

# Philippine School Receives Books from Byrom Elementary

It took three months in transit, but Camp Lapu-lapu Elementary school is happy to report that books from Byrom Elementary School are now in the hands of the students.

The project was initiated by Philippine-based Ging Baylon of Bright Start Cebu, with the support of local Tualatin resident Marem Flores. Marem moved to Tualatin from Cebu 8 years ago. "Now the books have a second life based on the glowing smiles of the children of Cebu!" Tualatin resident Laura Stewart, volunteer librarian of Byrom Elementary School, played a big role in collecting the books. The project has created a bond between the two schools based on books and the joy of reading.

This is only the first set. There are still more distributions to come and 3 more boxes of books are currently in transit through a donation by Bridgeport Elementary School.

"We are truly grateful to Ms. Sarah Bautista, Byrom Elementary School principal, Ms. Laura Stewart, Ms. Marge Congress and Ms. Marem Flores for supporting our cause. We would also like to thank Mr. Ronnie Joseph Gonzales, Camp-Lapu-lapu Elementary School principal, Mrs. Villariza, school librarian, and to all teachers for the opportunity to help. Lastly, we would like to thank Mrs. Rebecca Flordeliz, Barangay Apas councilor for facilitating the endorsement and distribution."

The environment plays a crucial role in the development of a child and one of the most upsetting situations of less-fortunate children is the scarcity of school materials that would enable them to have better literacy skills. Students living in resource-poor communities may not reach their full potential. How can they be good readers when they do not have books? Bright Start understands why parents of our beneficiaries do not buy books



for them. Not that they do not want to, but because the very little income that they have (mostly as public-utility vehicle drivers) goes to food. Also, they themselves did not experience "book-reading" activities when they were young. Most of them come from poor rural areas hoping for a better life in the city.

For the past five years, Bright Start has strived to reach out and do something to change this. Through the kindness of donors, we were able to do projects such as Bright Readers wherein we have given books to children studying at public schools, day care centers and special schools. Just recently, we've launched Operation Webster with the aim of providing dictionaries and reference books to public elementary schools. Today, we want to strengthen that commitment by making December 1, 2014 through December 1, 2015 as the Bright Start Give Books- Give Love Year!



If you would like to find out more about how you can get involved, or to make a donation, [www.brightstartcebu.com](http://www.brightstartcebu.com).