

AFFLIP Health and Nutrition

*This article outlines the work of AFFLIP and the Flagship Program Health and Nutrition.
Source: Department of Education Region XI – Davao City, Mindanao, Southern Philippines*



Unique features for Health and Nutrition

The Gulayan sa Paaralan was implemented in 2007 and was sustained all throughout the years, but the Health and Nutrition program of AFFLIP (Australian Foundation for Fostering Learning in the Philippines) added unique features all for the benefit of the school children.

AFFLIP has continued to support all elementary schools in Talomo District in Davao City since 2011 with the provision of gardening equipment and major projects in aquaponics, hydroponics, elevated greenhouses, and plant nurseries.

This becomes a unique learning environment that provides distinctive experiences to learners through outdoor immersion. Through school gardening, for example, it allows students to plant, cultivate the crops daily during their EPP (Edukasyong Pantahanan at Pangkabuhayan) subject.

Mahalia Sol G. Laroscain, a teacher of A. Mabini Elementary School (ES), recalled how the Health and Nutrition program of AFFLIP has hugely helped the school.

“For the past 10 years, the school garden was relocated four times to pave way for the construction of the classrooms. And in those years, AFFLIP provided substantial amount to rehabilitate and relocate the school garden,” she said.

She also said the program helped them revive and construct the aquaculture, aquaponics,



Students cultivate crops daily



A Mabini Elementary School Greenhouse

hydroponics, and poultry house as part of the school garden.

True enough, Laroscain said it has become an exciting activity for students to have something to look forward to every day when face-to-face learning was allowed.

The objective is to help schools sustain their feeding programs once children return to school through the growing of vegetables, tending of fishponds, and even rearing of chickens for poultries.

Since children stay at home in this time of pandemic, the produce is given to identified families. But when the schools are ready for face-to-face classes, the schools in Talomo District are more prepared to make the wasted and severely wasted nutritional status of learners to become normal. It will also reinforce skills in rearing fish, chicken, and vegetables which they can apply in their homes.

Catalunan Pequeno ES has aquaculture, hydroponics, and poultry. The school has started its school pantry of vegetables for distribution to their learners.

Talomo CES has a poultry and hydroponics, A. Mabini ES has built an aquaculture and a poultry while Generoso ES and Catalunan Grande ES have aquaculture. All the 15 elementary schools have maintained a school garden.



Catalunan Pequeno ES championed in the fancy drill for the 59th Founding Anniversary, 2019 Council Scout Jamboree, and EMR-Regional Scouts Jamboree.

The fish and vegetables harvested during the normal time were used to augment the budget for the school-based feeding program.

First aid kits and trainings were also provided to the schools. AFFLIP has also given support to Boy Scout of the Philippines (BSP) and Girl Scout of the Philippines (GSP) registration.

In fact, Catalunan Pequeno ES championed in the fancy drill for the 59th Founding Anniversary, 2019 Council Scout Jamboree, and EMR-Regional Scouts Jamboree. For the GSP, the district belonged to the top three in performance out of 22 districts.

The Health and Nutrition, as one of the five flagship programs of AFFLIP chaired by Alastair Douglas, has raised \$70,000 or more than 1.8 million pesos for this program.

AFFLIP is a voluntary, non-government, not for profit Foundation based in South Australia. The project started during the time of Assistant Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion when she was still the schools' division superintendent of Davao City Division.



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