

BADJAO BRIDGE

Annual Report 2017



Programs

CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

For less than a dollar a day, we continue to provide Badjao children with quality education, nutritious meals, basic healthcare, and spiritual nurture through our Child Sponsorship Program – our main initiative that aims to change the life of a child.

Thanks to our sponsors, donors, and our local staff and volunteers who continue to help and co-labor with us in making a difference in the lives of these kids by providing their basic needs.

From over 140 children in 2016, we are helping more than 200 this year.

Carla, MJ, and Salonga are just three of them in this program.

Through the support of Badjao Bridge, these young people have built their dreams – dreams that are not just for themselves but eventually for their community and families as well.

Carla wants to become a nurse so she could help her community that suffers from malnutrition, poor hygiene, and bad sanitation. MJ wants to become a policewoman so she could help promote peace in her community. Salonga wants to become a professional seaman one day and earn a decent income so he could help his family.



In the photo are two single Badjao mothers with their teenage daughters who are our scholars in another community we have recently started helping. The grateful mothers, who didn't have the chance to go to school all their lives, said they dream of seeing their children graduate in school, work as professionals, and have better lives through education.

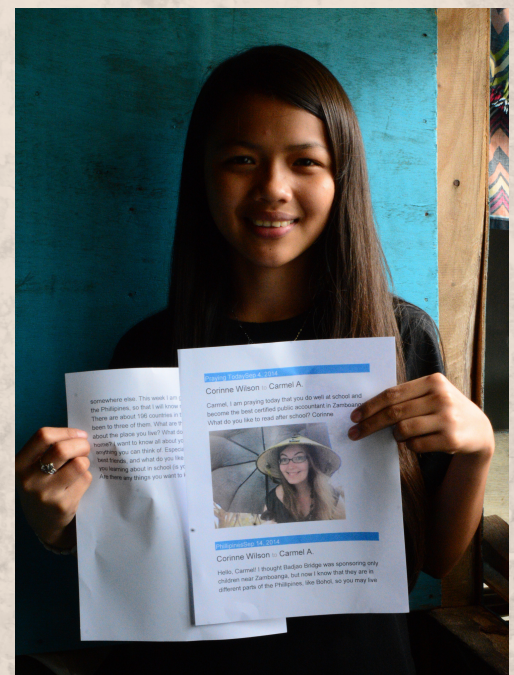


We visited their school late this year and it was a joy to know their progress. One teacher spoke so highly of one of them - good character, obedient, respectful, creative, and good in her studies while another Badjao scholar is also doing well academically. Indeed, giving these kids an opportunity to take a step closer to their dreams is worth all the efforts.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Going to college could be a costly endeavor for most Filipinos even with average income, and what more for the less privileged Badjaos. Through the support of our partners and donors, we are able to provide an opportunity for them to go to college. In 2016, we had our first Badjao college graduates – Lorna and Madonna, who completed their Bachelors in Criminology degree. This year, we are also happy for another scholar, Carmel.

Born and raised in a hut over the water in a family that struggled to eat, her prospects to escape poverty seemed dim. But thanks to Badjao Bridge's sponsorship program, she became the first of her family to graduate high school and now studies accounting in a local college. Soon she'll graduate with honors, and her career goals include helping Badjao Bridge to support other families in need.



Looking ahead, the future for the other younger Badjao kids doesn't look as uncertain anymore because of the support extended to them. Thanks to our donors in partnering with us in helping these children reach their dreams.

LITERACY

The Badjao kids are catching up with technology and are fast to learn. We are thankful for the generous donation of electronic tablets pre-loaded with educational apps, which could help us in our literacy efforts for children of all ages. However, we were not able to make full use of these tablets yet until we establish a secure location during our tutorial sessions. We expect to make use of this resource when our Lighthouse Learning Center is completed and fully functional.

PRESCHOOL

We continued to provide daily preschool lessons for students for the first half of the year. Children received books, lesson materials, and a healthy meal each day. However in June our classroom space was overrun by a rat infestation that made the area unsafe for children. It was decided to suspend classes until the completion of our Lighthouse Learning Center.

CHURCH PARTNERSHIP

While we were in transition this year, our Program Director Weng Amper occasionally would meet with our young Badjao children and high school students for values formation studies at her apartment. On Sundays, she would also meet up with our college students to feed them spiritually and equip them through a holistic discipleship training program.

Livelihood

PEARLS



Pearl products remain the main source of income for many Badjao families who can no longer fish because of government restrictions. We aimed to help them sell here in the U.S. but our livelihood efforts with these families continued to decrease this year, mainly because our volunteer, Hazel Johanson, is no longer available to dedicate sufficient time for it.

We continue to sell the artisans' pearl products at occasional fundraising sales in the U.S.

Complimentary Intervention

WATER, BASIC HEALTHCARE, AND SANITATION

With heavy hearts we report that another tragedy struck the community earlier this year. Three-year-old Jovert passed away due to complications after contracting a virus that swept through the tribe. At one point, more than 40 children were hospitalized at the overrun government hospital, all suffering from gastroenteritis and most were severely dehydrated. Our staff and volunteers quickly mobilized to purchase the prescribed medicine, which is not provided by the hospital.

Sadly, deaths among children we work with have become common enough that we've added a line item in our annual budget to help pay for funerals. This reality reminds us of the urgency to help this community.

Most kids we work with are malnourished, which weakens their immune system and easily cause them to fall sick. We aim to prevent that by giving them good nutrition. We've been providing school lunches for years now and have started a breakfast program this year using fortified meal packs from Kids Against Hunger. Thanks to our local volunteers who came and helped packed those meals that were shipped to the Philippines. Each volunteer donated 90 minutes of his time and \$20, which was enough to feed about 150 kids!

Thanks also to our surprise donor who covered the costs for our four new toilets and septic tanks in our new property. We aim to build more, as these toilets are a big help in improving sanitation in the community.

LIGHTHOUSE LEARNING CENTER AND LIVING COMMUNITY

Though the work wasn't fully complete yet, together with the Badjao community, we celebrated the progress and had our dedication for our Lighthouse Learning Center in December – such a momentous way of ending the year as we see this project finally come into fruition.

This multi-purpose facility will serve as a preschool, tutorial center, and emergency shelter for vulnerable children. It will be the strongest typhoon shelter available to sea-dwelling families - big enough to protect up to 30 families with small children. It also will provide families with access to safe water and sanitation through a rainwater filtration system and access to toilets. Donations totaling \$100,000 have brought us through design, planning, and most of the construction phase.



While completing this structure, we were also able to use some of our funds to construct a Living Community, on land, for a second Badjao tribe on a different island. It opened another door for us to help more Badjao children through our Child Sponsorship Program. This new property has a clean water source, is walking distance to the elementary school, and is accessible to a local town where families can sell their limited catch of fish.



Projects and Fundraisers

MISSION TRIPS

A group of volunteers (artists and photographers Ronnie, Alex, and Aisea) went in December with Executive Director Dan Johanson to visit two communities that we work with to collect their stories, document them, and connect with the Badjao community. The team also taught and empowered three selected students how to write and share their stories in a digital storytelling format.



Administration

- Executive Director Dan Johanson draws no salary from the Badjao Bridge program funds, thereby keeping our U.S. administrative budget less than \$2,000 a year. His salary is funded by his personal donor support network, which has sustained his ministry for nearly 20 years.
- Badjao Bridge Philippines and Badjao Bridge U.S. continued coordinated efforts to operate the programs as efficiently as possible.

Financials

	INCOME	EXPENSE	NET INCOME
Programs (1)	68,510	62,418	6,092
Lighthouse Projects (2)	14,217	53,991	(39,774)
Executive Director (3)	55,007	57,515	(2,508)
Totals	137,734	173,924	(36,190)

Board Members

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Ron Camaisa
Coleen Dalton
Wency dela Vina
Kim HuggeL (Chairman)
Jing Ocampo, January to
September
Suzanne Rothi
Carolyn Sparks
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THE PHILIPPINES BOARD

Jelon Billion, January to April
Wency dela Vina
Jonar Dorado (Treasurer)
Dan Johanson (Chairman)
Jing Ocampo
Bobot Migraso Marie Demafelis

Plans for 2018

- Continued expansion, provision, and oversight of our Child Sponsorship Program. We will begin efforts to reach our third tribal area which experiences even greater levels of impoverishment than our current locations. Our goal is to sponsor over 250 children this year!
- Work in close partnership with First Presbyterian Church of Hayward, which has pledged to help raise funds over the next 5 years for our program expansion.
- Completion of two new bathrooms with septic systems and a new tutorial & meal preparation space for our community in Palawan.
- In partnership with new volunteers, we will restart of our livelihood efforts to sell pearl products made by Badjao families.
- To keep up with our expansion efforts, we will be hiring a new in-country Executive Director and training three new Program Facilitators.