



Starting Successful Careers in the Philippines Thanks to Child Sponsorship

Fifteen students from Pearl S. Buck Foundation Philippines (PSBP) celebrated a remarkable achievement by passing their respective professional board examinations, a milestone that would not have been possible without their unwavering determination and the genuine support of their sponsors, as well as PSBP's emphasis on the importance of education. From the rigorous review sessions to sleepless nights filled with notes and practice exams, each board passer carried hope in their hearts and trust in themselves. The very sources of their strength and hope are their mentors, families and sponsors who believed in their potential. These supporters provided more than financial assistance, but a steady reassurance that their goal was achievable. Their support became the backbone of their journey, transforming obstacles in and fueling a resilience that pushed them to succeed.



Teresita R. Latoza



Josierene, LPT



Eric, REE



Melane, LPT



Maica, LPT



Cindy Mae, RN



Erica Mae, RN



Mecaila, LPT



Justin Jon, RN



Nicole Anne, NPSC



Rodalyn, LPT



Hazel, LPT



Jaycee Emmanuel, Engineer



Karen Joy, CPA



Athena Marie, RSW

2025 saw the most students from PSBP passing their boards—ever. Joining the rank of professional teachers are six from the Olongapo City and Ormoc City areas. The rest were licensed in the fields of nursing, engineering, criminology, social work and accounting.

The fifteenth person to pass their board examination for this year is none other than PSBP's Executive Director, Teresita R. Latoza. She is now a Registered Guidance Counselor (RGC). One of her objectives in getting her professional license was to extend her personal and professional help among the sponsored children and youth in need of counseling and professional help.

The collective story of these 15 board passers reflects individuals who refused to be swallowed by poverty. Their sponsors demonstrated that success is a communal and collaborative effort. Together, they fostered environments where aspirations could flourish. Today, these new professionals stand as testaments of determination, perseverance and grit, ready to embark on careers that will contribute meaningfully to their chosen fields and inspire others who walk the same path.

Supporting Life Skills and Decision-Making Development in the Philippines

You can help Pearl S. Buck Foundation Philippines support life skill and ethical decision-making development in the young people they serve.

Today's youth live in an era of unprecedented connectivity. While this offers opportunities, it also exposes them to a constant barrage of social media influence, peer pressure, and "instant gratification" culture. Traditional youth programs often focus on "prescriptive" advice—telling young people which choices are "right" or "wrong." This project shifts the paradigm. Instead of providing the answers, Pearl S. Buck Foundation Philippines provides the framework. By teaching youth how to think rather than what to think, project leaders respect their autonomy and equip them with a portable skill set that they can apply to any situation, whether it's choosing a career path or navigating a difficult social conflict.

This project serves as a "mental laboratory" where youth can explore their core beliefs in a safe environment. By strengthening their ability to pause, evaluate consequences, and filter out external "noise," the project fosters resilience. A young person who can make sound decisions is less likely to be a victim of circumstance and more likely to be an architect of their own future.



There are several specific objectives to this project, including:

- To identify core values by articulating a personal value system that serves as a basis for making consistent and ethical choices.
- To apply critical analysis utilizing a 5-step decision-making model (Identify, Research, Evaluate, Act, and Reflect) to tackle real-life scenarios.
- To assess risk and consequence by distinguishing between short-term gratification and long-term impact in various life domains (financial, social, and academic).
- To manage emotional impulses by demonstrating self-regulation techniques to avoid "heat-of-the-moment" decisions or being impulsive in decisions influenced by peer pressure or stress.
- To develop accountability by taking ownership of outcomes, both positive and negative, and use them as learning opportunities for future discernment



You can support the more than 200 young people this project will serve by making a donation today at https://pearlsbuck.org/bbwp_projects/life-skills-development-philippines/.