

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Peace be with you. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas celebration with your loved ones, and I wish you are all fine. On behalf of all the children, youth and adults we wish to thank you for your generous heart and support.

December is a time when we become one in celebrating the same spirit of love and generosity. It is a moment we look back and forward to evaluate what has been done and learn from it. This leads us to plan better to give a better answer to the needs of the people.

### **The homeless**



This year we have launched a project for the homeless families, building for them four houses. We had to make a good selection of people and we gave priority to those who are committed and active in our parish and attending our formation programs. The first family is made up of 6 persons, the mother and grandma; the husband is dead and there are four children, the eldest is 11 years and the youngest is one year and six months. They did not

have electricity and water supply and other basic needs. The second family is made up of ten, the parents and eight children the eldest is 16 years and the youngest 4 years. The third family is made up of 8, parents and 6 children who are still at school and the last family is of 7, the father is the second husband and the children are from both first and second fathers. They practically live on the road because they live in a hut. We would like to add four more houses, but the budget is limited to these four houses.

### **Sponsorship**



Another project is the sponsorship both in education and music. As regards to education we pay for the extra expenses the school asks for like books, exam permits and other fees. The government has made a law of free education to all state schools and universities, we are supporting the payment of miscellaneous fees both for the government schools and universities. Some of our young ones come from big families and transportation sometimes becomes a big load, more than the miscellaneous fees. One must keep in mind that salaries

are low and mostly the only source of income comes from the father. There are also cases where we are helping the mid-day break lunch food due to the long distance to go back home.

### **Music Sponsorships**



Presently we have a total of 85 children and youths attending our music program. This means we are catering for the salaries of 6 teachers. Two of them are also teaching during the week. We take care of the purchase of books and other methods to keep up the level of studies and performance and the buying of instruments and accessories. We also thank some foreign friends for their support by providing us with some accessories for the instruments.

## The Manila Group



A satisfactory outcome for the music program is the group studying professional music in Manila. Automatically expenses are involved, and these consist of the payment of the accommodation, the weekly travelling expenses from Manila to Bataan and back, the partial payment of foods, some school miscellaneous fees and others. Presently there are five students in Manila and we are happy that through this new experience we are noticing changes in the character leading them to maturity. Two other students are preparing themselves for the coming school year starting August 2019.

## Creating jobs



Our land is about 10,000 square meters and we kept part of the land in rice and vegetable planting area. For this we need some people to work the field and keep up its maintenance. We noticed that some of our workers have progressed substantially, putting good roof to their houses, good windows and their grills to protect them, the purchase of tricycles and a second-hand car and others.

We have initiated an educational program for the parents who wanted to help their families by teaching dress-making to some mothers. They were also taught how to make liquid soap, dish washing liquid and others. Living in a province is not easy because this brings lack of opportunities to both adults and young. For several months we lost hope of having some income to help the mothers in putting a small business. We encouraged them to make a cooperative and thus they can unite to support each other. These last three months we got a project for their income, the mending and selling of socks to markets in other provinces.

## Salon



Another project is the hairdressing and manicure/pedicure salon. Thanks to some benefactors who came here in January 2018 and instructed some mothers in setting up a salon. A salon was set up and the lady that manages it is also offering domestic service, gradually this salon is making a name and thus the persons attached to this service are getting an income.

## Repair Instruments Shop



With the help of two British musicians and repairers three students of our music program have been trained in repairing string instruments. The two trainers have left us with some tools and we also added some other tools that were needed. Presently we are helping with the repairs for some music bands and orchestras. We wish to set up a Facebook page to advertise our shop and thus provide the youth with some income to help them with their study expenses while they also support the Centre.

Another brass and woodwind repair shop will be set up these coming weeks. Thanks to Sir Wayne a British music teacher who helped us in the purchase of some tools, we are waiting for his support to set up this shop and to give some training to some of our youth and thus offer our services to those who need our help. Repairing an instrument means four hours' drive leaving the instrument to be repaired and get it back after some days.

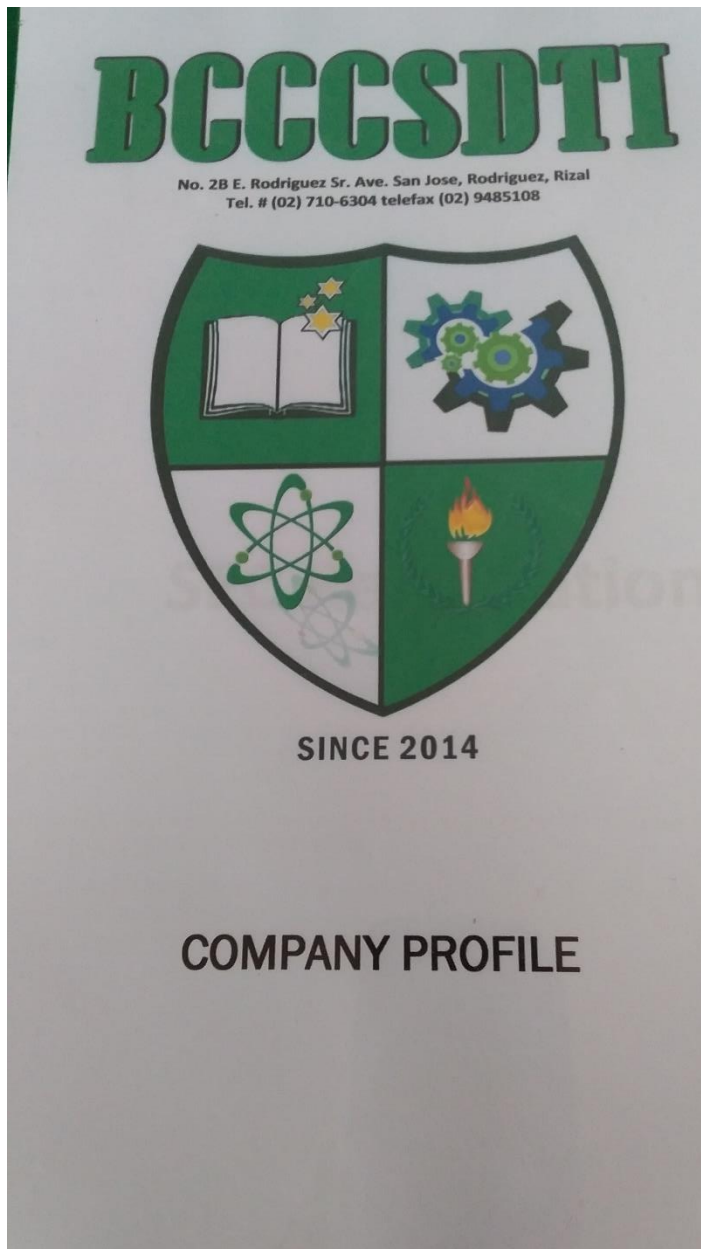
## Welding Shop



Another service that is gradually putting roots is the welding shop. Due to the different construction works we had and still have, we obtained all the necessary machinery to make steel doors, windows and others. Sometimes our workers have been asked to make some steel works to some institutions or private entities. We encouraged our workers to set up a shop and attend to the needs of some organizations that ask for their works. Thus, they can get extra income and can help also our Center with the daily running expenses. We are building some funds to have the materials we need to comply with the works asked for.



## TESDA



TESDA is a government entity helping people by training them with technical skills and therefore after passing the adequate exam they will get a certificate and a license to apply for a job. This entity looks for organizations that can be of counterpart and to shoulder the expenses of the materials needed for the course and the payment of the instructor. Some four years ago we have organized a course on electrical installation and last we had another course on dress making. It has been very hard for us to organize these courses due to the changing of TESDA heads and the delay to approve the courses requested.

Some weeks ago, a private NGO called BCCCSDTI has approached us to ask us to help them with the setting up of a TESDA program and thus we agreed to have a meeting by the first week of January 2019. The aim is to have mobile courses coordinating with the local governments of each village while having our Centre as their base of work. Our share would be to offer our premises and the material needed.

### **Other programs**

Other programs include the feeding program, we give a meal every weekend to a group of 90 children and youths. We also have other children staying in one of our houses for different reasons and this includes three meals a day. The support of medicine, checkups, hospitalization and other tests. We also help some children with pocket money while they help in any small errands at our Centre, this is done in cases where children are living away from their parents, separated parents and orphans.

We thank God for his providence through your generous heart. Our deep thanks to you all and wish you and your family many blessings for the coming New Year.

Joseph Cremona mssp

December 31<sup>st</sup> 2018