



# Hope Carrier



THE NEWSLETTER OF CREATE THE CHANGE AUSTRALASIA  
APRIL 2026

## MARICRIS CARRIES HOPE TO THE PHILIPPINES

Healing · Dignity · Restoration · Future — Create the Change Australia



This April, the spirit of bayanihan was very strong. Our team set out on a trip across the Ilocos Sur, Metro Manila and Rizal from April 21st to 25th for the *"Maricris Carries Hope to the Philippines"* outreach mission. This mission came about because we all were driven to show compassion and help others.



Maricris won the Pasaalamat Raffle, which made this amazing trip possible. We are very thankful to all the donors for their incredible generosity that made this mission a reality.

Throughout the week, the team traveled to various communities, delivering more than just supplies. WE DELIVERED HOPE.

In this edition of the newsletter, we invite you to look back at the highlights of these five days. We share the smiles, the stories of resilience, and the deep impact your support has made on the ground. Thank you for being a part of this journey to carry hope where it is needed most.

## BALAY TARIPTATO ELDERLY CARE OUTREACH

Our mission journey began on April 21st with a deeply moving visit to the 11 lolo's and lola's in Balay Taripato, a sanctuary for the elderly. Maricris and the CTCA team arrived with warm meals and open hearts, but the true gift of the day was the connection shared between generations.

We gave them a warm meal of pancit (noodles), water and bread. A carepack consisting powdered milk and cupcakes were also distributed among the precious lolo's and lola's. Maricris even added chocolates she brought over from Australasia which they happily munched on.

Beyond the giving of a warm meal, we dedicated our time to sit with the residents as they shared cherished memories and life lessons. Ensuring each person was approached with the honor and grace they deserve. And we simply "being there" to provide companionship and let them know they are not forgotten.



It was a beautiful reminder that a simple conversation or a shared smile can be just as healing as any medicine. The stories we heard at Balay Taripato have left a lasting mark on our hearts, setting a tone of deep empathy and respect for the remainder of our mission.

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## ILOCOS SUR PROVINCIAL JAIL OUTREACH



After our outreach in Balay Taripato, we drove to Ilocos Sur Provincial Jail. The goal was to provide nourishment and, most importantly, show that they are not forgotten. .

We had a programme for 137 male and female inmates where we had a fellowship, sharing of words of hope and encouragement. We also gave cooked pancit to all inmates including jail officers. Everyone loved the delicious meal!

We were humbled by the talent of the jail residents, who welcomed us with heartwarming songs. It was a day of prayer, connection, and breaking down walls.

They are very thankful for visiting them and for the support that allows us to extend care and compassion to those in need.

## MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC

*BRGY. DAMMAY, SANTA, ILOCOS SUR*

The journey to provide care often takes us off the beaten path—and sometimes, across the water. Our mobile medical clinic traveled to Dammay, an island baranggay in Ilocos Sur.

Reaching this community required the team to board local boats, carrying essential medical supplies and hope to an area where healthcare access is a daily challenge.

About 60 people in need of medical attention were served during the mobile medical clinics. Maricris helped in the pharmacy area, where she and another volunteer gave medicines and vitamins prescribed by resident volunteer doctor Dr. Maite.

We also left some medicines for their newly-built barangay clinic. The once-empty medicine cabinet were now filled with essentials for the residents.

It was a community effort as our project coordinators, husband and wife Ps. Rene Tabaco and Dr. Maite Tabaco were worried there won't be enough medical volunteers because the project is happening on a weekday. But, the nursing students of a medical college volunteered. They help us by manning the registration and triage. They also assisted in allocating medicines for the patients. Some volunteers from the local health unit also helped make the outreach efficient.

We are thankful for the all-out support of the baranggay who even prepared snacks and lunch for all of the team. We left with a happy tummy and a full heart.



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## CHILDREN'S OUTREACH AND FEEDING

Kasiglahan, Montalban & Tondo Manila



Our team visited Kasiglahan, Montalban, Rizal, again to conduct Outreach and Feeding Project for the local children. The day was filled with more than just food; it was a celebration of community and care.

The event began with a shared prayer and singing songs, bringing everyone together in a spirit of gratitude and hope. Each child received a warm meal of rice and chicken curry paired with a banana. Beyond nourishment, we were able to provide clothes to the children, helping meet their basic daily needs.

Our team of ten (10) volunteers served about fifty (50) kids that day. That's 50 young lives impacted. We will never forget their smiles and laughter.

It was truly moving to see the smiles and the sense of togetherness under the shade of our outreach tent. Missions like these in Rizal are a vital part of our ongoing commitment to children's welfare and community support.

Our commitment to serving those in need continues as we bring our outreach efforts to the heart of Tondo, Manila. This initiative remains a cornerstone of our mission to support local families and uplift the next generation.

This is an urban poor area where families live in shanties made of scrap tin roof, cardboard and a mixture of wood and blocks.

We gave meals of the favorite pancit noodles paired with juice and a cupcakes to more than 100 kids of different ages. We also distributed clothes lovingly made by Dorcas Ladies Mission to each of the kids including babies.

Maricris wasn't able to join us this time due to health concerns exacerbated by the hot weather, but it was her fundraising efforts that fueled this mission.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this day in Kasiglahan and Tondo so special!

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## QUEZON CITY JAIL MALE DORMITORY – CARE PACKS GIVING



Our team distributed Care Packs containing soaps, shampoo and toothpaste to 60 inmates including the 10 inmate bakers from Hope Oven.

During the outreach, we had a support group session where we sang songs, shared stories of hope and talked about their problems, worries and burdens. Some inmates are in great need as they were never visited by their families due to distance and circumstances. They miss their families so much and it hurts them. They keep on working on themselves, trying to get free of the cycle of crime and drugs that landed them there so that they could start a new life when they are free.

We also had fun where two inmates composed a rap song that they sang during the fellowship. The song detailed their struggles, longings, and also their hopes and dreams. We are grateful to

experience this, our Jorge's Hope Jail Program humanizes the inmates and dives deeper into their hearts of who they really are, apart from their incarceration. It gives the hope that the late Ps. Jorge Bagasan, the program's namesake – has hoped for: an inmate SET FREE from the chains and cycle of poverty and sin that held them.

## HOPE OVEN: WHERE HOPE RISES

*Supporting Livelihood at Quezon City Jail*

In the same jail, we are proud to share that our team recently donated a bread display rack as part of our HOPE OVEN : Where hope rises Project.



Hope indeed rises with each equipment we are able to donate as the display rack would mean the bakery livelihood products will be better marketed inside the jail. It was placed inside the commissary area so inmates, visitors, and personnel could purchase their breads and support the initiative. It would also mean more sales for the project.

We also visited the production area, talked to the bakers where they shared their hopes and dreams. Our goal is to continue providing necessary equipment and skills so more inmates could be trained and employed. We envision that when they are integrated back into the society, they will have a skillset and opportunity to earn income.

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The BJMP Quezon City Jail - Male Dormitory expressed their deep gratitude for the continued support of their livelihood program. This initiative is vital for the continued growth of skills among Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL), providing them with meaningful training and opportunities for the future.

It was inspiring to see the dedication of the team behind the bakery livelihood, and we look forward to seeing HOPE OVEN continue to flourish.

## CELEBRATING MUMS AT MANILA CITY JAIL

Early Mother's Day Care Packs Distribution and Jail Concert to honor and give love to 150 mothers who are currently incarcerated and are far from their beloved children.

The day was filled with music, joy, and community. Volunteers and PDL's shared the stage for a musical celebration that brought smiles and laughter to everyone present.

We also distributed care packs containing soaps, shampoo, toothpaste and hair conditioner to the mothers, providing essential items and a reminder that they are remembered and valued.

Beyond the music and gifts, the event was about sharing hope and encouragement with the women as they celebrated Mother's Day in advance.

We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to bring light and music to this community, and we thank everyone who supported this mission of compassion.



We were also invited to their annual Ms. Sportsfest pageant showcasing the talents, sportsmanship and camaraderie among the women PDLs. Our Jorge's Hope Jail program manager Ps. Merriam Bagasan, Khey Gambe and Jecel Pascual served as judges.

## What's Next?

Our mission doesn't end here. While this specific trip has concluded, the needs of these communities remain. The #HopeCarrier mission is a continuous effort to bring care and light to those who need it most across the Philippines.

You can make a lasting impact by providing the resources needed for our next mission. Keep an eye out for updates on our upcoming outreach events as we continue to serve our communities.



**DONATE NOW!**

Scan QR  
All donations of \$2+ are tax-deductible.



Thank you for carrying hope with us! Together, we are proving that no island is too far and no heart is too heavy to be reached with a little bit of kindness.

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