



MEGAWORLD FOUNDATION @ 25

 MEGAWORLD FOUNDATION, INC.



DR. ANDREW L. TAN's  
MEGAWORLD FOUNDATION @

25



**2006**  
First house-building

**2019**  
Advocated for the UN SDGs

**2007**  
Supported 100 scholars;  
Accredited by PCNC

**2012**  
Launched website

**2020**  
Launched COVID-19 Response  
Mega Malasakit; Supported  
1,000 scholars

**1997**  
Registered in the Securities and  
Exchange Commission.

**2021**  
Launched scholars portal;  
First livelihood program

**1999**  
Started scholarship program

**2010**  
Registered in DSWD;  
First medical mission

**2016**  
First Santa scholars  
Christmas  
gift-giving activity

**2011**  
Offered scholarship  
outside Metro Manila;  
First feeding activity

**2008**  
Implemented volunteerism  
activities; First tree planting activity



MEGAWORLD  
FOUNDATION @

A large, bold number '25' is the central focus. The number is filled with a dark gray color and overlaid with a fine, repeating geometric pattern of small, light gray cubes or diamonds. The '2' and '5' are connected, with the '5' having a thick, blocky appearance. The overall style is modern and architectural.



# DR. ANDREW L. TAN

I would like to wish our Megaworld Foundation a happy anniversary! This 25<sup>th</sup> year milestone is a reminder that we have come so far since it was first established as Megaworld's corporate giving arm.

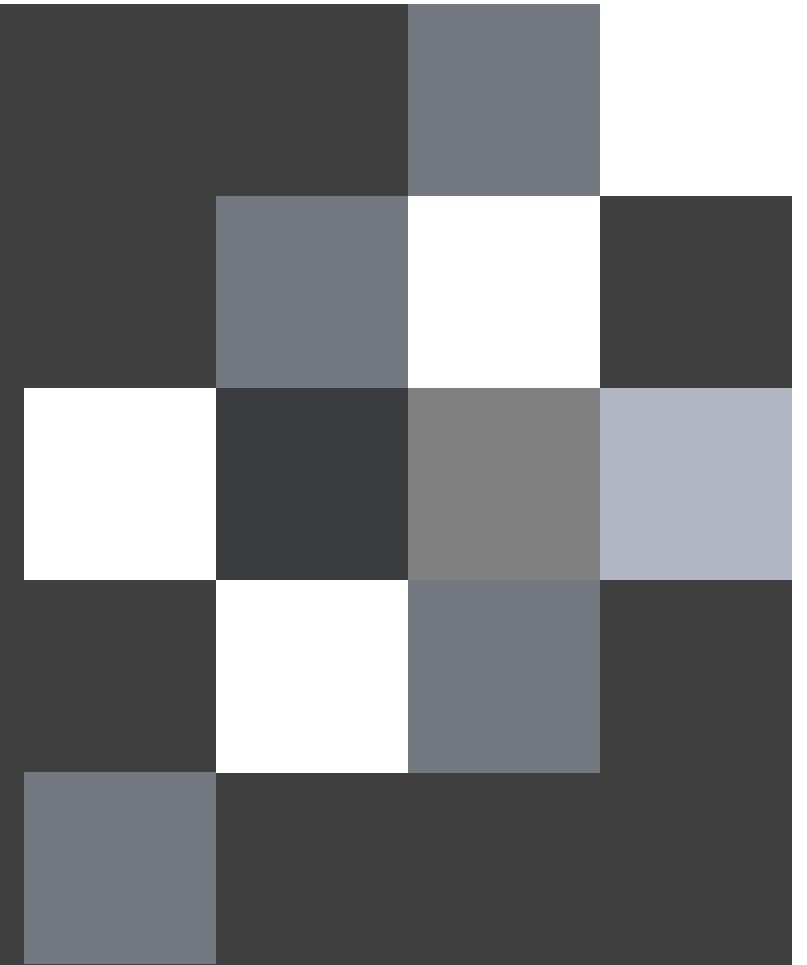
Decades later, the Foundation is more than a giving arm. It has expanded, just as Megaworld as a company has expanded. It is an institution empowered and capable to contribute in a significant way to Megaworld's very own vision to "uplift lives, impact society, and help shape the nation." Through the years, the communities under our care have grown, our reach has widened, and we have been able to make our synergies with like-minded partners even more impactful.

Access to a good education will always be the bedrock of the Foundation's efforts. After all, uplifting deserving but underprivileged youth through our scholarship program was how we started. But the work hasn't stopped there. The Foundation is just as passionate about elevating other sectors of society, amplifying relevant causes and advocacies, and coming to the aid of the most vulnerable communities.

I am grateful for the hands-on, on-the-ground involvement of our members and volunteers year after year. I am proud of how even our scholars and former scholars-turned-employees have paid it forward. It is this continued commitment towards solidarity and stewardship that will fuel the work of the Foundation well into the future.

I know that the pandemic over the past two years has been challenging. It has changed how we all do things on a day-to-day basis. It has definitely changed how the Foundation has executed its initiatives. But I am proud to say that the Foundation has adapted and remained steadfast, and it has found new opportunities to be of service, to connect and interact with beneficiaries, and to touch lives in this new reality.

*Andrew*





## ATTY. CIRILO L. MANLANGIT

Establishing Megaworld's corporate social responsibility arm in 1997 gave us all the feeling of pride and joy. I was happy knowing that we were taking on an even more challenging yet rewarding role of participating in social progress by helping send underprivileged but deserving youth to school, a direction from our chairman Dr. Andrew L. Tan himself.

I am even more delighted to know that now, after more than two decades, the Foundation has grown significantly, supporting over a thousand scholars every school year, and extending generous contributions to aid various causes and institutions.

With its commitment to align its programs to the United Nations' sustainability goals, the Foundation's projects will not only become more relevant to the changing times, but also allow more people to be benefitted.

I wish Megaworld Foundation greater success. I am confident that the Foundation will soar, not just because of the awards it has received, but because it has truly touched the lives of the scholars it has helped give a future to, the elderly it has cared for, and the indigent families and underprivileged individuals it has supported.

*Loy*



## DR. FRANCISCO C. CANUTO

Two years into the pandemic, we at Megaworld Foundation remain steadfast in our corporate social responsibility efforts. I know this pandemic has affected everyone in one way or another, but the Foundation is not slowing down. We are even more committed to provide for the less privileged in any way we can.

For the Foundation's silver anniversary, we look back on programs and projects targeted at helping diverse sectors of society, whether it is through education, environmental conservation, health care or disaster relief, among others.

We are thankful for the 25 years of the Foundation. These decades of hard work and dedication remind us that while we may have already done a lot, there is still more to be accomplished—our work will benefit others for the years to come.

The achievements of the Foundation may have been validated by citations from various local and international award giving bodies, such as the International CSR Excellence, the Global CSR Summit, the ASEAN Sustainability Summit and the Asian NGO Leadership Awards, but it is the impact of our work that is truly gratifying and humbling. We will continue to uplift lives, impact society, and help shape the nation through our initiatives and with the support and leadership of Dr. Andrew L. Tan.

Now more than ever, it is the Foundation's hope that what we do provide a silver lining to Filipinos, supporting them as we all navigate this uncertain environment.

*Francis*







**KENDRICK  
ANDREW L. TAN**  
*Executive Director*



**ATTY. MONICA  
T. SALOMON**  
*Treasurer*



**DR. FRANCISCO  
C. CANUTO**  
*President*



**DR. ANDREW L. TAN**  
*Chairman*



**LOURDES T.  
GUTIERREZ-ALFONSO**  
*Corporate Secretary*



**KEVIN ANDREW  
L. TAN**  
*Director*



**MARICEN  
S. JALANDONI**  
*Independent Director*

#### **DR. ANDREW L. TAN**

Chairman of the publicly listed holding firm, Alliance Global Group Inc., which owns the Emperor and Fundador brands and Resort World Manila and a stake in the McDonald's franchise in the Philippines.

#### **DR. FRANCISCO C. CANUTO**

Senior vice president and treasurer of Megaworld Corporation and chairman of MREIT, Inc.

#### **LOURDES T. GUTIERREZ-ALFONSO**

Chief operating officer of Megaworld Corporation and chairman of property management company, First Oceanic Property Management and of Megaworld Hotels.

#### **ATTY. MONICA T. SALOMON**

President of Global Estate Resorts Inc. and holds various directorship in Megaworld affiliates.

#### **KEVIN ANDREW L. TAN**

CEO and vice-chairman of Alliance Global Group, Inc., the chief strategy officer of Megaworld Corporation and the president and CEO of its real estate investment vehicle, MREIT.

#### **KENDRICK ANDREW L. TAN**

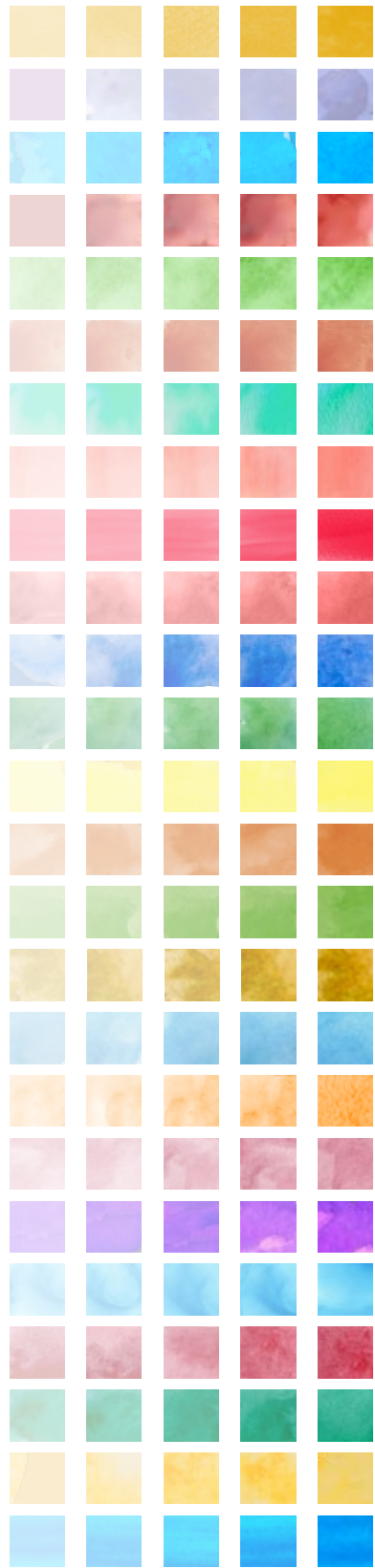
Executive director of Emperor Distillers, Inc. and is the head of Research & Development of Emperor.

#### **MARICEN S. JALANDONI**

President of Base Bahay Foundation and chairman of the Board of Trustees.



# 25 YEARS, 25 STORIES



- 9:** Bringing dreams closer to reality
- 15:** Creating more opportunities for the youth
- 21:** Building partnerships for a wider reach
- 27:** Bringing education closer to communities
- 33:** Shaping scholars to be change-makers
- 41:** Innovating ways to bridge gaps in education
- 49:** Revolutionizing ways of learning
- 55:** Engaging scholars in practical learning
- 61:** Sowing hope during the season of giving
- 67:** Extending aid since day one
- 73:** An outpouring of compassion for frontline workers
- 79:** Moving real life heroes forward
- 87:** Rising together amid the pandemic
- 93:** Delivering happiness from a distance
- 99:** Taking the lead in responsible stewardship
- 107:** Empowering communities with better opportunities
- 115:** Serving joy to children
- 121:** Giving the gift of kindness to children with cancer
- 127:** Going beyond building homes
- 133:** Making communities more self-sufficient
- 139:** Making basic health care accessible to all
- 145:** Running to help preserve nature
- 151:** Becoming responsible stewards of the environment
- 157:** Preserving the timeless culture of volunteerism
- 163:** Walking the path towards sustainability



# BRINGING DREAMS CLOSER TO REALITY



1

## Senior high school tutorial sessions

Throughout history, education has been one of the most sought-after and useful tools in transforming society. Bestowed on the youth, education creates the power to shape a brighter future.

Megaworld Foundation has made education more accessible to deserving students from less fortunate backgrounds. Bringing them to the country's top universities through scholarships has helped these students put down roots for a good career. Part of the

Foundation's aid is its tutorial sessions, offered for free for scholars in preparation for the college entrance exams.

Composed of two assessment exams, online tutoring and a summative test, the comprehensive tutorial sessions were done virtually. Twenty-eight scholars were assisted by the Foundation's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) team and were tutored by four professional trainers from the Department of Education.



To determine a scholar's level of knowledge, a two-hour furnished assessment exam was held prior to the 100-hour sessions, which encapsulated the learning the student must possess in English, Algebra, Trigonometry, Physics, Statistics, and Biology and Chemistry. To relatively measure their understanding, a complementary summative test was conducted afterwards.

One of the scholars, Mahathir Barachiel V. Arcebuche from Marikina Science High School, who dreams of becoming chemical engineer, eagerly shared his experience during the sessions.

As he wished to enter a good university such as the University of the Philippines, Mahathir was motivated to study hard. He said that his family had been struggling financially since his father died. His mother, an office clerk raised him with the help of family, but resources weren't enough to sustain a college education. Being a determined individual, he applied for a scholarship and was granted one by the Foundation.

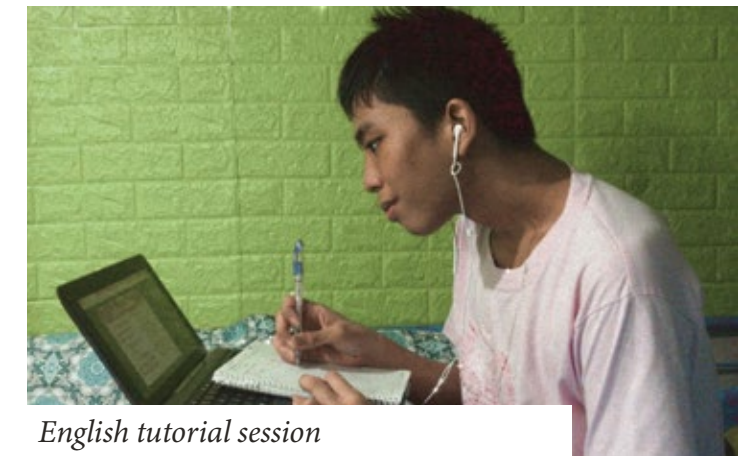
During the tutorial sessions, Mahathir diligently took down notes from the lectures, noting down formulas he would need to commit to memory. He shared how thankful he has been for the free review offered by the Foundation. He mentioned that his current school did not offer preparation assistance for college entrance exams.

He said: "I am grateful and indebted to the Foundation for helping support students like me who do not have enough resources to achieve their dreams and goals in life. I will work harder and smarter to pay back the Foundation's kindness in the future."

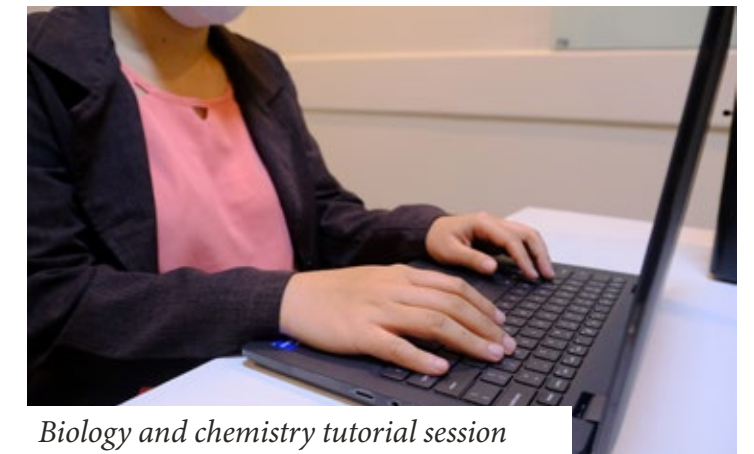
Similarly, Wyndham Jan L. Kayas from Sta. Elena High School learned different strategies in solving difficult math problems. Through the tutorial sessions, he said his vocabulary and reading comprehension improved. For Wyndham, it was a fruitful and productive activity, both for academic and personal growth. "It is true that not all students in my year are given the chance to attend such advantageous learning sessions," he said. "I am glad to be one of those students who got to experience these."



*Algebra and trigonometry tutorial session*



*English tutorial session*



*Biology and chemistry tutorial session*



Other scholars have also emphasized the benefits they enjoyed through the tutorial sessions, in particular, Elazandra M. Ojo from Senator Renato Cayetano Memorial Science and Technology High School and Leal Daniel Juat from Valenzuela City School of Mathematics and Science. According to them, the tutorial sessions and assessment exams helped them become productive during their vacation by allowing them the opportunity to study, without additional expenses. They also made friends and created great memories with the reviewers, tutors and the CSR team that hosted the program. They also noted how fun and engaging the sessions were, punctuated by friendly competitions made more exciting by the prizes and freebies given away.

*For students who have limited access to good education, the scholarships of Megaworld Foundation are bridges, connecting them to the potential of turning their dreams into reality.*







# CREATING MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YOUTH

## “Walk Into Your Future” Scholarship fair

Megaworld Foundation has been supporting college students through its scholarships since 1999. In 2019, it expanded its roster of scholars, including high school students to its list of beneficiaries.

“Walk Into Your Future” is a scholarship initiative of the Foundation which aims to reach out to more junior high school students (Grades 7 to 10) and senior high school students (Grades 11 to 12) from different public high schools in Metro Manila such as

Ramon Magsaysay High School in Cubao, Quezon City; Araullo High School in Ermita, Manila; and Rizal High School in Pasig City.

Senior high school students who participated in the scholarship fair chose academic tracks leading to courses supported by the Foundation such as Architecture, Business, Computer Science, Engineering, Human Resources, Information Technology, Interior Design, Marketing and Tourism, and Hospitality Management.



Aside from the opportunity to enjoy full tuition fee grants, scholars also receive stipends and allowances, which aim to support the students in their school expenses. For many, this allowance also helps in a small way to see to their families' needs.

Jeniffer Abella Artuz shared that her scholarship journey started when she was still in Grade 12, the year the Foundation visited her school, Araullo High School, in Ermita, Manila. Her first choice was to take up Education because she wanted to become a teacher. Unfortunately, she did not pass the exams. She tried another course, which worked in her favor. She is currently in her third year in Hospitality Management at Eulogio “Amang” Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology.

With her father undergoing dialysis, Jeniffer’s family’s budget had always been tight. Being accepted into Megaworld’s scholarship program proved to be her silver lining. Jeniffer actually plans to pursue a career in the company after she graduates.

*“ I’m so thankful.  
It is my honor to be a  
scholar of Megaworld.  
Malaking tulong po na  
makapagpatuloy ng  
pag-aaral sa tulong ni  
Dr. Tan and ng Megaworld  
Foundation. ”*

*— Jeniffer Abella Artuz, Megaworld Scholar*

(“I’m so thankful. It is my honor to be a scholar of Megaworld. The help Dr. Tan and Megaworld Foundation gave to me has been a big help.”)



*Jose Abad Santos High School*



*Rizal High School*



*Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila*



For Rena Mae Gomez Albite, her scholarship journey with Megaworld began when she was about to graduate Grade 12 at Rizal High School. She was already thinking about college during that time. The day that the Foundation came along was a blessing.

Despite the long hours and effort needed to secure the requirements for the scholarship, Rena went ahead. She thought that the scholarship would be helpful—her older brother was their only breadwinner after their parents’ separation. Their family had three siblings, all in school, and two of her nephews are also living with them.

Rena tried to help make ends meet by working in a BPO company in August 2021 as a chat support agent. She juggled the demands of her job along with her responsibilities as a third year tourism student.

During the pandemic, she received her first stipend from Megaworld Foundation, which she used to fund her internet connection. She was also selected as one of the recipients of a free computer from the Foundation’s “Desktop Project,” which she now uses in her online classes as well as her work.

*“Nawalan na ako ng pag-asa pero nabuhayan ako na makapagpatuloy ng pag-aaral dahil sa Megaworld,” she said. (“I had nearly lost all hope if not for Megaworld, who made it possible for me to continue my studies.”)*





# BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR A WIDER REACH

3

## Partnership with Sisters of Mary School

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Scholar Criselda Ebatuan shared her story on how the Sisters of Mary (SOM) School helped her in her studies. “*Noong time na yun, hindi kaya ng magulang ko na sustentuhan yung studies ko kasi first, marami kami sa pamilya, and second, sapat lang yung kinikita nila para sa pang-araw-araw namin.*” (“At the time, my parents could not afford my studies. We were a big family, and their income was just enough for our everyday needs.”)

SOM is an institution that establishes boys and girls towns that serve as schools and homes for deserving students. Located in Talisay City,

Cebu and Silang, Cavite, these towns cater to the poorest of the poor families from different provinces such as Isabela and from Bicol.

Megaworld Foundation and SOM share the same vision of providing quality education to the youth. They partnered in 2012 to produce their first batch of scholars, with the Foundation shouldering expenses for their dorms, tuition fees, uniforms, books and allowances.

This partnership has lasted for a decade, helping some 47 scholars, with 29 graduates.



Criselda was one of the first 22 Megaworld-supported SOM scholars. She remembered applying for various scholarships and how she didn't pass any of them. With the SOM scholarship as her last resort, she prayed fervently that she would pass the program. Finally, and with God's grace, she was accepted.

Now a program associate for the Foundation, Criselda recalled never having to worry about spending a single centavo for her school expenses. She said that she is forever indebted to SOM and the Foundation.

*“I am very grateful. Wala ako dito kung hindi dahil kay Megaworld Foundation and sa SOM. Ngayon na nagtratabaho na ako sa Megaworld, it is my way of giving back. Hindi man financially, pero yung service man lang at hangga’t kakailanganin yung serbisyo ko dito, ibibigay ko.”*

— Criselda Ebatuan, Megaworld Scholar Alumna

(“My work here in Megaworld allows me to give back. I can't give back everything I received financially, but I can offer my service. And as long as they need me, I will continue to be of service.”)



*Technical vocational course  
in sewing*



*Technical vocational course  
in baking and pastry*



*Technical vocational course  
in computer center servicing*



SOM and Megaworld also supported Kiefer Geraldyn Canceran from high school to employment. It was Kiefer’s teacher who encouraged her to apply for a scholarship when SOM visited Isabela. Fortunately, Kiefer passed both the interview and exam. She then transferred to the Cavite campus for her high school education from 2009 to 2013.

Even at a tender age, Kiefer knew how difficult it was for her mother to send her and her siblings to school. Kiefer came from a broken family; her parents separated when she was in fourth grade, and it was only her mother who made a living.

Although the scholarship meant that she would have leave her family in Isabela, Kiefer courageously pursued her studies. To support them, Kiefer worked at SOM for three years as a dental and medical assistant. She regularly remitted a portion of her monthly income to her family for their needs.

Kiefer continued her college education at the Manila Tytana Colleges, graduating with Latin honors in business. Megaworld and SOM provided everything she needed during that time—monthly allowances, food, clothing, and costs covering her stay at her boarding house.

Now a sales auditor for Megaworld, Kiefer has nothing but gratitude for the company and the opportunity she received. *“Laking pasasalamat ko po kasi dito na ako nagtratabaho sa Megaworld at nakakatulong na ako sa pagsuporta sa pamilya ko,”* she said. (“I am very grateful that I’m working for Megaworld and that I’m able to support my family.”)

Megaworld Foundation continues its productive partnership with SOM. It hopes to provide even more youth with the opportunity to continue their studies and grow their careers, just like the successful journeys of Criselda and Kiefer.







# BRINGING EDUCATION CLOSER TO COMMUNITIES

## Eskwela ng Bayan: A Mega Classroom on Wheels

The start of a new school year is always memorable for both children and parents. It signifies the acquisition of many new things: learning, values, friends, hobbies. As students step into their classrooms, they start to build their dreams and to make things happen.

Traditionally, these classrooms are bounded by four walls in a single place, but Megaworld Foundation has moved beyond the four-walled room to a four-wheel vehicle. The result: “Eskwela ng Bayan: A Mega Classroom on Wheels.” The mobile classroom was an initiative conceived to provide education to the underprivileged anywhere in the country.

Its goal is to offer readily accessible learning resources to marginalized communities. The Foundation started the rollout of its mobile classrooms in 2019, in the communities of Taguig and Pasay.

The learning sessions in the Mega Classroom on Wheels kicked off with stories of hope and inspiration—the children were told about the humble beginnings of Megaworld Chairman Dr. Andrew L. Tan, who once had a dream of owning a small grocery store, and who worked hard for years before becoming the tycoon he is today.



Inspired by the anecdote, the children expressed their eagerness to learn. They listened attentively to the storytelling that contributed to their character formation, as it emphasized the love for family. They tapped into their creative side by making art projects using recycled egg trays. Topics on communication were discussed, enhancing their knowledge in English, language and spelling. Subjects on money, currency, and telling time were touched upon through fun exercises, improving their understanding of practical math.

It was uplifting to see how a typically bleak covered court in a community transformed into a vibrant mobile classroom where children gathered and engaged in different activities. During certain weekends when the Mega Classroom on Wheels visited the communities, the project's impact was clearly evident in the excitement of the children. They were always eager to hear a new story of inspiration, learn yet another lesson, and participate in more activities that would contribute to their learning.

On “graduation day,” the last day of the learning session, the children created paintings that expressed words of appreciation for the Foundation.

The two top students from among the 100 youths that participated in the Mega Classroom on Wheels were granted a scholarship.

Megaworld Foundation President Dr. Francisco Canuto thanked the children for being part of Eskwela ng Bayan, saying “*Masaya rin kaming naging parte kayo ng ‘Eskwela ng Bayan’ bilang aming mga Mega students. Ipagpatuloy niyo ang pag-aaral ng mabuti para pagdating ng araw, mabigyan namin kayo ng pagkakataon na maging Mega scholars.*” (“We are very happy that you were part of our ‘Eskwela ng Bayan’ as our Mega students. I encourage you to continue studying hard so we can give you the opportunity to become Mega scholars in the future.”)

Mc Lyrad and Cliffany who are now in grades 4 and 7, respectively, were the two exceptional students recognized during the initiative. They remain scholars of Megaworld Foundation. A few years back, they were like the other children in the mobile classroom—simply having fun, without a clue to the big opportunities coming their way.



March 2019



November 2019



August 2020



The Foundation takes pride in students like them, since they consistently demonstrate their hard work and dedication to study under a Megaworld scholarship.

*Megaworld Foundation has always been willing to go the extra mile to find unconventional ways to bring education to the youth even if that means bringing the learning right to their doorstep.*

For 25 years, providing scholarships has been the Foundation's core goal. Giving the youth an education means giving them a chance at a better life, which has always been Dr. Tan's belief.





# SHAPING SCHOLARS TO BE CHANGE -MAKERS

5

Volunteerism activities,  
Cyber tour, and Cap toss

The population of the Philippines has grown exponentially each year. It has now surpassed the 100 million mark, according to the 2021 census of the Philippine Statistics Authority. In only 25 years, our population had grown by almost 50 million. The rate of unemployment in the country is on the same upward trajectory.

According to the Social Weather Stations, around 11 million Filipinos declared or

saw themselves as unemployed by the third quarter of 2021. Around 30 percent of these unemployed Filipinos are college graduates, still waiting to put their degrees to good use.

Clearly, there is an imbalance in the ratio of graduates to available local employment opportunities. If there are ever any vacancies, new graduates would need to compete with other unemployed individuals for jobs.



Megaworld Chairman Dr. Andrew L. Tan had already recognized this dilemma, which is why apart from granting scholarships, he also thought to guarantee jobs for Megaworld scholars in his group of companies under Alliance Global Group, Inc. (AGI). AGI is a conglomerate that consolidates all of Dr. Tan's business interests, including Megaworld's real estate business.

Before the scholars formally leave the grounds of their universities, Megaworld Foundation prepares them to be the next generation of leaders and nation-builders through a diversity of activities.

Scholars have the chance to join the Foundation's yearly volunteerism activities, from "Brigada Eskwela" and tree-planting activities to feeding programs, medical missions and fun runs. Their participation in these initiatives helps nurture in them the value of paying it forward—such people skills and the readiness to help are essential, not only in the workplace, but in life.



*Medical mission, 2011*



*House build activity, 2013*



*Painting activity for a cause, 2015*





**1,145 GRADUATES**



**ALMOST 500  
JOINED THE WORKFORCE**

*\*As of May 2022*

The Foundation also created supplementary programs with the graduating scholars as the main beneficiaries. Among these are the annual “Megaworld Scholars Tour” that immerses scholars in a corporate work environment while showing them around the company’s headquarters at the Alliance Global Tower in Uptown Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Through the tour, the scholars gain a better appreciation for how Megaworld has become the success story it is today. Scholars visit the different divisions and departments in the building, and are briefed on the roles of each one. Afterwards, they enjoyed an inspirational talk from select company leaders to help boost their morale.

At the end of the tour, Megaworld Foundation President Dr. Francisco Canuto personally congratulates the scholars and motivates them further with a message of his own.

Meanwhile, the “Cap Toss” is the Foundation’s actual send-off ceremony. It has two objectives: boosting the graduating batch’s knowledge of the real world, and celebrating their hard-earned degrees. Through this program, the scholars are formally introduced and welcomed to AGI.

The scholars undergo training before they join the official pool of applicants for job vacancies in the group of companies. They learn how to put their best foot forward in entering the workforce, whether that is creating impressive resumés to acing their job interviews.

After the learning sessions, there is a small ceremony held for the graduating scholars. They receive certificates of recognition and tokens to celebrate their graduation.



*Eastwood City Cyberpark tour, 2014*



*Alliance Global Tower tour, 2018*



*Southwoods virtual tour, 2022*



Even if the graduating scholars are ready for endorsement to AGI affiliates and subsidiaries, the Foundation always guides them. For 25 years, it has never forgotten its scholars and the journey they embark on.

*“Megaworld Foundation will always be a champion for education in the years to come. We are committed to coming up with unique ways to help the disadvantaged youth reach their dreams and help their families rise up from the challenges brought about by poverty.”*

— Dr. Francisco C. Canuto, Megaworld Foundation President

He continued: “I am really proud of and thankful for how our scholars have become the new generation of leaders. I am confident that they will take our company to new heights and mark their own successes. To the scholars—continue being the change you want to see. The company and I will be behind you, every step of the way.”





# INNOVATING WAYS TO BRIDGE GAPS IN EDUCATION

6

## Mega scholarship in the new normal

Through the years, Megaworld Foundation has made education accessible to underprivileged but academically excellent students. The value of innovation has always been important to the Foundation, whether that meant improving the students' quality of life or their quality of learning.

COVID-19 severely restricted face-to-face interactions, meaning education had to be pivoted to a new model and platform.

Students were forced to shift to online learning since schools were either closed temporarily because of government-imposed lockdowns or converted into quarantine facilities. Unfortunately, the educational system, the learning infrastructure, as well as the students were not prepared for the abrupt transition. For the students, there was definitely a lack of appropriate devices, internet connectivity and a private space for online classes.



Megaworld scholars were overwhelmed by the challenges of online learning. Fortunately, the Foundation was able to find ways to help them adjust. It partnered with Emperador Distillers, Inc. to donate 15 desktop computer sets to 15 scholars who could not purchase their own equipment.

The computer donation helped University of Makati scholar Marielle Bantolino finish her final school requirements in order to graduate. “It [desktop computer donation] was a big help to me when I was still studying because I needed it for my on-the-job training. I was also able to finish my thesis and our website project. I am honored to be one of the recipients of the Megaworld scholarship. Thank you for your unending and generous support,” said Marielle.

*“Growing up in a less privileged community meant finances were a challenge, but it only fueled my desire to get a good education. Again, thank you for your help, and may God bless you!”*

— Marielle Bantolino, Megaworld Scholar Alumna



*Senior high school tutorial sessions*



*Supporting scholars in transitioning to online classes*



*Mega BER-kadahan learning sessions*





**1,000 SCHOLARS  
ANNUALLY SUPPORTED**



**76 PARTNER SCHOOLS**

Another issue that scholars encountered was limited mobility due to lockdowns. It prevented students from submitting their requirements for scholarship benefits and even claiming their allowance at the office of the Foundation. The Foundation addressed these issues by creating its official website and issuing bank accounts to the scholars.

Students could now submit their scholarship requirements via the “Scholars Portal.” They would be able to comply in submitting their documents on time without ever leaving their homes. Even today, aspiring scholars can send their applications and requirements via the website.

Megaworld Chairman Dr. Andrew L. Tan ensured that financially disadvantaged yet excellent students had the opportunity to easily apply for a scholarship. To date, the website receives hundreds of applications, even from far-flung areas.

When it comes to claiming their allowance, scholars used to have to make a trip to the office. Innovations have made the entire process possible via ATM.

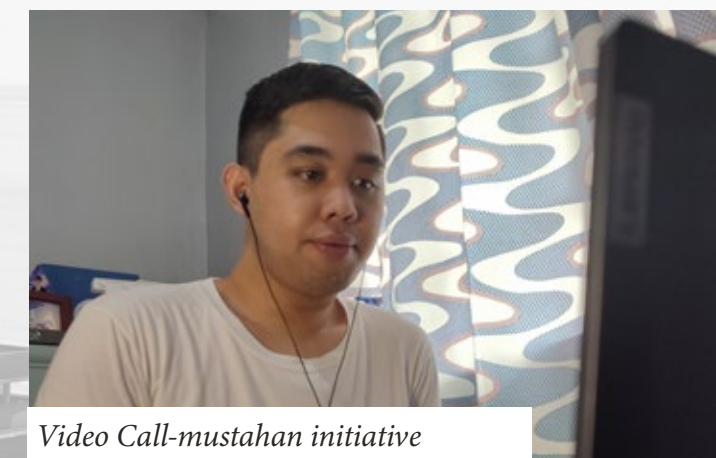
Quezon City University scholar John Bennedict Forbes said, “I can say that the shift of processes from physical to online has been very helpful. It put us at ease. The aid we receive allows us to continue our studies. Moreover, online transactions are more accessible and effortless.”

After addressing their basic needs, the Foundation then focused on the scholars’ emotional and psychological needs. The “Video Call-mustahan” activity saw much-needed heartfelt talks between Foundation members and scholars covering diverse topics that also included the uncertainty of the pandemic.

Shifting from the physical to the digital medium allowed the Foundation to give further assistance to scholars. Refreshers were conducted, discussing the policies and guidelines of the scholarship program. There were also activities focused on academics, as well as building rapport between the scholars. For the entire summer break, the Foundation accompanied the scholars in a program called “Mega Summer Ventures.”



*Scholars portal*



*Video Call-mustahan initiative*



*Allowances through issued ATM cards*



During the “-ber” months from September to November, learning sessions under “Mega BER-kadahan” gave scholars the opportunity to learn and relearn specific topics nominated by Megaworld employees and hired graduate scholars. Topics ranged from business communication and financial literacy to photography.

According to National University scholar Maylene Cabigayan: “My favorite activity was the Mega BER-kadahan learning sessions. I was able to learn something new or review the basics about certain topics. It allowed us to refresh our minds, and enjoy the fun ice breakers prepared by the coordinators.”

“It gave us an opportunity to gain knowledge through a lighthearted experience. It is an activity that I will treasure forever because it taught me lessons I can share with my fellow students,” added Maylene.

*In addition, Megaworld Foundation held an online graduation for 95 high school and college scholars, which was also attended by their proud families.*

Scholars received certificates of recognition which honored their steadfastness in pursuing their studies even amid a global pandemic. Their batch was almost immediately endorsed to the different companies of Dr. Tan for employment.





# REVOLUTIONIZING WAYS OF LEARNING



## Mega Summer Ventures #RoamFromHome

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Megaworld Foundation launched “Mega Summer Ventures” in the summer of 2020. The rationale behind the program was to empower scholars to learn new things and rediscover their passions during the summer season.

A year later, “Mega Summer Ventures 2.0” revamped the learning experience of 750 scholars. The Foundation created a Facebook group for them where they connected with

one another, picked up new knowledge, and had fun.

With more opportunities for the students to interact with their co-scholars and with increased access to learning activities, the Foundation was able to provide support to the scholars who were currently relegated to the home, seeing them through the challenges of the new reality.





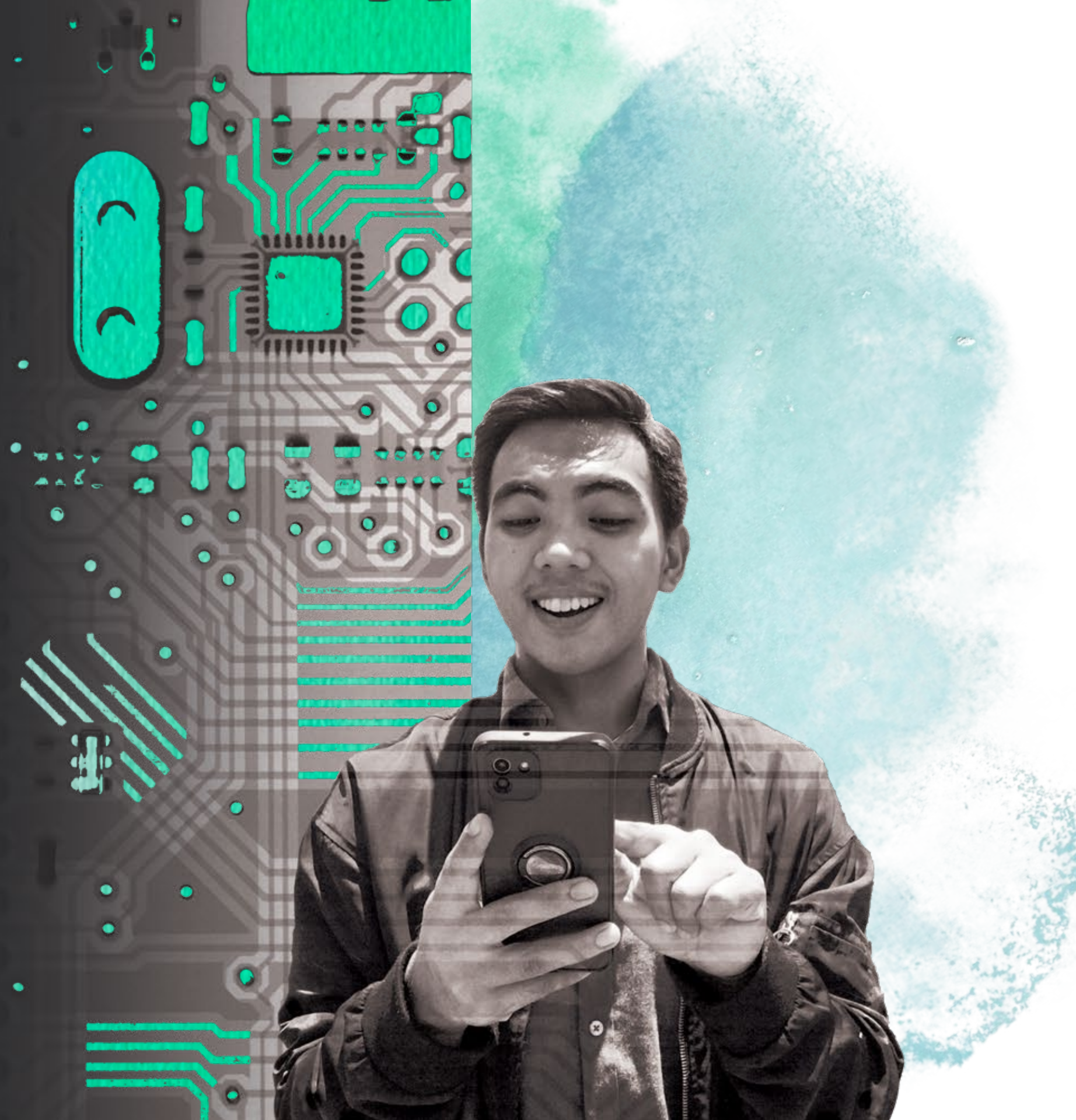
## 750 MEMBER SCHOLARS OF THE SOCIAL MEDIA GROUP

The online activities were anchored on “*kumustahan*,” a Filipino word meaning “to check in on someone’s situation or condition.” “*Kumustahan*” became an organized video call activity with motivational Christian talks, which was instrumental for scholars to form a circle of support for one another.

Mega Summer Ventures provided scholars with daily Bible verses. Scholars rated this as one of their most loved content in 2020, so during version 2 of the program, more Bible verses were sent. Together with prayers, the verses boosted the scholars’ spiritual morale, reminding them that they are not alone despite the difficulties of the pandemic. Furthermore, the Foundation curated articles and videos for the scholars. With a different theme every week, the scholars read and watched informative content on financial literacy, physical fitness and even household management and cleaning.

Scholars participated in two contests during the program—“MegaWais” and “MegaKnown.” MegaWais tested the scholars’ wit, decision-making skills, practical reasoning, and ability to provide sensible explanations. In the challenge called “Tidy Up,” they were tasked to determine which items should be discarded, retained, and recycled. They would then show their before-and-after images to the group via video.

Meanwhile, MegaKnown tested their knowledge and communication skills. Scholars were asked about musical topics, the Alliance Global Group, and being interview-ready. The scholars also played Wordscape and activities on some activities on career preparation.



*Mega Summer Ventures #RoamFromHome, 2020*



*Mega Summer Ventures Version 2.0, 2021*



*Mega Summer Ventures Version 3.0, 2022*



In the middle of Mega Summer Ventures, the scholars were also given the opportunity to attend the virtual book launch of Megaworld Foundation’s “The Visionary, The Philanthropist,” which put the life and work of Megaworld Chairman Dr. Andrew L. Tan on spotlight.

The launch provided a venue for the scholars to know even more about Dr. Tan, and to take inspiration from his self-made success story. He also had a personal message for the scholars.

In a video message addressed to the scholars, Dr. Tan said,

*“ I am proud that you, our scholars, have never lost sight of your dreams. It is inspiring that you continue to make your studies a priority, despite the fact that you’re outside of the classroom during this unusual time.”*

— Dr. Andrew L. Tan, Megaworld Chairman and CEO

Mega Summer Ventures culminated with a virtual graduation ceremony, which featured moving speeches from the top students and a message from Megaworld Foundation President Dr. Francisco Canuto.

“With the changing times, Megaworld Foundation continues to adapt to be relevant. The Mega Summer Ventures is an innovative communication tool for the scholars to stay connected with the Foundation and their colleagues,” said Dr. Canuto.





# ENGAGING SCHOLARS IN PRACTICAL LEARNING

8

## Mega BER-kadahan learning sessions

The shift to online learning wasn't easy for people in the academe, and the students bore the brunt of a sudden transition in their ways of learning. Megaworld Foundation found a way to keep scholars engaged, giving them a much-needed break from their academics and helping address the stresses of learning in the new reality, through "Mega BER-kadahan." Mega BER-kadahan continues the Foundation's successful "Mega Summer Ventures" program.

The name of the Mega BER-kadahan initiative was coined because it was conducted during the "-ber" months, and it emphasized the "*barkada*" a fellowship among peers and friends. Learning sessions under this activity centered on topics that were chosen via weekly poll on Facebook, as well as subjects discussing important life lessons.



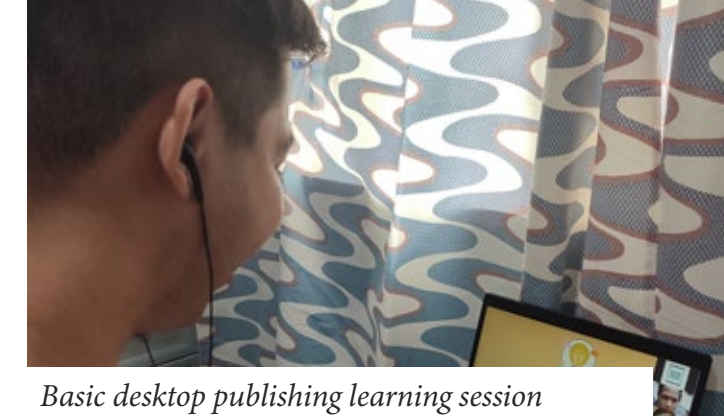
Former scholars and current Megaworld employees were invited to discuss topics that ranged from business communication to basic mathematics, algebra and financial planning.

Approximately 161 scholars attended the session headed by Kristine Anne Varquez, head writer of the Corporate Communications and Advertising Division. She gave guidance on basic grammar and business writing, teaching scholars to write better corporate letters and emails as well as effectively present their school output.

Meanwhile, the mathematics lessons tackled basic algebra, essential to the scholars learning higher-level mathematics such as trigonometry and geometry.

To talk to scholars with regard to improving their money management skills, the Foundation invited former scholar-graduate LA Manila, now a Megaworld employee and personal finance advocate. Topics included the financial landscape of the Philippines, smart ways to budget and spend, saving money at an early age, and the concept of loans, interest, amortization and mortgage.

Learning sessions for Mega BER-kadahan also touched on computers and technology. The use of Microsoft Office and other relevant computer programs was discussed, while job opportunities that used graphic design were also explored.



*Basic desktop publishing learning session*



*Basic grammar learning session*



*Budgeting and financial literacy learning session*



One of the most voted topics was photography. The learning session was headed by internationally awarded street photographer and in-house Megaworld photographer Kevin Icabales from the Corporate Communications and Advertising Division.

Icabales provided a brief overview of basic photography and composition techniques, and emphasized his personal tips on how to enjoy the craft.

*Mega BER-kadahan ran for three and half months, concluding last November 2021. A significant retention in scholars was observed—another big win for the Foundation.*





# SOWING HOPE DURING THE SEASON OF GIVING

9

## Santa scholars Christmas gift-giving activity

More than providing free education to its scholars, Megaworld Foundation also imparts to them the importance of building meaningful connections with the most vulnerable groups in society. Thus, the “Santa Scholars” initiative came to life.

The project featured 200 Megaworld scholars and employee volunteers who acted as “Santa” to select beneficiaries. From 2016 to 2018, scholars handed over Christmas grocery packages to 155 families, highlighting the lesson that it is in giving that we truly receive.





## OVER 150 FAMILIES GIFTED WITH CHRISTMAS PACKAGES

One of the scholars, Richelle Sarmiento, a financial management graduate of National University and currently a Megaworld employee, shared how the project moved her personally.

Her chosen beneficiary was the Canonoy family—Tatay Celestino, 76 years old, and Nanay Nita, 80 years old. The couple had been living for 61 years on their makeshift kariton sheltered only by an umbrella along Roces Avenue. Richelle happened to pass them by every day on her way to school.

Upon reaching out to the couple, Richelle learned that Tatay Celestino and Nanay Nita had four children, most of whom had their own families, while one was currently in jail. Tatay Celestino had a heart condition that required maintenance medication. To survive, the two sell newspapers, candies, cigarettes and soft drinks from their mini sari-sari store. Given their situation, Christmas Day was an ordinary day—no celebrations, no *Noche Buena*. When asked what their wish was for Christmas, the couple only hoped that Tatay Celestino would get better, and that they would be reunited with their children.



2016



2017



2018



Moved by their story, Richelle, joined by other scholars, visited the couple and sang them Christmas carols. They also gave them a package that included canned goods, purified drinking water, rice, and other essentials that would help tide them over for the next several months.

Richelle knew that her encounter with the Canonoy family would forever be a cherished memory. She still keeps in touch, and the couple always greets her as one of the family. The connection has inspired in Richelle genuine joy and the eagerness to reach out even more.

*Activities such as this cultivates in the scholars their sense of compassion, and gives them the opportunity to give back the hope that was once given to them.*





# EXTENDING AID SINCE DAY ONE

10



## Relief operations

It seems that the resilience of Filipinos is constantly being challenged. Throughout our country's history, there have been numerous social upheavals, economic downturns, natural calamities, and now, a global pandemic.

Since day one of its inception, Megaworld Foundation has always looked to lend a helping hand to Filipinos in need.

The word "aid" is important to the Foundation since it is at the core of its efforts and initiatives. The Foundation aspires to extend aid or assistance wherever it is needed, which it has done so through the years. By partnering with like-minded institutions in these operations, the reach and impact of its programs increase significantly.



In light of recent natural calamities, the Foundation has already given around P45 million in cash and in kind. Its donation aided individuals affected by the eruptions of the Mayon and Taal volcanoes in 2018 and 2020, respectively; supertyphoon Odette in 2021; and the deadly earthquakes in Negros Oriental, Cebu and Bohol.

*Furthermore, it funded programs for humanitarian missions as well as efforts centered on community rehabilitation and disaster preparedness.*



*Super typhoon Yolanda, 2013*



*Mayon volcano eruption, 2018*



*Super typhoon Odette, 2021*





**36,000 RELIEF PACKAGES  
DISTRIBUTED**

The donation of the Foundation helped Filipinos recover from other situations as well, including the armed confrontation during the Marawi Siege in 2017. The Foundation provided food and other basic necessities to families affected by the siege that year. It also supported the Philippine Armed Forces in its move to liberate Marawi from insurgents.

Meanwhile, in 2020, rising COVID-19 cases and community lockdowns did not prevent Megaworld Foundation from serving the nation. At the height of the pandemic, the Foundation responded with P2.5 million worth of donations. These funds were allocated to benefit frontliners, to boost transportation initiatives, and to procure supplementary medicine for the elderly.





# AN OUTPOURING OF COMPASSION FOR FRONTLINE WORKERS

11

## Mega Malasakit COVID-19 response

The world is different now, a result of the global pandemic that devastated every sector of society. In such a short amount of time, everyone was suddenly relegated to their homes, forced to adapt to the “new reality.” Work, learning and leisure were impacted due to the health and safety protocols that needed to be enforced for everyone’s well-being.

While there were stories that brought the challenges of the crisis to light, there were

others that gave hope during the darkest of times. Many of these were stories of the frontliners, who displayed extraordinary bravery and compassion.

We read and heard stories of doctors, nurses and medical workers who worked straight without breaks and extended their shifts—sometimes working 24/7—if only to attend to the needs of their patients.



We learned of military personnel, together with public safety officers, who manned checkpoints for hours, even under extreme weather conditions, to ensure the safety of different communities. We became acquainted with the police officers and security guards who did not give up their posts, choosing instead to patrol their areas and do their part during the pandemic.

By putting their health and lives at risk to serve Filipinos, workers on the front lines played a major role in making the effects of the crisis more bearable.

Megaworld Foundation felt compelled to give back to them, doing so through the “MEGA Malasakit” program.

Meals, disinfectant supplies and personal protective equipment were distributed to over 1,000 frontliners in hospitals, military checkpoints and local government units. Upon receiving the donations, these brave men and women, showed their appreciation through smiles that even their protective face masks could not conceal.



Capas, Tarlac



Antipolo, Rizal



San Miguel, Manila



Scholars of the Foundation also took the opportunity to send words of encouragement to the frontliners by expressing recognition for their efforts. The scholars created posters with messages of hope and inspiration, which were posted online through the Foundation's official social platforms. One scholar wrote: "Even if fear is embracing your hearts, you still all chose to fight. I salute your bravery, our warriors! #MEGAmalasakit"

Through the initiative...

*...frontliners were reminded that they are indeed seen and celebrated. Knowing that they are supported goes a long way in helping energize them to continue their work during the pandemic.*

The MEGA Malasakit program similarly aided nearly 1,500 members from the vulnerable sectors of society.

As a series of lockdowns was implemented, jobs for indigenous families became scarce, and they struggled to make ends meet. Relief goods were donated by the Foundation for the families' daily meals, as strict community quarantines made it difficult for them to go out and move around. Residents of Barangay Calawis, including the Dumagat Tribe in Antipolo Rizal, were the recipients of the in-kind donations.

The children and elderly from partner institutions such as CRIBS Foundation, Virlanie Foundation and Hospicio de San Jose, who faced the most threat in this pandemic, were also given face masks and supplies of vitamin C.







# MOVING REAL LIFE HEROES FORWARD

## “If There’s a Wheel, There’s a Way”

As part of its “MEGA Malasakit” program, Megaworld Foundation has provided bicycles for the previously unsung heroes of society: the frontliners.

The Foundation works hard to do its part for the country, as the entire nation grapples with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It has gone above and beyond to make a difference through its efforts under MEGA Malasakit. The program is its response to the pandemic, and it brings together various initiatives dedicated to benefit frontliners and communities at risk.



During this extraordinary time, our frontliners tirelessly provide life-saving support to serve the people. Despite risking their health and their families' well-being, their main priority is still to do their jobs well. They are real-life heroes, fully aware that they are putting their lives on the line but doing so anyway. Their commitment and dedication to their purpose far outweighs any fear of getting infected with the virus.

The Foundation showed appreciation for the frontliners' service through MEGA Malasakit's "If there's a wheel, there's a way." The project's main goal was to donate bicycles to financially challenged public hospital workers as an alternative mode of transportation, especially at the height of the pandemic when there were limited transport options brought about by strict quarantine restrictions.

The initiative was implemented in coordination with the five most populous hospitals in Metro Manila: Philippine General Hospital, Philippine Heart Center, Philippine Lung Center, Dr. Jose Rodriguez Memorial Hospital and San Lazaro Hospital. Each of these hospitals hosts COVID-19 testing areas and wards, and has bed capacities for 200 to 2,000 patients. These hospitals are home to most COVID-19 patients in the metro, making them high-risk areas for their own frontliners.

Each hospital recommended employee beneficiaries such as nurses, janitors and security guards to the Foundation. Through the combined efforts of everyone involved, 50 bicycles were donated to the nominated frontliners. The donation impacted the beneficiaries positively.



*Philippine Heart Center*



*Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital*



*San Lazaro Hospital*





## 100 BICYCLES DONATED

*\*As of March 2022*

Travel limitations were not the only concern for these individuals—financial challenges were also ever-present. Having a consistent and dependable mode of transportation proved to be a big help, allowing them to save money on their daily commute as well as bring their best self to work.

Aside from donating bikes to public hospital workers, Megaworld Foundation is also looking to extend the initiative by providing another 50 folding bikes, this time, to indigenous Aeta communities in Tarlac City

*The Aetas are now aided in their travel from their mountainous homes to the city and vice versa.*

The Foundation recognizes that communities such as these are waging a daily battle against the pandemic, on top of dealing with everyday challenges such as having limited resources and having no access to healthcare.



## Colors of Hope

Artwork by: Khaila Mae Faustor  
Likhang Iskolar: Megaworld Foundation Art Competition Winner

“The artwork depicts Megaworld Foundation as a paintbrush that colors the future of young dreamers. For 25 years and beyond, it will continue to instill hope and put a smile on students’ faces by helping them achieve their dreams. The Foundation continues to help students in realizing bigger, better dreams; provide a safe space to learn; envision a bright future; and bring a greener tomorrow. The hot air balloons, painted with vivid colors, represent the foundation’s contributions in the fields of education, poverty, health, environment, and other sustainable development goals. These contributions will help in making the future bright and lively for everyone.”





# RISING TOGETHER AMID THE PANDEMIC



## Rice Together: Megaworld Foundation Community Pantry

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*“Magbigay ayon sa kakayahan, kumuha ayon sa pangangailangan.”* (“Give according to your means, take according to your need.”) This slogan surfaced in different places in the country when the pandemic hit. It could be seen in the many “community pantries” set across various barangays nationwide.

The community pantry started with one small mobile stall along Maginhawa Street in Quezon City. From the stall, people with means could share everyday necessities such

as rice, vegetables and canned goods, while others could bring home the essentials they so desperately needed at no cost.

Megaworld Foundation wanted to do its share on the community level, which is why it came up with its own version of the community pantry. Called “Rice Together,” the initiative aimed to support barangays in Quezon City, Taguig City, Makati City, Muntinlupa City and Las Piñas City, which were all located near the townships of Megaworld.



The Foundation donated sacks of rice, good for a month, and other non-perishable goods such as corned beef, instant noodles, canned tuna, meatloaf, powdered milk and 3-in-1 coffee. A can of corned beef is sufficient to provide lunch for a family of four, while a dozen sachets of powdered milk will provide a child with a nutritious breakfast for nearly 2 weeks.

With the belief that the spirit of generosity is in every Megaworld employee, the Foundation called for donations.

***Employees of the company heeded the call, activated by Megaworld's culture of volunteerism and community involvement.***

The Foundation's Director for Special Community Project Bethe de Jesus is one of those who extended help to the community pantry project. According to her, a lot of our kababayan needed help. She cited the plight of the jeepney drivers who lost their livelihood during the numerous lockdowns. She saw for herself how they were forced to beg for alms on the street to be able to feed their families. She, along with all those who donated, wanted to do her part.

Barangay San Miguel in Taguig City was one of the barangays that the Foundation was able to assist. Kagawad Enrique Cipriano said that all their constituents were thankful for the aid extended to them. Their barangay expressed appreciation to Dr. Andrew L. Tan because he shared his blessings during such a difficult time in the country's history. *"Marami po kasi talagang pinadapa ng pandemya, nawalan ng trabaho, kaya malaking tulong po talaga sa aming barangay ang kanilang binigay,"* said Cipriano. ("Many were negatively impacted by the pandemic, many lost their jobs. The assistance you extended was a big help.")



*Maginhawa Street, Quezon City*



*SOS Children's Village, Muntinlupa City*



*Pembo, Makati City*





**4,000 KILOS OF RICE  
DELIVERED**



**10 BARANGAYS REACHED**

Meanwhile, Ramon Ramoca, secretary of Barangay Almanza Uno in Las Piñas City, also expressed their barangay's sincerest gratitude to the Foundation for its donation of sacks of rice, eggs, bread and canned goods.

The pandemic similarly affected Barangay SOS Village in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. It was worrisome for Janine Baluyan, communications officer of the barangay, who said that they already had a very tight budget for meals. The SOS Village is a haven for children, and with the pandemic, seeing to their everyday needs and supporting them in their studies was already a challenge. Through the rice donation of the Foundation, however, they were able to feed the children under their care.

Megaworld Foundation's community pantry initiative was truly a success, helping many families rise together.







# DELIVERING HAPPINESS FROM A DISTANCE

## “Hapag Saya sa Kapaskuhan” Christmas feeding activity

Living within a pandemic has certainly changed our lives. Certain aspects of our lifestyle in this current crisis have been significantly impacted, holding us back from doing what we love freely, especially when it comes to gathering and celebrating important occasions with family and loved ones. It is no wonder then that people have truly missed marking festive seasons such as Christmas.

While holding parties is not yet possible in the near future, there are still many ways for us to connect and celebrate, even if that happens from a distance.

For its part, Megaworld Foundation felt strongly that it needed to bring happiness to others during the holiday, in light of such extraordinary circumstances. Young children were the first beneficiaries of the Foundation in this regard.

During the pandemic, the Foundation made innovations in the way it organized its activities, so their beneficiaries could still feel a sense of togetherness, albeit in a vastly different setting.





## OVER 1,000 CHILDREN RECEIVED CHRISTMAS MEALS IN A DAY

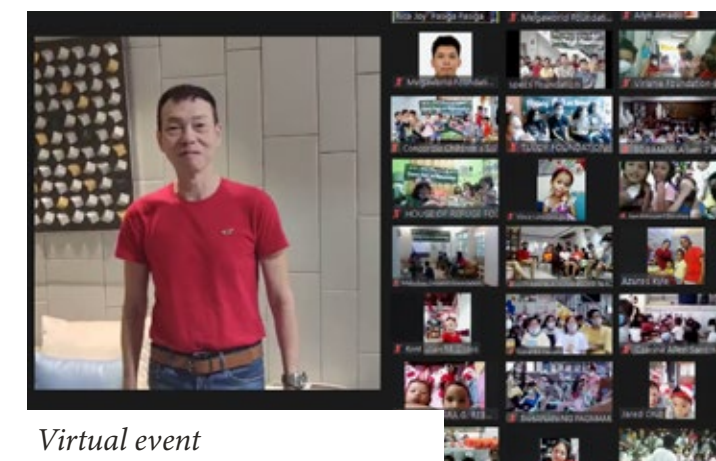
In December 2021, the Foundation made it possible for its chosen beneficiaries to experience Christmas by organizing the virtual outreach event, “*Hapag Saya sa Kapaskuhan*,” held by partner institutions on the Foundation’s behalf. A “*Kumustahan*” session was part of the program, giving the beneficiaries the opportunity to socialize and get to know each other.

Over 1,000 children from 15 institutions from Metro Manila, Batangas and Iloilo gathered virtually during the program. Even though the children were physically apart, it was impossible not to see or feel everyone’s excitement as their joy translated over the screen. Through technology, the children were able to talk to each other. They waved eagerly to their hosts, flashed their biggest smiles, and said their loudest hellos.

Video performances showcasing their talents were played as the children enjoyed the Happy Meals delivered to them by McDonald’s. These performances included heartwarming renditions of Christmas songs that also expressed the beneficiaries’ gratitude for the Foundation.



*Virланіe Foundation*



*Virtual event*



*Concordia Children’s Services*



*The children showed that despite what was happening in the world, they continued to live as cheerfully as they could.*

While the format of the program changed drastically compared to previous years, the children enjoyed the program, as well as the meals and toys distributed to them. The event left them with a sense of hope that one day, they would be able to gather physically once again.

Similarly, from the other side of the screen, the team of Megaworld Foundation, as well as employee volunteers, enjoyed the program. Some were brought to tears seeing the genuine appreciation of the children. Kathleen Ann Dacullo, one of the volunteers, shared that the initiative felt very personal to her because she was able to do something good for the youth.

“I have always been told and have always felt that I am a privileged person,” said Kathleen. “But it is often easy to forget this sense of privilege as I have never really experienced major difficulties in my life. This event gave me a chance to realize that I have more blessings right now than some people enjoy in their lifetime. Making this event a reality was a truly humbling experience. Seeing the smiles of the kids and how they enjoyed what we prepared made the experience worthwhile.”

Heartfelt testimonials such as this inspire Megaworld Foundation to continue doing its part in delivering happiness, even from a distance. Until then, the Foundation looks forward to the day when both children and volunteers can celebrate in each other’s company.





# TAKING THE LEAD IN RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP

15

## Partnership building program

Since its establishment in 1997, Megaworld Foundation envisioned itself to be a leading foundation that promotes corporate social responsibility (CSR) through initiatives and programs focused on advocacies such as education, social development and cultural preservation, with an aim to create a positive impact on its stakeholders and society.

To expand its reach in uplifting the lives of the underprivileged in society, the Foundation

has created linkages with over 270 partner organizations across 15 regions in the country. More than that, it continuously cultivates the passion for service within the Megaworld community by organizing and supporting CSR activities, nurturing a bayanihan culture from within.

For two decades now, the Foundation has made a noteworthy impact on society with its partnerships with like-minded organizations.





**OVER 270 PARTNER INSTITUTIONS**

## *Promoting a greener environment*

A decade of partnership with the ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation allowed the Megaworld community to contribute to the preservation of the La Mesa Watershed through the “Adopt-a-Hectare” project and various tree-planting activities.

Hundreds of Megaworld employee volunteers and scholar volunteers committed to joining the annual “Green Thumbs-Up” campaign of Megaworld Foundation, in partnership with Bantay Kalikasan. In this initiative, plant seedlings covering 140,000 square meters of land in the La Mesa Watershed were planted.

Despite the challenges imposed by the pandemic, the Foundation continued its green campaign by organizing its first-ever virtual tree-planting activity where a hundred employees signed up. In return, 200 seedlings were planted under their name, courtesy of the La Mesa rangers.

## *Taking care of the elderly*

The Foundation first supported the *lolos* and *lolas* residing at the Haven for the Elderly in Quezon City back in 2009. By providing for their basic necessities, supporting their rehabilitation, and donating hospital beds, the Foundation was able to offer some care and comfort to the beneficiaries.



*ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation*



*Anawim Lay Missions Foundation*



*Luwalhati ng Maynila*



## Uplifting the future generation

Aiming to touch more lives outside Metro Manila, the Foundation was grateful to have discovered the efforts of the Sisters of Mary (SOM) School in Silang, Cavite, in 2012. SOM shares the same vision as the Foundation. It welcomes dedicated youth from the poorest of the poor families from all over the country and provides them the chance at a better life through access to technical-vocational education.

To support the dreams of the aspiring youth, SOM encourages them to apply for a college scholarship grant and connects them with donors such as the Foundation. The Megaworld-SOM partnership has already produced 29 graduates who are also the breadwinners of their families.

## Developing the last-mile communities

It has always been a challenge to reach out to last-mile and off-grid communities. However, through partnerships with organizations such as Yellow Boat of Hope Foundation, Megaworld Foundation has been able to give a helping hand to the children there.

Through Megaworld, the Yellow Boat of Hope Foundation donated 6 yellow school boats to ferry children who

usually swim the river everyday just to get to school. Meanwhile, over 300 Badjao children from one of the Foundation's adopted communities in Basilan received a pair of slippers through its "Happy Feet: A Sole of Happiness Project." Moreover, its continued support included the renovation of the Badjao floating classroom and the installation of an e-learning hub to support the students' online classes.

## Empowering women fighting against breast cancer

In 2011, the Foundation started supporting the "Kasuso" Programs of the Philippine Foundation for Breastcare, Incorporated. Kasuso Foundation is known as a volunteer-based organization dedicated to serving the indigent through early detection and patient navigation so patients are able to receive quality and timely treatment and care.

From the data presented by Kasuso.org: "Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the Philippines. According to the Philippine Statistics of Authority and the Department of Health, it shows that three in every 100 Filipina women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime."



*Sisters of Mary (SOM) School*



*Happy Feet: A Sole of Happiness Project*



*Philippine Foundation for Breastcare*



## Providing relief assistance to typhoon victims

When it comes to relief efforts and outreach activities, Operation Blessing Foundation Philippines has been one of the active partners of Megaworld Foundation. More than the distribution of relief goods to families affected by natural calamities, the Foundation and Operation Blessing also worked hand in hand in helping victims rebuild and repaint their homes badly damaged by typhoons.

The Foundation first engaged in relief operations with Operation Blessings team in 2013, when residents in Bohol and Cebu were devastated by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake. Following this, Typhoon Yolanda happened. Through the Operation Blessing team, the Foundation was able to immediately extend relief assistance to the victims.

With the collective efforts of the Foundation, Megaworld employee volunteers, and committed partners, a variety of notable accomplishments were notched.

The Foundation has been able to distribute over 62,400 meals, give out more than 31,500 grocery packs, serve almost 4,000 patients, build and refurbish over 360 houses, classrooms, and libraries, and support more than 4,000 students during the transition to a modular education system through the donation of equipment and the installation of e-learning hubs.





# EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES WITH BETTER OPPORTUNITIES



16

## One with the Aetas

Displaced during the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1990, the Aeta families living in the mountainous areas of Capas City, Tarlac, face daily challenges. The poverty in their tribe has resulted in serious challenges such as high malnutrition rates, early marriages, illiteracy and limited income resources.

In 2016, Megaworld Foundation was given the opportunity to partner with the Holy

Spirit Aeta Missions to reach out to these Aeta families. Since education is the main advocacy of the Foundation, its primary goal was to make education accessible to the Aeta children, who would often end up as child laborers due to their impoverished circumstances. To get to school, the children had to walk three to four hours, crossing mountains and rivers, barefoot and often on an empty stomach.



In order to make the journey to school less burdensome, the Foundation built a dormitory on the school grounds that would benefit some 80 Aeta students from Maruglo Elementary School. The dormitory has two bedrooms for girls and boys, a kitchen area where a volunteer parent cooks the day's meals, a dining area that also serves as a study area, a shower area and a restroom. Due to limited water resources, a water well was also built. A house mother was assigned to look after the students staying in the dormitory as well as monitor their academic performance. To further see to their needs, the Foundation also funded a year-long supplemental feeding program to improve their health, and consequently, their productivity in school.

Later, in 2019, the community proudly announced that it was able to produce six elementary graduates who are slated to pursue a high school education. To celebrate this milestone, members of the Foundation traveled four hours from Manila to Tarlac, and hiked for two more hours to personally meet the graduates and congratulate the whole community. The team brought with them food supplies for the graduates' families and cooked meals shared by over 50 households living in Sitio Yangka.





Mikee, one of the proud graduates, dreams of becoming a teacher. Going to college used to be an impossible dream for her, but now, she is hopeful that she can pursue further education to better her future.

Continued education is a major achievement for the community. Most Aeta students only finish 5th grade—afterwards, they are expected to start working or get married despite their youth.

*“Nagpapasalamat po ako kay Megaworld Foundation sa tulong niyo. Ngayon may bahay na po kami sa Maruglo para makapag-aral kami ng mabuti. Gusto ko pong maging teacher balang araw para po maturuan ko rin po yung mga batang Aeta sa aming komunidad,” said Mikee.* (“I’d like to thank Megaworld Foundation for its help. We now have a place to stay at Maruglo so we can focus on our studies. I would like to be a teacher someday, so I can teach Aeta children in our community.”)

The small seeds of a dream planted in the heart of Mikee and the other Aeta children will go a long way, as they now are starting to believe that they can make their dreams come true.

Education is a legacy that the Aeta community elders want to give the younger generation. They do not want their children to experience the cycle of poverty, child labor and early marriage just because they cannot afford school.

Similarly, they do not want their children to be taken advantage of by the “lowlanders,” which, unfortunately, is a regular occurrence. A common sad story among elders is how lowlanders tend to buy harvests from Aetas at a cheap price simply because majority of their members are illiterate.

For the Aetas, the dormitory is not just a structure that provides temporary shelter for the children. It is also a place where they are allowed to dream and believe that they, too, have the potential to excel, just like everybody else. Living in a dormitory on their school grounds allows the students to focus on their studies, play with each other during their break, and experience what it really means to be a child.

For six years now, the Foundation has made a constant effort to address the needs of the Aeta community. It holds annual visits and conducts various activities such as feeding programs, medical missions, Christmas get-togethers, and fun learning activities for the children.

Noting that the tribe had no access to electricity, the Foundation distributed solar lamps to over 70 families in Sitio Yangka. For the Aeta fathers, their day begins at 4 in the morning. They go from mountain to mountain to harvest crops. Doing this under the light of a makeshift lamp is not easy, which is why the solar lamps donated proved to be exceptionally helpful for their livelihood and day-to-day activities.



2017



2017



2019



Year after year, the humble stories of the Foundation's Aeta beneficiaries continue to motivate the Foundation to expand its reach in prioritizing the vulnerable sectors of society.

*“Your presence gave the children and the community encouragement and inspiration. You have guided them to have a vision for themselves. Thank you so much for your generosity to these people. They say Aeta people are the lost and the least in the society so thank you very much for reaching out to them. We hope that you continue to help them. May God bless you more.”*

— Sr. Mary Paul Anu, Project Coordinator in Tarlac

Over the long term, Megaworld Foundation aims to strengthen the Aeta community and establish sustainable resources for them that will help them overcome their battle against poverty.







# SERVING JOY TO CHILDREN

## “One Spoon at a Time” feeding activity

Nothing beats the satisfaction that comes from a hearty meal. Children look forward to mealtimes and get excited to eat, especially when their favorite *almusal* or *merienda* is served. But while some families can easily prepare three to five meals a day on a regular basis, some do not have the means to do so.

With the desire of Megaworld Foundation to help these families, especially the children in the household, it partnered with several institutions to organize various feeding programs.





**ALMOST 68,000**  
MEALS SERVED

The Foundation's feeding program began in 2011, and has seen partnerships with six institutions to provide children with not just hearty food, but also meaningful memories. Each program was special in its own way, but the highlight was always when the children were nourished through meals of warm, healthy porridge. After dining, the children were treated to games with prizes, as well as arts and crafts sessions. Even if they only spent a day with the Foundation, it was a day that uplifted them.

One of the Foundation's first collaborations was with the Spiritual, Physical, Educational, Cultural, Social (SPECS) Foundation in Pasay City, an institution that shelters children who are underweight and in need of proper nutrition. SPECS provides its young beneficiaries with meals, schooling, medical assistance and values formation, helping them become responsible members of society. Together, the Foundation and SPECS organized a successful feeding activity in 2015 for their beneficiaries, as well as those children residing in nearby indigent communities.



*He Cares Mission, 2011*



*SPECS Foundation, 2015*



*Jardin de Maria Foundation, 2018*





**OVER 4,600  
CHILDREN FED**

Through the “One Spoon at a Time” feeding activity, meanwhile, 4,670 children have been fed.

*The Foundation was able to touch the lives of these children, providing both their bodies and souls with nourishment.*

During these initiatives, both volunteers from the partner institutions and members of the Foundation were moved by the happiness of the children and were just as grateful for the program’s success.





# GIVING THE GIFT OF KINDNESS TO CHILDREN WITH CANCER

18

## “Leadership with a Heart” gift-giving activity

Life is complicated for children suffering from cancer. At a young age, most of their day is spent laying in bed and resting—not running around and playing as most children their age do. Seeking and undergoing treatment is particularly challenging for children from indigent families that cannot easily afford medical care. Most families request aid from the national government, various non-government organizations (NGOs), as well as private institutions.

According to the Department of Health, leukemia is the most common cancer among children, comprising 47.8 percent of total

cancers observed in this particular age group. In Metro Manila, the survival rate is only 34 percent, making leukemia one of the top five killer cancers in the country.

Because of this, several partnerships emerged between NGOs and private companies to work on causes that benefit leukemic children, one of which is the Foundation’s joint efforts with the Leukemic Indigents Fund Endowment (LIFE). LIFE is a non-profit foundation that aims to extend help to leukemic children from impoverished families. In 2018, the partnership launched a gift-giving initiative for these children.



The event, “Leadership with a Heart,” made in partnership with LIFE, adheres to the values of the Foundation’s founder, Dr. Andrew L. Tan, on taking on servanthood as the trait of a true leader.

The activity featured five Megaworld executives acting as “Santa Claus” to the beneficiaries: Head of the Corporate Advisory and Compliance Division Atty. Maria Carla Uykim, Senior Vice President for Operations Phillips Cando, Senior Vice President and Finance Director Giovanni Ng, Chief Finance Officer and Treasurer Dr. Francisco Canuto, and Chief Operating Officer Lourdes Gutierrez-Alfonso. Influential people within the company, these leaders believe that charitable works such as this help reach communities that truly need support. And just like Dr. Tan, they believe an efficient and effective leader knows how to show empathy to those in need.

Six beneficiaries, children diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia, were chosen for the activity. They come from indigent families whose household income falls below the average cost of living in the country, and whose parents are categorized as low-skilled workers. Each of the children had with them a letter and a wish list addressed to their specific Santa.

“*Salamat po. Masaya na po ang aming Pasko,*” said 9-year-old Michael after receiving much more than what he expected. (“Thank you. Our Christmas is a joyful one.”) Growing up, Michael witnessed the struggles of his father, a construction worker, to buy his medication. Giovanni Ng, who was Michael’s designated Santa, handed the gift to Michael himself and took time to get to know more about Michael and his family. The two were happy to have met each other through the activity. According to Michael, the moment brought him joy. Likewise, Ng shared that it was a moment that made him truly feel alive, as he was able to help make Michael’s Christmas special.



With Mr. Giovanni Ng



With Engr. Phillips Cando



With Atty. Maria Carla Uykim



Seven-year-old Quennie Santos wished for shoes, a dress and a tablet, while 8-year-old Russel Creer and 12-year-old Julie Ann Francisco both asked for pants, a dress, and Barbie sandals. Nine-year-old Michael Jay Cabarles, on the other hand, wished for groceries, a new set of clothes and toys. Meanwhile, Juliana Marie Avelino and Jhazrylle Claire Dorion, both 7 years old, wished for a new bicycle.

Aside from fulfilling the children's wish lists, Megaworld Foundation gave them *Noche Buena* packages, fruit baskets and clothes. A total of P41,000 worth of donations were pledged to the six leukemic children.

Warmly surrounded by the kindness and concern of five members of the Executive Committee as well as 30 employee volunteers, the event brought unforgettable memories to the beneficiaries.

*Through this initiative,  
the children were able to  
experience something  
extraordinary even for just a  
day.*





# GOING BEYOND BUILDING HOMES

19

## Megaworld Foundation – Gawad Kalinga Village

In the First Semester Poverty Incidence Report released by the Philippine Statistics Authority in December 2021, it said that an estimated 23.7 percent of Filipino families do not have enough income to meet their basic food and non-food needs. This is one of the underlying issues contributing to housing poverty in the country. Having zero to a minimal source of income, families living within the poverty line cannot afford to have a decent home.

Another sad reality is that majority of the families severely affected by natural calamities are those from off-grid communities and slum areas. They simply do not have the means to build a comfortable and calamity-resilient residence.

This is where Megaworld Foundation saw an opportunity to help.



By forging partnerships with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and Gawad Kalinga, the Foundation was able to provide decent housing units to over 220 Filipino families.

In 2006, the Foundation worked hand in hand with Gawad Kalinga to build housing units for over 50 families in Mandaluyong City. Megaworld employee volunteers worked together with Gawad Kalinga to paint the two-story building it helped put up, before turning over the units to the deserving families.

*Before moving into their new homes, the beneficiaries used to live in slum areas where street fights were a common occurrence. Their makeshift homes were constructed from scrap plywood that could not sufficiently shelter them from typhoons and flooding.*

To date, the Foundation keeps in touch with the families it has supported through Habitat for Humanity and Gawad Kalinga.







**OVER 220  
HOUSES BUILT**

In 2020, the Foundation, through the community's regular updates, saw the need for building retrofitting and refurbishment, ensuring the long-term safety and comfort of its residents.

Representatives of the Foundation realized that a roof over the beneficiaries' heads was one thing, but livelihood was another. It launched the project "Stitches to Riches" during the pandemic (read more about it on the next page) to empower community members to tap into their talents to earn a living during such challenging times.

For decades now, Megaworld Foundation has supported the construction of various infrastructure for Filipinos. Whether it is building and repainting houses destroyed by natural calamities, to building additional classrooms in various public schools, to putting up a dormitory for indigenous people, the Foundation believes that even the smallest of efforts make a difference in people's lives.







# MAKING COMMUNITIES MORE SELF-SUFFICIENT

## “Stitches to Riches” livelihood program

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“Their product is of good quality and is sewn very meticulously. Overall, the product is great value for money. First, the quality of stitching is superb, with the double-stitching on all sides of the flat and fitted sheets. Second, the fitted sheet is fully garterized, ensuring a perfect fit for the mattress. Third, the pillowcases are envelope-type which fully encloses the pillow. Lastly, the fabric is made from topnotch Canadian cotton that is soft but thick, which gives it a premium feel. The product will surely last a very long time.” Such was the positive critique of Raymond Angelo, who meticulously described the recently launched product under Megaworld Foundation’s “Stitches to Riches” initiative.

Who would have thought that this remarkable creation could be produced by the residents of the Gawad Kalinga Village in Hinanon, Mandaluyong City?

The Philippines is one of the fastest growing urbanized countries in the Asia-Pacific. The perception that Metro Manila is a haven for all the best jobs attracts people from different parts of the country, resulting to large-scale migration that results in overpopulation. Big populations in congested cities require big resources, and demand is high for food, shelter and jobs.



Looking to improve the socio-economic well-being of the underprivileged, the Foundation provided the women of its adopted Gawad Kalinga Community in Hinahon, Mandaluyong City, a self-employment package consisting of a startup kit and training services. The ultimate goal was to empower them to set up a sustainable source of income.

Through the program, Gawad Kalinga mothers received portable sewing machine sets, sewing kits, and the materials needed for their initial orders of 30 4-in-1 linen sets. Through their training conducted by three skilled tailors, they were able to finish making the products needed of them.

Norma Manacpo, acting president of the Gawad Kalinga Village in Hinahon, tearfully narrated their difficult circumstances. For their community, their income comes mostly from the men in the family working as constructions workers or tricycle drivers. Sometimes, they have a small sari-sari store. The women usually take care of the home and the children. When the pandemic hit, their income was wiped out, and often they had no money for their daily needs.

*The sewing initiative lent them a lifeline, a thread with which they could establish a stable livelihood.*

Norma, together with her peers Eduarda Masilungan, Delia Lagarto, Caselyn Fernandez and Irene Villanueva confessed their initial struggles. How could they handle the machine properly? How did one adjust the controls precisely? These self-doubts were soon overcome through determination, resulting in beautiful and high-quality bedsheets. The women then wondered who would buy what they had just made.



*Sewing training, 2020*



*Bedsheet set and face mask production*



*Christmas booth at Uptown Mall, 2021*



Unbeknownst to them, the Foundation had secured a market through an email circular sent to Megaworld employees. There was also a venue to display their products at Megaworld's Uptown Mall in Uptown Bonifacio, Taguig City, from December 28, 2021 to January 2, 2022.

It is the Foundation's hope that the Gawad Kalinga community can sustain their efforts with minimal guidance and monitoring in the future.

When asked how they planned to move forward, Norma was hopeful. *"Ipagpapatuloy po at maghahanap pa ng customer kasi nag-enjoy na po kami magtahi. Magandang libangan po at higit sa lahat, kumikita po kami,"* she said. ("We will continue doing this. We will look for more customers because we enjoyed ourselves. It is a good hobby, and we can earn from it, too.")

Norma added that this effort was not just for them, but also something the future generations of Gawad Kalinga Village can continue.





# MAKING BASIC HEALTHCARE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

21

## Medical missions

It is unfortunate that despite the progress of the health care system in the country, many Filipinos still cannot afford to receive basic health and medical services due to their poverty.

Living with minimal to zero means, Filipino families from the poorest communities can hardly put food on their table, let alone shell out money for medical expenses. According

to data from the World Health Organization in 2019, the poorest Filipinos spend around 60 percent of their family's income on food. With over half of health care costs paid out of pocket, they simply cannot afford to fall ill.

Due to the glaring gaps in access to health care, many Filipino families living within the poverty line live one illness away from mortality.



While the government makes a constant effort in addressing the health care system in the country by strengthening public health center and hospital systems, many indigent families still cannot avail themselves of basic services due to many reasons—whether that means living too far away from available facilities, the lack of health education, or worse, discrimination.

*The Foundation launched its annual medical mission to help make a difference, making health care services available to the poorest of the poor by going to these communities and bringing in professional health practitioners.*

The first-ever mission began in 2010, when more than 400 indigent residents of Barangay Central BIR Road in Quezon City were given free basic medical checkups. In the following years, the Foundation extended its reach to the elderly beneficiaries from Home for the Aged, indigenous people from mountainous areas, street children from poor communities, as well as students from public schools.

One of the biggest missions held by the Foundation was in partnership with the Philippine Airforce, which benefitted almost 900 Aetas in Sitio Juliana in Tarlac City in the province of Tarlac. Due to its location, the community found it a rare occurrence to be visited by volunteers and medical teams.



Quezon City, 2010



Novaliches, 2013



Marikina City, 2018





## ALMOST 4,000 PATIENTS SERVED

Thirty Megaworld employee volunteers traveled for four hours to be of service to the Aetas and to help provide them with free basic medical and special checkups from volunteer pediatricians, obstetricians and dentists from the 710th Special Operations Wing of the Philippine Airforce stationed in Sitio Juliana.

The majority of the patients served during the mission had not received proper treatments for a long time. Residing in the mountainous areas, health care was not easy to come by, and they had to rely on alternative treatments.

The Aetas have limited knowledge of general wellness, basic medical treatment and medicines. Young expectant mothers cannot afford to services that ensure safe and healthy childbirth. Children of different ages remain malnourished, and the community elders develop all kinds of illnesses.

From the annual medical mission alone, 4,000 individuals received health care attention. The success of the endeavor was made possible by the volunteer hours dedicated by Megaworld employees, who have always been supportive of the Foundation's endeavors.

Aside from annual medical missions, Megaworld Foundation supports public hospitals' charity wards by donating funds, medical equipment, wheelchairs and hospital beds.







# RUNNING TO HELP PRESERVE NATURE

## Fun run for a cause

“We uplift lives, impact society, and help shape the nation”—that is Megaworld’s vision. One of the ways Megaworld Foundation has contributed to the company’s vision is its work involving the preservation of the environment, which has a direct impact on how Filipinos live.

The Foundation partnered with ABS-CBN Foundation in October 2010, November 2011 and September 2012 to support a fun

run under the project “Kapit Bisig para sa Ilog Pasig,” aimed at the protection and rehabilitation of the Pasig River.

Thousands of runners joined to help in the rehabilitation of Estero de San Miguel, along with four other esteros in Malacañang Palace. They also raced to promote the restoration of waterways in Quezon City, San Juan and Mandaluyong.



Due to the Philippines' growing population and the rapid industrialization of the country, the Pasig River has become highly polluted, becoming a dumping site for garbage, chemicals and other domestic and commercial waste. Many efforts have been poured into reviving this biologically dead river. The Foundation is hopeful that through consistent initiatives, we can still preserve what is left of Metro Manila's iconic waterway.

In 2012, some 200 Megaworld employees from different departments volunteered to participate in ABS-CBN's "Run for Pasig River" initiative. It was an effort to promote better work-life integration, as well as a better work environment through the sharing of fun, worthwhile experiences. The activity bore the slogan, "Run for camaraderie, run for a healthier body, run for a cleaner Pasig River." It was an inspiring initiative in its own right, motivating employees to run for a cause.

Efrelyn Policarpio, an employee of Megaworld from the Financial Reporting Group-Subsidiaries group, shared the life-changing experience of participating in fun runs. She started joining such runs starting 2010, all the way until 2015. She made it a point to run three to five times a year in these kinds of activities.

Efrelyn said that aside from becoming fit, she learned to be disciplined during such runs. She said that for one's body to endure the strain of such an activity, one should undergo an intense training regimen. According to her, the benefits of running include a healthier body, a clearer mind, and a sense of satisfaction that goes with beating one's personal record.

When asked how she balances life as an employee and a runner, she replied, "You just make time for it. No excuses!" Efrelyn said that running for a cause boosts her morale and confidence, and makes her feel fulfilled.



2010



2011



2012



Since day one, the Foundation has forged partnerships with organizations supporting environment-focused causes such as the reforestation of the La Mesa Watershed and the work needed for the conservation project of Ilagan Watershed Conservation. For fun runs raising the banner on environmental awareness...

*...the Foundation, along with other organizations, put the spotlight on our collective role in saving Mother Nature.*





# BECOMING RESPONSIBLE STEWARDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

23

## “Green Thumbs Up!” tree planting activity

Humans are responsible for the environment, but our actions are making an impact on how quickly global warming is accelerating. Increased greenhouse emissions are raising the temperature of the earth, wreaking havoc on nature, its patterns and cycles.

To do its part in taking care of the environment, Megaworld Foundation launched “Green Thumbs Up!” in 2011. The idea behind the program was simple: care more for the environment and be its stewards.

Green Thumbs Up! encompasses tree-planting activities, environmental awareness seminars, and nature-focused discussions. The Foundation established the program with three objectives: 1) spread environmental awareness through volunteerism, 2) establish good rapport between Megaworld’s scholars and employees, and 3) have genuine, long-term concern for the environment.



## *Since its implementation, Green Thumbs Up! has become more than just a program.*

Fourteen years later, it has become a commitment aligned with two of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which are “Life on Land” and “Climate Action.” These goals have become the driving force behind the activity’s annual implementation.

Some 440 scholars and employee volunteers have joined the Foundation’s tree-planting activity at the La Mesa Watershed Reservation. From their efforts, 3,200 trees of various species have been planted. It took 732 hours to help regrow 7.5 hectares of forest.

After the tree planting, the volunteers often partake in a Filipino “boodle fight” as a reward for a job well done.

At the height of the pandemic, when quarantine restrictions prompted the shift to the digital platform, the Foundation adapted quickly. It launched “Green Thumbs Up! 2021: An Online Planting Activity.” The initiative became a platform for discussions on different topics such as Megaworld being a green developer, environmental awareness overall, the importance of planting in a bigger environment, and the basics of planting at home.

The online version of the event was a success. Some 92 employee volunteers lent their time to the activity. Through their efforts, 200 trees at the La Mesa Watershed Reservation were pledged and 100 house plants were planted.

Van Angeline Sebastian from Accounts Payable 1, then a first-time volunteer, had a similar response. “Given the challenges we face right now, we were still able to promote awareness on how to preserve nature. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity!”



2010



2015



2019





**145,000 M<sup>2</sup> OF LAND  
PLANTED WITH TREES**

Former Megaworld scholar Christine Paulican, who is now working in Megaworld's Information Systems Management group, said, "These advocacies are some of the best reasons why I decided to pursue a position in the company. I was glad to be a part of that activity and I look forward to more activities in the future. Thank you Megaworld Foundation!"

Veteran volunteer Efrelyn Policarpio from the Financial Reporting Group-Subsidiaries sees the activity impacting more than just the environment. "The Foundation is not just an organization but a family, and most importantly, a blessing to the community," she said.





# PRESERVING THE TIMELESS CULTURE OF VOLUNTEERISM

24

## Brigada Eskwela

“Brigada Eskwela” is an adopt-a-school program that invites private organizations to clean, repaint, and renovate public school classrooms. The activities under this effort are not limited to these, however, and they support schools from the elementary to tertiary levels.

The program is rooted in the government’s Adopt-a-School Act of 1998, which states,

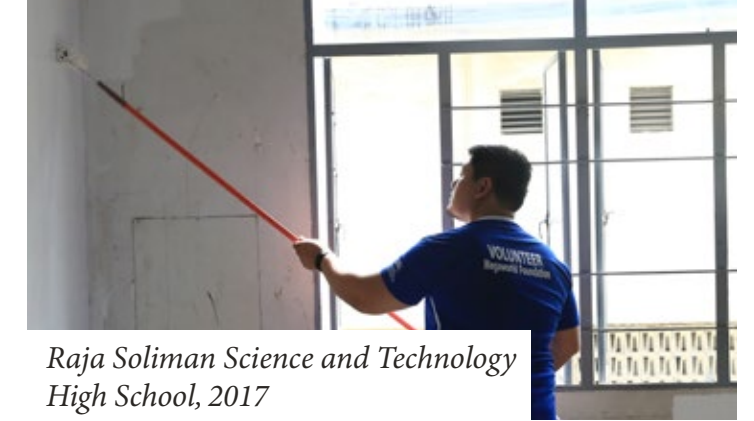
“It is the policy of the State to provide quality and relevant education to the youth and encourage private initiative to support public education. Towards this end, the state shall institute programs to encourage private companies and enterprises to help in the upgrading and modernization of public schools in the country, particularly those in poverty-stricken provinces.”



“*Bayanihan*” is a popular term in the Philippines. It is described as an endeavor that displays communal unity between people, aimed at achieving a goal, and without the expectation of a reward. Bayanihan describes Brigada Eskwela best. It shows how people from the public and private sectors are willing to work together to improve the country’s public schools. The program usually kicks off before the start of the academic year.

*Megaworld Foundation continues to take part and participate in this drive every year, partnering with different schools and promoting the bayanihan culture, which is uniquely Filipino.*

Since 2017, the Foundation has partnered with Raja Soliman Science and Technology High School in Binondo, Manila, and Kapitan Eddie Reyes Integrated School and EM’s Signal Village Elementary School in Taguig.



*Raja Soliman Science and Technology High School, 2017*



*Kapitan Eddie T. Reyes Integrated School, 2018*



*EM’s Signal Village Elementary School, 2019*





**OVER 100 CLASSROOMS  
REFURBISHED**



**ALMOST 1,500 STUDENT  
BENEFICIARIES**

Megaworld employee volunteers, scholars and staff members worked hand in hand with the partner schools as they cleaned and prepared classrooms, repainted walls, and repaired chairs and school facilities, which benefitted approximately 1,500 students.

Brigada Eskwela enabled participants to experience the joy of serving the community, in particular the education sector, the Foundation's primary advocacy, serving schools, teachers, and students.

Megaworld Foundation still participates in Brigada Eskwela, even though face-to-face classes were restricted due to COVID-19. It supported students by creating engaging online classes to encourage learning continuity, giving donations, and providing supplies as well as modular learning materials.





# WALKING THE PATH TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

25

## Supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations (UN) created a blueprint that aims to form strategic partnerships for sustainable development. This blueprint addresses urgent issues happening on a global scale. With most members crying for help, UN identified several goals to end poverty, and enlisted strong commitment from its stakeholders.

Eradicating poverty and contributing to the economic development of the Philippines

is one of Megaworld's many missions. This means not only building sustainable homes and townships, but also uplifting the lives of Filipinos.

According to the UN, "ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand in hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth—all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests."



Megaworld Foundation aligned its efforts and projects with UN's 17 "Sustainable Development Goals" (SDGs). The initiative is a call for action among those in the Megaworld community, focusing on strengthening the company's flagship programs in order to have a sustainable impact on its beneficiaries.

The rags-to-riches story of Dr. Andrew L. Tan, chairman of Megaworld Corporation and Megaworld Foundation, proves that giving someone access to a quality education gives them a chance at a better future. Thus, the Megaworld scholarship program was born, which went beyond giving financial aid.

Envisioned as catalysts for change by Dr. Tan, Megaworld scholars are equipped with training to be able to land a stable career in one of Dr. Tan's companies under his conglomerate Alliance Global Group, Inc., of which Megaworld is a part. This realizes the fourth and eighth SDG: "Quality Education and Decent Work" and "Economic Growth," respectively.







**16 OUT OF 18 REGIONS  
IN THE PHILIPPINES REACHED**



**15 OUT OF 17 SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS SUPPORTED**

Megaworld Foundation also prioritizes SDG 15, “Life on Land,” by promoting and strengthening its “Green-Thumbs Up!” campaign.

To be a responsible developer is to be a good steward of nature. As a leading developer in the country, Megaworld remains committed to protecting the La Mesa Watershed Reservation. The last remaining rainforest in Metro Manila, La Mesa is also a major source of clean drinking water in the city.

Megaworld also does its part in educating the communities it serves on the importance of taking care of the environment through its “Green Living” campaign.

It has further collaborated with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The DA partnership bore fruit with “Seed-on-Wheels,” which gives free seedlings and educational materials to residents around Eastwood City. The program aimed to motivate them to practice crop production and community gardening.

With DENR, Megaworld’s Commercial Division established the “Community PanTREE.” Booths were put up across different Megaworld Lifestyle Malls to distribute free seedlings of fruit-bearing trees and vegetable crops to interested patrons.

It is true that UN’s call to action to all organizations to achieve all SDGs by 2030 is an incredible challenge. But Megaworld and the Foundation see it as the perfect opportunity to develop and level up its strategic plans in corporate social responsibility.



Seed-on-Wheels



Community PanTREE



Zero Waste Lifestyle



The Megaworld community is guided by its sustainability statement: “Joining the Alliance Global Group in working towards the conglomerate’s goal of becoming carbon neutral and generating at least 5 million direct and indirect jobs by 2030.”

Moving forward, the Group will continue to support the protection and conservation of natural habitats and ecosystems. These are all possible by optimizing land use, reducing the overall carbon footprint, efficient waste management, and responsible consumption of resources in building sustainable communities.

Megaworld launched the “Zero Waste Lifestyle” movement in January 2021. This aims to educate communities on the importance of proper waste segregation and management across all its projects, from the townships down to the malls and offices.

Despite the pandemic, Megaworld continues to develop smart townships that prioritize health, safety and well-being as well as innovative ways to live and enjoy life.

*“Megaworld is optimistic about the future, and we look forward to continuing our work on upholding our vision to make a meaningful and transformative impact for all our stakeholders.”*

— Dr. Andrew L. Tan, Megaworld Chairman and CEO





**176**  
local and  
international  
awards received  
*\*As of May 2022*





From its first ‘Best CSR Award’ conferred by Corporate Governance Asia in 2013, Megaworld Foundation now boasts 176 awards.

This includes the prestigious Global CSR Awards in Singapore, which gave the Foundation a ‘gold’ award in 2016 for the category, ‘Excellence in Provision of Literary and Education’ for its flagship scholarship program. The year after, it also received its first award from UK-based, International CSR Excellence Awards, where the Foundation was also hailed as the “Champion of Champions”, winning the “Heart of Gold” for its overall CSR efforts.

Meanwhile, in 2019, Megaworld Foundation was conferred by Asia Pacific Stevie Awards in the USA with a “Gold Award” for ‘Excellence in Innovation in Non-Profit Organizations’, again for its scholarship program. It has since maintained a total of 1000 scholars, mostly college students. The Stevie Awards was created in 2002 to honor public recognition of positive contributions of organization worldwide.

And with its holistic approach in handling its scholarship program – not just in financial assistance and grants, but also in cultivating the ‘pay it forward’ culture among its scholars, the Foundation was also recognized by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines with a “Gold Anvil Award” in the same year. To date, it has 21 Anvil awards and 16 Philippine Quills from International Association of Business Communicator (IABC). The Foundation wins in the various categories from these top communication awards almost yearly.



International Business Awards, 2018



55th Anvil Awards, 2020



13th Philippine Quill Awards, 2015



15th Philippine Quill Awards, 2017



54th Anvil Awards, 2019



Philippines CSR Leadership Awards, 2019



52nd Anvil Awards, 2017



Asia CEO Awards, 2017



Annual Global CSR Summit and Awards, 2017



Add to this, its first ever “Excellence Award” from Gold Quill Awards by US-based IABC was given to Megaworld Foundation in 2022 for its Mega Summer Ventures 2.0, which is an innovation launched by the Foundation using the digital platform as a means for communication during the pandemic. The Foundation is one of only five Philippine companies that was recognized by IABC in that event.

For over two decades, the Foundation’s initiatives and efforts have been recognized by a number of institutions in both the Philippine and especially in the international community, where it received 130 awards in total.

But while the Foundation already bagged multiple awards, for its president, Dr. Francisco C. Canuto, there is no stopping in the works of Megaworld Foundation.

*“We are humbled by these citations, but we are inspired even more to continue our commitment to the community we serve – create change and transform lives.”*

*— Dr. Francisco C. Canuto, Megaworld Foundation President*







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