



OF TOYS, GIFTS, AND EARLY CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Article by: Jayrick Aguirre

Lay-out & photography by: John Ramel Q. Rafael



It seems like Christmas came early for them, as they all sat in the middle of the room, looking around expectantly as the organizers handed out pink and green paper cutouts for them to write their wishes on. Wishing almost anything—a tablet, a cell-phone, a ‘tide ber,’ ‘hapines’ to the family, a gun, and even a boyfriend—they all wrote earnestly and saw their wishes become decorations to the small, decorated Christmas tree in the corner. The simple tree soon became festooned with these children’s hopes and dreams,

all ready for the season of giving and sharing.

The Order of Asclepius, in partnership with the ANCOP (Answering the Cry of the Poor) organization once again held a Christmas gift giving activity to the children of Brgy. Sto. Nino Sur, Villa in Arevalo last November 22 with the theme “Maaga na Kasadya para sa Paskwa.”

This year’s Christmas Party featured toy giving to the children after the Order gathered around 60 items of toys, stuffed toys and

storybooks from various donors in the College of Medicine in the “Chikititoys” campaign initiated by the resident members.

ANCOP is a non-profit Catholic organization, organized by Couples for Christ (also once affiliated with Gawad Kalinga) coordinated with the Order for the event. Around 65 children participated in the event, along with the parents, youth and ANCOP Officers.

“Since 2005, I think nagahiwat na gid na di Order sang Christmas Party para sa mga kabataan (Since



2005, I think the Order has already been conducting Christmas parties here for the children)," ANCOP Co-ordinator, Rolando Rivera said. "Ang learning kag education gid na di ang maayo para sa mga bata sa mga aktibidades nga ini, (The learning and education here are good for the children in activities such as these)"

The program started at 9:30, filled with games, a story-telling session, a talent show and food. Errel Arboleda hosted the event, with Marielle Barredo as the story

teller. Twenty-nine members from Batch 36, 37, and 38 were present and had all helped in setting up and planning for the activity in the community.

"Nagapasalamat gid ako sa inyo nga pagkadto diri kag sa paghatag kalipay kag pagkaon sa mga bata (I want to give you big thanks for coming here and giving happiness and food for our children)," said Aurora Fabillo, ANCOP President during her Closing Remarks. "Madamu gid nga salamat (Thank you very much)."

As the children all lined up to receive their toys, they all couldn't help but talk excitedly amongst each other, trying out their new playthings. But when Sir Lando stepped on the microphone and played a game called "Jesus Speaks..." they all quieted down and listened. Proof of the power of prayer and hope that binds these people together. The party ended in a sweet note, with messages of hope in their hearts, as well as in those pieces of paper hanging on the little tree in the corner of the community's function room. #