



Imagining Another World Is Possible

Imagining a World Without Discrimination and Oppression

United Church of Christ in the Philippines – Heights Christian Church (UCCP-HCC) is an exuberant community that embodies the UCC's core value of extravagant welcome: ***no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.***

Heights Church, located in the city of San Jose Del Monte, understands justice, especially justice for children and families. Because their community is in the midst of a resettlement area, families suffer. So the church applied for and received a Neighbors in Need grant in 2012 to assist with the issue of structural poverty, in which children are deprived of their right to quality and accessible early education. The grant helped with the development of children's basic social and academic abilities as well as with providing a support system for parents, addressing parenting and job skills. Along the way, awareness is also raised around personal well-being and dignity as human beings created in God's image.

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2013 Neighbors In Need
Justice and Witness Ministries

Program Director and Lead Organizer, Rev. Alan Rey B. Sarte, shares a typical story of a family who benefitted from the Neighbors in Need grant. "Angel Mae (in red shirt in photo) is the eighth among eleven siblings. Her family's poverty has made it impossible to have Angel Mae study in school. Her father is a contractual construction worker with a salary equivalent to about \$9 USD a day, which is not enough to make both ends meet. But with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines Heights Christian Education Program, families in the resettlement community, where Angel Mae's family is living, have been provided quality and accessible early education."

For Rev. Alan and his community, the justice issues that his program addresses also include the promotion of respect and equality for all and the rejection of discrimination. It also addresses oppression as it relates to the issues of poverty, lack of basic health care and employment opportunities in a resettlement area. "Holistic care and teaching of ecumenical values of respect and equal treatment of boys and girls, women and men, as well as raising awareness of parent's rights and responsibilities, have also become part of the UCCP's ministry in the area," said Sarte.

To learn more about UCCP - Heights Christian Church and their program "like" them on Facebook.

With your support, Neighbors in Need is Imagining a World Without Discrimination and Oppression.



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.