuhay LCW Sponsors and College Donors,

It is my great honor and privilege to represent you on the Philippine side. Meeting your sponsored children and college students and conveying your warm greetings fills my heart with joy! Thank you for the opportunity to serve both you and your sponsored children.

As we return from a trip to the Philippines, I reflect on our experiences with deep gratitude for you, our sponsors and donors. Though our time on Earth may be fleeting, the impact you make on the lives of your sponsored children is eternal.

At the college graduation banquet, I listened to the inspiring testimonies of graduates who transitioned from being little sponsored children to proud adults with degrees. I am filled with pride for them. Many shared their struggles with poverty and how success once felt unattainable, making the dreams of a better life and education distant. Yet, the goodness of God shone through LCW sponsorship and college programs, along with the generosity of their sponsors.

As Rodel, an engineering graduate, said, "My sponsor became my angel." Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to give you hope and a future." Most of the 964 sponsored children at LCP can resonate with this verse, just as their parents can. My mom, Cerila, faced the challenges of being a widow, raising three children in poverty, and worrying about our future. She believed that God had a better plan for us, and through sponsorship and the college program, her faith was rewarded. You provide your sponsored children and college students with lives full of hope, purpose, and freedom, guiding them to live for Jesus every day.

Your sponsorship pledge of \$35 a month transforms the trajectory of their lives. While you may not meet your children in person, know they are incredibly grateful to you, love you, and pray for you. You can reach out to them by emailing your sponsored child at littlechildrenofthephilippines@gmail.com and including their name in the subject line.

Lastly, please help LCW continue to serve effectively. With your generous contributions, we can make a significant difference. We rely on you, our sponsors, to respond to the needs of these children and their families. Please help us find sponsors for those children who have been waiting for a helping hand toward a better and brighter future. Together, we can change the world, one child at a time. Thank you for being a blessing, and may God bless you for your kindness and generosity.

With Gratitude,

Marie Lou Patrimonio Abbott
VP of Sponsorship

The Race to 1000 Sponsored Children



1000. Sponsored. Children.

This is a goal we have dreamed about for many years. From our foundation with just 8 little boys from the streets, we have helped one child at a time escape poverty and abuse. 1000 once felt outlandish and unattainable, but God has been good for nearly 40 years. Now, we are racing towards our goal, and it is getting closer each day. We are working hard towards this goal, and we are praying for the Lord's provision.

Throughout our history, we've been entrusted with supporting thousands of children and their families. Today, we are blessed to support 964 children through sponsorship because of generous people like you who care enough to invest in their lives. Thank you for your unwavering support by sponsoring a child!

We are only 36 newly sponsored children away from our goal of 1000! We would not be here without you, and we will not reach our goal without people like you. You can help us reach this goal by telling your friends and family about sponsorship, inviting us for a sharing event, or contributing to other HELPS programs that support the foundation on which Sponsorship stands.



Little Children of the World

P.O. Box 37
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Tel/Fax 770-358-2771
www.littlechildren.org

YOU CAN LEND A HELPING HAND

-  **Sponsorship:**
\$35 per month
-  **Give by mail:**
Use enclosed envelope
-  **Give by phone:**
770-358-2771
-  **Give online:**
littlechildren.org



Dates to Remember

July 5—College response letters due

September 27-October 31—Cerila Patrimonio from LCP will be visiting to share at events around the US. Email us at info@littlechildren.org if you are interested in scheduling her to visit your church, civic group, or other gathering

November 1—Child Annual Progress Reports with pictures, updates and greatest needs of all sponsored children will be sent

November 10—Optional annual Health Insurance payments (\$142) due and last day to give monetary Christmas gifts to ensure they will be distributed before Christmas

December 10—Last day to give monetary gifts for sponsored children to ensure they are distributed before the end of 2025

December 31—Last day to contribute to LCW for 2025 tax benefits

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A Helping Hand Success: Aphrodite

Aphrodite was born to a very poor family of farmers in the far reaching parts of the mountains well outside the city. Their small home made of dilapidated light materials like bamboo and traditional nipa could only be reached after climbing a steep incline and was close to a rugged cliff. She had many odds stacked against her, but she did not give up.

Aphrodite’s parents wanted her to have an opportunity for a better life. Despite their remote living situation, they became a part of LCP’s Timbao community and applied for sponsorship. This felt like the opportunity of a lifetime. She and her family faithfully participated, attended Sunday worship, and prayed God would send them a sponsor. After waiting for a little while, she became eligible for sponsorship and was sponsored! Aphrodite was just a little girl when she was first sponsored in November 2009.

Sponsorship did not take away all their struggles. She and her mom would make the long journey into the city together to be able to attend activities at LCP, and she and her siblings walked to school at 6:30am each day. Her family lost their home due to Typhoon Odette. She had to have an operation while she was in college and attended classes while she was recovering so she would not get behind. And, during COVID when all classes were virtual, she had to climb a tree to get enough signal to do her classes. She never gave up and held on to hope. She enjoyed attending the Bible studies and Sunday worship as she grew up at LCP. Her faith in God grew every year. Once she was old enough, she attended the Youth Venture Camp, and from that experience, she really felt her faith grow.

LCP and her sponsors supported her through it all. Today, Aphrodite is 22 years old and a college graduate. She received her bachelor’s degree in secondary education with a focus on English this year. Her dream of becoming a teacher is a reality. She has a college degree, confidence in herself and her accomplishments, and hope for the future.

None of this would be possible without sponsorship and scholarship. So many graduates like Aphrodite have lives that are dramatically different because someone like you gave a hand up to a better future. Thank you all for being sponsors and college donors and making stories like this possible!



Top Notch Advocates: Tommy and Sheila Amy



We are blessed with wonderful supporters and volunteers. Every now and then, some stand out among the rest because of their commitment to the organization and the advocacy for the mission.

Tommy and Sheila Amy were the Volunteers of the Year in 2024, but they have not let up. They have been to the Philippines twice, faithfully volunteer to help us with our regular publication preparation, and have arranged sharing events for LCW in their church and other of their organizations. Most notably, Tommy and Sheila have directly recruited over 15 sponsors in the last year, and their advocacy has resulted in LCW gaining many new supporters. It has been incredible to see how their passion for our mission has overflowed to so many others. As a result, many lives and families are changed for the better.

We could not do what we do without supporters like Tommy and Sheila. We invite each of you to become an advocate for the children in need of sponsorship and for the overall LCW mission. You can help more children have help and hope by having a simple conversation about sponsorship with your circle of influence.

A Hand Up to a Better Future: Grades, SWAP, and Participation

We always say sponsorship and college scholarship are a “Hand Up” to a better and brighter future or a “Helping Hand.” These are not just taglines or slogans, but they are important tenants of our mission and all the work we do. Giving a Hand Up to a better future means we are empowering people to be able to make a difference in their own life through financial partnership and access to education.

Financial partnership does not exist to create dependence or be a handout, but instead, it allows beneficiaries to be involved in the process through service and community building. This builds confidence, creates opportunities for skill building, and generates buy-in from beneficiaries to know they are empowered to make changes in their lives. LCW support is a Hand Up because we take the partnership aspect incredibly seriously.

Access to education is critical because once a student finishes high school or their college degree, they are much more equipped to earn a better income to support themselves and their families in the future. Education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty. Once an individual becomes educated, they are more likely to encourage education for the younger generations.



Sponsorship and college scholarship involve participation from the donor and the beneficiary. Sponsors agree to provide financial support, and beneficiaries agree to give back through Service With A Purpose, community participation, and maintaining good grades. These commitments are critical for our program to be effective and to create lasting change. We take them so seriously, in fact, that failure to comply results in dismissal from the program.

Service With A Purpose (SWAP) is a 15 hour community service requirement that each sponsored family commits to when they are accepted for sponsorship. This gives beneficiaries an opportunity to serve their community, learn new skills, and feel involved in full benefits of sponsorship. Service can be given in a variety of contexts like cleaning common areas, tutoring a neighbor, or whatever way they want to serve. Community participation is accomplished through activities like attending community meetings, Sunday worship and Sunday school, Bible studies, and other activities that contribute to our mission of building caring communities. Maintaining good grades is required because we want students to do well so they will be able to graduate one day.

We want to empower as many children and families as possible, but we do everything we can to hold all parties accountable for their participation in sponsorship and college scholarship. It is our blessing to give these families an opportunity to breakaway from the struggles of poverty and the challenges that come with it. Thank you for being Sponsors and College Donors and for giving a Hand Up to a better future to someone in need. You can know your sponsored family is invested and is also doing their part!

Making the Most of Your Contribution



You may have noticed we are being more intentional about requesting credit card fees on credit card contributions. This may look like a preselected checkbox on an online form or a verbal request from one of our staff over the phone. This is a strategic initiative to cover overhead expenses so we can be sure the maximum amount of each contribution can be used to change lives. We are eternally grateful for every contribution! In 2024, we had to fundraise over \$20,000 in credit card fees alone. We process hundreds of credit card transactions each week each one with a ~2.5% transaction fee, so the fees add up.

This is why we have begun inviting you to help carry the load! What ends up being a few extra cents on your transaction multiplied by 1000s of donors and transactions, really adds up. This is 100% optional, but it is a huge help to us and supports our mission in a huge way! We are always grateful for your contribution, but we want to be transparent about the reasoning why we are offering the opportunity to cover the fee. Please know that we want to be able to make the most out of your contribution and not have to raise funds to cover the credit card fees. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask a member of our team.