



CFSI. Rebuilding Lives.

Established in 1981, CFSI is a social development organization specializing in psychosocial services for uprooted persons. Based in the Philippines. CFSI has non-profit, charitable institution status.

Community and Family Services International

CFSI RECEIVES AWARD FOR HUMANITARIAN SERVICE

Community and Family Services International (CFSI) has been named the “Outstanding NGO in Humanitarian Assistance” in the Philippines by the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) of the Philippine Government.

The “Gawad Kalasag” was presented to CFSI Executive Director Steven Muncy by Angelo Reyes—Chairman of the NDCC and Secretary of the Department of National Defence—assisted by Jose Lina, the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government, in simple ceremonies on 30 July 2003 at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

The award cited CFSI’s support to “...national and local government efforts by responding to emergencies, specifically in Mindanao where it attended to 35,000 Filipinos displaced by armed conflict.”

It goes on to note that “CFSI initiated creative approaches in teaching school children, like ‘arms are for hugging, not violence.’ Various initiatives for war-affected, out-of-school children and youth have resulted in the return and entry of more than 500 girls and boys to elementary school. Through CFSI’s efforts in Pagalungan, Maguindanao, four temporary schools structures have been built, ten teachers have been hired, and countless nutritious lunches prepared daily by trained mothers. In addition, they have taught parents how to make school uniforms and provided every student with a complete set of school textbooks.”

Along with the award came a grant of PHP50,000 (US\$900). CFSI will apply all of this towards the “Arms are for Hugging” initiative in Barangay Inug-ug, Pagalungan. One objective of this initiative is to raise, by the end of 2003, the PHP1,700,000 (US\$30,000) needed by the people of Inug-ug to construct a permanent public school building able to accommodate 500 children and youth.

CFSI accepted the award on behalf of internally displaced persons in conflict-affected Central Mindanao and with great appreciation for the host of government units at all levels, organizations, academic institutions, and individuals that have helped make this work possible over the past three years. These include, amongst others: The World Bank Post Conflict Fund, United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Consuelo Foundation, Japan Social Development Fund, Canada Fund, La Trobe University in Australia, Notre Dame University, Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology, University of Southern Mindanao, De la Vida College, Saint Benilde College, Kadtuntaya Foundation, Mindanao Network for Disaster Response, Member Organizations of PhilNet, Save the Children Federation, OXFAM, Beacon School in Manila, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, Leesburg Baptist Church, Mr. Washington SyCip, Filipino-Americans living in the United States, and individuals living in the Philippines.

Press Release 01 August 2003

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