



PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

Every once in a while, we at Outreach International have to take a few steps back from our work to really appreciate its impact. To consider the totality of every successful project, every empowered mindset, every new generation born into a world more capable of ensuring its success is to witness the awesome power of what happens when we care for one another.

It starts with you. Your capacity for love and enduring belief in the potential of all persons continues to make possible every single thing we do at Outreach. Your generosity continues to truly, measurably change the world for the better every single day. Your gifts support our mission in every way – far beyond practical and material needs; you inspire all of us with your enthusiasm and partnership, and offer comfort and encouragement to our community partners, who know that you care enough about their wellbeing to help them reach their fullest potential. You matter so much to all of us at Outreach, and by extension, mean so much to the future we all share.

This partnership update represents some of the latest ways you have touched the lives of our community partners, and provides a closer look at why you matter so much. From everyone in the Outreach family, thank you for your trust, partnership, and love. You make so many good things possible.

Enough for Everyone in the Philippines

Our friends in the Philippines have been busy furthering their low-interest, community-run rice loan program. Even before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, community teams were enhancing their programs to benefit more households, and increasing their respective capacities to streamline the process of both acquisition and distribution of rice. By the time public health concerns led to government-mandated home-isolation orders for community members, they were prepared to make the necessary adjustments to continue furnishing short-term rice loans to families without interruption.

The program works like this: Local community leaders work directly with suppliers to obtain rice at wholesale prices, rather than having to buy it at retail markets at a steep mark-up. They negotiate a fair price,

and arrange for the bags of rice to be delivered to a central location, accessible by all participating households.

These households are all members of their respective Community-Based Organizations, or CBOs, meaning they are active, committed members of the team, and contribute to the work underway in a meaningful capacity, as opposed to a situation where a CBO furnishes supplies to anyone who asks, which would not be a sustainable model.

Once the rice is delivered, it is furnished, bag-by-bag, to families whose level of household income is too low to afford food at market prices. Over time, each recipient repays the cost of their food loan into a community-managed fund, which generates growth through loans' very, very modest interest rates. This fund will cover the costs of further rice acquisition, and provide a renewable, sustainable means of food stability for each household. As evidence of this, their

most recent distribution was the 22nd successful cycle of their rice loan project!

It's a simple, sustainable system with benefits beyond the dinner table. Managing the program equips community members with valuable experience in accounting, accessing resources from outside vendors, and of course, teamwork.

