



## Tutorial Program in the Philippines

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected everyone globally, presenting new challenges and forcing people to make adjustments, find new ways of coping, and become more flexible in how they approach the world.

Pearl S. Buck Foundation Philippines (PSBP) has made significant changes in the implementation of its programs since March 2020. One of the educational programs is the Tutorial Program for the sponsored children who need academic intervention both in Math and in English. This used to be done in a school-based setting, both in groups and one-on-one. The tutors are professional teachers from both public and private schools. This year, this program needed a new design based on the current educational system in the Philippines, which has shifted to online and home modular classes due to the pandemic.

The basis of the home modular class is learning modules prepared by the teachers, but implemented at home under the guidance of parents, siblings, or anyone who can assist the students. Parents have had difficulty with this, however, as many of them did not finish college or even high school. PSBP, therefore, came up with the idea of involving all its college scholars to be tutors for sponsored children and facilitating the modules instead of the parents. To date, there are 63 college scholars



who are directly involved in PSBP's Online and Home-Based Tutorial Program. A total of 101 sponsored children are the recipients of this program, which will hopefully lead to academic improvements. Math and English are no longer the only focus; tutors help the students with their entire learning modules. PSBP observed that the program has been working and has been beneficial to both the learners and the tutors; the students' grades have improved, and the college scholars get some experience in mentoring and teaching and they are happy to do it.

“Being a tutor is a great experience,” said Reinalyn, a psychology major and PSBP college scholar from Rizal Technological University. “It unleashes my hidden skills in teaching and in subjects that I thought I could not do well.”

Economics major and PSBP college scholar Fiona, who attends University of the Philippines-Los Banos noted, “This new normal thing is very different and what I integrate in my teaching is the attitude of focus. Since many students are now distracted with so many gadgets, they need to focus. So far, they are coping and trying to absorb all the lessons I guide and teach them.”

This program—and so many others—are made possible by the generosity of our child sponsors and donors. Thank you for your unwavering support in bridging cultures and changing lives!



## Helping Sponsored Children Know Their Self-Worth



Pearl S. Buck International's August Appeal highlights the essential help our international offices provide to sponsored children in the form of psycho-social services, thanks to the generous support of child sponsors and project donors. You provide so many things to the children in the sponsorship program like nutritious food, necessary health care, and educational opportunities. But **you also let these children know they are worth it—and you not only help them survive, you help them thrive.** Psycho-social services have always been an essential part of our international programs but especially over the past year, as the children have dealt with the extra stress and trauma of the Covid-19 pandemic, **these services have become lifesaving.**

Minggamol, a hill tribe girl living in Thailand, benefited from many of these psycho-social services as a sponsored child.

Minggamol's parents income was low and unreliable when she enrolled in the child sponsorship program. She was very shy and felt uncomfortable associating with the other children and staff members. That soon changed. In addition to the food, health care, and education she received, Minggamol and her family received counseling and advice through home visits on how to avoid getting sick, how to apply herself in school, and training in life skills such as improving communication among family members. Minggamol attended psycho-social camp programs where, no longer shy and reticent to interact with others, she became a group leader, assisting staff with preparing materials and looking after and caring for younger sponsored children in the camps. In school, she joined and won singing contests. She developed a love for learning, graduated high school, got married, and had a daughter.

Due to her confidence, communication skills, and ability to read and write, her village leader asked her to become his assistant.

In this role, she continues to learn about how government works and how to advocate for the people of her village.

Gaining an education and not having to worry about food or health care were essential to the success Minggamol has achieved, but she would not be where she is today without the psycho-social life skills she learned through Pearl S. Buck Foundation Thailand's programs as well—how to communicate well, how to live in a functional family unit, how to be a leader in her community, how to have confidence, pride in, and respect for herself, how to socialize with others, and to know she—a marginalized, impoverished, outsider hill tribe girl—is worth it.

We are so grateful for your support in helping sponsored children build a better future for themselves and their families. To donate to help more children than ever before receive the nutrition, health care, education, and psycho-social support necessary to make positive changes in their lives, go to <https://pearlsbuck.org/helpchildren>.

