

# Profiles 2013

## Gugma sa Kabataan / December 2013

The names of the following children have been changed in order to protect their person, but the stories are real.

**Angelita** is the 2nd to the eldest of 3 siblings and a step sister.

Her father is mentally ill and the mother lives with new partner. Angelita has been in the care of her maternal grandfather.

Angelita is **8 years old** and on the 2nd grade. She is diligent going to school and has the inkling to be a leader.

Together with her 2 siblings they live in a very small room 2 x 2 meters wide and length enough for them to sleep.



**Nine** year old **Enrico** is a survivor of a large family size.

His mother died very young of over fatigue looking after 9 children and doing all household works.

He has a very irresponsible father who doesn't work. His father gambles in cock fighting. Enrico and his other siblings will be able to eat when he won. If lost in gambling they don't eat.

During week days he is assured to have 2 meals. Breakfast is served by another NGO while our organization Gugma sa Kabataan provided his lunch 5 days in the week.

“Blood is thicker than water” to a **nine(9)** year old girl **Marie Claire**.

Her mother decided to be separated from her irresponsible father. Her father was brought to the authorities by her mother to get family support. But there was no support at all.

Marie Claire is now 10 years old and still longing to see her father. She was only years old when she last saw him. In spite of her eye problem she is doing very well in school. She can be considered as an advance pupil in 4th grade of a public school. She can express herself well in communication both orally and writing.

While her Mom is working in Manila she lives with her grandmother.



**Ricky** was a victim of an early pregnancy. The mother got pregnant at the age of 16 years old. He is the 2<sup>nd</sup> child of 5 siblings.

Irresponsible parenting is another factor of negligence. As a **9 year** old boy he only weighed 17 kg.

Ricky used to be the so called “untouchable child” in the community. He was 4 years old when his father was jailed because of illegal drugs. He was then totally neglected and was spending his time on street.

Since he was with Gugma sa Kabataa, Inc. he was motivated to go to school and regularly attending his classes

Oftentimes **Sandy May** passed out in school. She missed her meals (lunch and dinner). In the evening she can only have a piece of boiled banana. If there is no banana she went to bed on an empty stomach.

She grew up in a very violent atmosphere. She was 6 years old when she witnessed to see her mother beaten up by her alcoholic father. For protection purposes she has to be in custody of her grandmother. She was 9 years old then and moved to her aunt when she turned 10 years old.

Sandy May look older than her age now. She is **11 years old** and now in the 4th grade. Her maturity is developed so fast perhaps all the hardships she went through. In school she does some errands for the teacher to be able to eat.



We met **9 year old Arnel** collecting left over foods from the neighbourhood. His body was too fragile to carry a bucket of left over to sell to neighbours who are tending pigs.

The little money he earned, will be used to buy his bread for his dinner. Like many undernourished children he has learning disability. However, he tried his very best and has the interest to learn.

One of his positive characteristics is his willingness to be sorry and tried very hard not to commit his mistakes.

Arnel is now on his 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and learning slowly how to read the alphabet.



Hatred, isolation and low self-esteem are the behaviours that **12 year old Vanessa** has to suffer. She was only 4 years old when her great mother took her being neglected by her mother while his father was put in jail due to illegal drugs.

Two years now that her great grandmother died and her only hope to get education is through Gugma sa Kabataan.

Academically she is very weak. Determination and diligence are the capabilities she has to get basic education.

For two years now it was not so easy for her to express how she feels being neglected, abused and now alone without her great grandmother who nurtured her.

**Ian** got the highest recognition in School. He is **9 years old** and on the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> grading period he was rank as the first.

Robinson's mother got pregnant at an early age. He and his 2 other siblings look undernourished. When there is an opportunity to earn like scavenging for recycled materials he had to do it after school hours. He had to give his earnings to his mother to buy rice for him and his siblings

