



# STEP FORWARD

A Publication of the One Small Step Forward Foundation, Inc.

ISSUE NO. 4

## Message from the President



2009 promises to be an exciting and challenging year for One Small Step Forward Foundation!

At the top of the list is the promised roll-out of the iSipnayan Math Program at a major school. (Please refer to the article on iSipnayan on page 4). Among the candidates are San Vicente Elementary School near UP (population of 3,500), Balara, Old Balara, Cubao, Quirino, and Pinyahan Elementary Schools. I will conduct discussions in the January-March 2009 timeframe with the principals and assistant superintendents of the candidate schools before making the final selection. I will look for school leadership that recognizes major issues with their math competence, appreciates the value of such an after-school program, and is willing to move faculty and PTA resources behind the program. The selected school will be “prepped” during the summer break and the program can hopefully start in June 2009. If we have additional capacity, we may be able to roll-out the program to additional small schools later in the same school year.

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In 2009, the Foundation will need to pick up full-time administrative and project staff. Heretofore, I've managed to make do with several part-time workers and volunteers and with the directors pitching in occasionally. But with iSipnayan projected to officially launch in a “big” school and possibly a few smaller schools, this will stretch my capability to be in many sites at once, hence the need to bring smart, idealistic full-time project and operations staff on board. In addition, I suspect that we may be ap-

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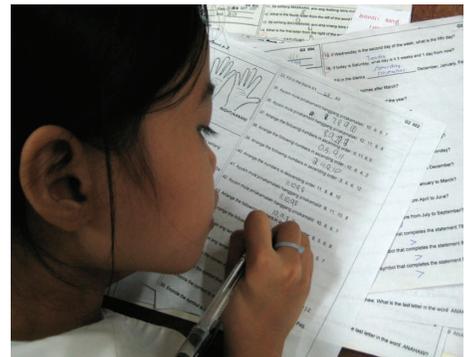
## iSipnayan Pilot Finishes First Year at BES

The iSipnayan pilot has just completed a full year (12 months) in pilot at Bagumbayan Elementary School, currently with a control group of 25 students from grades 3, 4 and 5. Since February 2008, Katherine “Ella” Cruz has been in charge of day-to-day operations of the iSipnayan room, which is open Tuesdays and Fridays from 1:00 to 4:30 pm. Teacher Ella is assisted every afternoon (to man the center and interact with the students on Tuesdays and Fridays and to assist with content development and improvement on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays) by Ms. Ann Guarin. Also assisting with worksheet corrections on irregular basis is a Bagumbayan Elementary School teacher, Maam Eva.

Ella Cruz graduated from Ateneo with a Biology degree, and even taught Biology at the Ateneo high school for three years before joining Kumon, where she began by teaching Reading. Aside from her iSipnayan involvement, she is also part of the management team of the Loyola

Learning Library.

When the pilot started in October 2007, the operations in-charge had been Ms. Michelle Salvador, with an initial intake



of 30 Grade 4 students serving as control group. In the same way Ann Guarin assists Ella Cruz today, Margie Relato and later, Kath Malijan, assisted Teacher Michelle in the first five months of the pilot.

Much of the processes, procedures,



iSipnayan pilot program Grade 4 male students doing the worksheets assigned to them for the day

(continued on page 3)



Ella Cruz will spearhead the Foundation's iSipnayan roll-out after the Bagumbayan Elem pilot

proached by one or two corporations who would like to involve their people in short-time volunteer work. Assigning volunteers to short-time work is a major management challenge and will require strong project staff to effectively assign volunteers to "work units".

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Although Accenture Philippines finally discontinued its support for the Kumon Math program and Operation: Sagip at Sto. Cristo Elementary School after a two-year run, Country Lead Beth Lui and CSR Senior Executive in-charge Nescel Asuncion facilitated the discussion with Accenture Australia Foundation (AAF) for possible sponsorship of the iSipnayan roll-out. AAF was looking for a major project in 2008-2009 and they were seriously considering iSipnayan. I was in several discussions with



Accenture's Nescel Asuncion watches over feeding program at Sto. Cristo Elem with Principal Nitz

Accenture Australia Foundation's Executive Director Robert Hohnen, starting in November 2007. However, talks ceased in June 2008. I hope AAF has still not lost interest in the project and that they continue to keep us at top of mind. I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

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The plan for 2009 includes the major maintenance efforts on previous projects. First off is the Bagumbayan Multimedia Learning Center for Excellence a.k.a. the library. This will include, aside from the ongoing replacement of the audio systems, a complete repair of the Main Building roof (the library is on the

second floor) so that leaks are eliminated. It will also include the full repainting of the library (to include walls and shelves), rehabilitation of the library tables, cleaning of window panes, and replacement of the varifold partition. The second maintenance project is on the U.P. Industrial Engineering Ergonomics & Human Factors Laboratory, which was donated in 2005. The Foundation will review the need to replace the PCs, wall décor, etc.



Elise del Rosario (middle) confers with Aura Matias, UP IE Department Head, and architect Anna Ferreria-Guevara on details of the E&HF lab

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Having made a significant infrastructure donation to the Philippine Science High School main campus in Diliman back in 2002, the Foundation will make a final donation, either in 2009 or 2010 – before my youngest child Franco graduates. The target will be either assisting in the fit-out of the second floor of the main building that was destroyed by fire two months ago, or, to assist in the complete refurbishing of the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor auditorium.

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Starting January 2009, the Foundation will work with Libis Elementary School to conduct a school-wide computer literacy program for the remainder of the 2008-09 school year. The Foundation will review and suggest changes to the curriculum, provide technical support to keep the 10-12 PCs running during computer classes, and find volunteer teachers for the classes. The objective is to provide hands-on familiarity – at least 4 hours of lectures and 24 hours of hands-on - with PCs, Windows OS, word proc-

essing, graphics, slide shows, spreadsheets, e-mail, instant messenger and internet access to every student interested in learning.

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By the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2009, I also anticipate having started the development work on the next big Foundation "thing" – the English literacy and fluency after-school program. The core will be worksheet-based, with drills on the basics of grammar, tense, number, and sentence construction. The style will be similar to Kumon and iSipnayan. We will again select a school to serve as the test bed for the pilot program, hopefully starting 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2009. 2010 should see the inclusion of reading comprehension, writing, and vocabulary building into the program content. School year 2010-11 might be the time we could roll the program out to a large school. Speech labs and English-only speaking zones in the schools might be a reality in 2011.

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There will be no let-up in the program to purchase and donate storybooks and reference books. Each year, I find the list of donee schools growing longer. And that's great. We will continue to donate equipment like photocopiers, as we did last June 20, 2008, with Mines Elementary School in Project 8. In the longer-term, beginning 2011, we plan to build additional libraries for other schools. 2012 is when the Foundation intends to begin to adopt a few needy public high schools.

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With all the above programs in the pipeline, clearly, major capital infusion will be required for the next three years. For 2009-10 alone, I estimate having to add as much as P5M to the Foundation's capital fund. I'm confident that Elise and I will not have to put up the entire amount on our own; I have great faith that we will find corporate donors or high net worth individuals out there who will hear – and heed - the Foundation's call.



Bing will continue to find time to read to the kids

documentation standards, and report formats have come from the experiences at the Kumon Math outreach center at Libis Elementary School.

As with any new program, the most critical component is content. Since June 2007, a dedicated team has been in charge of content development and content improvement, coming up with the draft worksheets per grade level and



Teacher Michelle was in charge of early operations

making improvements based on feedback from the center operators. From August 2007 to May 2008, the development team consisted of Cheryl Limos and Jelline Sanchez, both Philippine Science High School alumni and both taking up their masters degree in Applied Math major in Finance at ADMU.

Recently, the development team was reorganized, with Ella Cruz now sitting on top of both operations and development. Currently supporting her on the development side are Michelle Salvador, Jaah Hermano, Kath Malijan and Ann Guarin.

The Grade 2 content is currently complete, fully debugged, and improved in two different stages during the 12 month pilot program. Grade 3 material is also complete, fully debugged and improvements are under implementation. Grade 4 worksheets are nearly complete but still await feedback from the classroom before making first-wave changes. Most of the drafting of new questions are now focused on Grade 4 and 5 materials.

The student standouts in each grade level are: Geraldine Victorino of Grade 3 (doing G2-40), Jamille Reyes of Grade 4 (doing G2-60), and Aileen Reveche of Grade 5 (doing G3-55). ■

## OSSFF Sponsors PSHS Review Center Enrolment for Two Promising Kumon Students; Also Sponsors Tutor for Rest of Top 10 Sixth Graders



Mrs. Mendoza and Mrs. Siasoco sign the Foundation's scholarship contracts, witnessed by Principal Thelma

Encouraged by the success of Mark Barrilla, The Foundation recently sponsored the enrolment of two of the most promising students in the Kumon Math program, namely Jamea Siasoco and Raul Mendoza, at a Philippine Science High School entrance exam review school. They were signed up for the full 64-hour program at Newton, a renowned tutorial center with a long track record of PSHS hurdlers. The tutorial program consisted of 18 review sessions and began last July 26. The PSHS National Competitive Examinations (NCE) were recently held last November 15, 2008. The Foundation also provided, in addition to the tuition, snack and transportation allowances to the two scholars. The contract, entered into between the Foundation's Bing del Rosario and the scholar's parents, required that Jamea and Raul had to attend all the review classes, they could not drop out in the middle of the program, they had to apply to take the PSHS exam and actually take the exam, and if they passed, they had to accept and attend.

In addition, Bing del Rosario, through

the assistance of Victor Claravall, tapped a PSHS alumna, Jaah Hermano, to conduct informal tutorial sessions with the top 10 sixth graders of Libis Elementary School. Ms. Hermano was an Ateneo College Scholar who recently completed her BS in Applied Math and is now cur-



Jaah Hermano conducts PSHS NCE review sessions

rently in the ADMU Graduate School taking up her masters in Math, major in Finance. She has been able to relate to the reviewees since she also competed in MTAP in grade school and attended various training sessions for the International Math Olympiads. The PSHS exam review sessions, conducted during Ms. Hermano's free time, were held on Tuesdays and Thursdays afternoon, and wrapped up just before the NCE. ■



Teacher Ella with outstanding pupils of iSipnayan pilot program; program developers check pupils' progress

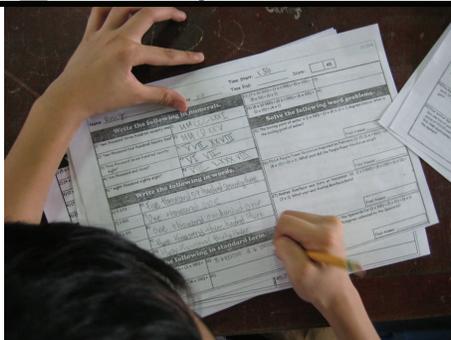


# What is iSipnayan All About?

A bit of background for our readers. The Kumon Math program at Libis Elementary School has done very well and in its nearly six-year existence has proven to be effective in elevating the math skills of the kids enrolled, reflective of Kumon students' progress worldwide. But – despite several attempts, with three different Kumon Phils administrations, to allow the opening of additional outreach centers in additional public elementary schools and to increase the enrollment at Libis beyond 125, our requests have been rejected or shelved indefinitely. Clearly, to move forward, One Small Step Forward Foundation (OSSFF) needed a new after-school math remediation program without any restrictions.

Thus, a new math program was conceived that would use the typical strengths of the Kumon, e.nopi, Aloha etc. math programs. That is, daily homework on off days, based on “practice makes perfect”; 2-3 days of the week doing classwork at the center and correcting errors found on previous homework submitted; bringing back students to lower levels when found to be making errors or taking too much time on work sheets; letting students move ahead when they make no errors and do the sheets under expected time; and allowing good students to do more worksheets per day if they obviously have the capacity and capability to do so. In effect, children proceed at their own pace (or “self-paced”).

What significantly differentiates the content and thrust of the new iSipnayan program from Kumon, e.nopi and the other systems is that it's loosely modeled on math competition materials, including MTAP (Math Teachers Association of the Philippines), MTG (Math Teachers Guild) and international Math Olympiad (IMO). In both local and international competitions, unlike Kumon and e.nopi, where all math problems consist of purely numbers and math operators, iSipnayan's daily drills are all in word problem format, i.e., in full sentences. Hence, the extra challenge of reading comprehension and understanding word problems, which has always been a weakness of the Kumon program. Given the below-average literacy levels in the public school systems, the iSip-



nayan program provides the extra benefit of reinforcing the practice of reading – and understanding – problem sentences phrased in both Filipino and English. But it does the MTAP-MTG-IMO style several steps better:

- ▶ The new math program would still include math drills on the side – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division drills through flash cards, decimal ten number boards, and math logic puzzles – to ensure that math operations speed and accuracy is not sacrificed
- ▶ It would also make the material more socially relevant by using Filipino terms, history, geography and sociology in the word problems, e.g., Juan walks 1000 feet up Taal Volcano, which is located in the middle of Taal Lake, then climbs down 550 feet. How many more feet does he need to walk down before he reaches his starting point?
- ▶ At the lower grades, it would include word problems in Filipino, recognizing that public school kids do not go through nursery, kindergarten or prep schooling, hence have very limited reading skills. And their earliest vocabulary set is in the local language. The percentage of word problems in Filipino will decrease as we go up grade level.
- ▶ The coverage is broader, to include “near-math” concepts such as telling time, reading the calendar, understanding directional instructions, Roman numerals, measurement units, etc.
- ▶ Looking at the questions included in competitions for just one grade level often gives the impression that there

is no logic or structure to the types of questions asked. iSipnayan has a structured curriculum that backstops the development of worksheets.

- ▶ Level of difficulty for the activity sheets is also tightly structured – from 90% easy in worksheet 01 to 90% difficult in worksheet 100 for the same grade level.

Similar to the success achieved by Kumon, e.nopi, Aloha, etc. worldwide as well as benefits achieved and also observed in detail at the Kumon outreach center at Libis Elementary School, Bing del Rosario expects the benefits of the new program to include:

- ▶ Significantly increased math abilities and skill for the entire spectrum of starting capability – slow, average and fast. Slow students catch up with their classmates in math class, average students start to achieve high grades in math, and fast students excel and attain academic honors
- ▶ Greater discipline, focus and concentration for school and homework, as reinforced by daily homework drills
- ▶ Increased self-confidence in their academic skills, including participation in math competitions

People have asked where the program name iSipnayan came from. To answer, “Sipnayan” is the deep Tagalog term for mathematics. This was combined with “isip” which means “to think” (as a verb) or “thinking” (as a noun). So, “iSipnayan” is a conjugated make-up word to mean “I think Math”. ■



*iSipnayan success requires strong support from parents (upper photo) and teachers (lower photo)*

# Kumon Math Program at Libis Elementary School Nears Sixth Year; Two Get Gold at Annual Kumon ASHR

The Kumon Math program of One Small Step Forward Foundation Inc. (OSSFFI) at Libis Elementary School celebrated its fifth year last February 2008 in simple ceremonies with the center's 125 students in attendance. As of press time, the outreach center is three months from celebrating its sixth year. To-date, the center has taken in over 300 students into the Math program. For a school with an average enrolment of 900, this is a very high percentage. Nearly 50 students graduated from the school while taking up Kumon on their sixth and last grade. In fact, the very first Grade 6 Kumon batch, numbering eight, that graduated from Libis Elementary School in March 2004, already graduated from high school last April 2008. All of them were star math students in high school, a legacy of their Kumon experience in elementary school.

To recall, the program was conceived in late 2002 when Bing del Rosario and Victor Claravall began negotiations with Kumon Philippines Inc. to offer the Kumon Math program as an outreach effort at Libis Elementary School in Libis, Quezon City. In December of 2002, KPI approved the proposal for a pilot of 50 students, 25 from Libis Elementary School and 25 from the nearby Bagumbayan Elementary School. Under the terms of agreement, Bing would pay the usual monthly royalty fees per child and hire-pay the salaries-allowances of the center's teachers and part-time proctors; in turn, KPI would waive the materials cost. In mid-January 2003, the Kumon center inside Libis Elementary School started formal operations, with Mr. Victor Claravall, a Kumon franchisee and director of the Kumon center where Bing's children were enrolled, volunteering to head the outreach center. In 2004, KPI gave permission to up the enrollment to 75. In 2005, Bing got approval to up the center capacity to 100. And in mid-2006, KPI gave permission to raise the enrolment to 125.

The results over the last five-plus years have been dramatic. Math grades of the children have significantly improved, by an average of four to five percentage points, especially among those who have stayed with the program for two or more



*Kumon outreach center manager Victor Claravall*

years, as attested to by the records that the center meticulously keeps. Most Kumon parents have noted a marked increase in discipline and concentration improved study habits.

Since 2005, the center has garnered the majority of first places in both team and individual categories for the various grade levels at the school district level in the math competitions sponsored annually by the Math Teachers Association of the Philippines (MTAP). At School District 13, Libis Elementary School competes with Bagumbayan Elementary School, Balara Elementary School, Old Balara Elementary School, and Old

Balara Annex. In January 2006, the school fielded an all-Kumon team to the MTAP competitions and topped the cluster level and then the political district level in all categories, and had several first place individual and grade level wins at the division level (which includes all of Quezon City's 97 public elementary schools), the first time the school achieved such a feat.

The outreach center has also taken great pride in having one of its star students, Mark Barilla, get accepted into Philippine Science High School in 2007, the very first from Libis Elem – in fact, the very first from Quezon City's political district 3.

Last November 9, Mark Barilla and Jamea Siasoco of Libis Elementary School were honored by Kumon Philippines, together with nearly 800 other gold awardees from all over the Philippines, at the ASHR ceremonies at SMX Convention Center. It was their second time to be recognized. In 2006, it was Mark Barilla and Jayson Talento who were recognized, at the PICC.

In addition, the center had replaced over a hundred students who had dropped out for one reason or another from 2003 to 2008. The most common reason had been family relocation, given the systematic city program to relocate the squatter families living in the Libis Sitio areas. Unlike other for-profit centers, lack of motivation and burn-out ac-



*A typical Monday (or Thursday) afternoon at the Kumon Math outreach center at Libis Elementary School*

*(continued on page 6)*

counts for a very small percentage of the turnover. Center manager Victor Claravall personally screens the applicants' parents and teachers, a factor that is most credited for the low voluntary turnover. He look for parental support and pressure as well as past demonstrations of the child's focus and desire to learn. When the parents have a leave-them-alone or it's-the-child's-decision attitude, or the child has a poor diligence or study record as attested to by their teachers, the application is denied. The current average stay per student at the Libis center is 32 months, one of the best index among the 170 centers countrywide. The best 20 percent of centers average 24 months' stay.

A highlight of the five-year-plus program was the involvement of the Accenture Philippines Foundation for a two-year run, from November 2005 to October 2007. Accenture provided funds to support 50 Kumon scholars, which took a significant financial load off the Foundation's shoulders, after Bing del Rosario had received KPI permission to increase seats by another 25. Most of the Accenture scholars were new entrants,



Accenture Country Lead Beth Lui and CSR senior executive in-charge Nescel Asuncion meet their Kumon scholars

mostly first-graders. Their selection was based on the premise that the younger they started with the program, the more years they could spend doing Kumon before graduating from elementary school. Accenture's involvement formally started last November 30, 2005, when Accenture Country Lead Beth Lui and Senior Executive and CSR (corporate social responsibility) in-charge Nescel Asuncion attended the simple launch ceremony at Libis Elementary School to kick off the one-year

## LES Joins Other QC Centers in QC ASHR



A happy day for Libis Elementary School's Kumon Math awardees as they pose with their medals at Ateneo's Lee Irwin Theater, together with Bing, Victor Claravall, Principal Thelma Co and teacher Imelda Bernadas

Last July 27, 2008, the Libis Elementary School Kumon Outreach Center joined eight other Quezon City Kumon centers in celebrating the centers' own Advanced Students Honor Roll (ASHR). The event was patterned after the annual National Kumon ASHR, which celebrates the achievements of Kumon gold awardees all over the country. By definition, gold awardees are Kumon students who have attained math proficiency three or more grade levels beyond their current school grade. Last year, the National Kumon ASHR, sponsored by Kumon Philippines, was held at the PICC. This year, the venue was SMX Convention Center at the Mall of Asia complex. The major difference of the Quezon City ASHR, which was a brainchild of Kumon center manager Victor Claravall, is that it includes even the bronze (Kumon math proficiency is one grade level higher than school grade) as well as silver awardees (two grade levels higher than school level) of the eight participating centers.

Based on attainment as of May 31, 2008, Libis Elementary School had 28 awardees, led by gold awardees Jamea Siasoco (currently Grade 6) and Mark Barilla (currently 2<sup>nd</sup>



New gold awardee Jamea Siasoco joins Mark Barilla

year at PSHS). The silver awardees included:

Mar 08 Grade Level	Silver Honor Students	May 08 Kumon Level
Grade 6	Jeylord Julao	H200
Grade 5	Arantxa Bade	G200
Grade 5	Raul Mendoza	G200
Grade 3	Dhane Villegas	F050
Grade 3	Jason Mendoza	F030
Grade 3	John Catacutan	E200
Grade 3	Angeline Labuguen	E200
Grade 2	Gracelyn Marbella	E100
Grade 2	Mariel Baliza	D200

And there were 17 Libis Elementary School bronze awardees. These included: Marlon Aclon, Jane Alfonso, Elmer Gasper, Vanessa Aguilar, Joniel Aquino, Janthe Banila, Caryl Barimbao, Andrea Bunao, Jonalyn Catedrilla, Jamille Gammad, Joan Lubrin, Khent Paez, Jessica Quite, Jessabel Sabejon, Richmon Trance, Maurice Talaue, and Francisco Tadeña.

The Kumon teachers and Bing del Rosario are keeping their fingers crossed that by next year, five new faces will be added to the Kumon Gold Award Honor Roll. They express high hopes for Gracelyn Marbella, Mariel Baliza, Dhane Villegas, Vanessa Aguilar, Reign Labuguen, Jason Mendoza and John Catacutan. For sure, these seven will all be already doing algebra next year – and they'll only be grade 4 or 5!

# Titles of Recent Book Donations

The One Small Step Forward Foundation had engaged in a flurry of story book donations to both Libis Elementary School and Bagumbayan Elementary School in the last few months.

Last June 13, 2008, Bing del Rosario personally donated 285 book, video and audio titles to Bagumbayan Elementary School, which was received by Principal Thelma Co. The donation included seven DVD titles, mostly Animal Planet & Discovery Channel; nine stories-on-audio-cassette; two complete sets (seven volumes each) of The Chronicles of Narnia; hardbound references such as The Way Things Work, a complete 20-volume set of Grolier Children's Encyclopedia, The World Atlas Illustrated Edition, and The Best Book of Ancient Rome; and a huge assortment of brand-new storybook titles from Scholastic, Nickelodeon, Harper and other publishing houses which includes familiar characters like Dora, Clifford, Biscuit, Curious George, I Spy, and Sponge Bob Square Pants, plus a dozen Magic School Bus books.

Two weeks later, on June 30, the Foundation donated over 200 book titles, this time to Libis Elementary School. Although it had only one DVD title and only one set of the Chronicles of Narnia, the donation did include six Animorphs books, six Star Wars titles, and six titles from Ripley's Believe It or Not, which weren't in the Bagumbayan donation.

And demonstrating his continuing commitment to the Bagumbayan Elementary School library that he helped build, Bing del Rosario again went back to the school last November 4 and November 18 for another book donation. This included 25 titles of so-called "big books" – from publishers Adarna House, NOON Prechool, and QAFF Preschool - targeted at the school's kinder and first graders. It also included 30 titles of the bi-lingual story books (written in both Filipino and English) from local publishers Lampara Books, Hiyas, Anvil and Adarna House.

To give the readers a sense of the titles that the Foundation selects for giving, on the right is the list of Scholastic-published titles donated to both Bagumbayan and Libis Elems last June 13.

Book Title	Price
Big Bad Wolf	260
Family Faith Treasury	430
Duck for President	285
Shutting the Chooks In	210
I Spy: Fun House	495
I Spy: Ultimate Challenger	495
I Spy: School Days	495
Biscuit's Snowy Days	225
Clifford's Puppy Days	165
Clifford The Big Red Dog	165
Chicken Soup for the Kid's Soul	395
Ripley's Believe It or Not 2005	550
A Drop of Water	180
Flashy Fantastic Rain Forest Frogs	195
Clumsy Crab	165
The Chimpanzees of Happytown	155
When Cows Come Home	155
Fidgety Fish	155
Snow Bears	120
Pirate Pete's Giant Adventure	165
Pirate Pete	165
Sir Cumerference and the Pi Dragon	165
The Wheels on the School Bus	135
What Moms Can't Do	145
Porkenstein	145
Parts	145
The Grumpy Morning	135
Grow Flower Grow!	135
Abe Lincoln Who Loved Books	135
Zen Shorts	135
Little Quack's Hide and Seek	185
K is for Kissing a Cool Kangaroo	125
An Old Lady Who Swallowed a Pie	165
Little Quack's New Friend	165
My Daddy Snores	165
Rain, Rain, Rain Forest	165
Moosetache	145
Mary Had a Little Ham	165
How Far Will I Fly?	105
Don't Be Late	95
Feathers for Lunch	195
Cats & Dogs	130
The Custodian from Black Lagoon	115
Sea Creatures	120
Sharks	120
Bunny My Honey	125
Polar Bears	120
Wax Man	105
Growing Vegetable Soup	125
Icebergs and Glaciers	150
Yankee Doodle	120
The Truth About Toffee	90
Squish!	105
Clifford's Hiccups	65
Good Luck Bear's Special Day	120
Clifford: Teacher's Pet	120
We Can Do This Together	95
I Go Shopping With Dad	95
My Sister Has a New Computer	95
Exploring the Deep Dark Sea	175
Who Beats the Heat?	120
Water	120
Amelia Earhart: Up and Away	120
Pele The King of Soccer	100
I Read About Prehistoric Animals	145
Caps, Hats, Socks and Mittens	105
Animal Sculpture	120
Earthquakes	150
The Easter Story	125
Arthur's Teacher Trouble	125
Clifford: Giving Thanks	125

Clifford: Little Flower Seed	125
The Ants Go Marching	130
The Big Wide-Mouthed Frog	110
Tikki Tikki Tembo	165
Ten in the Bed	165
I'm So Embarrassed!	165
I Like Books	95
Little Ghost	130
Have You Seen a Tiger?	60
Give It To Joe!	165
Powerpuff Girls: Beat Your Greens	115
The Things Birds Eat	120
Dancing	120
What Comes Out of an Egg?	110
Frogs Live on Log	120
Ted and Huggly	120
Meet Jim Henson	120
Curious George Takes a Job	140
The Best Teacher in the World	195
Frog and Toad Are Friends	120
At the Funfair	165
Baby Penguin	50
Festivals	120
Clay Art	120
Wool! The Not-So-Scary Ghost	115
My Alphabet Song Book	100
Sea Horses	120
Wolves	125
Birds	120
Mice Are Nice	125
Biscuit Visits the Big City	125
Biscuit Wins a Prize	125
I Read Signs	125



BES librarian Jay-ar Galang receives a large donation of books from the foundation last June 13

Star Wars Junior	10
Magic School Bus: Liz Takes Flight	120
Magic School Bus: Ants in Its Pants	150
Magic School Bus: Ups and Downs	150
Magic School Bus: Blows Its Top	150
Magic School Bus: Programmed	150
Magic School Bus: In the Arctic	150
Magic School Bus: Sees Stars	150
Magic School Bus: Plants Seeds	150
Magic School Bus: Going Batty	150
Magic School Bus: Wet All Over	150
Magic School Bus: Gets Eaten	150
Magic School Bus: Down Under	120
Magic School Bus: Dinosaurs	120
Magic School Bus: Forest Fire	120
Earthquakes	150
Three Pigs, One Wolf	125
Only the Stars	125
It's a Fair Day, Amber Brown	125
Dinosaur Eggs	105
One Hundred Days Plus One	125
The Playground Problem	125
A Book of Silly Tales	145

The Mystery of the Missing Dog	125
Tim and Charlotte	170
Little Tim and Brave Sea Captain	170
Celebrations	120
The Way to Captain Yankee's	115
Victoria's Smile	110
Halloween with Morris and Boris	125
Mervyn's Revenge	85
Five True Horse Stories	100
Tips & Tricks for Junior Detectives	125
What Magnets Can Do	65
Too Cool: Park Games Cold	110
Barkley's Puppy Trouble	110
Clifford at Bat	50
It's Thanksgiving	120
Astronauts	75
Stuart's Cape	120
Chronicles of Narnia – Vols 1-7	1495
Chronicles of Narnia – Vols 1-7	1495



*Libris principal Thel Co scans newly-donated books*

And the following is a list of the locally-sourced bilingual titles from Adarna, Lampara, Hiyas and Anvil donated to both schools last November 18.

Publisher	Book Title	Price
Adarna	Xilef	65
Adarna	Tiktaktok at Pikipakbum	65
Adarna	Araw sa Palengke	65
Adarna	Apolakus!	65
Adarna	Greedy Rajah, White Cloud	65
Lampara	Si Carancal at Bongbongero	65
Lampara	Si Carancal at Busaw	65
Lampara	Si Carancal at Hangin	65
Lampara	Alamat ng Puno ng Niyog	65
Lampara	Alamat ng Papaya	65
Lampara	Nagmimiyaw ang Pusa	65
Hiyas	Si Joey at ang Gulay Gang	65
Hiyas	All Aboard with Five Lolas	65
Hiyas	Big Brother	65
Anvil	Ang Prinsipe ng mga Ibon	78
Anvil	Ang Mahiwagang Biyulin	78
Anvil	Ang Parusa ng Duwende	78
Anvil	Rosamistica	78
Anvil	Ang Alamat ng Lamok	78
Anvil	Si Pandakotyong	78
Anvil	Ang Plautin ni Periking	78
Anvil	Ang Palasyo ng Duwende	78
Anvil	Ang Sultan Saif	78
Anvil	Ang Pitong Tanga	78
Anvil	Ang Sultan Saif	78
Anvil	Anting Anting	78
Anvil	Kapatid ng Tatlong Marya	78
Anvil	Prinsipeng Mahaba Ilong	78
Anvil	Ang Prinsipeng Duwag	78
Anvil	Binibining Tumalo sa Hari	78

## Donations Pour In From Friends and Former Associates of Bing & Elise del Rosario at Their 25th Wedding Anniversary

Bing and Elise del Rosario celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last January 5 at Canyon Woods, together with 200 family members, close relatives, good friends and long-time business associates. In their invitation, the couple specified that “there is no need for gifts; in the 25 years, we have been blessed with everything we could ever wish for – three lovely, responsible, down-to-earth children, fulfilling former corporate careers, good health, and the rare opportunity to be of service to others in this current chapter of our lives. But if you must give, you can make out a check payable to One Small Step Forward Foundation Inc. Your donation will be used for the five-year program (2008-2012) to roll out a new math excellence program to a much larger number of Metro Manila public elementary schools.”

To their pleasant surprise, the response was overwhelming. Donations were received from several guests, including from some who couldn't make it personally to the silver wedding anniversary event. Total donations reached P275,000, received from 65 donors. Bing and Elise extend their gratitude and appreciation to the following – Benjie & Beng Buensuceso, Johnny & Ayen Guevara, Raymond & Feli Co, Didi Manarang, Albert & Au Alipao, Jo Cariaga, George & Terry Go, Cristina Zaldarriaga, Louie & Nina Limjoco, Ed & Tess Noel, Olan & Challie Dimaano,

Lito & Linda Tayag, Aura Matias, Ed San Juan, Armand & Jingjing Favis, Odette Castillo, Dondon & Delia Paderanga, Mark & Chuchay Viegelmann, Lito & Min Sibayan, Doy & Abey Santos, Ed & Cora Abores, Asay & Annabelle Ramos, Bobby & Nimfa Eduardo, Ben & Mencie de Vera, Olie & Jennie Diaz, Ronnie & Cora Nolasco, Willie & Nen Calma, Duds & Maritess Africa, Ferdie & Winnie Constantino, Chips & Belle Atienza, Eric & Evelyn Fernando, Vic & Iyen Marquez, Bernie & Tinette Buenaseda, Arnel & Yolly Pilapil, Carter & Sonia Go, Joseph & Patrice Tan, Beth Lui, Rita Cruz, Mon & Marian Albert, Peter & Girl Tan, Jimmy & Corrine Vergere, Dodong & Marit Sanchez, Peter & Malu U, Beng Manalang, Francis Miranda, Judy Tan, Dot Velasco, Angel & Mita Ong, Albert & Tess Bacungan, Esther Arca, Eric & Lilia Abad Santos, Raul & Arit Rodriguez, Pepot & Portia Sto. Domingo, Pinggoy & Margot Mañosa, Wilson Wy Tiu, Digna Santos, Consie Salas, Seri Vargas, Annie Blanca, Thelma Co, Nitz Pangilinan, Eloi Opeña, Pacit Manga, Francisca & Amy Yazon, Tommy & Rolet Rossel, and Tony & Cynthia Tan.

The donations collected from the anniversary have already been set aside to kick-start the formal program launch timed for next school year. In addition, the donors have been included in the mailing list for future Foundation newsletters. ■



*The del Rosario family poses with Bishop Ness after their renewal of vows at the Canyon Woods chapel*

# Foundation Re-equips Bagumbayan Elementary School with Pre-school and Primary School Books and Educational Game Materials

Defying the conventional wisdom that donors tend to lose interest in their projects after a year or two, One Small Step Forward Foundation continues to support the Bagumbayan library (official name – Bagumbayan Elementary School Multimedia Learning Center for Excellence), which it constructed in 2004.

The idea for the project began in July 2003 when Bing del Rosario started discussions with the principal of Bagumbayan Elementary School to draw up plans for a new library. Principal Nitz Pangilinan found a sizeable percentage of schoolchildren who did not meet the minimum requirements for reading literacy at their grade level and believed that a modest reading room, stocked with sufficient storybooks, would be an effective vehicle to launch her “100% reading literacy” program. As Bing del Rosario worked on the high-level design, the concept evolved, from a modest reading room to a multi-room multi-media fully-fitted-out center that would be a showcase and a model for future library projects in the public elementary schools. He conscripted his sister’s good friend and architect-designer Joy Dominguez to design the concept – for free. He also brought on board contractor July Templonuevo, who volunteered to do the actual build, at cost, without management fee or overhead.

The Multimedia Learning Center was designed to support eight different “functions”: a general student reading area, with enough tables and chairs to accommodate a large number of simultaneous reader-users, with book shelves in easy reach; a video screening area, where videos are selected based on grade level and are to be scheduled based on teacher requests; a computer station room, where all PC programs to be installed would have research (for example, Encarta, Kids Encyclopedia) or reading (for example, Living Books or Walt Disney interactive story books) or skill-building content (for example, key-



Joy Dominguez did the library architecture and design



board typing speed and accuracy); an audio section, where well-loved stories are narrated on U.S.-produced audio tapes and audio CDs; a story-telling section, where volunteer storytellers are invited on regularly-scheduled basis to read Pilipino and English stories to the children; a “game” area, where a select number of word games (Scrabble) thinking games (for example, Chess, dominoes, Connect Four, Game of the Generals, etc.) and manipulative materials (building blocks, etc.) are permanently assigned; a crafts and activities area, to be used for crafts see-and-do sessions, such as origami, drawing, sculpture, card tricks, magic, optical illusions, etc.; a faculty lounge area, with magazines and periodicals where teachers can gather or work, meet or just casually lounge.

Originally planned to take over the area of three classrooms, which consisted of 1,250 square feet or 125 square meters, the plans were quickly redrafted to include the corridor space, which added another 325 square feet or 32.5 square meters, for a total of 157.5 square meters. The library has a maximum capacity of 125-130 people at any one time. That includes the 52 seats in the main reading room, the 20 seats in the educational game area, the six seats in the computer-audio room, and the 45-55 floor-seating positions possible in the video-story-telling section. It was inau-

gurated in July 2004. Since its opening over four years ago, the library has always been filled in the afternoon with students eager to read, work with PC software, listen to audio tapes, watch video clips, or listen to stories. Bing had made it a point to personally read to the kids whenever he can.

On opening day, the library was equipped with nearly 700 storybooks, reading textbooks, science-math books and magazines, reference books, biographies, and light-reading magazines. Today, there are over 2,000 titles, despite a regular program to weed out old and worn-out books. That’s because of the Foundation’s regular program to infuse new storybook and reference titles. The most recent donations this year included - November 4 with 25 new titles, November 18 with 30 new titles, and a whopping 285 titles last June 13. Combined, the November 4 and 18 book donations totaled over P11,000. The retail value of the June 13 book donation exceeded P35,000.

In addition, the Foundation continues to provide new educational game materials and software or replacements of old ones. The June 13 donation, for example included several Discovery Channel and Animal Planet DVDs as well as story books on tape and CDs. The November 4 donation included floor jigsaw puzzles, memory games, Chinese checker



## OSSF Proposes to Build Priest Retirement Home for Q.C. Archdiocese

Last June 19, 2008, One Small Step Forward Foundation Inc., through Bing del Rosario, met with Bishop Honesto F. Ongtioco, head of the archdiocese of Cubao, and Monsignor Dan Sta. Maria, parish priest of Libis-Christ the King Church, and other diocese officials at the bishop's office to sound out the diocese on their interest in building a QC priest retirement home.



*Bishop Honesto Ongtioco officiates mass*

Bing and Elise had recognized that Catholic priests face a major dilemma once they retire, typically, around the age of 70. Although the parish they belonged to tries to accommodate them, the shortage of bed space could force the parish to push out the retired priests or the retirees feel compelled to continue to celebrate mass even if they're no longer physically up to it. Unfortunately, there is usually little or no family support system in place – they have no children to turn to and nephews or nieces are distant and live lives of their own. With their minimal salaries, they will have saved very little if at all. And there is no formal retirement plan in place to provide them with a decent monthly living allowance that allows them to pay for rent, food, utilities, and transportation.

Bing envisioned the retirement facility to include: a cafeteria; toilet and baths per floor or per set of rooms; prayer nooks; mini-chapel; reception; visitor's hall; exercise and play room; entertainment area; snack bar; reading-writing desks in the bedrooms; nurse's station; walking track around the facility; flower and vegetable garden; laundry area. He also saw the need for a car and garage -

to bring retired priests if they celebrate the liturgy, minister to sick parishioners, visit the hospitals or provide spiritual counseling. The car, based on policy to be set, might also be availed of to transport or run errands for – doctor or dentist appointment, bank, grocery store, pharmacy, post office, and regular mall visits.

Another assumption was that 85% of the retired priests booked into the facility will be capable of independent living, with the remaining 15% requiring some form of “assisted living”. By definition, being “infirm” and therefore falling under “assisted living” will include priests on wheelchairs, those with dementia or Alzheimer's, stroke survivors, etc. Therefore, the overriding design of the facility is that it must cater to the weak and feeble, which means – wheelchair ramps, hand bars in all toilets and baths, minimal stairs (and only the more nimble priests get booked on the second floor), secure walking tracks, minimized fall hazards, hand railings everywhere, etc.

The preliminary estimates to build the retirement facility was P25M, plus P5M in furniture, fixtures, and appliances. Monthly payroll was estimated at P40,000, while food and cooking materials would be P120,000, and other costs - phone, internet, cable TV, newspaper subscriptions, purified water supply, piped water, power, LPG; cleaning supplies (lysol, detergents, etc.), grooming materials (tissue rolls, shampoo sachets, hand soap packs, etc.), medical supplies (basic cough, fever, LBM etc. medicines, vitamins, syringes, gauzes, etc.) estimated at P50,000. To reduce the build expense, the Foundation proposed to tap into the large number of architects and contractors among the laity, e.g., Couples for Christ, for free architectural design and at-cost contracting. Minimum land area required for the actual building is 1,500 square meters. Assuming vegetable and flower garden, walking path, driveway for visitors, etc., total land required would be 5,000 square meters.

As for the role of One Small Step Forward Foundation, Bing formally volunteered to put in the time – as much as two days a week for the next three years - to project-manage from concept, design, build-out, and early operations. On the cost side, the Foundation proposed to put in P500,000 annually for a maximum of five years to assist in the construction or ongoing operations. The rest would have to be sourced by the archdiocese, from a special fund drive that Bing could coordinate and manage.

In the June 19 meeting, Bishop Ness showed inclination for the proposed project. He had a lot already in mind, in Santol, in the Holy Redeemer Parish complex, located off Araneta Avenue. It was 6,000 square meters and a visit confirmed the attractiveness of the site. After the site visit, it was also agreed that:

- ▶ the facility had to be better than the one put up in Manila, which had merited poor reviews from the retired priests staying there;
- ▶ although the archdiocese can confidently raise the funds, there should be no “pre-selling” – the church officials would prefer to kick-start the project, get the designs ready, perhaps have 3D models and architectural plans available before



*Monsignor Dan Sta. Maria, Bishop Ness Ongtioco, OSSFF Director Benjie Mirasol and other church officials go with Bing to check out possible Araneta Avenue site for retirement home*

launching any fund drive. This wouldn't be an issue since the One Small Step Forward Foundation was committed to invest P.5M in the first year, which should take care of most if not all early expenses;

- ▶ since the construction costs would presumably be high, preference was expressed for possible phasing the construction. One suggested way to phase the construction was to build initially for 5-10 retirees and then over time, get to a facility able to house 25-30 at one time;
- ▶ all options for making the facility self-sustaining or at least covering some of the regular operating costs should be explored. This should include retirees paying from their pensions, or giving part of what they earn from funeral masses, last rites, hospital and clinic visits, counseling, etc. back to the retirement facility. Future expansion for revenue-generating meeting space, retreat options, receptions, etc. should also not be ruled out.

Subsequently, Bing proposed the next steps:

1. Diocese management to arrange a 2-3 hour meeting with the Manila retired priests who are living, had lived but moved out, or opted not move in, at the Manila retirement home. Bing to facilitate the discussion, to understand exactly what the issues were or still are. What were the show stoppers? What were the irritants? What's in their wish list? Bing to have a similar discussion with the administrators and staff of the Manila retirement home. Preferably, this could be on the same

day as the discussion with the priests above.

2. Get a more accurate handle on the QC diocese demographics. How many priests, their ages, what percentage are immediately taken in by relatives, what percentage are well-off to afford their own condos, what is the retirement age, what are retired priests allowed to do and not allowed to do, how long do retired priests live as independent-ambulant vs. handicapped & care-dependent. A thorough analysis of the numbers will affirm or revise the capacity numbers initially suggested. Arrange a 2-3 hour meeting with a majority of QC senior priests who are less than 10 years away from retirement. This will be the main venue for the needs analysis which Bing will facilitate.
3. Bing to do further research into retirement communities and identify must-have vs. nice-to-have features. At the same time, diocese management to identify the process for identifying the architects (who must work on pro bono basis) who will assist with the project.

However, very recently, in early November 2008, Bishop Ness requested for a deferment to project start-up, citing other higher priorities that had come up. This included setting up a more formal pension scheme for priests. Also, finalizing a health insurance package.

In response, Bing told Bishop Ness, "Rest assured that the offer has no expiration date – whenever it finally starts to move up to number one priority, we will be there to spearhead the effort." ■

Accenture scholarship program. A year later, on November 6, 2006, in simple ceremonies involving Senior Executive and CSR-in-charge Nescel Asuncion and principal Seri Vargas, Accenture decided to reinvest in One Small Step Forward Foundation's Kumon program for Libis Elementary School for one more year.

Libis Elementary School principals, parents and teachers have demonstrated unflagging support for the math program over the past six years. When Bing del Rosario and Victor Claravall introduced the program in January 2003, the school principal then was Pacit Manga and she was highly supportive. Since then, Eloi Opeña, Seri Vargas, and Thelma Co have taken over the reins and all have strongly supported the program.

Today, two full-time proctors man the center, namely, Mhay Alonzaga and Eloisa (Eloi) Antonio. Both Eloi and Mhay graduated with math degrees from PUP and have been with the Libis center since 2007. Eloi had been a Kumon instructor at Loyola Heights since 2005 while Mhay had been with the Kumon center at Creative Beginners, also since 2005. Several math teachers have also done volunteer duty as center proctors but the most consistent have been Linda Perges and Imelda Bernadas, who have been with the program since 2003. Two Kumon parents also deserve mention since they have been doing worksheet corrections since two years ago, namely, Susan Catedrilla and Anna Barilla. Mrs. Catedrilla has had a daughter go through the program (now in high school) and has a second daughter currently in the program. Mrs. Barilla has two sons currently in the program. Eldest Mark is a gold awardee (see above) and may yet be the first program completer from Libis Elementary School. ■



Left, Mark Barilla delivers an inspirational message to Kumon students. Right, teacher and parent proctors supervise the 125 students every Monday and Thursday

## A Short Primer on How the Quezon City Public Education System is Organized

At the present, Quezon City has 97 public elementary schools and 46 public high schools, making it the city with the largest number of public schools in the entire country. This is proportional to the city's population, which is the largest among the four cities and 13 municipalities of Metro Manila. Quezon City has over 20% of the total public elementary students in NCR.

Quezon City is also home to the largest public elementary schools in the country. Payatas Elementary, with four different annexes, has over 12,000 students. Ditto with Commonwealth Elementary. Rosa Susano in Novaliches has nearly 10,000, and Fairview, Old Balara, Dona Juana, Placido del Mundo, Bagong Silangan, Holy Spirit, Maligaya, Manuel Quezon, and San Diego all have 6,000 to 7,500.

At the other end, Quezon City also has its share of small schools, more typical of provincial schools. Pagibig sa Nayon has less than 200, Kalantiyaw has 250, Camarilla has 350, Bungao, Fort Aguinaldo, and Valencia have 400, Malaya, 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Pedro Tuason, and Balumbato are at the 600 mark. And Belarmino, Sinagtala, Leopoldo Santos, Dalupan, Bayanihan, and Bagumbayan are just past the 700 student population.

The city is politically divided into four districts, each represented by its own congressman. The schools are also classified by political district, with 21 elementary and 11 high schools in District 1, 42 elementary and 18 high schools in District 2, 19 elementary and seven high schools in District 3, and 15 elementary and 10 high

schools in District 4. Just from the numbers alone, it's clear that District 2, which encompasses Fairview, Tandang Sora, Novaliches, Commonwealth, Payatas, Batasan Hills, New Era, Pasong Tamo, Culiati, Sauyo, etc., is the most populated district, with a disproportionate poverty class and lower economic class percentage compared to the rest of the country.

Each political district in turn is divided into "school districts", with political district 1 having five school districts (so the 21 elementary and 11 high schools are assigned geographically to one of the five school districts). School districts 6 to 11 are part of political district 2, school districts 12 to 15 are in political district 3, and political district 4 has school districts 16 to 19 under it. Libis Elementary School and Bagumbayan Elementary School, where the bulk of the Foundation's efforts had been focused in the first five years, are both part of School District 12 under political district 3.

Under the Education Department, Quezon City is a division, headed by a Division Superintendent, Dr. Victoria Fuentes. She's assisted by assistant division superintendents Dr. Meleda Polita, Dr. Corazon Rubio, Dr. Rowena Cacanindin, and Dr. Betty Cavo.

A large chunk of Quezon City's school infrastructure budget has been provided by the city government headed by Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. However, the congressmen have tended to chip in with their own donations – schoolbags, raincoats, desktop PCs – to the schools in their political district. ■

### Foundation Re-equips ... *(continued from page 9)*

sets, skribbage sets, a large supply of Play Doh, and several badminton rackets and shuttles. The November 18 batch included three boxes of the new Edmark Smart Cube, a high-tech variation of building blocks.

The Foundation also pays attention to the state of the electronic equipment. Just this November 18, Bing del Rosario donated two new Coby CD-cassette-radio players and two lightweight stereo headphones, to replace the malfunctioning audio equipment, at a cost of over P4,000.

Air-conditioning units are cleaned annually. Very recently, the Foundation engaged a professional contractor to look

at the leaks in the building's roof which had been causing discoloration of the library ceiling. The same contractor has also been asked to submit a quotation for repaint and general cleaning.

Since its 2004 inauguration, the Bagumbayan library has been visited by all the division executives, most of the principals of the other 96 public elementary schools, and the librarians of other schools with libraries. Most of the formal functions of the school, especially where it hosts other schools, are now routinely held at the library. Rumor has it that the library will soon be officially declared the division "benchmark" as far as the city's e-libraries are concerned. ■

## Revisiting the Primary Mission and Chapter of the Foundation

The One Small Step Forward Foundation, Inc. was formally established by Jaime "Bing" del Rosario, former senior partner in Accenture Phils., in September 2006 to provide a legal vehicle for Bing and Elise del Rosario's social work, which had been ongoing since June 2002. The Foundation was set up primarily to uplift the standards of public school education in the country. This has included, among other things, donating schoolrooms and research laboratories; building private school-standard libraries in public schools; donating schoolbooks, library books, audio-video aids, educational games and school supplies; providing after-school academic programs such as the iSipnayan math program, and MTAP tutorials for both gifted and remedial classes; conducting regular story-telling sessions; assisting public schools with infrastructure and equipment needs; providing sports coaching, athletic equipment and playing facilities; providing high school and college review classes and scholarships to academic achievers; coaching teams for inter-school math competitions, etc.

To date, the Foundation has gotten involved in several projects with six different schools in Quezon City, and discussions are in progress with several more. The Foundation views its public school mission to include the Philippine Science High School, where a major donation has been made to the PSHS Foundation to address urgent infrastructure needs, and the University of the Philippines, where the Foundation recently donated the Human Factors & Ergonomics Laboratory to the Industrial Engineering Department.

Outside public school education, the other areas of future focus for the Foundation are - job generation for the unskilled and low-skilled; improving public health; and micro-finance. ■

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