

Tahanan News

Bi-annual Newsletter of Save A Tahanan, Inc.

Taha'nan n. [Filipino] home.—root word, **tahan** v. to live, to reside, to stop crying

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STI AND CFC BUILDING TOGETHER

by Freddie Esteves

One of the basic needs of man is a decent shelter to nurture his family and protect them from natural calamities and other outside factors. Unfortunately owning a decent house in third world countries like the Philippines is a luxury. They rather spend the small hard earned money on food rather than build a house. Most of them live in make shift houses that makes our garages,

tool sheds and even doghouses here in the US livable.

Save-a-Tahanan, Inc. has been dreaming of building a village for its beneficiaries. A village where they can have decent houses with indoor plumbing and electricity; a

center where camaraderie will grow, a school where minds will be nourished and ideas will be heard, a recreation center where body and spirit will soar, and a community where people will learned to become self-sufficient.

This dream was on its way to reality as early as 1987. If not for the ugly and baseless claim of a man who benefited the blessings of the land he was temporarily allowed to stay. In 1971, Honesto and Rosie Tria purchased from a relative

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Groundbreaking Ceremony

SWING POVERTY OUT

by Freddie Esteves

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Purita Panibe turned her \$40 loan into a retail store that made her send her children to school, provide food for her family and fix their house. Panibe is one of the more than 700 families being assisted by Save-a-Tahanan, Inc. (STI) to

rediscover their gifts and create change in their way of living.

For almost a decade now STI brings fulfillment to the dreams of its beneficiaries to live decently and become productive members of

their community. STI with the help of its supporters provided loans to successful families who passed the rigid values formation seminar and skills improvement training given them. The support doesn't end with

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STI and CFC Working Together (con't)

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a 5.5-hectare land in Ratay, Sta. Cruz, Calabanga, Camarines Sur. Their relative requested that their son be allowed to stay for three years and the couple obliged.

After moving for good to the United States of America in 1978, Honesto and Rosie now heavily involved in providing opportunities to underprivileged families in the Philippines through STI decided to donate the land to the beneficiaries in 1987.

Unfortunately, their nephew doesn't want to leave and questioned the sale of the land. The case was brought to the court and it was only this year that the case was settled in favor of the Tria couple. Instead of totally throwing their nephew out, they gave him a hectare to continue his livelihood and a place to stay.

"That is my dream house for my family which I cannot provide because my income is not even enough to provide three meals in a day."

The Couples for Christ (CFC) has an ongoing project of building houses for the homeless. They work with different organization to carry on this project. The CFC-Sta. Cruz Chapter heard about STI's project and offered their services to plan and build the community. It includes 27 clusters (200 houses) of 2-bedroom houses, a livelihood and development area, a formation center and a school and recreation area.

The land is ideally situated between Inarihan River and an irrigation system that is very good for farming and other livelihood projects. STI and CFC will formulate criteria in choosing the families that will be benefited by this project.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held last March 13 at 3:00 in the afternoon. A parade was held with STI and CFC members, barangay officials, STI beneficiaries and local residents. A program was then held at the site. The



unveiling of the project made everybody excited and hopeful that they will soon own one. "That is my dream house for my family which I cannot provide because my income is not even enough to provide three meals in a day," said one spectator.

During the groundbreaking, both Honesto Tria, President of STI and Jaime Lorenzo, Provincial Director of CFC Gawad Kalinga stressed the importance of loving one's neighbor and the three other important traits... Fe (faith), Esperanza (hope) and Caridad (charity) one must possess in order to make our world a better place to live in.

The Save-a-Tahanan, Inc., a non-profit organization in the Bay Area, and The Couples for Christ, Sta. Cruz Chapter are from different geographic locations but share the same goal to provide decent housing to underprivileged families where love, faith, hope and charity will rule. Both are hoping that this village will be the start of series of housing projects.

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Swing Poverty Out (con't.)

(Continued from page 1)

the handling of loans. A team of committed volunteers strictly monitors the progress of the STI assisted families. If proven unworthy of the loan, the family has to return the loan. STI believes that hard earned money from donors should be spent wisely to keep the cycle of giving chances to other families.

In order to reach more families, the STI family in the US is working hard to raise more funds to sustain the operations in the Philippines. They constantly think of various fund raising events ...from garage sale to caroling to

making gift baskets among other things. After years of debate and planning to put up a golf tournament...it's finally here. This



Making threads

coming June 19, STI will be holding a charity golf tournament.

The team took the initiative of coming up with the very first STI Charity Golf Tournament knowing that a lot of their sponsors play golf. They were convinced that it is very good

vehicle to ask for donation and provide fun and enjoyment at the same time.

STI sent a letter of invitation to friends to play golf. The response was overwhelming that most of them signed up. They asked companies to sponsor a hole for \$200 each. They got the 18 holes filled up few days after sending out the letters.

STI hopes this event will generate funds that will help more Purita Panibe to improve their lives.

The date is set on June 19... the venue is Blue Rock Springs Golf Course in Vallejo... bring out the golf clubs and together let's swing poverty out. ☺

Jacob's Well

By Freddie Esteves

Jacob is a twelve-year old boy with an ambition of becoming the president of the United States of America someday. He is a 5th grader at Hirsch School in Fremont who likes reading and watching Jeopardy. He's into airplanes and cars and enjoys traveling. He also loves to entertain people and mingle with older people where he can start a well thought and fruitful conversation.

But Jacob's interest doesn't end there. His grandparents- Papa Nesto and Mama Rosie influenced him a lot in passion towards public service. In fact he is the youngest member of Save-a-Tahanan, Inc. (STI), a non-profit organization that his grandparents together with other couples started in 1994.

Jacob is one of the most active

members of the organization. He sees to it that he is always present in every meeting. And not just a mere spectator but gives his piece of mind in every matter being discussed. He even offered to host the meeting in their house with the blessings of his parents.

His commitment to STI grew stronger when spent Christmas with his family in the Philippines last year. During his stay he interviewed people and saw the difficulties and hardships that they undergo to survive. He vowed to work harder to get more funds that will eventually help these families.

True to his commitment and words, Jacob asked his family and friends to donate to STI instead of giving him gifts during his birthday last March. He eloquently told them

that kids in the Philippines needed the money more than him. He was very happy with the outcome for he was able to raise a decent amount of money.

Instead of going on vacation to a friend's farm during his spring break, Jacob gave up the opportunity and went to different offices to solicit sponsorship for the forthcoming STI golf tournament on June 19. He was excited and even dressed up to meet his would be sponsors. He was able to get two companies to sign up for the said tournament.

For Jacob, doing something for the betterment of other people makes him happy and fulfilled. At his young age, his parents and grandparents were able to inculcate



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WE NEED YOUR HELP

Your Contribution Will Make a DIFFERENCE

Be a Donor of SAVE A TAHANAN, INC. (STI) and help provide opportunities for our underprivileged *kababayans*

- \$ 100.00 will sponsor a family with 5 to 6 children
- \$ 50.00 will start up loan for a mother or father with 1 or 2 children
- \$ 20.00 will help with other family development cost

Any amount will help.

Please make your check payable to Save A Tahanan, Inc.
Your donation is tax-deductible.

Save A Tahanan, Inc. (STI) is a tax exempt, 510(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. It was founded in 1986 by a group of Filipino-Americans based in San Francisco, California, a group of seven families who originally came from Calabanga, Camarines Sur.

Its mission is to mobilize resources to improve the lives of families through training and microfinancing and to empower them as responsible members of the community.

Its vision is to promote self-sufficient and stable families, leading communities to develop opportunities and collective solutions to issues of poverty, and upholding respect for all people of economic levels. STI believes that a self-sufficient tahanan (home) is the foundation of a strong society. It is guided by the principles of sharing and participation that instills accountability.

STI works in close partnership with its target beneficiaries, community leaders, and other stakeholders to implement its various programs in the project areas.

2004 GOLF TOURNAMENT

THANK YOU FOR FILLING A HOLE...

Analytical Environmental Services (2 holes)
Bay Area Bumpers
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Campagnoli Abelson & Campagnoli
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Circe Sola McLeod
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Quimson Dental Care and Ariel & Leah Quimson
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AND THANK YOU FOR SWINGING WITH US...

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Thousands of miles away are families that will benefit from your generosity. This will mean so much to them...an additional capital...a child in school...food on the table...a new roof... a business expansion. Together we can make a big difference!