

FOCUS

Bringing help, healing, and hope in Christ to vulnerable children

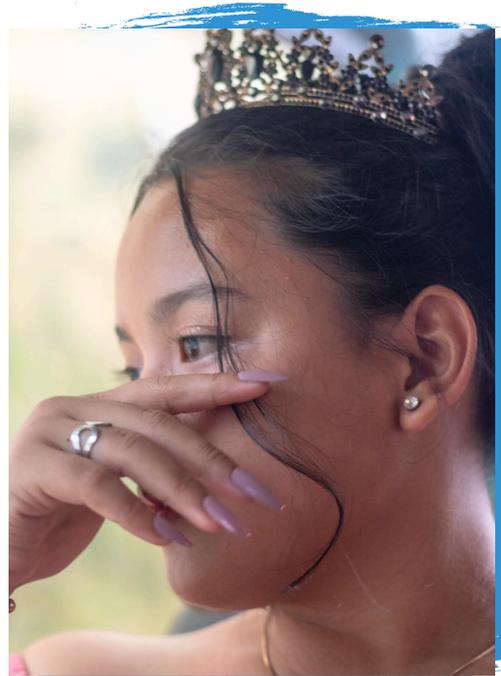


A REASON TO CELEBRATE

At the end of every school year, Project Pag-asa (Tagalog for hope) holds a banquet for their high school students. Project Pag-asa serves young Filipino orphans and survivors of abuse and neglect by providing trauma-sensitive, age-appropriate education in a safe, bilingual setting with the aim to restore potential and break cycles of abuse and poverty. They partner with five children's homes, providing specialized schooling to all their children, including counseling and therapy as part of children's healing and restoration.

The year-end banquet is a time to celebrate those who are graduating, to reflect on the year, and to say goodbyes. It also helps restore a little of what has been taken from the teens by other people's sins—a 'normal' rite of passage they wouldn't experience otherwise. At last year's celebration, ACTION missionary Beth Potter, the school's director, glanced across the banquet room and saw one of the older girls, "Paige," standing away from the group, contemplating something. Beth wandered over to her and asked if she was okay. Paige nodded, and as they silently watched others having fun, she turned and said, "Teacher Beth, thank you. Thank you for this. Thank you for this school."

Looking at Paige, dressed in a beautiful gown, with hair and make-up done, one could have never guessed her story. She is a rape victim and a mother raising her daughter (a result of the rapes). She comes from poverty and abuse.



Yet, as Paige stood watching the others, she remarked, "God loves me so much. He sends all these people to care for me, and people all over the world send money to pay salaries and help us." Her understanding of God's love, restoration, redemption and His desire for good in her life goes far beyond what most teenagers understand. She celebrates, thankful for those throughout the world who had given so she could access school, enjoy the banquet, and be a mother to her precious daughter.

For more information on Project Pag-asa, go to www.project-pagasa.ph or www.actioninternational.org/project/Philippines-Project-Pag-asa

Beth Potter has used ACTION's Children in Crisis Funds to run a camp for Project Pag-asa's older students that includes teaching about boundaries and grooming since they are especially susceptible to being re-abused. Three months after last year's camp, one of the girls, "Mindy," came to Beth's office to talk through what was happening in her life. Mindy was analyzing one of her friendships and wondered if the person was grooming her for sexual satisfaction. As she talked, she said, "At Camp Auntie Miriam taught us... which has made me question and realize that I think my friend is grooming and using me." She was right! They were able to work through the boundaries Mindy needed to put in place to keep her safe. This was a direct result of camp! Beth writes, "Thank you for helping us provide this training."

Your prayers and financial gifts are making a life-changing difference for ACTION workers like Beth Potter and teenagers like Paige and Mindy. Thank you.

To contribute to the Children in Crisis Fund go to www.actioncic.org.

PLEASE PRAY FOR US

- Pray for healing for children who have experienced deep trauma.
- Pray that God would provide more counselors trained in childhood trauma to work alongside our field workers.
- Pray for a permanent school building for Project Pag-asa.



SIGN UP TO GO PAPERLESS!

We are going digital! If you would like to make the switch to email newsletters, reducing expenses so more funds go directly to children, please sign up using this QR code or on the enclosed response slip. The content will be the same so you will not miss a thing!



Sheryl Grunwald,
ACTION International's
Coordinator of Children
in Crisis Ministry



FIND OUT MORE

Contact us through any of the following:

EMAIL US

cic@actionintl.org

CHILDREN IN CRISIS

www.actioncic.org

ACTION INTERNATIONAL

www.actioninternational.org



USA PO Box 398, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-0398

CANADA 3015A 21st St. NE, Calgary, Alberta T2E 7T1

UK PO Box 257, Droitwich, Worcestershire WR9 1ER

