

**B**uilding  
**E**ffective  
**L**eadership,  
**I**ntegrity,  
**E**xcellence and  
**V**alues through  
**E**ducation

*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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# believe

INTERNATIONAL

August 2013 Newsletter

## A Two Hour Walk to School

This is where Reza Panagsagan's family lives in the Philippines. Because she had such a strong desire to gain an education she walked to school every day even though it took almost two hours each way. She has been a BELIEVE scholar for several years and now attends college, sponsored by BELIEVE.

One day the Pres. of BELIEVE in the Philippines and the principal of her high school walked to her home. Here is what Ike Tabernilla (President, BELIEVE Philippines) had this to say about their trip: "It took us 2 hours of walking, one way, to reach her home. Spent the whole afternoon for that. But of course Reza walks faster than us ... by a mile. 😊 She could not go home for lunch because of the distance. If she had no packed lunch (sometimes her family has no food on the table) and had no lunch money, then she was hungry while in school ... We crossed several rivers down there...And finally Reza's home near the river bank ... Upon experiencing the hardships of the students living in the area in going to school everyday, the (new) school principal became remorseful for castigating students who arrive late in school, especially during the monsoon season. He promised to himself that from that day onward he would thank and encourage the students for coming to school even if they arrive late." (Photos taken on the journey to her home. Although this journey is not typical, as not all of our students travel this far, each student has his/her own unique challenges - and all of the students have a similar hunger to learn.)



## The BELIEVE Values

**“Education is not just filling the bucket  
... it is also shaping the bucket”**

The essays and letters we receive from our scholars often talk about the positive impact the values are having in their lives.

The above statement was made by a BELIEVE scholar in an essay he wrote about the BELIEVE Values. His point was that the education he is receiving in high school is “filling his bucket,” but what he is learning in the monthly BELIEVE workshops is shaping his character.



**Vincent Cereno**

According to Vincent Cereno, a BELIEVE scholar: “Values are a set of principles

*that give worth and purpose to our existence. It is simply our invisible tool for living our life better. When we say values, it’s mainly about character. A life that is unequipped with the strength of character is futile.*

A scholar’s mother wrote this:

*“... We are so grateful for being part of this foundations. The lessons we learn from the BELIEVE values are the best thing we gain. Cause it helps us make good decisions and help us build good family relationship. We are able to become better persons and citizens as well because of these values. There are a lot more we have gained from your foundation and this letter is not enough to express how thankful we are.”*

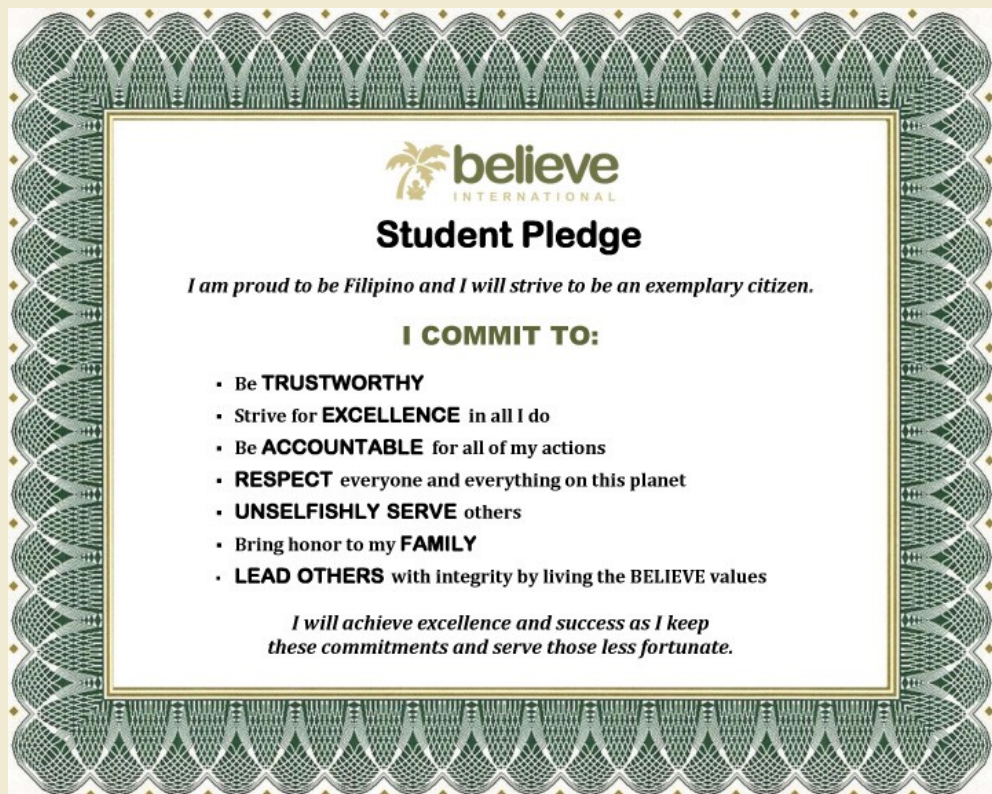
*... Herminia V., Laguna.*

**Of all the donations received in 2012, 97.8% went to the Philippines to support the education of sponsored students.**

The BELIEVE Values are summarized in the Student Pledge in a format the students can easily remember.

The pledge is recited by our scholars at the beginning of each BELIEVE workshop and they receive a laminated copy to display in their home.

The Parents also agree to live and teach these principles to their children.





## ***BELIEVE scholars will become leaders in their community***

This slogan on the back of a BELIEVE scholar's T-shirt expresses the goal for each of the students we select to receive a BELIEVE scholarship. Selection is based on:

- their poverty,
- strong academic capabilities,
- a willingness to live the BELIEVE values,
- and leadership potential.

The values and leadership principles are taught to the scholars by BELIEVE volunteers in monthly workshops.



**Gia**

### **Already Teaching**

BELIEVE scholars not only receive instruction in the BELIEVE Values but also the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens. The example described in this letter from Gia shows how she is beginning to make a difference while still in the 9th grade: "I have a new friend.

Her name is Nina. We treat each other like sisters. One day she saw my handbook of 'The 7 Habits of Highly

Effective Teens.' She became interested on it. She told me she want to learn those habits. I taught her everything I learned from our every sessions about the seven habits. She was a good student. She always got high scores whenever I give her a quiz. She even implement the things I taught her about the Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens in her daily life. She said that her negative point of view about herself became positive every since I taught her the Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens. And I'm so glad to hear it from her, especially when she said that I am a good teacher. Because being a teacher is my ambition in life." ... Gia D, Leyte.

### **Values Build Leaders**

"...the best thing I learned from this foundation is that effective leaders can be really built by means of values education. And I believe that, values are not only caught in our learning environment but they can also be taught like what this BELIEVE Foundation does." ... Vincent C, high school valedictorian, now attending 1<sup>st</sup> year of college.



### **"Leadership is not a POSITION, it is a VISION with ACTION"**



This is leadership according to Regine Aguilar, a BELIEVE scholar and dynamic, multi-talented student leader in her fourth year of college. She exemplifies implementation of the BELIEVE Values in her life as well as in her leadership roles. Without help from BELIEVE, Regine could not have graduated from high school or attended college. She has accumulated a long list of honors, including: student body president of her college, vice president of a multi-campus organization, officer in several campus organizations, and winner of journalistic and artistic competitions - all while serving others in many ways.

## **Make a Difference**

### **Become a sponsor:**

select a student and pay by Credit Card, PayPal, or by sending a check (it only costs \$10 per month or \$110 per year to sponsor a student). View students on the BELIEVE website:

([www.believeinternational.org](http://www.believeinternational.org)).

### **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.

# Students receiving solar-powered LED lights

A BELIEVE volunteer is heading up a special project to provide solar powered LED lights to all BELIEVE scholars without electricity in their home. Because the lights are solar-powered they have no ongoing cost and none of the problems related to kerosene lamps. The lights are provided by an anonymous donor.

The photo on the right shows three students in Makato, Aklan receiving these lights from their school principal during a monthly BELIEVE workshop.



A sister to one of our scholars wrote this about the first night she came home after they had received a solar-powered light for their home: "Good Day to you sir ... I am very happy ... After doing our

our project in my classmates house, I was surprised seeing our home so bright because of that solar powered lights ... This past few nights I can do my assignments, projects and activity

easily w/the help of that lights. It's awesome sir!! All I can say is THANK YOU VERY MUCH ... it brought a big HELP in our Daily Lives ..." Jhen A., Laguna



View the BELIEVE website:

[www.believeinternational.org/](http://www.believeinternational.org/)

View the BELIEVE Facebook Page:

[www.facebook.com/believeinternational](https://www.facebook.com/believeinternational)

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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!*