



Q1 | AMA PHILIPPINES NEWSLETTER

STORIES OF SERVICE

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Associate Missionaries of the Assumption



Join Us in
Service!
email at
amaphils@gmail.com

Why Volunteer with AMA?

- 1. Meaningful Impact:** As an AMA volunteer, you have the opportunity to make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need. Whether you're teaching in a school, assisting in a parish program, or supporting an NGO, your contributions have a direct and lasting impact on the communities you serve.
- 2. Personal Growth:** Volunteering provides a unique opportunity for personal growth and self-discovery. Through service, you'll develop valuable skills, gain new perspectives, and cultivate a deeper sense of empathy and compassion for others.
- 3. Community and Connection:** Joining AMA means becoming part of a vibrant and supportive community dedicated to serving others. You'll forge meaningful connections with fellow volunteers, beneficiaries, and partner organizations, creating a network of support and friendship that lasts a lifetime.
- 4. Spiritual Fulfillment:** Rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ, volunteering with AMA offers a profound opportunity for spiritual growth and fulfillment. By living out the values of love, compassion, and solidarity, you'll experience a deeper connection to your faith and a sense of purpose in serving others.





Milo Uygongco: A year of Discovery at Kids Kabin UK

Embarking on a journey of self-discovery and service, Milo delved into a transformative volunteer year with AMA at Kids Kabin in the UK. Armed with the valuable lessons instilled by AMA, Milo found himself equipped with newfound independence and honed time management skills, ready to tackle the challenges and adventures that awaited.

Stepping into the vibrant community of Kids Kabin, Milo's perspective on volunteering expanded exponentially. Immersed in a diverse array of activities, from teaching kids cooking, woodwork, pottery, art, and more, Milo's interactions with the children were nothing short of unforgettable. Each moment spent with the eager young learners left an indelible mark, reinforcing the profound impact of fostering connections beyond borders.

Embracing the opportunity to reconnect with communities outside the Philippines, it was an eye-opening revelation, realizing that despite geographical differences, the shared mission of service and community transcended boundaries, fostering a deeper sense of connection and solidarity.

Yet, amidst the myriad of experiences, Milo's volunteer year was also a humbling one. Grappling with the complexities and challenges of working in a new environment, Milo discovered the profound humility that accompanies true service. Each interaction, each lesson learned, served as a reminder of the power of empathy and compassion in shaping meaningful relationships.

Central to Milo's experience were the bonds forged with the sisters and staff of Kids Kabin. United by a shared commitment to service and education, these connections served as pillars of support and guidance throughout Milo's journey.

As Milo reflects on his volunteer year with AMA at Kids Kabin, one thing remains abundantly clear – the profound impact of service knows no bounds.



The Ark of Love (an excerpt)

Written by URBANO A. SANICO JR.



It was a rainy day in August 2014 when I started as an AMA Volunteer. After a few days of orientation at the welcoming community of Madrangca, San Jose, Antique, we were sent to different mission areas. I'm a teacher by profession. I joined AMA because I wanted to share my knowledge and experiences, and AMA's ministry is in line with my career. I thought everything was perfect: a teacher's license right after graduation as well as teaching experience in Sta. Rita Academy-Assumption Antique. I was confident that Ms. Gamay Solis, the AMA Coordinator, would assign me to an Assumption school here in the Philippines but I ended up in a place for which I was not prepared L'Arche Philippines/Arko ng Pilipinas Inc., a community in Cainta, Rizal that takes care of persons with intellectual and mental disabilities.

I struggled for months in the mission area. In my past teaching experience, I was the leader of my students but in L'Arche they were my teachers. I did not expect much from them, and I learned to accept myself and to value the present moment. I became a Special Education teacher for basic reading, writing, and arithmetic to special children every morning and a Workshop Coordinator in the afternoon. We made bead crafts and cards made of grass.

At night, I slept in the room of Raymond, who kept shouting. In the morning, I assisted him in taking a bath using the language of silence. There were times when I felt I was really tired but I just looked at them and saw that they were happy to see me, so I never stopped loving and caring for them.

They even surprised me on my birthday! Ate Lala and Ate Rea brought a cake in front of me, saying "bawal ang umiyak" ("no crying"). I made a wish and blew the candle. JP and Benito sang in front of me while Mariflor gave a card. Life is full of surprises, indeed! They really taught me how to love and that I should love first in order to be patient. I thank God so much for bringing me to L'Arche Community. In those moments of my life, I discovered my talents and abilities such as dancing, writing poems, and organizing activities. Most of all, it led me to a path where I learned to be near Jesus.

Finally, when people ask me if the L'Arche community learned so much from me, my answer is the reverse: the assistants, volunteers, and children taught me a lot.

St. Marie Eugenie of Jesus, foundress of the Religious of the Assumption, reminds me that with love I can do great things: "The world is too small for my love". -SME

Transforming Lives: Why Your Donation to AMA Matters



1. Empowering Communities: Your donation enables AMA to expand its reach and impact, empowering marginalized communities with the resources and support they need to thrive. From educational programs to community development initiatives, your contribution directly benefits those in need, creating lasting change for generations to come.

2. Fostering Compassion: By supporting AMA, you're helping to cultivate a culture of compassion and solidarity within society. Your donation enables us to continue our vital work of inspiring young people to embrace the values of empathy, kindness, and social responsibility, shaping a more just and inclusive world for all.

3. Creating Opportunities: Your generosity provides opportunities for individuals to engage in meaningful volunteer work and service projects, empowering them to make a tangible difference in the lives of others. Whether through teaching, mentoring, or community outreach, volunteers supported by your donation are catalysts for positive change within their communities.

4. Building a Better Future: Ultimately, your donation to AMA is an investment in a brighter future for all. By supporting our mission of service and social justice, you're contributing to the creation of a world where every individual has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their background or circumstances.

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