



MANO AMIGA
PHILIPPINES



RAISING RESILIENCE

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

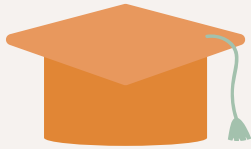
OUR PURPOSE IS TO FORM EACH
PERSON'S HEART, MIND, AND SOUL

With Dignity, In Service.

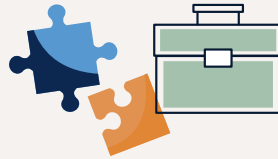
Mano Amiga Philippines empowers people and communities through education and development programs focused on enabling every individual to achieve their fullest potential.



Our Programs



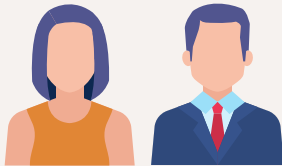
Affordable High Quality
K-12 Education



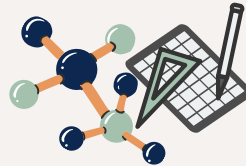
Skills Training and
Sustainable Livelihood



Digital Literacy



Teacher Training



STEM Enrichment



Community Development
and Advocacy
Communication Campaigns

OUR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

International Quality Education Through Mano Amiga Academy

Mano Amiga Academy uses a rigorous curriculum and international instructional materials that have been developed based on local and global standards of excellence. We offer a personalized and holistic formation: a support tailored to the needs and circumstance of every child, an experiential approach to teaching the Catholic faith, and the integration of values in every subject and school activity



WHAT SETS MANO AMIGA APART FROM OTHER SCHOOLS

Project-Based Learning (PBL)

Our Project Based Learning (PBL) approach entails applying classroom learning to solve real-world problems, strengthening a student's critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills.

In Mano Amiga, students focus on using what they learn to create projects that help address society's pressing issues like environmental degradation, climate change, and poverty.



WHAT SETS MANO AMIGA APART FROM OTHER SCHOOLS

Socio-Emotional Learning and Mental Wellbeing Support

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Through an intensive SEL program, Mano Amiga students develop self-awareness, self-management, and responsible decision making skills that are essential not just in strengthening one's character but also in maintaining good mental health and well-being.



Integral Formation

Integral Formation® is the harmonious development of all dimensions of the human person. In our educational method, we focus on the following four dimensions: Intellectual, Character, Spiritual and Apostolic. Intellectual Formation is the development of each facet of a child's intellect: critical thinking, analysis and synthesis, relation and expression.



HUMAN AND CHARACTER



SPIRITUAL



APOSTOLIC



INTELLECTUAL

INTEGRAL FORMATION



Human and Character

Human Formation is focused on developing a child's character by helping them form habits of virtue, strengthening their leadership skills, and fostering personal integrity, responsibility, and convictions.



Spiritual

Spiritual Formation provides the opportunities for a child to develop a close and personal relationship with God. This occurs in a spiritual environment that encourages the life of grace through daily prayer and practice of virtues, opportunities for sacraments, and classes that study the fullness of Catholic faith in all its richness.



Apostolic

Apostolic Formation is focused on developing a child's apostolic heart for service, one who seeks to respond to the needs of others around them and inspiring others to do the same.



Intellectual

drawing the best out of students natural aptitudes, preparing them for higher academic achievement.

WHAT SETS MANO AMIGA APART FROM OTHER SCHOOLS

Partnerships with Parents

We work with the entire family in educating and forming their child. Parents volunteer two hours a week in the school, and have access to monthly formation programs.

We conduct annual house visits to genuinely understand their situation at home.





Monthly Highlights of 2020

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: APRIL

Start of Bi-Monthly Efforts Providing Medicine, Food, and Hygiene Kits for 500 Families in Brgy. Don Bosco and FTI

Thanks to the efforts of Father Felipe Villalobos, and donations from Everest Academy, VIS Foundation, and countless individuals, we were able to conduct relief operations for Mano Amiga families whose livelihood had been jeopardised by the lockdown.

The care packages enabled the Mano Amiga team to bring food, vitamins, and other essentials to 100 families every two weeks.

“Our family received not only material support, but most of all, encouragement for us parents to cope during these trying times,” Mano Amiga Academy Parent, Jessica Madelo shared in an online post after receiving the relief pack.



2020 HIGHLIGHTS: MAY



Mano Amiga's pioneer batch graduated from Junior High School through a virtual graduation ceremony

Majority of these students had been in Mano Amiga since they were 4 years old. After graduation, the students were awarded by Mano Amiga with Senior High School scholarships in their chosen schools.

In her gratitude speech, Integra Mulier Awardee Lovely Villar thanked the school, "You made us grow into better individuals, ready to face the world ahead of us."

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: JUNE

Mano Amiga launched the Connect the Gap campaign



Mano Amiga launched Connect the Gap in order to provide gadgets and internet connection for the students, teachers, and staff

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: AUGUST

Mano Amiga officially opens the 2020-2021 School Year, through an online program that combines synchronous and asynchronous learning.



The school also amped up its student and family support services- introducing monthly Socio-Emotional Learning sessions, regular Guidance counsellor check-ins, lockdown-related parenting support workshops, and even a technical assistance hotline for those with concerns on using gadgets and the online platform.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: SEPTEMBER

Globe STEM Kits



Mano Amiga partnered with Globe in developing the Globe Maker Lab and Innovation Hub, a program designed to improve the access to STEM education of students from all socio-economic classes by providing a Makerlab facility, training programs for public school teachers, and experiential activities for kids. One of the components of the program is the Mano Amiga STEM Club where Mano Amiga students learn electronics, coding, and robotics. STEM Kits that consist of electronics and robotics tools were distributed to the club members so they can have the full STEM experience despite the current education landscape.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: OCTOBER

Mano Amiga, in partnership with Unilever and Shopee, launches the Skills for Success program, to provide training and cash grants to businesses affected by the pandemic.



Last year, Unilever and Shopee teamed up again for the annual #BeautyThatCares sale to help support small local businesses who have been affected by the pandemic. A portion of the proceeds from the sale would go directly to Mano Amiga's Skills for Success Grant and Training Program, which will help small local businesses start, sustain, or scale their business. Qualified applicants will be divided into the Startup and Growing Business Tracks, where they will be given a monetary grant and undergo their respective training programs. The Startup Business Track will undergo online training on the basics of entrepreneurship, finance, and social media marketing, while those assigned to the Growing Business Track will participate in Shopee's Training Program, where they will be guided on how to set up and maximize the use of the Shopee platform to expand their business.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: NOVEMBER

Mano Amiga completes the second phase of construction, including the fourth floor roof

2015



2021



Executive Director Lynn Pinugu shared, “After six years, Mano Amiga finally has a roof. When we first built the school, we only raised enough funds to construct up to the third floor. So for six years, the school dealt with minor flooding during rainy months, and almost unbearable heat the rest of the year. The new building eventually looked worn-out because of the water that seeped through the walls.

Fundraising for the first phase had already required so much of our physical and mental efforts, so it was admittedly a bit frustrating to be faced with another major challenge so soon.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: NOVEMBER

As what working in Mano Amiga constantly teaches me however— teamwork, perseverance, & faith do not make the goal less difficult, but they certainly make it possible.

This milestone belongs to the Mano Amiga trustees (they're often not as visible to the public but their unwavering support is what has kept us going for the past 12 years) and the entire Mano Amiga team who tirelessly rallied behind the project; and of course, to all the generous souls who have embraced our mission as their own.



The campus is not yet finished. The damaged exteriors need to be repainted and the fourth floor interiors haven't been built- something that has been deprioritized for now because of online learning. I imagine though that when the building is finally complete, I'll feel then what I do now— heart filled with indebted gratitude for the opportunity to serve, to create, to receive.

Thank you for continuing to walk with the Mano Amiga community on this journey. To God be the Glory Always."

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: DECEMBER

Mano Amiga ended the year with the Raising Resilience event where in the students shared what they learned during the pandemic



Grade 5 student, Matthew Mamangon shared, “I practice hope by keeping in mind that if you study well you will have a better future for yourself and for your family.”

OUR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Training and Sustainable Livelihood for Disadvantaged Individuals

The Feed The World Livelihood Inc, more known as Bistro Cafe, is the official social enterprise arm of Mano Amiga. Bistro Café has three main programs: direct employment as cafeteria crew of Bistro Cafe and maintenance staff of Mano Amiga, provide skills training, and facilitate employment linkages to reputable businesses.

100% of its profits are donated to the Mano Amiga scholarship fund. To date, both Feed the World Livelihood Program and Bistro Cafe have benefitted over 200 individuals from low-income communities through its training and livelihood programs.

Despite the closure of cafeteria operations due to the pandemic, Mano Amiga continued to provide livelihood support to the staff of Bistro Cafe, as part of the school's maintenance and administrative staff.



HELP THAT GOES BEYOND

Story of the Andes Family

The pandemic-induced lockdown jeopardised the livelihood of many Mano Amiga families. Some temporarily lost their jobs, while others lost their employment completely.

One of the families who were deeply affected is the Andes family, whose daughter Cheska is currently a Grade 10 scholar in Mano Amiga. The Father had lost his job and there were times during the lockdown when the family wasn't sure how they were going to pay for food along with their other living expenses. For the Andes family, the relief goods and care packages being distributed by Mano Amiga became a valuable source of support.



“Minsan, tight na tight na, tapos sakto merong i-didistribute ang Mano na ayuda. Laking pasasalamat ko na lang talaga. lalo na't nagmamahal ang bilihin”, Mrs. Andes shared.

“There were times when money was really tight and then, we would receive a timely donation of relief goods from Mano [Amiga]. I am very grateful, specially now that the price of goods have increased.”

HELP THAT GOES BEYOND

Educational Support Amid Uncertainty: Testimonial of the Andes Family

As the lockdown progressed, the Andes family started getting anxious about the online education of their children. Even if they are able to save money on tuition fees because of the Mano Amiga scholarship, they still did not have enough money to invest in the resources needed for online learning.

Knowing fully well the financial situation and lack of digital access of most families, Mano Amiga launched the Connect the Gap campaign in June 2020 to ensure all its scholars would be able to participate in online learning. The campaign raised over P400,000 pesos which enabled Mano Amiga to provide over a hundred families, teachers and staff access to gadget and internet connection support— including the Andes family.

“Thankful po ako sa Connect the Gap kasi tatlo po kaming magkakapatid at isa lang po ang available gadget. Buti po nabigyan kami ng dalawang laptops para po may magamit ako at ang kapatid ko,” Cheska shared.



HELP THAT GOES BEYOND

Educational Support Amid Uncertainty: Testimonial of the Andes Family

I am thankful for the Connect the Gap (campaign) because we are three siblings and only one gadget. It was a good thing we were given two laptops so that my siblings and I have something to use.”

In one virtual school event, Cheska shared in a speech that although 2020 has been difficult, she is grateful to be part of a “supportive school”. She cited how the teachers really motivated her to do well and to study despite the challenges of having online classes, and how the guidance counsellor always checks up on her.

She ended her talk by expressing her desire to personally thank the donor--who’s sponsoring her education--“I want to say thank you, because going to school really really means a lot to me.”



HELP THAT GOES BEYOND



Mano Amiga Alumni raise funds for Pedicab Drivers through Polaroid Paintings

Moved by the stories of families who had lost their jobs because of the community quarantine, two Mano Amiga scholars started HOPEN- which stands for Hopeful and Open-hearted People Encouraging Niceness. Zycareine, 17 and Lovely, 16, created polaroid paintings and sold it for 50php each.

"An idea started in these lines 'I was bored, I can't just lie down in my bed knowing other families are struggling and I'm just doing nothing'." Zycareine said.

HOPEN, is largely composed of the pioneer batch of students who graduated from Mano Amiga's Junior High school in 2020.

HELP THAT GOES BEYOND

Mano Amiga Alumni raise funds for Pedicab Drivers through Polaroid Paintings



They continue to receive a scholarship assistance from Mano Amiga, while enrolled in their chosen Senior High Schools. Zycareine describes themselves as young people “who have big dreams and would like to change the world for the better.” Their goal is for HOPEN “to spread hope and open our hearts to those people in need”, and to raise awareness about important social issues in their community.

Zycareine mentioned that they initially had doubts whether their idea would work but they decided to pursue it anyway. In a few weeks, they were able to raise Php4,700, to provide food and relief goods to the families of Pedicab Drivers living in Sampaloc Site II, Paranaque City.

“This help may seem small but seeing how the people we helped smiled as they receive the goods, we cannot be grateful enough,” she said. “It wiped all the doubt that we felt before.”

HELP US GROW

Be Our Scholarship Partner



The school's greatest challenge is to find scholarships for our students. It takes Php35,000 a year to create opportunities for students with immense potential, regardless of their background. Each scholarship covers the per pupil's operational expenses of the school, including instructional materials, teachers' salaries and training sessions, utilities, and classroom materials.

GET INVOLVED

Mano Amiga constantly looks for volunteers who can help us provide dynamic and enriching after-school activities in the fields of sports, arts, music, science, and values formation. Volunteer activities are now held virtually.

HOW TO DONATE



Your Help Goes A Long Way

You could make the cheque payable to Mano Amiga Academy, Inc. or deposit directly to our bank account.

Direct Deposit thru BDO (Philippines)

Account Name: Mano Amiga Academy, Inc.
Account Number: 206-013-1495
Bank Name: Banco De Oro Bank
Branch: Bonifacio Global City Branch
City, Country: Taguig City, Philippines

Direct Deposit thru BDO (International)

Account Name: Mano Amiga Academy, Inc.
Account Number: 102-060-013-177
Swift ID: BNORPHMM
Bank Name: Banco De Oro Bank
Branch: Bonifacio Global City Branch
City, Country: Taguig City, Philippines



MANO AMIGA
ACADEMY

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