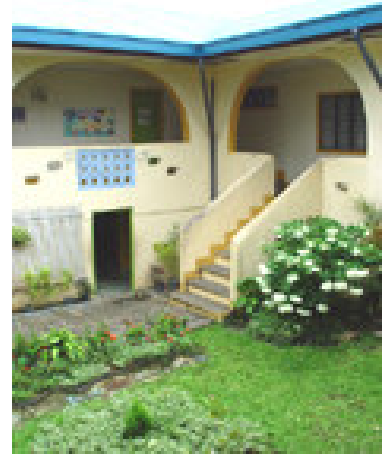


Orphanage Support Program in Philippines (in Progress)

"**Bukid Kabataan**" or Children's Farm is an orphanage in General Trias, Cavite run by the Religious of the Good Shepherd (RGS). It houses around 50 youngsters, with ages ranging from 5 – 16 years old. The project is a long and short-term residential program (on a case by case basis) for the treatment and rehabilitation of the physically and sexually abused children aged 7-16, usually abandoned or orphaned and have lived in the streets for some time. The project location is a six hectare plot of lush farm land, in the town of General Trias, province of Cavite, about 2-hour drive from Manila. The environment is clean and spacious, providing healing activities like planting, fish culture, hog, chicken and duck-raising and wide vistas of clear blue skies.



Aim of the project: Facilitating the healing and rehabilitation of children who have been physically and sexually abused. It includes spiritual and value-formation, group living, special education, psychological and psychiatric treatment as needed, and all the social services required by this specialized group of children.

Project beneficiaries: Children aged 7-16 rescued from life in the streets or referred by appropriate social agencies or church groups because of physical or sexual abuse. The center can accommodate an average of 52 girls in the girls' building and 50 boys in the boys' residence, annually.

Programs:

- **Group Living** (2x a month): To enable the children to get involved in center life & make the residence a semblance of home, children are taught home management. They are provided with recreational activities necessary for the development of their talents and skills.
- **Psychological Healing/ Building of Self- Esteem:** To help these children regain their lost self-esteem and self-confidence, residents are provided with psycho-social activities necessary for self-expression e.g. self-awareness sessions, expressive therapies (dance, art, theater & music). Children undergo psychological tests to evaluate their psycho-social status. Children who have special needs e.g. for psychotherapy are referred to other line agencies for assistance. Occupational/ Eco therapy through gardening and care for mother earth initiatives are part of the healing techniques implemented. Children are also provided with regular counseling (individual & group).
- **Spiritual & Value Formation** (weekly): To enable the children to acquire values & practices that will help them live as good Christians, children are taught basic prayers. They also celebrate special church feasts. Basic catechism and Good Moral Conduct are part of group sessions.
- **Social Consciousness:** To help the children become aware of local, national and global events, they are given the opportunity to watch the news during the evening. Interactive news viewing gives children the opportunity to express how issues affect themselves and others.
- **Physical Development** (health care program): "A healthy body creates a healthy mind". This is the center's underlying principle. We ensure that every child is given proper intake of food, vitamins & medicines. They have regular physical exercise during Saturdays & Sundays. Children are provided with regular dental & medical check-up.



- **Education** (Grade I: Special Education / Grade II-VI: Formal Education) : BK has its own special school for children requiring special care. Children are also given tutorial lessons-supplemental education to promote interest in studies.
- **After-care:** For children who been reconciled and returned to their families, educational assistance is provided. BK Social Worker conducts home visitations to observe the progress of the child after his/her re-integration with their family.
- **Counseling Services:** As a part of outreach program, counseling services are provided to anybody who seeks help.
- **Integrated Farm:** Since the majority of these children can hardly cope with academics, they are taught skills for livelihood and socio-economic initiatives. This is to prepare them economically in the future. But very importantly, farming is instilled as a healing alternative and supplement to the expressive therapies supplied by the center.



- **Temporary Shelter:** This is for children referred temporarily by other agencies to the Center while placement to other agency is being processed. Duration: at most 3 months.
- **Crisis Intervention:** For walk-in- clients who are in crisis and need of immediate intervention
- **Outreach Program:** This service is given in the form of educational assistance, BEC and livelihood opportunities to the adopted community of the BK center. Children who deserve & have the interest in study are given priority. This serves as our link to the community.



DCI, Director Carolyn Baltazar visited several orphanages in Philippines in 2008 and was very impressed with the activities of Bukit Kabatan. With the intention of creating a support system for them through DCI, Carolyn visited the Bukit Kabatan orphanage again in 2009. She spent her time there to understand day-to-day activities of the orphanage; she interacted with the children to evaluate their progress /program effect on them. She is currently in the process of creating a partnership & support system for this orphanage through DCI which we expect to start in 2010.