

IAT Quarterly Newsletter

JANUARY 2021 ISSUE

Page 1

Sponsorship Program Assessment Highlights

On January 16th, 2021, the IAT Philippines Leadership team met with parents of the scholars to discuss the program and updates about the organization.

Page 2

Summary: IAT Year-End Review for 2020

Let's take a look back at some of the development, outreach, and facilities upgrades IAT staff and volunteers were able to accomplish during this difficult year.

Page 6

2021 Development and Outreach Plans

From ways to increase awareness about IAT's programs, to new programs and collaborations, let's take a sneak peak of what's to come in the next 12 months.

Page 7

Introducing the new IAT Leadership Team

We are so excited to introduce our team of professionals serving as the Board of Trustees and Volunteer Committee Leaders.

Sponsorship Program Assessment Highlights

It is with great joy that we share brief highlights and minutes of the Sponsorship Program Assessment meeting we had in January, 2021.

- The opening prayer was led by Markjay Dugkem (an IAT scholar).
- David and Petra Durrance, IAT's founders, then shared, via recorded message, some encouraging and inspiring opening words. David spoke in English and Petra followed in Ilocano (the dialect most people in Kalinga, Philippines speak).
- Odessa Ngawoy, IAT Philippines' Operations Manager, shared a brief introduction of the new Board of Trustees, going over their backgrounds and expertise.
- A welcoming speech from Professor Tules

Banwa, IAT Philippines' Treasurer, summarized the meeting's agenda and objective. Afterwards, the Ilocano version of the IAT video introduction (which can be found in the documentary-style scholar update videos currently being sent to sponsors) was played for the attendees.

- Ayden Durrance, IAT Philippines' Secretary, provided a brief refresher on IAT as an organization, our mission (original and updated), the programs we've had since its founding in 1979, and challenges we've had on the sponsorship program recently, and their proposed solutions.
- Dr. Mary Guyang, IAT Philippines' Vice Chairperson, went over the Year-End Review, and then she played the 2020 Highlights video.
- During intermission, the team played a few videos made by the IAT film crew, while snacks were distributed to the attendees. Four videos were played: a Thank You video

from the scholar to her sponsor; a video of a scholar looking for a sponsor; a documentary-style annual update video of a scholar; and finally, the IAT Cagayan Valley Flood Victims Donation Drive highlights video.

- Virginia Lapuz, former IAT Philippines President and now volunteer Community Relations Officer, reviewed the Sponsorship Program with the parents. She went over the Scholar Survey (more on **Page 5**) conducted by IAT scholars and volunteers, providing more insight into the demographics of our scholars' families, their struggles, and their feedback for IAT. Virginia also discussed the Sponsorship Program goals we have in store for 2021.
- The floor was then opened for a quick Question-and-Answer session where a few parents asked some clarifying questions on what had been reviewed so far.

We've revamped our website and updated our Facebook page!

Visit us at to stay up to date with IAT activities!
www.iatcan.org [www.fb.com/iat.philippines](https://www.facebook.com/iat.philippines)

Summary: IAT Year-End Review for 2020

Last year was a trying time for much of humanity. Thankfully, even with limited resources, mobility, and capacity, the IAT leadership team, volunteers, and the community were able to accomplish many developmental projects, outreach initiatives, and facilities upgrades.

Here are the IAT development and outreach highlights for 2020:

1. Set up WiFi Center **to help students during lockdown;**



- Finally, Odessa Ngawoy ended the meeting with a brief note about membership: the benefits of being an IAT general member; eligibility; and alternative forms of membership payment (for those who are not able to afford payment through cash).
- The closing prayer was then led by Markjay Dugkem, after which several parents acquired membership forms.

2. On-time monitoring of scholars from different communities during lockdown **to provide assistance to scholars during pandemic;**
3. Ongoing update of students' family profile **to ensure we have latest information about our scholars and their families;**
4. Revamped IAT website after 16+ years **to help with outreach and sponsorship;**
5. Continuous scholar Thank You letter writing **to keep in contact with sponsors;**
6. Created scholar documentaries **to nurture scholar-sponsor relationship and help recruit more potential sponsors;**

CAGAYAN VALLEY FLOOD DONATION DRIVE UPDATE



With your help, we all raised...

PHP 105,607.00

Total care packages: 592

Balzain — 200 care packages
• each package good for 7 family members
• up to 1400 individuals helped


Solana — 164 care packages
• each package good for 5 family members
• up to 840 individuals helped

Alcala — 228 care packages
• pre-packed using barangay resident list
• 688 individuals helped

Each care package contained:
water, rice, noodles, sardines, coffee, biscuits

Total pre-loved clothing donated: 420

- Women's tops—122 pcs
- Women's bottoms — 98 pcs
- Men's tops — 58 pcs
- Men's bottoms — 45 pcs
- Kids' wear — 97 pcs

 **IAT** International Association
for Transformation

Thank you all for your generosity and kindness



- Organized Cagayan Valley Flood Victims Donation Drive **to help our neighbors to the North;**
- Conducted scholar survey **to enhance our understanding of our scholars, their families, and how IAT can better help;**
- Met with alumnis **to identify those who wish to get involved;**
- Identified new leadership volunteers **to help with lack of manpower and contribute additional resources;**
- Coordinated organic farming workshop (CANAAN) **to help promote healthy food production;**
- Became eligible for Google for Nonprofits and **acquired FREE access to premium resources;**
- In talks to partner with a local business **to create a Community Library Program and Used Books Exchange Program;**
- Began gathering musical instruments donated by community **to provide scholars with ability to learn and practice music;**
- Working with fitness professionals **to provide free fitness classes to scholars.**



We were also productive this year with the IAT building maintenance and facilities upgrades, which fall into 3 categories: increased safety, essential maintenance, and facilities upgrades.

Increased safety

1. Complete replacement of IAT office roof structure and roof panels;
2. Installation of CCTV system for student safety;

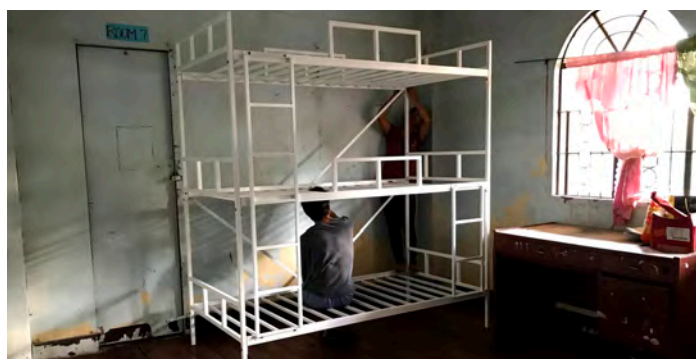
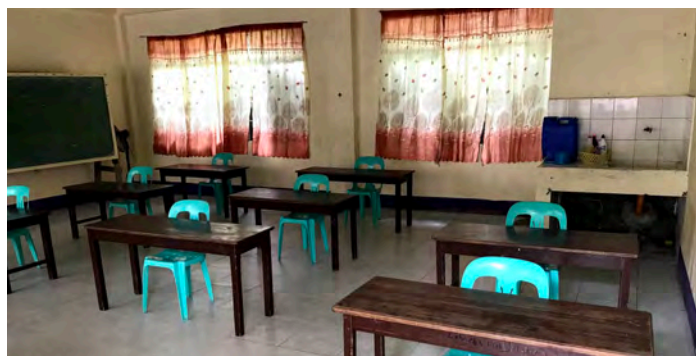


Essential maintenance

3. Replacement of broken and leaking water pipes around the facility;
4. Renovation of downstairs student bathrooms, IAT office visitor bathroom, and all second-level bathrooms;
5. Renovation of equipment bodega and installation of bodega shelving;
6. Renovation and fixing of student kitchen sink and water lines;
7. Installation of new lights and fixing faulty electrical lines inside student dorm;



8. Fixing of septic and sewage lines of commercial tenants;
9. Fixing and renovation of outdoor student sink behind stage;



Facilities upgrade

10. Installation of high speed fibre internet access to students dorm, IAT office, IAT Training Hall;
11. Set up of 3 rooms as Free Students WiFi Study Center;
12. Installation of water lines to student gardens;
13. Installation of new water system complete with pressure tank and pump;
14. Installation of safety lighting around compound;
15. Ongoing setup of community computer and office center complete with photocopier/ printer/office supplies;
16. Ongoing setup of student office for modular facility for access and printing;
17. New office lighting;
18. New student bunk beds in all rooms.

Scholar Survey Results

In January 2021, we started conducting a survey to the parents of our scholars. In total, we have interviewed 30 of the 79 current IAT scholars, and the findings were quite insightful.

The average household size:

7 people

The average number of children:

5 children

The average household income:

PH ₱5,000 /month (~CA \$132.85)

Minimum wage in Kalinga is ~PH ₱9,100/month (CA \$241.79)

Highest level of education of scholar parents:

Elementary: 36%

High School: 21%

University: 10%

Vocational: 3%

Didn't graduate elementary: 28%

Didn't attend school: 2%

Top 3 professions of parents:

42%: Farmers

7%: Homemaker

5%: Part-time / Seasonal worker

46%: Other (Construction, Restaurant Helper, Laundry, Tricycle Driver, Job Order, Welder, Barangay Secretary, Baby Sitting)

13% of scholar families have a side business to help make ends meet: Gardening, Wine, Small Store, and Making BBQ sticks

Breakdown of Current Scholar Academic Levels:

Elementary: 10%

High school: 47%

University: 43%

Top 3 fields scholars aim to get into:

27%: Education

20%: Law Enforcement

13%: Engineering

40%: Other (Lawyer, Doctor, Agriculture, Social Work, Fisheries Technology, Medical Technology, Accountant, Business)

Top 3 challenges, according to scholars*

47%: Unable to meet financial needs
23%: Academic struggles
43%: Insufficient or broken school supplies
Other challenges: Access to internet, discrimination

* Some scholars had multiple main challenges

Top reasons for applying to the IAT Child Sponsorship Program:

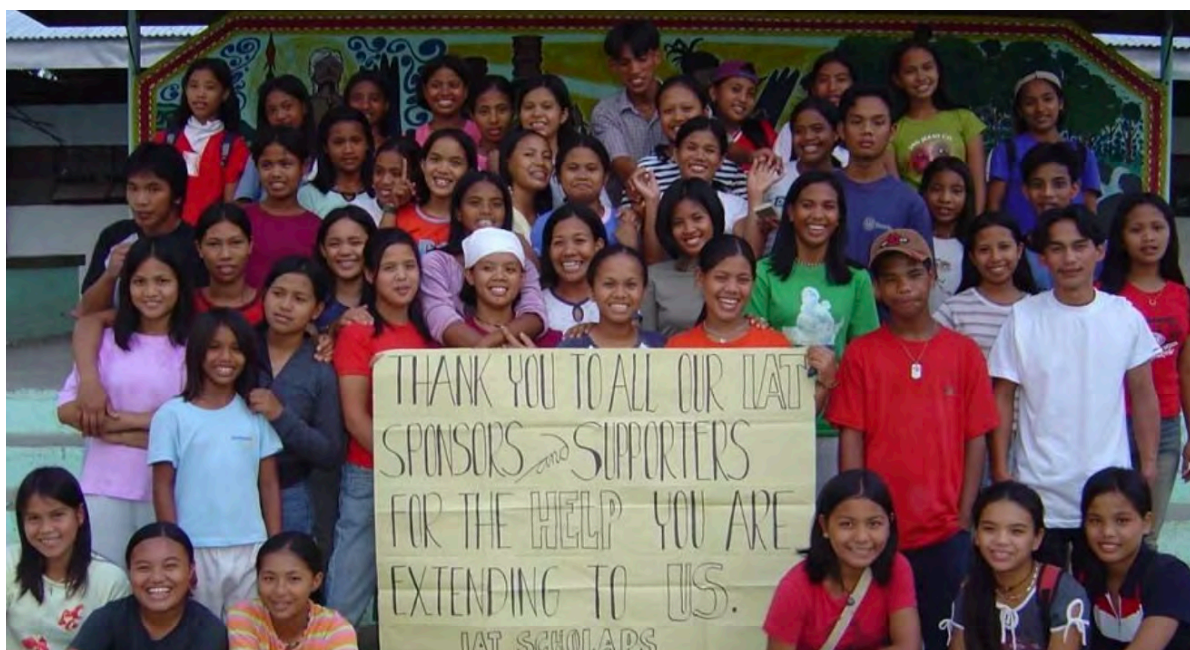
56%: Financial support
43%: Additional educational support

Top 3 things parents appreciate about IAT:

53%: Financial support
43%: Livelihood programs
7%: Outreach programs

Top 3 things parents wished IAT could improve:

57%: Able to help more students
10%: Increase allowance
7%: Increase programs



2021 Development and Outreach Plans

This year, we'll be continuing some of the projects we began in 2020. While we'll continue to optimize the Child Sponsorship Program with our ongoing learnings, IAT will also explore opportunities with other programs and initiatives we've executed in the past, as well as some fresh new ideas we might develop.

Some of the programs we are excited about now include:

1. Scholarship Program 2021 Goals

Many Canadian sponsors have been sponsoring children for more than 3 decades and several have had to discontinue support due to financial constraints or passing on.

This year we intend to reach out to increase the number of sponsors and assist more students seeking to pursue or continue their education.

2. Alumni Parents Association

Initiate and nurture a community where IAT Alumnis who are now parents can share and benefit from each other's and IAT's resources.

3. Alumni Group Sponsor

Enable IAT alumnis to pool together and help sponsor an IAT scholar.

Introducing the New IAT Leadership Team

This year, IAT welcomed a new Board of Trustees and additional volunteer leaders. We are thrilled to introduce our new Leadership Team:

David Durrance
IAT Founder & President
Board of Trustees



A recurring IAT sponsor, David is a retired secondary school teacher, Montessori-certified, and is also one of the founders of Starchild Centres, a Montessori-based institution in Victoria, Canada. He has been involved in youth education and leadership training, agricultural, reforestation and community development programs for more than 40 years.

Petra Durrance
IAT Founder & Chairperson
Board of Trustees



A recurring IAT sponsor and the co-founder StarChild Centres, Petra is a registered nurse, certified Montessori teacher, and a licensed Infant/Toddler and Early Childhood Educator. She has supervised the establishment of Montessori-based daycares in remote villages of the Northern Philippines, and held trainings and talks on women empowerment, peace, land, and human rights issues.

Dr. Mary Guyang
Vice Chairperson
Board of Trustees



Mary is the owner and Head OBGYN at Bulanao Maternity Clinic and Lying-In at Tabuk City, Kalinga. She owns a few small businesses in the city, is an IAT Child Sponsorship Alumni and recurring sponsor. Mary has been practicing medicine and has served the Kalinga people for almost two decades.

Prof. Tules Banwa
Treasurer
Board of Trustees



Tules is a Biology Professor and Director of Research of Kalinga State University (KSU) in Tabuk City, Kalinga. He previously served as the College Dean, University Scholarship Chairman, Student Coordinator, and institute Research Chairman at KSU. Tules is an IAT Child Sponsorship Program Alumni and Volunteer.

Ayden Durrance
Secretary
Board of Trustees



Ayden is a mechanical engineer, serial entrepreneur, and recurring IAT sponsor. Dedicated to providing career and educational opportunities to the people of Kalinga, he founded several Philippine-based small businesses such as New Choice Lending Company, Blacksteel Furniture, Blacksteel Media, and Bubbles Laundry Center.

SharaJane Gayudan
Alumni Representative
Board of Trustees



SharaJane is a teacher at Nambaran Elementary School, is Montessori-trained, was a former ASSISI Development Foundation student, and has taught at New Age Montessori School (NAMS) for 6 years. SharaJane has a certification in Early Childhood Education (ECE), and has completed her MEd with a major in Administration and Supervision.



Odessa Ngawoy **Operations Manager**

Odessa is a qualified and trained Montessori teacher, is a Registered Social Worker (RSW), and has completed several Early Childhood Educators workshops. She has assisted StarChild Centres in administrative work and as a substitute teacher. Being currently IAT Philippines' only full time employee, Odessa runs many of IAT Philippines' daily operations and also manages the IAT Child Sponsorship Program.



Virginia Lapuz **Community Relations Officer**

Virginia is an Agrarian Reform Program Officer at the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) at Tabuk City, Kalinga and an IAT Child Sponsorship Program Alumni. She is the founder and distributor of Istaychi Northern Winery, a local winery for domestic fruits. Virginia previously served as an IAT Board of Trustees as the President, and continuously helps the community livelihood training.



Candice Adams **Marketing & PR Officer**

Candice is a user experience (UX) designer, conversion rate optimization specialist, and marketer. She is the founder and Creative Director of invisibleDesign, a boutique design and development studio. Candice previously served as the Communications and Public Relations Officer, and then Vice President, of Section Juan, the pioneer support society for Filipino youths in Hong Kong.

Pandemic "New Norm" is a Big Obstacle for Scholars with Little-to-No Access to Computers or the Internet



The pandemic has been difficult for the students as they are now doing modular classes (remote school work) and sometimes online classes for college students. With remote school work, each student is given a set of modules which is composed of activities and summaries of their lessons every week. College students are conducting online classes and calls.

Some students unfortunately don't have devices they can use to be able to complete their assignments as they often can't afford them. Sometimes they would be tasked to edit videos, make reports, make presentations and search the internet for additional information when the lessons in modules are not explained well.

Students who struggle with access online or with digital devices requirements would often get late in submission or would even fail to submit as they don't have anything to use. The students who don't have WiFi would have to buy data to access the internet which would require them to spend more than PHP250 (~CA\$6.65) a week.

How to help

IAT is periodically shipping sponsor gifts to our scholars from Canada or from Philippine online stores. If you would like to provide additional assistance to these struggling scholars, please email david@iatcan.org or call +1-250-929-3240.