

Business World

BEYOND BRUSHSTROKES



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Giving hope

"MY MISSION will begin after my death. I will spend my heaven doing good on earth... to serve the most needy or the poorest of the poor for it is those who have no hope." — Consuelo Zobel Alger, philanthropist (1914 - 1990)

"The story of Consuelo Zobel Alger's generosity is truly inspiring. What makes it so magnificent is how she quietly left her entire wealth for the poor, without any fanfare to attention to herself," said Mia Andal Castro, managing director of the foundation.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Consuelo Foundation, the art exhibit "Giving Hope" will open at the Ayala Museum on April 5. "The exhibit honors her memory and the many contributions of her foundation in the field of social development and child protection. What better way to do that than through communicating her message of hope through the beautiful works of art created by the survivors — abused children and young adults whose lives she has touched."

The Foundation has made a strong impact on thousands of children from Kalinga to Tawi Tawi.

Here are some statistics:

- 400,000 children and women have benefited from the programs;
- 125++ organizations are part of the CF

dates back 400 years to the Spanish conquistador Ponce de Leon). She grew up in Manila and married an American officer James Dyce Alger who was stationed in the Philippines. When he retired, he and Consuelo moved to and settled in Hawaii.

"In an act of extraordinary grace," Consuelo Zobel Alger, created the foundation in 1988. It was [set up] to improve the conditions of disadvantaged children, women and families in the Philippines and Hawaii. The foundation's programs focus on prevention and treatment of sexual abuse and exploitation.

"Doña Consuelo made a bold decision to leave her entire wealth for the poor. She wanted to renew hope for those who have lost it and to give hope to those who have never had it. When the foundation started its operations in the Philippines, its basic strategy was to strengthen, expand and replicate a few programs that worked," Ms. Andal-Castro remarked.

Annette Gonzalez Chanco, director for administration explained, "One of the unique features on how Consuelo Foundation carries out its work as an operating foundation is it contracts the services of organizations who serve its target beneficiaries.

administration, financial management, health and environmental safety and improving effectiveness and sustainability.

"We help develop and strengthen social entrepreneurs among our partners to come up with products or processes that address social issues in their respective communities," Ms. Gonzalez-Chanco added.

FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

The CF programs:

- Healthy Start Program is the early childhood care and development program for high risk families (0 to 3 years old). It nurtures and protects the children and provides them with the positive stimulation, prevents child abuse and neglect. There are nine partners throughout the country.
- Life Skills for Children at Risk provides the youth (13-17 year old) who are out-of-school with opportunities to develop life skills and provides access to the Department of Education's Alternative Learning System: to earn an elementary or high school diploma without having to attend formal school.
- Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Network (CAPIN) provides the system and the professional response to a child abuse survivor who comes forward with

Protection and Recovery Program assists the youth in a temporary shelter, aids local government agencies in responding to a report of abuse and refers neighborhood officials to the appropriate temporary homes and shelters for sexually abused children.

"Giving Hope Art Exhibit" (open to the public April 6-10). The foundation has gathered artworks of children and young adults from Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and Metro Manila. The artists are survivors or at-risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation under the tutelage of Bambi Mañosa of Creative Kids Studio. The artworks show various themes, imageries of different regions like large scale flowers, papier mache birds and lanterns.

Among the important CF partners are: Child Justice League, Inc.; Elsie Gaches Village, Metro Manila; Baguio Center for Young Adults; Oblate Sisters of the Most Holy Redeemer for St. Mary's House in Tagaytay, Serra's Center, Pasay City, and Antonia de Oviedo Center, Guadalupe, Cebu City; Apostolic Vicariate of Jolo (Social Action Center Jolo), Sulu; Maharlika Institute of Technology, Tawi Tawi; Don Bosco Technical Institute in San Jose, Nueva Ecija, Makati and Laguna.