

Hallelujah Moment from the Philippines

"To Care"

By Jodi L. Cataldo

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Family in the Pag-aruga program.

Photo by Matt Morgan

Twenty-five dollars, a bi-weekly gift through the General Board of Global Ministries' staff payroll deduction, was all it took to make a difference in the lives of 25 street children in the Philippines. (At the time of this writing, \$25.00 converts to 1,201.35 Philippine pesos.)

The staff member giving the \$25 bi-weekly gift wanted to do something to help alleviate the poverty in her native country of the Philippines. This desire moved her to set aside part of her paycheck to help. She decided to designate her gift for the "Pag-aruga" program.

Pag-aruga literally means "to care" in the Filipino language of Tagalog. Aptly named "Pag-aruga," the program--run by The United Methodist Church of the Philippines at the Asuncion A. Perez Memorial Center in Manila--reaches out to street families and their needy children.

The street families are homeless, sleeping in doorways, under trees, or any other shelter they can find, and mostly survive by begging.

Pag-aruga provides lunch a few days a week, skills training, healthcare, children's and youth ministry, a women's empowerment program, disaster response training, and schooling assistance.

This program also works in partnership with the Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation, Inc. (KKFI)—another Methodist social agency in the Philippines—to send ten street children to board at the Gilead Center in Pulilan, Bulacan, where they are able to continue their formal education away from the street. One of the street children has now graduated—an accomplishment not usually possible for street children due to lack of funds for transportation, uniforms, and school supplies.

Pag-aruga also helps many other street children in Manila who are enrolled in public school by providing a 100 peso/month allowance for their transportation and other costs. Twenty-five street children are now getting an education and learning skills to prepare for a better tomorrow. Why? Because someone cares.

Ways to Support this Ministry

You can support this ministry by sharing gifts through The Advance or by designated giving through your local church:

[# 3020792](#) — Pag-aruga: Program for Street Children



Hallelujah Moments

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<http://gbgm-umc.org/me/>

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