

Lift The Burden of Poverty Through Education

...by: **Sol Capuno-Banal, BSN, RN (Sinagtala'87)**
The writer has declared her intent to join "CYDFI Crusade Against Abject Poverty In The Philippine Rural Areas".

"Our youths of today will become our leaders of tomorrow". A powerful statement that we hear time and time again and society is cognizant of the fact that there are many obstacles that hinder our youths from reaching their fullest potential of becoming the leaders of the future. Poverty being one of them should not be an excuse to reach our goals but should instead fuel our burning desire to overcome poverty altogether.

"Wala kang magandang kinabuwang pinagaralan, wala kang mga oportunidad na magiging lider ng buong bayan", is what my parents would always remind us. Education is your future. Without it, many opportunities will come and go. Arm yourself so you are better prepared to face whatever life throws at you. Being the eldest of 5 children, it became clear to me that my parents' hardship should be rewarded with a diploma and find gainful employment to help them. There were many obstacles along the way, financial being one of them but through the generosity of kind-hearted people, dreams became a vision and not just an aspiration.



The Capuno-Banal Family
Roel, Sol, Melissa, Eric, Arielle

"Our youths of today will become our leaders of tomorrow. Little did I know that the education my parents strived to work hard for would someday pave the way to overcome our poverty".
Soledad Capuno-Banal

Little did I know that the education my parents strived to work hard for would someday pave the way to overcome our poverty. I helped send my brother and sisters to school echoing my parents' principle in their heads time and time again hence they forget. 2 nurses and 2 physical therapists later! I firmly believe that education is the answer to abject poverty in the Philippines.

CYDFI helps answer the call for social responsibility. We need to guide our youths reach their aspirations and their dreams become a reality. The choice is ours to make. Let us help "break the cycle of poverty" in our beloved Philippines. The potential of our youths is great, let us give them a chance.

For our youths of today, dream and DREAM BIG!