

The way we rear and provide for the young who are now under our care will shape the destiny of the future generations.

-Wilfrido Villacorta, Preparing the Filipino Child for 2020

I grew up in a slum at the garbage place of Cebu City. The main part of my childhood was shaped of denial and a daily fight for survival. Often, it seems my parents are could not manage their lives nor us their children. Sometime, my mother left the family in the hope to find a job. But since she never went to school, a good employment was impossible. And that's the reason why she returned after some weeks, in order to start again with garbage collecting to stay alive. Because the situation is so hopeless, also I began to go to the dumpsite as an only six years old girl to search for reusable articles. For several years this daily routine was part of my life. I hated this kind of life. Often I sat somewhere in the garbage and wished. I could chop off simply and live my life. Often I wished that someone could help me so that I can attend to school. I dreamed to eat as much as I am full and I wished myself to live in a nice house. Dreams which are unreal for me. During those times God saw my need, and I found a new home in Christ for Asia. I would have never thought at that time that God saw my need and I found anew home in Christ for Asia. I would never have thought at that time God sees the desires and dreams of a small girl and brings hope into my life. Here at the Nehemiah Girl's Home of Christ for Asia I came to know Jesus as my Savior and He also healed the pains of my past. I am able to finish high school among my 7 brothers and sisters and I'm doing my training as nurse which is my great dream. I wish that I can bring medical assistance with my training to humans of the garbage place. Perhaps my life can be an encouragement for my family and people from the slums to entrust their lives to God.



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Living a Vision For the Young



in the Philippines, our youth is a valuable national asset and their numbers are growing.

There are **36.3 million** Filipinos who are 19 years old and below (NSO 2000). Yet no group of Filipinos faces more hazards than do our children.

Estimated **1.5 million** live on the streets, begging for food and often engaging in criminal activity.

More than **3.5 million** from 5 to 17 years old are working under often-grueling condition, in spite of legislation outlawing child labor.

Approximately **1.5 million** children on the streets are living as beggars, pickpockets, drug abusers and child prostitutes.

How did
the
Numbers
Come
?





The Darker Side

The result of human neglect, spiritual paralysis, greed, political irresponsibility and unjust social system is said to have allowed and exacerbated the entrenchment of poverty especially affecting streetchildren.

Streetchildren are those children who, when they experience family problems, hunger, neglect and domestic violence, escape from their homes and live part-time on the streets.

Parents at times end them out to beg and scavenge and even prostitute or sell them in to bonded labor.

Other streetchildren are **child workers**, permanently on the streets and engaged in scavenging, child labor, begging, peddling drugs and petty theft. Many end up in jail.

They are **runaways** from dysfunctional, broken homes with an abusive parent. In the home, usually a hovel and poor environment beside a polluted canal or malarial swamp, they suffer sexual abuse, rape, physical abuse, verbal battering, rejection, malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and dengue.

Most streetchildren are **illiterate**. Having no incentive, money or support and encouragement to study, they have dropped out of school. They join street gangs for their own protection.

Street children are the **poorest of the poor**; they are the most vulnerable and weakest. They are susceptible to becoming criminals or even terrorists angry at the adult world that gave them life in the worst misery imaginable.

(Excerpted from UP-PGH Child Protection Unit Annual Report 2003)

The Living Vision

In the Old Testament, the walls of Jerusalem were broken down by the Babylonians as they carry off the Israelites into exile during their worldwide reign. Upon the defeat of the Babylonians by the Medo-Persians, a remnant of the Israelites returned to a broken city with ruined walls. There was no protection for its returned inhabitants. The broken walls also meant a disgrace to the city's inhabitants. The man who stood up and persevered in the challenge of rebuilding the walls was called Nehemiah.

Just like these rebuilt city walls, the Nehemiah homes for boys and girls who are former streetchildren, provide protection and help to these children in the rebuilding of their broken lives.

Today, along with the Nehemiah homes, CFA maintains weekly outreach with feeding, medical treatment and gospel presentation to different spots in Cebu. Living with the Vision for the young, CFA recently established a grade school where these children can avail education that is necessary for their future.

With the high regard to how a quality education could be a means in the fulfillment of the dreams of the Filipino youth, CFA most recently built a Skills-Training Center where young people can be trained in their skills to become self-reliant, earned a decent living, and become responsible citizens.

Mission-In-Action

Sponsor a child

It costs project Nehemiah less than US\$ 3 a day to feed, clothe, board, educate and provide medical care for each child who lives in the boys' or girls' homes. Christ for Asia gratefully accepts sponsorships for the children. With US\$ 70 you can make a difference in a child's life. Share hope and brighten a child's dreams for a better tomorrow.

Sponsorship for Feedings

Feeding programs have been ongoing in and around Cebu since 1991. Regular teams are sent to the city's dock areas and dumpsites to provide children there with food and basic medical care. In total about 500 kids are reached per week, involving them in a sing-a-long, bible story and a hot meal. A team with four fulltime staff and several volunteers cares about the need of these children. With € 25 of monthly support you can provide a warm meal every week for 10 children.

Volunteer

Christ for Asia welcomes short-term volunteers who want to help out on their feeding teams. Story-telling, being a friend, or helping to administer a little "TLC" are just a few simple ways you can help inspire new hope in children in poor neighborhoods.

Prayer

Street kids need people who walk the way of transformation and change with them in their prayers. In your prayers you can cross continents and touch the life and circumstances of the children we are working with.

