

Building
Effective
Leadership,
Integrity,
Excellence and
Values through
Education



believe
INTERNATIONAL

July 2012 Newsletter

The mission of BELIEVE is to help disadvantaged youth in the Philippines become people of integrity and leaders in their communities by providing them the resources needed to attend school and by teaching them positive life-long values and leadership principles.

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Life can be hard in the Philippines

This photo, taken about eight months ago when Alida Camo applied for a BELIEVE scholarship, shows her in front of her house with her mother and young sister. Then four weeks ago we were informed that her mother had passed away.

Fortunately, Alida has a positive outlook in life, is strong willed and confident. She ranks #1 in her class in high school, is a student leader and a top athlete who represented her province in an annual regional athletic meet.



Alida wants to be a teacher. Her favorite subjects in school are English, science, and Filipino and she likes to write and read books. Alida and her sister continue to live with her father, who is a farm laborer. His income is only about \$40 per month so she sells a few things while in school to earn a little extra money for food. The house is constructed of bamboo and nipa leaves, with a packed dirt floor and a metal roof.

It’s not just about giving money ...

*The purpose of BELIEVE is **not** just to give money to needy students so they can go to school. What BELIEVE is really about is transforming the way the students think, empowering them to lift themselves out of poverty. Part of this includes helping them get a formal education, but the greater part has to do with teaching them new ways of thinking (including positive values and leadership principles).*

And it is about selecting students who have desire and ability—and committing them to help lift others out of poverty when they have graduated from school, thus multiplying the impact of the scholarship they have received. In this way, donations just keep on giving.

“...I can’t help myself not to cry.”



The 2 College Students



In addition to over 150 high school students, BELIEVE is sponsoring 35 Filipino college students this school year. When the college scholarships were announced, we received the following message from Emma Aloc, the volunteer BELIEVE coordinator in Daet, Camarines Norte. “Thank you very much for approving these 2

students with additional budgets. I really cried upon reading your messages to them this morning. I really care for them. And I'm worried how they can go to school without eating. Even if how much their guardians find means to support their other expenses through lending money from friends and relatives ... I myself can't

let them go to school without any food in their stomach. I'm so happy and thankful for you and the foundation for helping them. May you be blessed more and more. I learned so many things from this foundation, and every time I heard sacrifices from the scholars, I can't help myself not to cry.”



Emma Aloc

Of all donations received in 2011, 97.8% was sent to the Philippines to support the education of sponsored students.

2011 expenses in the USA

BELIEVE is extremely careful with the money it receives and we work hard to keep costs to an absolute minimum. All work is done by volunteers; no one receives any compensation for the time they donate to this great cause.

In 2011, the total expense incurred in the USA was only \$486 (this included PayPal fees, state filing fees, wire transfer fees, etc.).

BOTTOM LINE: Of all the money received in donations in 2011, 97.8% of the total was sent to

the Philippines to support the education of sponsored students.



Feedback from our donors

“I continue to marvel at the things you do and the great blessing you are in the lives of so many. Your efforts and dedication are strengthening lives in ways that can't properly be put into words. I'm deeply

grateful to ... all who are involved in BELIEVE International!” (Deanna E)

“I am absolutely amazed at everything you accomplish!!! Being a Believe Sponsor is a delightful experience! ... I'm amazed

at the personal touch you provide to the scholars, in-country volunteers and sponsors! It is a real joy to be a sponsor! Thanks for creating this great program!” (George B)

BELIEVE now partners with schools

Two years ago BELIEVE began to create formal partnerships with the high schools attended by the BELIEVE scholars.

The program now engages not only the students, but also their parents and school administration and teachers – all working together with BELIEVE as volunteers to achieve the long-term success of the students. This partnership requires the active support and cooperation of the school administration, teachers and parents.

We have found that without this strong partnership, students rarely achieve their full potential.

The principal assigns a teacher to coordinate the BELIEVE program at

the school. The parents organize a formal parents organization to support the teachers and to help make decisions about how to use the BELIEVE scholarship funds.

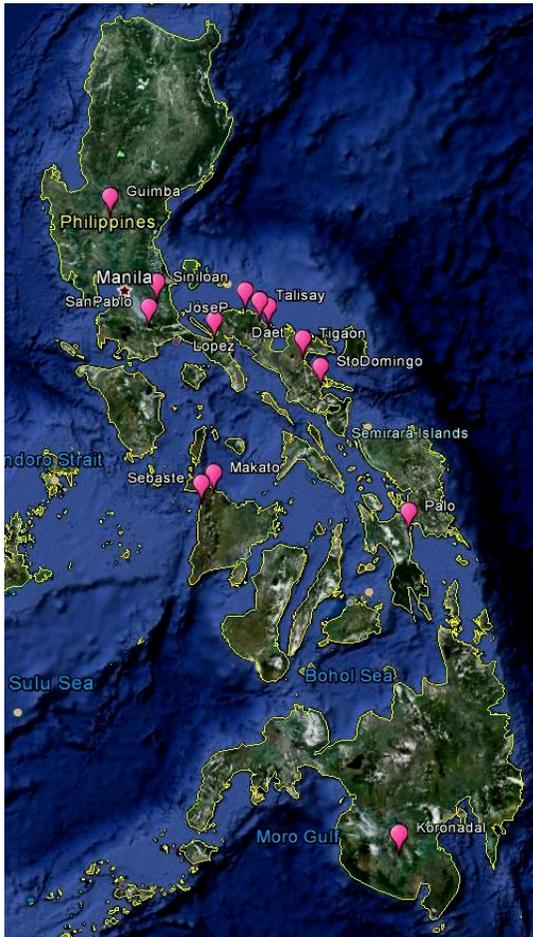
The teacher meets once each month with the parents and students in a workshop where she teaches them the BELIEVE Values and Leadership Principles (the leadership materials come from a partnership with the Franklin-Covey organization in the Philippines).

One of these partnerships is Sebaste High School in Antique province (see the photo on the right).

Another partnership is highlighted on the BELIEVE website in two short videos featuring the principal and teachers at the Makato, Aklan, Philippines High School (<http://www.believeinternational.org/aboutus.html>).



Principal, teachers and sponsored students at Sebaste High School



Locations where BELIEVE is currently operating

BELIEVE currently operates in 13 areas in the Philippines (see the map on the left).

These areas are:

- Daet, Camarines Norte
- Guimba, Nueva Ecija
- Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte
- Koronadal, South Cotabato
- Lopez, Quezon
- Makato, Aklan
- Palo, Leyte
- San Pablo, Laguna
- Sebaste, Antique
- Siniloan, Laguna
- Sto. Domingo, Albay
- Talisay, Camarines Norte
- Tigaon, Camarines Sur

Invite your friends

To sponsor a student:

View students needing sponsors on the BELIEVE website (the website address is on page 4). Become a sponsor by selecting a student and paying via Credit Card or PayPal or by sending a check to the postal address shown (it costs only \$10/mo or \$110/year to sponsor a student).

Sponsors receive:

A profile and photo of each selected student, occasional letters from the student, and the assurance of knowing that this minor sacrifice is literally changing the life of a deserving young person who has committed to use the education gained to benefit family and country.



View the BELIEVE website:

www.believeinternational.org/

View the BELIEVE Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/believeinternational

Follow us on Twitter:

@believeintl

Contact us:

Email: info@believeinternational.org

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Our Core Principles

1. Helping the poor - we want to help those who cannot help themselves. But we strive to help them in a way that they become independent and self-reliant, with a desire to help others instead of relying on others for their ongoing support.
2. Volunteerism - BELIEVE has no paid employees. All of the work is accomplished by unselfish, talented, passionate volunteers who want to make a positive difference in the world.
3. Values - we believe in educating the heart as well as the mind. Only by teaching youth to live positive social values can we counteract poverty and corruption.
4. Efficient operations - we keep overhead costs to a minimum in order to maximize the value of donations. Volunteerism and the use of technology make this possible.

Our students will make a difference - all you have to do is BELIEVE!

How BELIEVE International came to be

BELIEVE International resulted from a combination of two organizations with the same focus: to help alleviate the grinding poverty in the Philippines.

In 2001 Steve Kirk created the Live to Learn Foundation in the USA, after having lived among the people of the Philippines for 2 years. Live to Learn paid the education expenses of needy children, hoping to stimulate greater economic self-reliance through increased opportunities for higher education and better paying jobs. Steve obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit status from the IRS in 2002 and the Live to Learn Foundation grew to support 154 students in 4 areas. During the first few years, Steve developed several key philosophies that continue to guide our organization today, the most important of which is a focus on volunteerism.

In the spring of 2006 while living in the Philippines, Carvel and Betty Whiting and some local leaders incorporated the BELIEVE Foundation, Inc., in San Pablo, Laguna, Philippines. While forming this organization Carvel made contact with Steve Kirk and adopted the founding principles and processes of Live to Learn. Like Live to Learn, BELIEVE paid the education expenses of needy children but added a strong emphasis on teaching values to sponsored students and their families, so that when students graduated from school they would become a positive influence in their community.

This focus is described in the full name of the organization (**BELIEVE** stands for: **B**uilding **E**ffective **L**eadership, **I**ntegrity, **E**xcellence and **V**alues through **E**ducation). This organization served 2 major geographic areas and supported 85 students the first year.

In December 2006 these two efforts came together. The Live to Learn Foundation was renamed BELIEVE International and Carvel became a member of the board of directors (and later its president). BELIEVE International (in the USA) guides the overall effort, raises the money for the student scholarships, and establishes the policies. The BELIEVE Foundation, Inc. (in the Philippines) oversees the program in the Philippines.



BELIEVE scholars doing a service project at their school