



sparrow music

The Downbeat

GO HUNGRY FOR A HUNGRY CHILD

Eighty Percent.

In 2013, When Sparrow Music opened its doors to the community of Payatas in Quezon City, Philippines about 80% of our students were underweight and malnourished. Today, 40% of our current students are. Those numbers are pretty significant when compared to the latest research finding that 32% of kids in the Philippines are malnourished and underweight.

To combat malnutrition, we continue to provide nutritious meals as well as health and wellness education to our students. These practices have helped reduced the amount of malnourished students at Sparrow over the last three years.

In 2017, we would like to lower that percentage even more by increasing our lunch servings, adding light breakfast meals, and feeding the increasing amount of non-Sparrow kids who knock daily on our front gates looking for food. Our current budget stands at about \$400 a month; that's \$20 a day feeding over 50 kids. While we are thankful for that budget, our meal servings, although nutritious, are small.

We have kicked off our Go Hungry: 3M3D initiative that will run until December 31, 2016. We want you to go hungry and get involved. It all starts with one meal....

1. Go hungry.

It's pretty simple. Instead of heading out to eat at your to your favorite drive through...simply don't. By skipping that meal, and donating the money you would have spent (for most people it's about \$10), you'll be feeding a hungry child. We're recommending 3 meals per person sometime before December 31 of this year. But by all means, repeat as many times as possible!

2. Encourage others to go hungry, too.

There is no limit to how many people can participate. Encourage your friends, family, and coworkers. Encourage your congregation. This isn't about sitting alone watching everybody else around you eat. Encourage others to go hungry!

3. Feed a hungry child.

Your "small" gift of \$30 to the #3M3D initiative will make a huge difference and will go directly towards feeding the children in our program.

That's it. Three steps.

To go hungry, or for more information, please contact us at 408-206-9117 or visit sparrowmusic.org. Get hungry for a hungry child! #3M3D

Fall 2016

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A Testimony by Dra. Raquel Javillana

In the year 2006, I was in my proper year in dentistry when our church sent a team to Coron, Palawan, Philippines for a medical, dental and evangelistic mission. An old man who waited the whole day to get medicines and have his teeth removed was used by God to open my eyes to see the great need and ignite the passion to help in the mission field. Since then, I've been joining medical and dental missions.

A great turning point in my life happened in 2013 when typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) devastated the Visayas region. My heart was pierced as I watched the news; I couldn't believe the aftermath of the typhoon. The Philippines has experienced many strong typhoons in the past but none that left this kind of devastation. I knew that my dental skill was not needed at that time, but a strong desire to just be there and do whatever I could do brought me to my knees. I wept and plead to the Lord to send me and be His hands and feet.

One of my mentors helped me get connected to a team of doctors who were going to Tacloban. I stayed and helped there for almost 3 weeks. Though it was a heart crushing, chaotic time, little did I know that the Lord was starting to change my heart's desires. I was supposed to go and work abroad to support my family and the ministry. But no matter how noble my reasons were, like the Lord says, "Many are your plans, but only mine will stand." The calling was clear and affirmed.

After many struggles and bargaining with the Lord, I finally obeyed and resolved in my heart to be in the ministry full time.

Dental health in the Philippines is greatly neglected because many are poor and cannot afford to avail dental services. The fee for one tooth extraction is equivalent to a family's food budget for a week. So they would rather choose to bear the pain than to starve.

In the year 2014, a friend of mine invited me to help in a one-day mission in Payatas. He said they needed a dentist for the kids. I know many of them are poor, so I went together with another friend who is a dentist, too, and some young people from our church. That was the time when Ferdinand Medina (Executive Director, Sparrow Music Philippines) and I got reconnected after our meeting in Tacloban.

I've been hearing stories about the lives of people in Payatas but to see it and hear it straight from them is a different story. So when I learned about Sparrow Music, I was glad because I know this will be an avenue for the kids and their families to know more about the Lord, an organization that can be used by God to bring hope and change.

The opportunity to visit the Sparrow Music kids every year since 2014 and bring along some of my friends and youth from our church is a great privilege to serve the Lord. Hearing their dreams and getting to know more of them, not as patients but as kids, warms my heart. As I hear each of their stories, something is being changed in me as well. And seeing the volunteers dedicating their lives to be an instrument of hope changes and strengthens me to press on as a worker too in the ministry of the Lord.

Kids from Sparrow Music are God's way of reminding me that life isn't about being fair or unfair. It's about His grace made available to everybody. That life situations is not the mere measurement of how deep His love for each and every one of us.

John 14:12-14 says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."

These verses are my daily reminder, as I work and serve the Lord.

For the past 3 years, I have seen how the Sparrow Music kids grow and improved. May the melody they create bless and bring glory to our King. May their lives be a living testimony of His goodness and loving kindness to all humanity.



Sparrow News and Updates

Wellness and Hygiene Training

This summer brought Body Talk Philippines to our learning center. Annie and her team talked with our students and staff about how to take good care of our bodies, responding to illness, giving first aid and survival tips in case of disasters.

Music is Fun Workshop

Sparrow Music was blessed to have Dr. Bethel Schnitzlein teach the "Music is Fun Workshop" in July. The workshop covered interactive and creative music sessions, integrated music through singing, movement and dance, improvisation with character development. Our students learned a lot about living out meaningful life through the use of music. And our staff's highlight is the use of music as a tool in intentional character development.

New Instruments

In the last few months, Sparrow has acquired two acoustic guitars as well as a full-size electric keyboard! Our students are excited and ready to go for another semester of learning and performance!

Give This Christmas Away 2016

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's Sparrow Music Christmas shoebox drive! A total of 234 boxes were loaded onto a cargo ship and sent to the Philippines and should arrive in time for Christmas. These special shoeboxes, filled with your personal notes and hand-picked gifts, will bring so much joy to a child this Christmas. Thank you for being a blessing to the kids of Payatas.



Sparrow Music Dental Ministry

Many thanks for Dr. Raquel Javillana for her continued partnership! August marked her third visit to the Sparrow Music Learning Center since 2014. In total, 46 of our students and 4 volunteers were examined, and 25 underwent tooth extraction. All patients who underwent extraction were administered local anesthetic and pain relief medication in the days following.

In the future, we hope to offer more comprehensive dental care to our students including oral prophylaxis (cleaning) and even tooth restoration.



Mark Your Calendars

Go Hungry: #3M3D

Oct to Dec, 2016

ARCC Charity Golf Tournament

Saturday, October 22, 2016 at 2 p.m.
Summitpointe Golf Club

Trivia Night

November 19 at 7 p.m.

3rd Annual Crab Feed

February 2017

Why We Support Sparrow Music

Interview with Marciano and Helen Agbunag

What about Sparrow Music attracts your support?

Mar: I know it's a place where the kids can go and grow... and to have a good time, probably. Growing up in the Philippines, I know how hard it is to be in an environment where it's safe to hang around and have fun.

What would you tell to somebody that might be interested in supporting this organization?

Mar: I have seen the results, personally. So I can attest that the money you are giving is really going towards a good cause, and you can really help kids around Payatas.

Mar, you were recently in the Philippines and got the chance to visit the Sparrow Music Learning Center. What stood out to you the most?

Mar: Just by looking at them, I can see that they are happy. I can see the joy and the glimmer in their eyes. They are so happy to be in that place, especially in an area [like Payatas]; you can go around [Payatas] and see it's very poor. Even when it was pouring rain, there was still that joy.

Mar comments on being in Payatas for the first time.

Mar: I was raised in the Philippines, so I thought I had a good idea of what it was like. But being there personally and seeing those kids [in and around the Payatas dumpsite]... I mean you look around and it looks hopeless, but I've witnessed and felt it now, and I've seen that we need to help them, and Sparrow is doing a good job. And I encourage anyone who just wants to help, to give their money towards something, I think it would be well worth it to give it to Sparrow.

Helen, since you haven't visited the learning center yet could give a shout out the students a personal message, what would you say?

Helen: As much joy as you have in music, you can have even greater joy in knowing Jesus.



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Our Mission

Sparrow Music, Inc. was founded by individuals who share a common bond: a passion for music, a compassion and love for under privileged and impoverished children and an even greater love for God. This love for God has manifested into a burden for missions and a strong desire to share God's love and His Word with the children and youth living in the most repressed areas. It is our vision to bring the hope of the Gospel to these children, and at the same time, to create future musicians and worshipers of our Lord Jesus Christ.