

COOPERATIVES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO SERVE THEIR MEMBERS AND COMMUNITIES AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC: REPORTS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

#CoopsAgainstCOVID19

SIMBAYANAN NI MARIA MPC: A COOPERATIVE WORTHY OF EMULATION





A German psychologist and humanistic philosopher named Erich Fromm once said that "Not he who has much is rich but he who gives much."

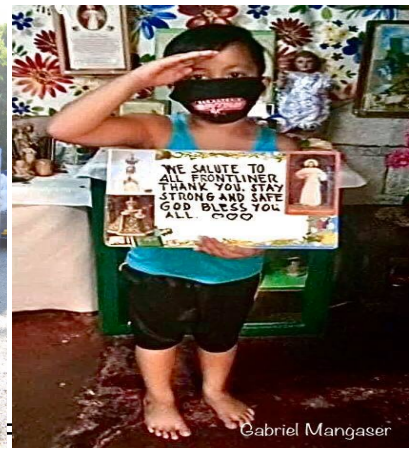
True enough, at a time when everyone of us is faced with this seemingly insurmountable crisis, we take hope and inspiration on accounts of people who have given so much of themselves and of their services for our nation. Among those of whom we can draw such great inspiration is our featured cooperative from Taguig City, the SIMBAYANAN NI MARIA MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE, who has painstakingly and selflessly dedicated their services for the good of their members and the community as well amid the COVID-19 outbreak. The cooperative through their various efforts and programs has extended to their members their much needed support and assistance and has also reached out to the most vulnerable sector of our society, the poorest of the poor.

Programs such as continuous operations to cater to the services needed by the members during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ), donation of One Hundred Thousand Pesos to Caritas Manila for the purchase of LIGTAS Covid-19 kits and MANA food bags for around 5,000 to 10,000 beneficiaries affected by Covid-19, assisting Caritas Manila in its relief operation to Taguig City's 10,400 poorest and/or indigent families, lobbying with the LGU for the coop to continually operate and serve their members during the ECQ, poster/card making contest for the Simbayan Children and Youth Laboratory Cooperative to show support to our frontliners and patients fighting against COVID-19, and distribution of 5-kilo packs of rice to about 3,104 members are just some of the many initiatives the coop has tirelessly undertaken.

Below is the detailed report of the cooperative of how it continually responds to the call of the times to ensure that their members and non-member beneficiaries will be able to rise above the adversities and cope amid the crisis.

May we all be inspired and challenged to also help our brethren in whatever way we can as we emulate the example set to us by this cooperative. Together and with God's help, we will heal as one. - FMC

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|  <p>MR. BONIE ESCAMIS Cooperative Development Authority Manila Extension Office (CDA-MEO) Lower Ground Floor, EDSA Grand Residences, 75 Corregidor cor. EDSA, Bago Baray Magsaysay, Quezon City</p> <p>Dear Mr. Escamis,</p> <p>This is in reference with your recent request for the submission of information on Simbayan Ni Maria Multi-Purpose Cooperative or SIMMPC's efforts to provide services to our members and to the community amidst the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) enforced by virtue of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>In compliance with your request, may we herein present a brief narration of the events occurring reckoned at the time the Corona Virus infection was at the start of its trend.</p> <p>During the week prior the government's declaration of the ECQ, while attempting its best to avert fears on the worsening global infection and spread of the COVID-19 virus, SIMMPC operated and conducted business in a manner portraying "Business as Usual". Despite existing news on the COVID-19 virus escalating into a pandemic, SIMMPC maintained business operations and confidently proceeded in providing its Members' credit services and facilities through loans, including deposits, payments and membership needs they required.</p> <p>However, on March 16, 2020, through Presidential Proclamation 922, the event dreaded by many happened. By declaring the whole country in a state of calamity, the ECQ was mandatorily enforced. Inevitably, all business operations beginning thereafter were ordered to cease. Consequently, both the SIMMPC leadership and Management were at a temporary loss on how to respond to the emerging crisis and thereupon, conducted business stoppage.</p> <p>In the week that followed, doubts and confusion on the Members' minds were on the rise with ensuing panic for economic recession aggravating the business situation and dampening hopes for expectant improvement of business climate. Prompted by this development, SIMMPC's top management deemed it extremely urgent to act decisively by undertaking measures to counter continued negativity, in the form of management interventions. Said interventions were demonstrated and are continuously being demonstrated by SIMMPC on account of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resumption of Branch Office operations through the processing of loan applications, withdrawals, savings and time deposits, including loan payments, money remittances and insurance applications. 2. Passed SIMMPC Board Resolution No. 20-22 authorizing the cash donation of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00) to provide for Caritas Manila LIGTAS COVID-19 Kits and MANA Food Bags for five to ten thousand (5,000 – 10,000) |  <p>urban poor families, inmates, elderly, etc. in Metro Manila affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Making and sending official representation (letter) to Mayor Lino Cayetano of Taguig City Re: inclusion of SIMMPC in the Taguig City Guidelines issued for the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ), as belonging to those business or financial establishments considered exempted therefrom. 4. Assisting Caritas Manila in its operations to give relief goods, including the distribution of One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00) worth of Gift Certificates (GCs) through the Olan Danaganan Project of the Caritas Manila, to Taguig City's ten thousand and four hundred (10,400) poorest and/or indigent families, which shall enable them to purchase food items from nearby supermarkets and/or groceries. 5. Conduct of "Kids Can Tie" Handmade Poster/Card making contest for Simbayan Ni Maria Children and Youth Laboratory Cooperative (SMCYLC) aimed at showing support to front liners and patients fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic. 6. Computation of Dividends and Interests on Patronage Fund for the year 2019, including Insurance on Share Capital, to be awarded and distributed among SIMMPC Members. 7. Distribution of fifty (50) sacks of rice allotted into five (5) kilo packs, to three thousand one hundred and four (3,104) among SIMMPC Members. However, another distribution of rice provisions even for non-members shall be subsequently undertaken. 8. Manufacture and distribution of face masks to Cooperative Members in protecting themselves against COVID-19 virus. <p>These interventions are conducted and accomplished through the following:</p> <p>1. Credit operations performed utilizing minimum number of employees/personnel based on a skeleton force framework;</p> <p>2. Alternative work arrangements offered to selected and qualified employees/personnel in accordance with the SIMMPC's Work from Home Program; and</p> <p>3. SIMMPC Volunteerism Program for relief operations conducted, including those sponsored by the Caritas Manila, aimed at giving assistance to the poorest of the poor. The Program is not merely composed of volunteers who are members of the SIMMPC Board of Directors and Committees, members of SIMMPC top management, officers and staff, but also of Cooperative members and non-members. Thus, the Program serves as a clear showing of SIMMPC's and the community's unified front in the fight against the pandemic.</p> <p>Finally, the interventions cited in the preceding are SIMMPC's initial efforts in the midst of the continuing fight against COVID-19 pandemic, to contribute in easing the potential impact which shall surely devastate the country's economy in the event of a prolonged crisis.</p> |  <p>So, therefore, by pursuing whatever necessary endeavor it may take to persist, it can be rest assured that we shall not relent in performing and discharging our cooperative duty to God and country.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Cooperatively yours,</p>  <p>MS. MARICAR L. HERNANDEZ Office-In-Charge/President</p> <p>Copy furnished: SIMMPC Board of Directors</p> |
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PANDEMIC

In a snap of a finger, what used to be the “routines of our lives” was disrupted because of the worldwide pandemic that took the lives of a great number of people. Our government had to order us to stay at home under the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) to prevent the massive widespread of the disease. To lessen the impact brought about by this crisis, cooperatives across our country heeded the call to take part in the nationwide efforts to address the adverse effects of Covid-19 outbreak. One of these cooperatives in NCR who took a bold step in battling the pandemic, is the BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE (BJMP MPC) from Quezon City.

As part of their community service, the coop distributed food packs of assorted groceries to 200 family members of Barangay Bahay Toro. In support of the frontliners of Barangay Bahay Toro, around 35 of our “modern-day heroes” were given food packs of assorted groceries.

The coop also had in mind the best interest of their members amidst the crisis. To mitigate the impact of the corona virus and to ensure their safety and well-being, the coop initiated several programs for their members. Personal Protective Equipments (PPE’s) were donated to personnel members assigned in Quezon City Jail MD-Payatas and Quezon City Jail MD. About 950 kilos of rice (19 sacks) were distributed to members coming from BJMP-NCR. For the personnel members from the National Jail Management and Penology Training Institute, infection prevention products such as alcohol, surgical masks, and gloves were distributed by the coop. Athletic uniforms were donated to personnel members coming from the BJMP-NCRO Health. Lastly, 1,000 washable face masks were given to BJMP-NCR member frontliners. Attached below is a detailed report. The corresponding cost amounted to Php 454,578, which was charged to the CDF and Optional Fund of the cooperative.

Indeed, the BJMP MPC with all of its selfless contributions, knows by heart the very purpose of our existence. As Robert F. Kennedy has said, “The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to making things better.” -FMC

| PROJECT/ACTIVITY | COOPERATIVE | PERSONNEL | AMOUNT | REMARKS |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Basic Operating Fund | Dep. Bahay Toro O.C. | Dep. Bahay Toro | 1,000,000.00 | FOR BAY TORO |
| 2. Distribution of Food Packs | Dep. Bahay Toro | Dep. Bahay Toro | 15,000.00 | FOR BAY TORO |
| 3. Distribution of PPE's | Quezon City Jail MD Payatas | Personnel/Member | 1,000,000.00 | FOR BAY TORO |
| 4. Distribution of Rice | Quezon City Jail MD | Personnel/Member | 1,000,000.00 | FOR BAY TORO |
| 5. Distribution of Alcohol | Quezon City Jail MD | Personnel/Member | 1,000,000.00 | FOR BAY TORO |
| 6. Distribution of Surgical Masks | Quezon City Jail MD | Personnel/Member | 1,000,000.00 | FOR BAY TORO |
| 7. Distribution of Washable Face Mask | Quezon City Jail MD | Personnel/Member | 1,000,000.00 | FOR BAY TORO |



BJMP-MPC PROJECT ON COVID-19 AS COMMUNITY SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY CHARGE TO CDF / OPTIONAL FUND April 9, 2020



NEW GSIS TRANSPORT COOPERATIVE REACHES OUT TO MEMBERS AMID THE COVID-19 CRISIS

A Chinese Proverb states: "If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody."

This act of lending a helping hand to those who are in need was demonstrated by our featured cooperative. From Quezon City, the New GSIS Transport Cooperative has taken part in heeding the call for our nation to heal as one by reaching out to their members amid the COVID-19



pandemic. Last April 22, the cooperative provided relief goods to their members to assist them in these trying times and let them know they are not alone in this battle. - FMC

AMCHC I RESPONDS TO THE CALL OF THE TIMES

American actor, director and producer, Denzel Washington, has uttered these words which we ought to reflect on: "At the end, it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished. It's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. It's about what you've given back."

One cooperative from Caloocan City which exemplified what it is to lift others up, make them better and give back, at a time when such acts are deeply needed, is the AMCHC I (Alyansa ng Mamamayan sa Caloocan Housing Cooperative I). The members of this cooperative volunteered in repacking rice and grocery items for the 36 scholars of the Mekung Foundation last March 17, 2020. Also, since the General Assembly of the cooperative was postponed due to COVID-19, the alcohol which was supposed to be used to disinfect the chairs for the said assembly was given instead to 45 coop members who were not able to buy any alcohol from the store.

They also distributed 5 kilos of rice last March 28 to 64 coop members from Bgy. 163 and Bgy. 164. The funds which were supposed to be used for the General Assembly were used instead to buy the 320 kilos of rice which they distributed. The BOD Vice-Chairperson (Rosky Anciro) of this cooperative also volunteered to deliver the food packs which came as a donation from different organizations. Ten (10) coop members also donated the amount of Php 1,000 each for the said activity. To help the poorest of the poor coop members, the coop gave grocery items to 26 families last March 29. Medicines for high blood pressure and diabetes were also given to 5 coop members last April 5. All of these came from someone whom they consider as a good samaritan.

Together, by God's grace, we will win this battle against Covid-19. – FMC

