

ANNUAL REPORT

The Maple Tree Foundation for Mountain Communities, Inc.

Unit 3202 Regent Parkway, 21st Drive Bonifacio Fort Bonifacio Taguig City

For Year: 2012

2012 was a productive year for the Maple Tree Foundation for Mountain Communities Philippines (MTFP). We have continued our vision to help residents of deprived and underserved Philippine mountain communities live healthy, productive and peaceful lives through sustainable development programs that provide basic necessities.

Our focus in 2012 was on our objective of “Training the Mind” and providing educational resources for communities with limited access to education. As an organization, we were able to accomplish our objective with the help of our partner TVIRD and by forming new partnerships with The Petron Foundation, Habitat for Humanity Philippines, and The Philippine Department of Education.

In 2012, MTF:

- Completed our “Build A School Program”
 - Construction of the new Imam Nasaron C. Haron school at Sitio Busicong, Zamboanga del Norte and officially opened in July 2012;
- Distributed educational resources.
 - Chairs and teachers’ tables with chairs were delivered to Imam Nasaron C. Haron new School building in Sitio Busicong, Zamboanga del Norte in June 2012.
- Continuously monitored the FAITH Riverside projects in Zamboanga del Norte
- MTFP submitted a funding application to Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)
- MTF Canada was registered with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).
- MTFP and MTF Canada formed a joint venture
- Continued with the application process for income tax exempt status in the Philippines.

I. SALIENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. FAITH PROGRAM

In 2011, MTF launched the MTFP FAITH Riverside Project in 4 villages in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte. In 2012, we continuous monitored these projects with the aid of the MTF liaison officer Lyle Tunday, employed by TVIRD.

The FAITH gardens have continued to be successful for the 4 Riverside communities Brgy. J.P. Brillantes, Brgy. Bulacan, Brgy. D. Riconalla, and Brgy New Lituban. They have been self-

sustaining, are generating healthy produce for the community's own consumption, and have been able to generate income from the sale of excess produce. To date, 295 kilos of vegetable has been produced and an income of Php 30,341 has been generated. In addition, in one community, income from the sale of excess produce has been re-invested in the start-up of a pig-fattening project.



Women of Brgy. Bulacan Demo Farm



JP Brillantes Demo Farm

2. BUILD A SCHOOL PROGRAM

On July 17th, 2012, The Maple Tree Foundation (MTFP) together with the Petron Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, and TVI Pacific, completed construction and opened the Iman Naron C Haron Elementary School in the remote village of Busicong in the Philippines. The school and its property was officially turned over to the Philippine Department of Education who has committed to maintain and staff the school.

The Maple Tree
**FOUNDATION FOR
 MOUNTAIN
 COMMUNITIES**

This is the first school to open as a result of MTFP’s “Build a School Program”, which is a part of the Foundation’s mission to help post-conflict communities in the Zamboanga Peninsula in the Philippines find peace through development. Located in the heart of armed rebel territory on the island of Mindanao, Busicong had limited access to education and many children were tempted to join rebel forces rather than travel long and dangerous distances to attend school. With the new school’s opening, children in the area now have a chance at a better life, starting with primary-school education.

The initial seed funding for the Build a School Program came from 3rd year Business students taking a Leadership Development class at Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta. Students raised PHP 475,000 / CAD\$ 11,229 over three semesters, covering almost a third of the total project cost. The remainder of the funding was made possible by generous donations from the Petron Foundation, a Philippine-based charity founded by Petron Corporation, TVI Pacific, a Calgary-based mining company, and Habitat for Humanity Philippines.

Below is a summary of the total project cost and each participant’s contribution:

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED FOR BUILD-A-SCHOOL-PROJECT	PHP 1,600,000	CAD \$ 36,796
MGMT 4432 Leadership Development Class (MRU)	PHP 475,000	CAD \$ 11,229
TVI Resource Development Inc.	PHP 325,000	CAD \$ 7,386
Petron Foundation	PHP 750,000	CAD \$ 17,045
Private Donations	PHP 50,000	CAD \$ 1,136





3. DISTRIBUTION OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

MTF donated one hundred chairs and two teachers' tables with chairs to the Imam Nasaron C. Haron DepEd new School building in Busicong, Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte June 2012. This generous donation was a result of fundraising by the students at Mount Royal University in Calgary Alberta, Canada. The project cost was Php 94,000.00



4. APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

MTFP submitted a proposal for funding to the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI). CFLI is a Canadian Government Fund that has provided funding to modest-scale development projects in over 120 countries for the last three decades. The Canadian Government has available CAD\$ 50,000 (Php 2,050,000) for projects in the Philippines. Our project proposals are consistent with the funding criteria and we are planning to look at annual submission for this funding.

MTFP proposed two projects for funding:

- a. Bottled sardines processing center for the Siocon Coastal Women's Association (SCWA);
- b. Start up capital for two (2) micro enterprise projects:
 - The Fisher Folk of the Pantukan Fisherman's Association
 - The Marginal Women of the Siocon Empowered Women's Federation (SEWF).

5. REGISTRATION AT CANADA REVENUE AGENCY (CRA)

MTF Canada was registered at Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) with the effective date of charitable status being January 1, 2012.

6. JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT

A joint venture was signed between MTF Canada and MTFP in year 2012. It provides the opportunity for MTFP and MTF Canada to work together on relieving poverty by residents of deprived and underserved Philippine mountain communities live healthy, productive and peaceful lives through sustainable development programs that provide basic necessities.

Both organizations agree to developing and expanding the FAITH gardens; relieving sickness and disability by implementing medical mission; and continue establishing an educational base in the community where MTFP have built schools. MTFP will be responsible in carrying out the day-to-day activities of the Joint Venture while MTF Canada will be responsible for providing funding for the projects.

7. APPLICATION FOR TAX EXEMPT STATUS

As requirements for the application for tax-exempt status in the Philippines, MTFP submitted its application for Certificate of Tax Exemption to Law Division of Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR). BIR acknowledged our application and has been reviewing and evaluating the documents submitted to date.

8. MTFP FEATURED IN CALGARY HERALD

Last August 2012, an article was published in the Calgary Herald featuring the MTFP entitled “Foundation builds hope - Helps improve quality of life in Philippine region.” MTFP Canada Director, Megan Fischer, was interviewed on the success of the MTFP and the developments that they have in place.

“Calgarian Diane James is the force behind the Maple Tree Foundation (MTFP), a Canadian and Philippine-based non-profit organization founded to improve the lives of those living in post-conflict mountain communities in the Philippines, primarily in the heart of armed rebel territory on the island of Mindanao.

They had created an oasis of sustainable development in a sea of poverty in the mine’s impact area, but the adjacent communities were still experiencing post conflict, unsafe conditions where child labour was rampant, as was flash-and-burn agriculture. We really saw a need and wanted to give back to the communities’ says James, adding the foundation’s aim was to expand and replicate successful programs. ‘We didn’t want to reinvent the wheel.’

The foundation’s objective is to help residents of deprived and underserved communities live healthy, productive and peaceful lives through sustainable resource development programs that provide the basic necessities, such as medical care and food, as well as programs that enhance livelihood development and education. The foundation provides a number of programs that target women and children, including medical missions, the FAITH (Food Always in the Home) Program and educational initiatives.

The initial seed money for the project came from third-year business students at Mount Royal, who fundraised almost \$18,000. ‘That kind of money goes a long way in the Philippines,’ says James, who credits her friend and Mount Royal University business professor Victoria Calvert with spearheading the fundraising effort.”

II. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN MTF

MTFP welcomed Mr. Renne P. Subido to become the new Executive Director of MTFP starting year 2012.

Mr. Subido is a Certified Public Accountant with fourteen (14) years experience in several banking institutions ranging from support services, operations, marketing, remedial management and on export/import credits, project, commercial and consumer lending. He is the Vice President - Corporate Social Commitments of TVI Resource Development Phils., Inc. ; Former Deputy Program Manager – Business Growth Division for the USAID’S GEM 3 Program (Senior Professional/Consultant Position) Louis Berger Group, Inc., Morristown, New Jersey, USA ; and Former Vice President – Corporate Business Affairs, RD Corporation (Holding Company with international fishing business).

III. PROPOSED PLAN FOR 2013

1. Build A School Program

A. Power Connectivity

MTFP aims to provide electrical power connection to the school in Busicong to improve their environment and to facilitate them with various activities.

B. Computers & Printer

MTF plans to donate computers and a printer to the school in Busicong.

C. Internet Connectivity

MTFP plans to investigate the opportunities for the installation of Internet connectivity in the school at Busicong.

2. Sustainable Livelihood

MTFP and MTF Canada will continue to look for funding for the following projects:

A. Start-up Capital for Bottled Sardines

- Provision of counterpart fund for lot acquisition, building and equipment for full-scale commercial production of bottled sardines. Budget: Php 300,000.

B. Food Processing

- Individual women entrepreneurs need capital to pursue micro-livelihood activities such as food processing using squash as basic ingredient and produce cakes, pastries, and noodles.
- Provide start-up capital of Php 4,000.00 per skilled and motivated trainee, for an initial target of 20 beneficiaries. Budget : Php 80,000.

C. Line fishing for Subsistence Fisher Folks

- Line fishing is one of the most popular methods of fishing in Siocon.
- Subsistence fisher folk lack capital to buy line fishing gear.
- Provide fishing gear at Php 2,000 per individual; with an estimated initial 40 beneficiaries. Budget: Php 80,000

D. FAITH

- The on-going MTFP-FAITH projects need continued monitoring and expansion.
- Continued coordination and consultation with group and individual adaptors. Expansion will utilize build-up capital already in place.