UPDATE LETTER

July 2025, Tagaytay City, Philippines

Pag-asa
SOCIAL CENTER FOUNDATION INC.

Since its establishment in 1997, the Pag-asa Social Center has dedicated itself to demonstrating love for our neighbors. Situated in the lush hills of Tagaytay, the center has been providing essential support to families in need by offering health, educational and livelihood assistance, as well as human and values formation for children and their families. However, we still aspire to do more and to do better. We envision a future where we can extend our reach to more communities and provide even more comprehensive support to those in need. With the help of generous donors and dedicated volunteers, this vision can become a reality.

As of now, our center, which has a staff of only seven people, is making a significant impact on the lives of 215 children and young people (5-23 years old) from 144 low-income families in different barangays or local districts in Tagaytay and along the coastal area of Noveleta in the province of Cavite. Our educational, medical and nutritional assistance along with other services are helping these young individuals to build a brighter future. Tagaytay, the city where our center is located, overlooks Manila Bay to the north, Laguna de Bay to the east, and Taal Volcano and Taal Lake to the south. As of the 2020 census, this city, with a population of 85,330, covers a total land area of 65 square kilometers, which makes up 4.37% of the entire land area of the Cavite Province.

A moment of profound gratitude and well-deserved recognition. The heart-shaped trophy speaks volumes.

The OnePuhunan team gathers with the young beneficiaries of their outreach activity—spreading hope, joy, and essential support at our multi-purpose hall.

"Now that I've got a degree, I'm motivated to be like my sponsors who are willing to help even though we don't know each other."

- Ria de Guzman Palanganan, Physical Education Teacher

She was supported by Pag-asa from Kindergarten all the way through University. Now a dedicated Physical Education teacher, she inspires the next generation through sports, movement, and wellness.

PAG-ASA BEARS FRUITS...IN TWOS

Dear long-time friends and newfound ones,

In this issue, we would like to share the fruits of your generosity. If you are reading our newsletter for the first time and considering to lend a helping hand, please know that your "investment" would go far beyond what your money's worth. This act of charity brings about a deeper richness: the sense of purpose, the joy of giving, and the truth that no act of kindness is ever too small. Your involvement in this endeavor is not a one-way street — those whom you support can give back in ways that may surprise you, ways that will touch your life in return.

TWO SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES

Our untiring efforts to become a beacon of hope for children, families and communities in need have led us to these two significant milestones. We received not one, but *two* incredible recognitions. Before 2024 ended, Pag-asa Social Center Foundation, Inc. was honored with a prestigious **national award**. We were recognized as one of the country's **Top Five Outstanding Social Work Agencies**. And in early 2025, we were also named the **Best NGO in the Region**, an award that was officially received in March.

Two recognitions — one from the region and one at the national level. Two celebrations, one proud team, and a renewed drive to keep going. We remain grounded in our core values while being grateful for these honors. We are even more excited to announce that we have been nominated again for the next national award cycle.

TWO STAKEHOLDERS: COMPANIES & COMMUNITIES

When businesses give back to the society, everybody wins. **ZERO-IN CONCEPT**, an event production company, brought joy to *285 children* by throwing a Christmas party, complete with gift boxes and McDonald's meals — a treat some children could only dream of. Meanwhile, **ONEPUHUNAN**, a financial institution, shared food packages with our beneficiaries and grocery supplies with the Center.

These companies show that profitability and social responsibility can — and should — go hand in hand. One hand builds the business while the other uplifts the community.

IT TAKES TWO

Every dental mission leaves behind more than clean smiles — it sparks hope and spreads awareness.

We organized **two dental missions** in just six months:

- The first, courtesy of **Dr. Dr. Thomas Mrosk** of the **Rotary Club of Papenburg, Germany**, who featured live educational content on Facebook and real-time dental care. With **Jörn Peters** assisting, the "**Two Hands, One Mission**" team provided essential oral care with warmth and dedication.
- The second, through the efforts of **Puli-Gallemit Dental Clinic**, which sent three dentists — Dr. John Michael A. Serrano, Dr. Marian Camille R. Pagaddu, and Dr. Nicole

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Anne P. Gallemit — who offered both clinical services (cleaning and extraction) and education (oral hygiene lessons and fluoride applications).

Together, they delivered healing — *two smiles at a time*.

TWO FEET GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Dr. Ulrike Mrosk from Germany travelled to our underserved communities to offer medical services in her first **medical mission**, serving 40 grateful patients. And as part of their anniversary celebration, **Tagaytay Medical Center**, in partnership with Pag-asa, conducted a large-scale **medical outreach**, providing screenings and medications — all free of charge.

With every step, our partners and volunteers are walking the extra mile to reach those in need.

TWO BECOME ONE — STRONGER TOGETHER

We are proud to officially announce the **unification of Pag-asa Social Center Foundation, Inc.** and **Bukas Palad-Tagaytay Foundation, Inc**., two social centers both operating in Tagaytay under the management of the Focolare Movement.

Though we started as two separate foundations, our vision has always been aligned. Effective **July 31**, we are joining forces under the name of **Pag-asa Social Center Foundation, Inc.**

This merger would combine our resources, strengths and decades of rich experience — to enable us to reach farther and do more. Our shared values of **compassion, integrity**, and **sustainable change** remain at the heart of our mission.

To our partners, communities and friends: thank you for continuing to walk with us. As we move forward, we remain — **One organization. One mission. One heart.** Together, we will continue to create lasting and meaningful changes.

Your Pag-asa family

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1. Building a better world, one box at a time. These young heroes are zeroing in on making a difference. A powerful display of compassion. #ZEROINCONCEPT

2. Measuring more than just weight; measuring compassion. Tagaytay Medical Center's anniversary outreach is a testament to their commitment to the community.

3. Hopeful smiles, healthy futures. The "Two Hands, One Mission" team, making a difference.

4. Seven steps to a dazzling smile. These dental volunteers are sharing their expertise, one patient at a time.

5. A Testament to Compassion. The warmth in the eyes of our dedicated young volunteers from Texas, Joel and William Tan, and the generosity in their hands speak volumes. Their selfless spirit and quiet strength are truly inspiring. #OnePuhunan

OUR NEW VIDEO

You will notice that the children and parents featured in our latest video look neat and presentable. Even though many of them are facing real financial and social challenges, it is important for us to highlight their dignity—something we are deeply committed to protecting. We believe that just because someone appears well-fed and decently dressed does not mean they are without need. Our hope with this video is not to stir pity or move people to donate out of guilt or sympathy. Instead, we would like to take a different path — one that shows the true impact of our sponsors' support: families who are standing taller, smiling wider, and moving forward, even if they still need help in order to thrive. We understand that many organizations often use images of hardships to raise donations, and sometimes that approach can be very effective. We are not saying that we would never share such realities because sometimes it is necessary to show the urgent needs, especially in times of disasters like typhoons or volcanic eruptions. But as much as possible, we would like to be careful and respectful of the dignity of our beneficiaries. We think about how the children and families might feel when they look back to these moments many years from now. We hope this gives you a little more insight into the vision and heart behind this video.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

If you wish to write to us or your child, please use the following address:

Pag-asa Social Center Foundation, Inc.
Focolare Compound, Calamba Road,
Iruhin Central, PO Box 78,
4120 Tagaytay City, Philippines

Or email us at:
info@pagasasocialcenter.org
pagasacenter@yahoo.com

- When sending a letter, put your address as the sender on the envelope and do not write it anywhere in the text. From experience and respect for everyone's privacy, we know that the exchange of supporter/child addresses is inappropriate.
- If you do not have the opportunity to continue helping the child, it is essential to communicate it before the renewal of your commitment occurs. The report must arrive promptly to our office with an e-mail (pagasacenter@yahoo.com). This gesture will allow us to continue helping the child by entrusting him to another supporter. We thank you in advance for your collaboration.

Some of you may be having trouble receiving our emails. If that is the case, please take a moment to check your SPAM or JUNK folder—our messages may have ended up there by mistake. To avoid missing future updates, you can also mark our emails as "Not Spam" or add us to your contacts.