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YOU&I

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
SOROK UNI FOUNDATION, INC.

STEP by STEP

This month's issue focuses on the stories of struggle and success, whether big or small, that show taking life step by step is the way to achieve victory.

An empowered boy in Zamboanga

13 year-old "Marwan", is a 7th grader at Culianan National High School. He is the only child of Hansenite parents and his father has another family but Marwan still grew up a happy child.

Marwan is a consistent honor student during his elementary years. He shows passion for the arts, sometimes even participating in drawing competitions with other schools. When Marwan was in Grade 4, he began showing signs and symptoms of Leprosy. His mother brought him for a check-up and there, he was diagnosed positive with Leprosy. He underwent MDT (Multi-Drug Therapy) medication for 6 months which affected his health where he became sickly.

Despite all this, Marwan never felt discouraged and never felt ashamed of his circumstances. Now that he is in high school, he shows promise and determination to do better and study well.

A girl who reaches for her dreams

Nispura, a 19-year-old Sorok scholar in Zambonga, is the youngest of her family where both parents are Hansen. Her mother is a plain housewife while his father works as a gratuity in MCS General Hospital and sometimes works as a laborer in Zamboanga City wharf.

Nispura grew up in a family wherein poverty was a daily challenge in life but she never lost hope and continues with her studies even though there were times that she wanted to give up. Her personal relationship with Christ gives her the will to continue.

Currently, Nispura is a first year BS Aquaculture student of Zamboanga State College of Marine Science and Technology. Also, Nispura will receive cash allowance from the church that is attending the Parhimpunan. She is happy that Sorok Uni Foundation is providing her the school supplies, shoes and uniform for the incoming school year.

She is happy and excited because she will be able to continue her studies. She never stops praying that her parents will allow her to continue studying. That's why Nispura is driven and motivated to help her family have a better life in the future. Once she graduates, she will be the first SAMA to achieve a bachelor's degree in their village.

Not a backslider but a fighter

Doh Bugnali is one of the hardworking individuals in Muslim Village, Pasobolong, Zamboanga City. He grew up with his aunt, Lapa Bugnali who is a Hansen Patient. He overcame poverty and lived a decent life amidst hardships during his younger years. When he was young, he sold fish in the morning and during afternoons, he would accept and do laundry services for his neighbors to earn money. He was often teased that he was gay or a homosexual by his friends and relatives because of his soft mannerisms.

His life had a turning point when he started to regularly attend bible study at Parhimpunan, (Sama tribe's Church) and to the spiritual activities that the Sorok MCS Pasabolong had such as Thursday Cell Group and Friday Worship Service. He accepted Jesus Christ and he continues to build a strong relationship with Him. He also became involved in Youth Fellowship at Parhimpunan where he met the love of his life, Sandra. The latter also belongs to Sama tribe and a young people of Parhimpunan. She became Doh's girlfriend and afterwards decided to level up the relationship status from single to married life. Everybody in his place was not convinced of Doh having a wife because they believe that he is gay but he told himself that he already accepted Jesus Christ. From that point of his life, everything has changed and made him a real man and marrying

Sandra is not just a show-off to prove his sexuality. He really loves Sandra and wanted to have his own family with her.

Early in their marriage, Sandra and Doh accepted a baby boy given by their relative and they named him Benjamin. The following year, Sandra bore their first son named Reymond. Doh was very happy even though it meant he needed to work harder to sustain his family.

However, not all relationships have a happy ending. Sandra left Doh for another guy. However, this did not-give him an excuse to backslide from his faith to the Lord and his responsibility to his children. He accepted what happened and continued with his life. He now takes good care of his two sons Benjamin and Reymond, who are currently scholars of Sorok Uni Foundation.

Until now, Doh and his family is very active in every activity of Sorok. He is very grateful for the support that they are receiving.

Now Doh is very happy with his sons and serving the Lord Jesus. He is also now a parent leader of Red team of Sorok.

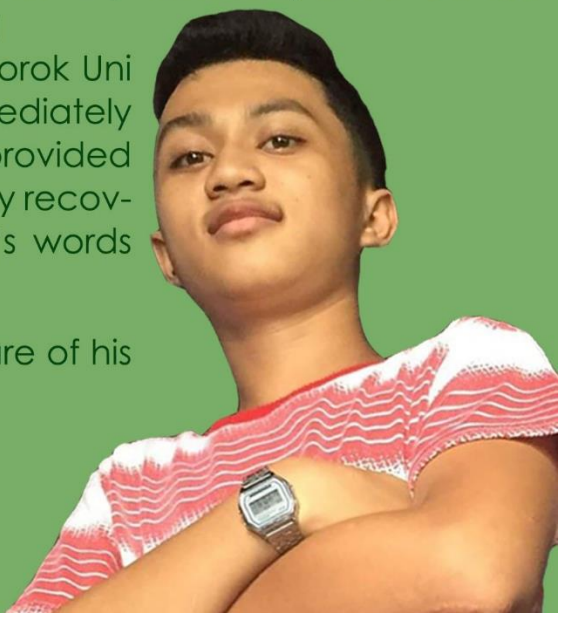
Jeff, year 2014

Jeff, at present

Bent but not broken

Jeff as they call him, 15 years of age, is a 9th grader at Tala High School and a scholar of the foundation since 2010. He grew up with a broken family. His mother tried to raise him well despite being a cured leprosy patient.

During his 1st grade, Jeff was also diagnosed with Hansen's disease. His health condition caused him to be insecure and to feel unwanted. It was also that year when his family struggled financially that they had a hard time feeding themselves three times a day. When they learned about Sorok Uni Foundation's act of helping persons with leprosy, they immediately sought assistance from the employees. The foundation provided them with shelter, food, clothing and medication until he fully recovered from the disease. He was even taught about God's words which gave him hope that he can surpass his disease.



During his free time, Jeff helps his mother in taking good care of his new born half-brother while also doing his best to improve his grades. He is thankful for Sorok Uni Foundation because it is through them that he is provided with educational assistance to pursue his dreams.

He also gained strength and built trust in God through at-

tending spiritual empowerment activities conducted by the community Pastor. The foundation also provides Jeff and other scholars with educational empowerment conducted by the social worker where they can learn about their rights and laws that protect their dignity.

Jeff's message to children who are also struggling with their socio-economic condition, "Don't be afraid in every challenges that you are going through because God is always there to guide you."

JULY IS NUTRITION MONTH

The City Social Welfare and Development annually celebrates the Nutrition Month. This year, the City Social Welfare and Development in coordination with the Field Office 5 officers and Child Development Centers and Workers celebrated the Nutrition Month 2019 with its Theme: "*Kumain ng wasto at maging aktibo, push natin to*" which was held at Culianan Covered Court in Culianan, Zamboanga City last July 26, 2019.

The activity started with the arrival of different Child Development Centers of Field office 5. The parents of SOROK MCS Day Care Center arrived next and once there, they worked together to set the chairs, especially the table setting for the nutria–table presentation where they placed all the vegetables, fruits, rice, eggs, fish and chicken on their respective area whether it belongs to GO, GROW and GLOW food.

The program started with an invocation, followed by the Lupang HInirang and Zamboanga Hermosa Hymn. Next were the welcome remarks given by Ms. Asda Gonzales (Field Office 5 Supervisor), and followed by the candidates and the Little Mr. and Ms. Nutrition Month 2019, wherein they were awarded as well as assisted by the parents and Child Development Workers. The Barangay Captain of Culianan, Zamboanga City gave a short message about nutrition month, where he encouraged all parents to cater their children with nutritious food to lead their children away from illness.

Some Child Development Centers prepared a Jingle, for the Jingle Contest during the said

event. There were 15 Child Development Centers who presented their jingle and the children performed, by singing and dancing and they presented their beautiful costumes made from vegetables and fruits.

After the presentations, the City Councilor of Zamboanga City, Councilor Josephine Pareja, expressed her support and concern to the health of a child, she stressed about the duty of being a mother or father, that parents should give nutritious food to every child, so that they will grow healthy. She believes that one day these children will soon to be part of the progression of the city and our nation.

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