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# SM group turns over 104th school building

SM Prime turned over a fully furnished two-storey school building to President Manuel Roxas Memorial Integrated School-South in Roxas City.

SMFI's 104th school building, built to DepEd specifications, has four classrooms, each with desks, chairs for left-handed students, toilets, and a special toilet for PWDs. It also has concave blackboards, electric fans, LED lighting, and emergency lights.

SM Foundation installed a handwashing facility to help enhance the community's health and safety. SM group will help with the maintenance and upkeep of the school.

SM Foundation believes in the power of education in uplifting communities and has been an active member of DepEd's Adopt-a-School Program since 2002, turning over more than 100 school buildings nationwide.







The vibrant new learning environment aims to boost the morale of students and teachers.



The new school building features a handwashing facility accessible to the community.



SMFI participates in the Adopt-A-School program to help uplift the quality of education in the country.



SM scholars from Roxas City volunteers help set-up the new school building before its turnover.



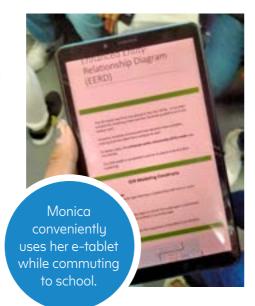


# SM Foundation, Mastercard help bridge gaps in online learning

Amidst the varied challenges of the past three years, the world witnessed solidarity and the power of sharing a vision. People from diverse backgrounds joined forces to support students in adapting to online learning, fostering resilience and longlasting impact on youth.

In October 2021, the SM Group and Mastercard teamed up through the SM Store Shop & Share campaign, enabling customers to gift e-tablets to 1,210 SM Foundation scholars, including Monica Zapanta and Robin Raton. These students faced challenges transitioning to online education, struggling with outdated devices, and limited resources.

Monica, a Computer Science student, needed a device for coding and classes, while Robin, an education student, required multiple applications for video conferencing and productivity. The new tablets,





Representatives of SM group and Mastercard, led by SMFI Executive Director Debbie Sy, SMFI Education Program's Executive Director Linda Atayde and SAVP Eleanor Lansang, SM Store Vice President for Marketing Roshan Nandwani, SM Retail, Inc. CFO Jonathan Ng, and Simon Calasanz, Country Manager, Philippines, Mastercard at the ceremonial check turnover, following the success of the Shop & Give Back.

provided through this initiative, alleviated their financial burden and enhanced their learning experiences.

Robin shared, "With the help of Mastercard and The SM Store, we allocated the money I saved for my family's needs, such as food and daily expenses." This tablet allowed him to complete vital tasks for his education and extend a helping hand to his brother for school research.

Monica found the tablet's power efficiency to be a game-changer during internet or electricity outages, enabling her to stay focused on her studies. Beyond academics, the tablets facilitated balance in their student lives, offering a helping hand to others and serving various purposes.

"The e-tablet inspired me to strive. It lessened the financial burden and stress that comes along with pursuing higher education. It has enabled me to focus more on my studies rather than constantly worrying if I'll finish the things I need to complete," she said.

This collaborative effort, driven by the SM group's commitment to education's transformative power, aims to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty through ongoing partnerships with like-minded organizations.





The SM group representatives with the e-tablets for SM scholars.



### SM Foundation welcomes over 400 new scholars

SM group's social good social good arm, SM Foundation, recently awarded college scholarships to 470 freshmen, demonstrating its commitment to breaking the cycle of poverty through education.

To kick off the journey as SM scholars, the foundation held an online awarding event called "LIMITLESS" on Sept. 2, 2023.

Carmen Linda Atayde, SM Foundation's Executive Director for Education, emphasized the transformative power of education during the ceremony, reiterating SM's dedication to empowering students to make a positive impact in their communities.

"Education is the beacon of hope that illuminates the path to progress and breaks the chains of poverty. Through education, we can rise above constraints and achieve greatness," Atayde said.

The SM College Scholarship program was established in 1993 by Mr. Henry Sy Sr., the founder of the SM Group. Since then, it has supported over 5,000 scholars across the country, offering financial aid, mentorship, and various

workshops for personal and professional growth.

academic lives as

proud SM scholars.

Sharing the gift of education One of the new scholars is Princess Eunice Motel, an 18-year-old SM scholar pursuing her education at the Philippine Normal University. She aspires to become an educator to make a positive impact on the next generation.

Princess has harbored a lifelong dream of becoming a teacher. Her dedication to teaching intensified when she was given the opportunity by her church to teach children about God's word.



SMEDD Corp. President Chico Sy, SM Prime VP for Market Research and Planning Ronald Tumao, and SCMC Regional Accounting Manager and SM Scholar alumna Grace Ortega lead the interactive learning session for the new scholars.

"My unwavering commitment to becoming a teacher is directly inspired by an initiative of our church, dedicated to teaching children about God's word. I aspire to be a vessel for sharing knowledge, instilling hope, and

nurturing a brighter future for the next generation," she said.

To pursue her dreams, Princess has enrolled in a Bachelor's degree program in Secondary Education at the Philippine Normal University, her dream institution known for nurturing exceptional teachers.

"As I aspire to become an educator, I also strive for greatness and excellence, and there's no better place to achieve that than at my chosen school."



SM Scholar and aspiring educator
Princess Eunice Motel



SMFI SAVP for Education Eleanor Lansang welcomes the freshmen scholar during a contract signing event.





## UST tops off Henry Sy, Sr. Hall at Manila campus

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) held the topping off ceremony of the Henry Sy, Sr. Hall last October 7, 2023. The ceremony is a builder's tradition that highlights the placement of the final beam on top of the structure.

The seven-storey building is a tribute of the Sy family, the SM Group, and UST to the SM founder for his lifelong education advocacy. It

is equally a manifestation of the ever-growing desire of the UST Research and Endowment Foundation, Inc., Anargyroi: FMS Foundation, Inc. (AFI) and the 152-year old UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery (FMS) to further level up in the field of medicine.

The Henry Sy, Sr. Hall will serve as a hub for simulation in medical education, interactive student centered-learning, collaborative multidisciplinary research, and interprofessional education. It will house the Sts. Cosmas and Damian Simulation and Research Center.

"The Henry Sy, Sr. Hall will be a state-of-the-art structure designed to meet the challenges and expectations of a digitally-inclined medical education landscape. It will house technologically advanced facilities and equipment, which





(from left) SM Foundation (SMFI) SAVP for Education Eleanor Lansang, SM Investments VP for Securities Judith Balderrama, Henry Sy Foundation (HSF) treasurer Virginia Yap, UST-FMS Dean Dr. Ma. Lourdes Maglinao, SMFI Executive Director and HSF Trustee Debbie Sy, HSF Executive Director Dr. Lydia Echauz, SMFI and HSF Trustee Engr. Ramon Gil Macapagal are welcomed by UST Office of Public Affairs Director Dr. Joreen Rocamora.

will complement the existing teaching, learning, and research practices of the University. It is yet another milestone, securing the UST FMS a relevant spot, a significant spot in Catholic medical education in the country, the region, and the world." FMS Dean Dr. Ma. Lourdes Maglinao said about the Henry Sy. Sr. Hall.

"Medical students can access a broad range of digital tools and resources to enhance their learning and education as we were compelled to shift to e-learning and online course platforms," UST Rector, Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., said.

"Nowadays, keeping up with the advances in medical education is paramount to ensure that our students are competent, agile, and well-prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities of the ever-changing educational landscape of modern medicine, and this building, this edifice, will give us state-of-the-art equipment, which will give our medical students a cutting-edge knowledge on how to use robotics as well as other equipment," Fr. Ang added.

Designed by C.A. Ventura & Partners, the Henry Sy, Sr. Hall is on track to be completed by June 2024.







# Creating spiritually enriching experiences for the Catholic faithful

The Felicidad T. Sy Foundation (FTSFI), an affiliate of SM Foundation dedicated to promoting Catholic living and supporting various initiatives within the community, has recently rekindled its Sacristy Upkeep & Floral Art in the Service of the Liturgy.

This project aims to enhance the knowledge of religious heads

and facilitate the proper care of religious vessels while creating appropriate floral arrangements for different church seasons.

The project, which was temporarily halted during the pandemic, has helped transform some churches and SM Malls with chapels into sacred places for worship for shoppers, tenants, and other clients. The project's revival has brought renewed vigor to the training sessions, providing participants with the essential skills and knowledge to enhance the liturgical experience for the faithful. FTSFI has also held spiritual recollections, lector's formations, lector's renewal, and various learning sessions to enrich the Catholic faith.

### Deepening faith, finding life's work

Karen Cruz, a supervisor from SM City Fairview is one of the many employees joining FTSFI's learning sessions. She joined the religious committee of the SM group in 2006, which paved for a deeper faith and commitment to the Lord.

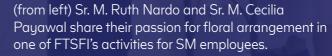
"For 17 years now, being a member of the religious committee is one of my biggest achievements as an SM employee. Beyond all the blessings and answered prayers, I was able to learn about

different floral arrangements based on the Liturgical Celebration and other proper preparations for the Eucharistic Celebrations held at SM," she said.

"Floral arrangements go beyond design; they symbolize spiritual joy while honoring God," she added. "Through the activities of FTSFI and being part of this ministry has improved my spiritual life. It allowed me to find my mission. This year, I became a member of the lector-commentator ministry in our parish."









Inspired by FTSFI's work, Karen now serves at her local parish as a member of the lector-commentator ministry.



Karen proudly shows the floral arrangement output of SM employees



SM employees observe as Sr. M.Ruth Nardo, PDDM leads the lectures on Floral Art at the Service of Liturgy.



# SM Foundation marks graduation of farmers

After 14 weeks of intensive modern agricultural training, SM Foundation proudly celebrated the graduation of farmer beneficiaries from its Kabalikat sa Kabuhayan on Sustainable Agriculture Program (KSK-SAP).

The events signify a crucial step towards sustainable farming practices and economic empowerment for marginalized farmers.

In Central Luzon, SM Foundation concluded the KSK-SAP training with graduation ceremonies in Olongapo City and San Marcelino, Zambales. They also celebrated the graduation of farmers in Calamba, San Pablo, Laguna, and other areas in South Luzon.

During the 14-week program, farmer trainees received comprehensive training in

various agricultural aspects. They acquired valuable insights into crop cultivation, management, and modern farming techniques, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed for success in today's dynamic agricultural landscape.

Alongside agricultural training, KSK-SAP and its partners organized lectures on life





principles inspired by Henry Sy Sr., financial literacy, business, and livelihood development. These components empowered the farmer-beneficiaries to not only grow crops but also become self-sufficient agripreneurs, contributing to the nation's food security.

Converging, moving forward. The graduation ceremonies began with harvest festivals in demonstration farms, market tours to explore selling opportunities with SM Markets, and the presentation of certificates, including DTI and TESDA NCII certificates for some participants.

The KSK-SAP program has been implemented nationwide, with graduation ceremonies held in various locations across Visayas and Mindanao. Since 2007, KSK-SAP has enhanced the farming and entrepreneurial skills of over 28,000 marginalized rural and urban farmers. Some of the program's graduates have even become seasonal suppliers within the SM group and local markets.

SM Foundation's KSK-SAP is conducted in partnership with SM Supermalls, TESDA, DA, DSWD, DOST, DTI, and partner farm schools.







# Sowing the seeds of lasting change

In the midst of our busy lives, we often encounter moments of inspiration that have the power to create positive change. Such moments invite us to reflect on our potential for social good.

Years ago, Henry "Tatang" Sy Sr. embodied this spirit. Driven by an open heart, he shared his life principles, rooted in hard work, humility, integrity, and giving back. These principles laid the foundation for his journey from humble beginnings, shaping the legacy of the SM group.

Today, Tatang's legacy lives on. Inspired by his example, SM employee-volunteers are sharing his 14 life principles with farmers in the SM Foundation's Kabalikat sa Kabuhayan on Sustainable Agriculture Program (KSK-SAP).

Kristianne Fusilero of SM City Davao emphasizes the relevance of these principles to KSK-SAP, which empowers farmers to become agripreneurs. She states, "Discussing the 14-Life Principles of Mr. Henry Sy, Sr. is a humbling experience. We discover how Tatang sustained his business through these principles and the importance of spreading social good, especially at the grassroots level."







Farmer graduates join the Harvest Festival in Cagayan de Oro.





KSK-SAP farmer-beneficiaries from Zambales with SM Foundation's partners.

Employee volunteers like Engr.
Jemuel Madayag of SM City
Masinag and Edith Tayko of
SM City Dasmarinas found
that farmers of all ages actively
engaged in the sessions,
learning from the principles and
enjoying the experience.

outreach programs, congratulates

graduates of the KSK-SAP in Zamboanga.

Ma. Karina Rosario Tiguman from SM City Butuan shared

her heartwarming experience working with farmers who are eager to pursue their dreams despite various challenges. She is grateful for the opportunity to impart knowledge and looks forward to future sessions.

As SMFI continues KSK-SAP, the SM group highlights the power of collaboration in sharing knowledge, inspiring others, and building a sense of community. Henry Sy Sr.'s legacy endures through these virtuous acts, illustrating how one person's values can have a lasting ripple effect across generations, transforming lives.





# SM Foundation activates relief program for Typhoon Egay-hit communities

Amidst the onslaught of Typhoon Egay in various parts of the Philippines, SM group through its social good arm, SM Foundation, Inc. (SMFI) activated Operation Tulong Express (OPTE), providing relief to affected communities throughout the country.

With its recent activation, SMFI and SM Supermalls distributed Kalinga Packs, consisting of essential goods to about 15,000 beneficiaries.

OPTE is a social good program of SM Foundation in collaboration with SM Supermalls and SM Markets. It aims to address the needs of communities during calamities and crises.









SM Supermalls employees lead the distribution of Kalinga Packs in Guiguinto, Bulacan.







## Ready to serve: Palawan health centers upgraded by SM Foundation

SM Foundation, Inc (SMFI), the philanthropic arm of the SM Group, has recently renovated two vital healthcare centers in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

These facilities, the Naval Station Apolinario Jalandoon Medical Dispensary and the Barangay Irawan Birthing Facility, were reopened, increasing SMFI's upgraded health centers to 194.

### Safeguarding the health of Naval personnel

The Naval Station Apolinario
Jalandoon Medical Dispensary
(NSAJ-MD) serves as an
immediate care facility for
Philippine Navy personnel
and their families. It also plays
a broader role by extending
healthcare services to authorized
civilians within the Naval
Installation and Facilities West
and Naval Forces West's areas
of responsibility.

"Ang galing ng timing," NSAJ-MD Commanding Officer Dr. Aileen Velasco said.

"The medical dispensary needed the refurbishment as our walls had varying paint colors; our tiles and walls were uneven.
Our things were also piled or stacked and have become an eyesore. It was timely that SM Foundation offered to help us with the renovation," she added, discussing their upcoming DOH accreditation.









Mothers and infants from Brgy. Irawan are provided with a safe and serene environment where they can comfortably breastfeed.

### Renewing hope for healthcare

The Brgy. Irawan Birthing
Facility, on the other hand,
initially provided free medical
care to pregnant women but
temporarily halted services in
2018 to adhere to Department
of Health (DOH) guidelines.
During this six-year period, the
center became a multipurpose
health facility, offering
preventive medical services to
the community.

"Ang mga health workers ng birthing facility ay mula dito sa komunidad. Para kaming isang pamilya na malapit ang puso sa lahat ng pasyenteng aming sineserbisyohan.
Sa pagsasaayos nito, mas maaalagaan na naming lahat ang aming kalusugan," midwife Narcisa Jagmis hoped as they welcome the refurbished facility.

Committed to improving healthcare infrastructure nationwide, SM Foundation upgraded these facilities to align with DOH guidelines. The renovations encompassed both interior and exterior enhancements to facilitate seamless healthcare delivery and create a favorable environment for healthcare providers and patients.

To optimize the centers' efficiency in delivering quality medical services. SMFI outfitted them with sustainable fixtures and infrastructure. Special air-purifying paints were used, and locally-sourced plants were added to promote a healthier environment and support local businesses.

Energy-efficient appliances, medical tools, and equipment were also provided. For sustainable and efficient water management, a rainwater catchment system was installed at the birthing facility.

Through this recent revitalization of the healthcare centers, SM Foundation continues its mission to support communities in spreading social good.



SMFI and health workers of Brgy. Irawan collaborate to ensure the successful implementation of the center's rehabilitation.

# SMFI Health and Medical Programs Executive

Director Connie Angeles inspects the rainwater harvesting system, a first-of-its-kind innovation in an

sustainable water management.

SMFI Health and Wellness Center geared towards



### **SM Foundation innovates to spread** environmental good

Rainwater harvesting, a sustainable water management strategy, has been embraced by SM Foundation, Inc. (SMFI) in their recent refurbishment projects. Two health centers, the Brgy. Irawan Birthing Facility in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, and the San Fernando, Cebu Primary Health Care Facility, now feature rainwater harvesting systems to support community health and environmental conservation.

These systems come in handy during water shortages, a common issue faced by these health facilities. Dr. Alfredo P. Manugas VI, Municipal Health Officer of San Fernando,

emphasized their importance, stating, "The rainwater harvesting system is essential in our health facility because the water supply in our municipality is not available 24/7." This innovation provides a crucial water source for cleaning, toilet flushing, and plant watering.

SMFI ensures these systems are convenient and sustainable. They operate without electricity, collecting rainwater from roofs and gutters, filtering it through vinyl-coated mesh filters for quality assurance, and storing it in 800-liter tanks. Labeled faucets guide users in safe recycled water use.



Midwife Narcisa Jagmis observes as the system collects rainwater from the gutters.



This commitment to water conservation is part of the broader SM Green Movement's goal to preserve the environment and support community health. SMFI plans to replicate these rainwater harvesting initiatives in other health centers, further enhancing water security in the face of challenges.

Midwife Narcisa Jagmis, who leads the Brgy. Irawan Birthing Facility, highlighted the impact of the system, saying, "The rainwater catchment system is a tremendous help. We can easily access it for cleaning or watering because it's connected to our faucets. The water from the main supply can be reserved for our sterile operations."

Through these green innovations, SM Foundation and the SM group demonstrate their dedication to environmental sustainability and community well-being.



SMFI Health and Medical Programs Senior Project Manager Albert Uy inspects the water catchment to ensure it reliability.





