



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Weaving Stories of Resilience  
through Education





# CARTWHEEL FOUNDATION

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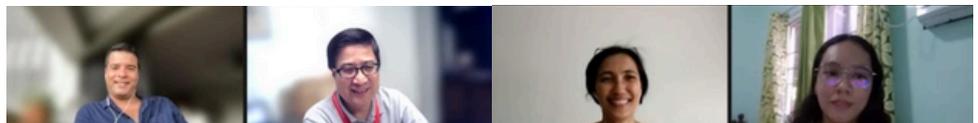
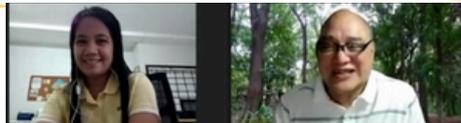
Coleen Rae Ramirez-Panahon  
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## Our Vision

A Philippines where Indigenous Peoples enjoy their rights to quality education, self-determination and active participation in community life amidst a thriving heritage.

## Our Mission

Cartwheel Foundation, Inc. (CFI) exists to empower Indigenous Peoples' communities by harnessing self-sustaining capacities through culturally relevant education.



## Staff Members

Rensi Julienne D. Pua (Jan to Dec 2023)  
**Executive Director**

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Numbers that Matter - NTMI  
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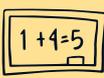
Sheila Mae D. Deconlay  
**Community Coordinator - Miarayon, Bukidnon**



# Our Impact by the Numbers



## IP Children and Youth



131 young students in partner learning centers



3 additional birth certificates processed;  
9 birth certificates processed in total



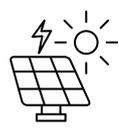
42 ECD Program completers move up to Kinder



7 indigenized children's stories printed in book form - illustrated and written out in 3 languages



87 indigenized alphabet worksheets developed



2 solar power installations in learning centers



3 handwashing stations installed in partner learning center

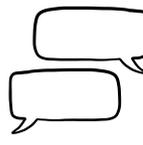
## Family and Nuclear Community



3 IP groups engaged in culture-sharing



34 learning facilitators trained in culturally relevant, rights-based & resilience-focused approaches



15 culture bearers involved in Cultural LINKS story-sharing circles

## Wider Community

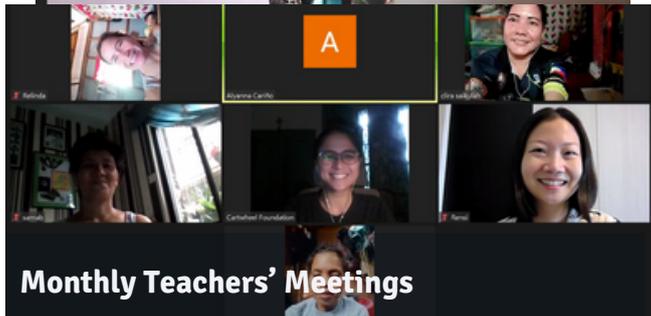
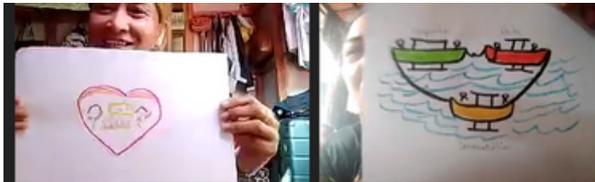


5 groups ( est. 490 individuals) engaged in IP culture awareness learning exchanges

# 2023 Community Highlights

## TEACHERS' DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

JANUARY-DECEMBER



Monthly Teachers' Meetings

Throughout the year, Sama-Bajau teachers from both Parañaque and Zamboanga City met at least once every month. CFI Team facilitated the meetings with the usual flow of a short check in activity, a review of relevant learning topics, and sharing of updates from both areas.



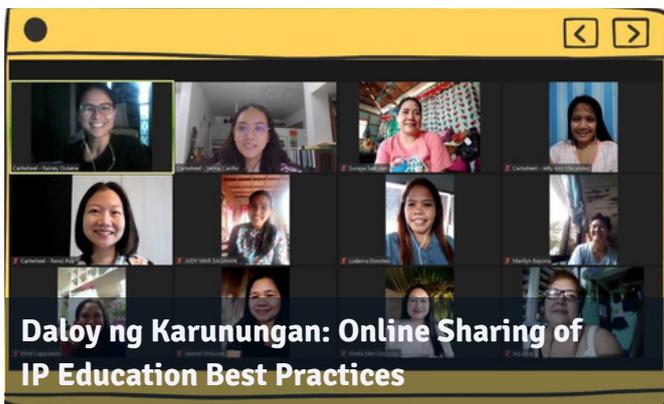
JULY



Daloy ng Karunungan Community Teachers' Training: In-Person Workshop on Social Emotional Learning

On July 23, an in-person learning workshop on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) was conducted in partnership with Pilipinas Journal Learning Institute. The participants included CFI's teachers from the Sama-Bajau Activity Center in Parañaque City and the Parañaque Supervised Neighborhood Play (SNP) learning facilitators. The objective of the workshop was not only to deep dive into SEL but also to improve the teachers' capacity and creativity in delivering a resilience-focused education to their students, while also allowing them to reflect on their own teaching journey.

AUGUST



Daloy ng Karunungan: Online Sharing of IP Education Best Practices

CFI engaged community teachers from Parañaque, Zamboanga, and Bukidnon on August 31, 2023 in an online learning session with Lodema "Teacher Diday" Doroteo of the Dumagats from Rizal. She shared about her experiences encouraging fellow IPs to follow through with concrete action in giving value to education. The teacher-participants found themselves deeply inspired by her dedication, drawing motivation from her continuous efforts to make a difference for her own indigenous community.



SEPTEMBER



Daloy ng Karunungan Community Teachers' Training: Online Workshop on Social -Emotional Learning

CFI and Pilipinas Journal Learning Institute conducted an online workshop with community teachers from Zamboanga, Palawan, Bukidnon, Pampanga, Malate, and Davao del Norte as participants. Like the in-person workshop, the main objective was to grow the teachers' capacity in resilience-focused approaches to education, while at the same time encouraging continued self-reflection.

# LEARNERS' DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

## JANUARY



**Interaction with Noble Youth Navigating to God**

In January 2023, NYNG (Noble Youth Navigating to God) organized a New Year's Celebration for our Sama-Bajau learners at the Activity Center in Parañaque, where our learners enjoyed games and a festive lunch of homemade spaghetti and fried chicken, and received gifts of hygiene products and rice.

## FEBRUARY-MARCH



**School Supplies and Educational Toys Donation**

In February and March 2023, our learners from Zamboanga City and preschool learners from our partner community in Miarayon, Bukidnon received donations of school supplies and educational toys from a private donor from Insight Manila.

## FEBRUARY-JUNE



**Mingo Meals Feeding Program**

A health assessment of Sama-Bajau learners in Zamboanga City was done in February 2023, which showed that 60% of them were either underweight or severely underweight.

Given this, an intervention was sought in partnership with Negrenese Volunteers for Change (NVC) Foundation, Inc. to provide Mingo Meals for the learners. By June 2023, the BMI of the students had significantly improved, with only 2 learners remaining underweight, and the majority now having a normal BMI.

## JUNE



**Implementation of Education and Child Development Program**

For school year 2022-2023, a total of 13 Sama-Bajau learners in Parañaque City and 29 learners in Zamboanga City completed the program and were recognized as ready to move up to the next grade level. They were honored with special awards to celebrate their numerous accomplishments in the past year.

JUNE



**Amina Book Donations**

Christina Newharrrd, author and publisher at Sari-Sari Storybooks donated copies of her book "Amina and the City of Flowers" to our Sama-Bajau learners in Parañaque City and in Zamboanga City.

"Si Amina Y El Ciudad de Maga Flores" is a Chavacano tale about Amina, a Yakan girl from Basilan, whose family migrated to Zamboanga City to escape the war. As Amina goes out into the city to find inspiration, she meets, among others, the Sama-Bajau tribe. She even sees Cartwheel's boat school for the Sama-Bajau during her adventures.

AUGUST



**Big School Enrollments**

For school year 2023-2024, 20 of our Sama-Bajau preschool graduates from the Parañaque Activity Center were successfully enrolled in DepEd schools. Among them, six entered Kinder, seven Grade 1, and seven more Grade 2.

SEPTEMBER



**Opening of Classes for School Year 2023-2024**

Both partner communities in Zamboanga and Parañaque City opened the new school year 2023-2024 on September 5, 2023. CFI welcomed a total of 155 enrollees (115 in Zamboanga and 41 in Parañaque City). This marked a threefold increase from the total enrollees from the previous school year.

SEPTEMBER



**Supplementary Feeding in Parañaque City**

Since the start of school year 2023-2024, supplementary feeding ingredients have been regularly distributed at the Activity Center in Parañaque every second and fourth Friday of the month. A balanced mix of essentials is provided for their learners and their families: fresh vegetables, packs of rice, eggs, and biscuits.

## SEPTEMBER



**Donation Turnover from BNI Foundation Taguig**

Business Network International (BNI) Foundation Taguig, visited the Sama-Bajau Activity Center in Parañaque for a turnover of in-kind donations and interaction with the learners. The Sama-Bajau children enjoyed an art and dance session led by volunteers from BNI. In return, our learners also showcased their culture and talents through dancing Igal.

## NOVEMBER



**Mobile Library at iACADEMY**

Sixteen of our Sama-Bajau learners and selected parents residing in Brgy. San Dionisio, Parañaque City were welcomed once again in iAcademy for the celebration of National Book Month on November 9, 2023.

They engaged in interactive activities like story-telling, craft-making, clay-sculpting, and games facilitated by the iAcademy Library Team together with volunteer NSTP students, encouraging them to nurture a love for books and reading.



**The food assistance provided to us is a big help because it satisfies our hunger and reduces the other expenses we need to cover, like our housing rent.**

Mistisa Manglabi  
*Parent, Sama-Bajau Activity Center*



**The program is really a big help because not only does Cartwheel help the children learn how to read and write, but they also are now able to enroll in DepEd schools.**

Faida Faisal  
*Teacher, Sama-Bajau Activity Center*



# SAFE LEARNING SPACE DEVELOPMENT

MARCH



Handwashing Station Donations

CFI received donations of three WASHup! Portable Handwashing Stations from Manila Water Foundation for our Sama-Bajau learners in Zamboanga City to encourage learners to practice washing their hands more frequently.

MARCH



Solar Project Installation and Gadget Donation in Culion, Palawan

In March 2023, the solar power installation and gadget donation project for Calamian Tagbanwa IP School in Marabal Island, Culion, Palawan was made possible with funding partner, Insight Manila and supplier, Solar Solutions Inc. The project aimed to provide a means for the teachers to better facilitate the learning of their Tagbanwa students through access to electricity and gadgets such as a laptop, printer and projector.

SEPTEMBER



Construction and Repairs for Angiskul ma Bangka

Since September 2023, additional renovation work on the classroom on stilts of the Angiskul ma Bangka (AMB) Child Development Center in Brgy. Kasanyangan, Zamboanga has been on-going. Among the structural improvements that were successfully accomplished were windows for better ventilation, bathrooms for boys and girls, and a foldable classroom divider.

OCTOBER

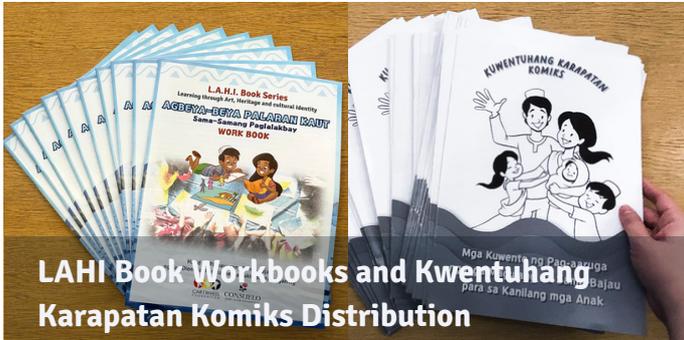


Solar Project Installation and Gadget Donation in Kasanyangan, Zamboanga City

A second round of solar power installation and gadget donation project with Insight Manila as funding partner, Ateneo de Zamboanga-Center for Community Extension Services (ADZU-CCES) as implementing partner, and Solar Solutions Inc. as main supplier was successfully carried out in the AMB Child Development Center to help our teachers and learners gain access to electricity. Lights and electric fans were put in place, and the learning center also received donations of gadgets like a laptop, printer, and projector.

# LEARNING RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND INSTRUCTION

MARCH



**LAHI Book Workbooks and Kuwentong Karapatan Komiks Distribution**

In partnership with Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation, CFI developed L.A.H.I. (Learning through Art, Heritage, and Cultural Identity) workbooks and Kuwentong Karapatan Komiks (Comics on Rights).

The workbook contains indigenous children's stories coupled with expressive art activities, and a compilation of outputs created by past learners, while the comics showcases the different ways Sama-Bajau parents demonstrate their love and care for their children. This also serves as a documentation of the Sama-Bajau's community practices that are aligned with child protection.

JUNE-AUGUST



**Development of Sinama Alphabet Worksheets**

Developed in partnership with iACADEMY, CFI created Sinama ABC worksheets featuring different activities corresponding to every letter of the alphabet, while incorporating Sinama words tied with the Sama-Bajau culture. These worksheets were carefully designed and illustrated by iACADEMY students.

JANUARY TO OCTOBER



**Cultural LINKS Book Development for the Talaandig of Bukidnon**

With support from J. Kawakami Memorial Trust, Philippine Jesuit Aid Association, Magdalen Yum and various donors, CFI developed an indigenized children's storybook as part of the Cultural LINKS (Leveraging Indigenous Niches through Knowledge sharing and Storytelling) Project.

It features stories and cultural narratives from the Talaandig gathered through cultural conversations. The first validation took place in March, followed by a final validation in April. Succeeding months were required to further edit, refine, illustrate, translate, and lay out the stories. Finally, 300 copies of the storybooks were successfully printed in October 2023.

NOVEMBER



**Story-harvesting Sessions for the Cultural LINKS Book Project in Palawan**

CFI team members with help from development partner, MAGIS Creative Spaces, travelled to Culion, Palawan to facilitate a three-day workshop and story-harvesting with the Tagbanwa community of the Marabal-Alulad-Chindonan-Lamud Ancestral Domain for the development of yet another children's storybook mainly for use of young Tagbanwa learners.



**Blessing and Turnover of LAHI Books in  
Miarayon, Bukidnon**



CFI turned over “Mga Nanangen Pangbata hu mga Talaandig,” an anthology of six children’s stories written for the indigenous Talaandig of the Miarayon Region in Talakag, Bukidnon, Philippines. These were published in Binukid, Bisaya, and Tagalog - languages spoken by the Talaandig tribe. Apart from donating books to the Miarayon-Lapok-Lirongan-Tinaytayan Tribal Association (MILALITTRA), copies of the books were also donated to eleven schools in the Miarayon Region.



For me, this project is great because our stories are finally being written down. The children in our community will be able to read what’s written and appreciate the illustrations. Even if they forget our stories, this book will still remind them of our culture and for me, this is an amazing feat.

Bae Susan Hugnaan  
*Tribal leader, Talaandig tribe*



I express my deepest appreciation to Cartwheel Foundation for sponsoring a project like this. This is proof that the organization sees what we need in the community - for each child in the next generation to appreciate their own language. Giving value to one’s own language is one of the four pillars of being a Talaandig.

Datu Dharvy Jumamoy  
*Tribal leader, Talaandig tribe*



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION

MARCH



**Learning Session on Health and Nutrition**

In partnership with Philippine Junior Marketing Association (PJMA), CFI organized a learning session on Health and Nutrition for Sama-Bajau families of Parañaque City.

Nurse Danwell Esperas led the learning session which benefited 25 mothers and 23 children of the Sama-Bajau Activity Center. The group also turned over food packs and vitamins to the community.

JUNE



**Birth Certificate Registrations**

CFI has successfully processed a total of 9 birth certificates for learners at the Sama-Bajau Activity Center in Parañaque City with support from our development partners Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation and Sun Life Foundation Inc., government partners BLGU-San Dionisio, CSWDO-Paranaque, DSWD-NCR, and the community of Sama-Bajau parents and leaders.

AUGUST



**Brigada Bulilit: Clean up and Preparation of Classroom**

Prior to the opening of classes in September, community teachers in Zamboanga City devoted their time and effort to the Brigada Bulilit, where they cleaned and prepared the classrooms working hand-in-hand with the parents of our Sama-Bajau learners.

SEPTEMBER



**Parent Engagement in Parañaque City**

Beginning the new school year 2023-2024, engagement activities involving Sama-Bajau parents at the Activity Center in Parañaque have been made more consistent. CFI team members visit the center every two weeks to meet with the parents and conduct check-in activities, discuss topics of interest raised by the Sama-Bajau parents, and coordinate additional ways CFI can support their children's education.

# INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CULTURE ADVOCACY

APRIL



**Interaction with Ateneo Junior High School Students**

On April 18, 2023, our Sama-Bajau learners in Parañaque City interacted with Grade 7 Ateneo Junior High School students for "Pag-enda-enda: Pagtatagpo ng Mayamang Kulturang Filipino," an event that aimed at promoting cultural awareness and understanding among young people from different backgrounds. They participated in interactive activities that allowed them to express their culture and share their personal stories as a community. The Ateneans also showcased their talents, prepared thoughtful mementos, and gathered resources to put together generous gift packs of school supplies and groceries for their Sama-Bajau guests.

JULY



**Sectoral Conversations on Indigenous Peoples**

CFI had the opportunity to lead the sectoral conversations on Indigenous Peoples on July 8, 2023, organized by Politeach PH and attended by Araling Panlipunan teachers from the Greater Manila Area. Politeach is a conference of progressive ideas that emphasize political education for high school social sciences teachers as frontline stakeholders of our youth's political development. The sectoral conversations provided a more up-close-and-personal understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the sector and what role progressive education and social democratic values can play.

JULY



**Interaction with iACADEMY Students**

Sama-Bajau learners in Parañaque City engaged in a community interaction with iACADEMY students on July 18, 2023, where they were given the opportunity to tour the school, engage in a drawing session, play games, and showcase their talents and culture through a performance of a special song and Igal, their traditional dance. The iACADEMY students also turned over gifts of grocery packs for our learners.

NOVEMBER



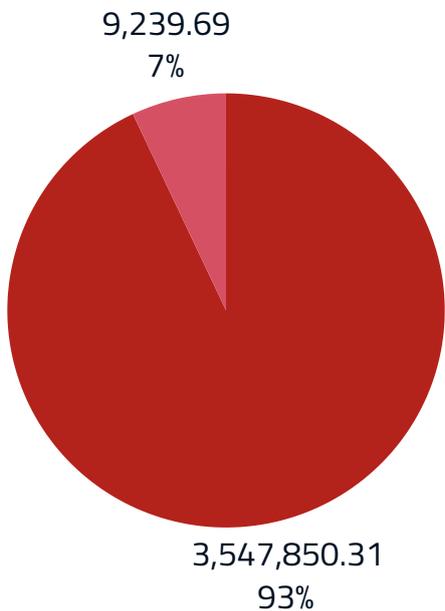
**Participation in Children's Month City-wide Activities**

In celebration of Children Month, selected Sama-Bajau learners from CFI partner communities in Parañaque and Zamboanga City participated in their respective city's activities, where they were able to showcase their talents and culture.

# Financials

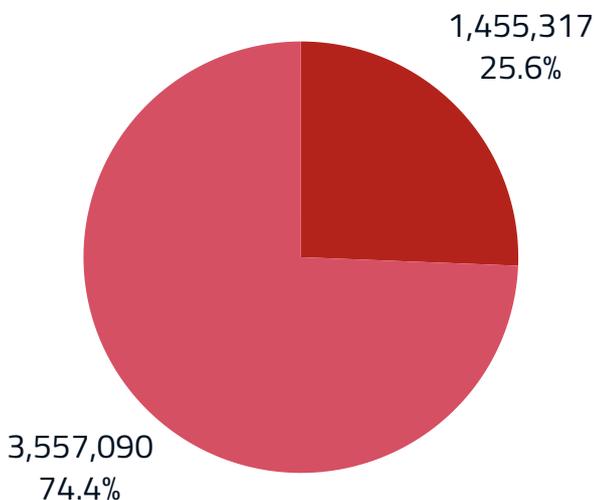
In 2023, we maximized our budget to ensure the continuous implementation and growth of our programs.

**Total Funds for 2023**  
PHP 5,012,407



## Fund Utilization

- Education and Child Development (ECD)
- Indigenous Peoples Culture Advocacy (IPCA)



## Program and Administrative Expenses

- Program and Project Expenses
- General and Administrative Expenses

Financials based on CFI's 2023 Audited Financial Statements

# Making progress together

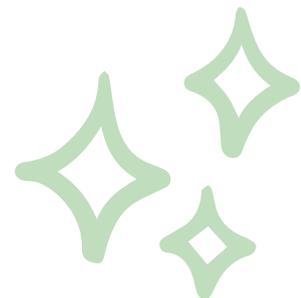
Our deepest gratitude goes out to you!



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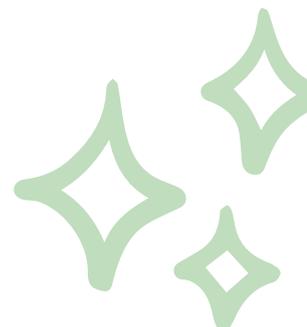
Marabal-Alulad-Chindonan-Lamud AD (Ancestral Domain) IPS (Indigenous Political Structure)  
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Yupangco, Suzanne  
Yuyucheng, Fran

We are deeply grateful for Cartwheel because we are able to send our kids to school for free, they don't charge us of anything, which is a huge help for us parents. In return, we play our part by helping the teachers; we assist them in decorating the classroom.

**Dianna Sahidin**  
Parent, Angiskul Ma Bangka





# Making progress together

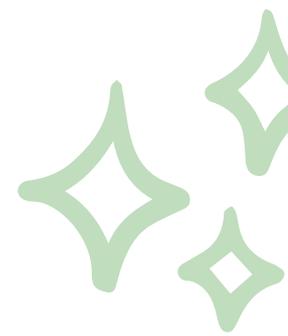
Our deepest gratitude goes to you!



## Champions and Resource Persons

Abad-Jugo, Cyan  
Acma, Patrick  
Aliño, Patricia Mae  
Ampil, Edgar  
Asilan, Marqueta  
Asilan, Zusimo  
Bacsain, Ma. Antonette  
Besto, Alex  
Bucao, Genica  
Caparas, Margarita  
Cariño, Alyanna  
Cruz, Cale Belyn  
Cruz, Cale Byanei  
Cruz, Katrina Laurice  
Dacion, Nancy  
Danio, Eugenio  
Danio, Ryan (Masikampo at Datu Lilingayon)  
Daugan, Crezel  
Deconlay, Ivy Cris  
Deconlay, Glaizeldine  
Deconlay, Renzil Ann  
Deconlay, Sheila Mae  
Dela Cerna, Ressamae  
Dogia, Charity  
Dolatre, Rainey  
Dumalig, Nelsie  
Edahon, Bernabe  
Edahon, Neric (Datu Palamaymay)

Ehigon, Primo  
Enecito, Tita  
Gamban, Bambi  
Hugnaan, Susan (Bae Tawan-tawan)  
Inta, Henin  
Jumamoy, Dharvy (Datu Dalagangan)  
Labdan, Althea Faiza  
Lajero, Lilia  
Lajero, Shailyn  
Lopez, Charissa  
Lopez-Dela Cruz, Blenda  
Luminda, Ronie  
Magno, Sofia  
Onda, Crispino  
Onda, Robelyn  
Onduran, Grace (Bae Maagyas)  
Onduran, Nelita  
Onduran, Rito  
Ortiz-Luis, Pia  
Pacana, Romeo (Datu Katiguman)  
Paculan, Paolo Ven  
Padua, Tricia  
Pahati, Ina  
Palmos, Charisse  
Pua, Andrea  
Pua, Rensi  
Rara, Cathy  
Sabella, Nilda





## Champions and Resource Persons

Santillan, Z  
Sintaon, Bae Bricks  
Sison, Rachelle  
Soledad-Tecson, Bob  
Sulatan, Jerson (Datu Kahusayan)  
Tecson, Chong  
Tumamac, M.J. (Xi Zuq)  
Vitor, Jhona

As a teacher, my dream for my students is for them to complete college and lead fulfilling lives. I want them to be exemplary for the Filipino youth, especially for the Sama-Bajau, so they can proudly showcase their capabilities to the nation.

**Teacher Relinda**  
**Teacher, Angiskul Ma Bangka**





# Let's continue weaving stories of indigenous resilience together!

## **DONATE**

Help a child grow in culturally relevant learning! Be a sponsor and match our partner communities' efforts in educating their children. Course your donations to: BPI Account (SA): Cartwheel Foundation Inc. 0203-2322-92

## **INITIATE**

Start a project to fundraise for our indigenous learners in a thousand creative ways! Your bright ideas can contribute much to the education of our partner communities.

## **ADVOCATE**

Tell others about our IP advocacy and the urgency of our work with Filipino culture-bearers. Or you may invite the CFI Team to speak at your organization—we would very gladly oblige!



**CARTWHEEL**

Account number: xxxxxxx292



## **Contact Us**

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