

Ugnayan

Throwback



When MCPI was still a USAID-funded project entitled "Developing Standards for Microfinance Project", and the Ugnayan then was "The Standards".

What's Inside

- 1 ■ ASA Philippines, SEDP-Simbag sa Pag-asenso, and St. Martin of Tours join MCPI
- 2 ■ ASHI, TSPI partner with DSWD for livelihood of 4Ps beneficiaries

For articles, suggestions and feedback, please send an email to the secretariat@microfinancecouncil.org

Microfinance Council of the Philippines, Inc.



MFCouncilPHL



ASA Philippines, SEDP-Simbag sa Pag-asenso, and St. Martin of Tours join MCPI

Three microfinance institutions have joined the Microfinance Council of the Philippines, Inc. (MCPI). Meet our newest members.

ASA Philippines Foundation



In early 2004, Ambassador Howard Q. Dee and Mr. Kamrul H. Tarafder founded ASA Philippines Foundation with the objective of assisting the poor and improving the quality of their life through microfinance and other social services. With pioneering trustees who had extensive experience in formal finance, microfinance, and development work, the Foundation started its operations in August 2004 using a special method that was specifically redesigned by Mr. Tarafder during his UNDP period and adapted to the Philippine context as

ASA system in the Philippines. Recognizing the need of the poor for financial inclusion, and the strong personal commitment of the founders to provide this, the Assisi Development Foundation (ADF) and the Ninoy and Cory Aquino Foundation (NCAF), extended initial financial contributions to ASA Philippines.

From its first branch in Camarin, Caloocan, ASA Philippines, as of May 31, 2013, has 509 branches nationwide serving 618,767 borrowers. It provides financial services such as loans, CBU (savings) and microinsurance; and business management training for microentrepreneurs, academic scholarships for 1,300 deserving children of borrowers, and disaster relief assistance and

TURN TO PAGE 2

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ASA Philippines...from page 1

health care to members as part of its CSR activities. Last year, it has spent PhP126 million for CSR activities alone. As ASA Philippines Foundation strives to deliver client-responsive services to its members/borrowers that would increase their income and improve the quality of life, it also endeavours to create the best working environment for its staff, support the development of their career path, and give them the chance to live in dignity and experience the fulfilment of changing people's lives and their own—the mission everyone in the Foundation takes very seriously every day.

SEDP-Simbag sa Pag-Asenso, Inc.



The SEDP-Simbag sa Pag-Asenso, Inc. started out as a Socio-Economic Development Program of the Social Action Center (SAC) of the Diocese of Legazpi.

Under the auspices of the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Targeted Women and their Families for Socio-Economic Development (TAWFSED) was implemented in October 1994 in the towns of Libon, Camalig and Bacacay. On the other hand, the Vendors Development for Micro-Lending Project (VDMP) under the support of MISERIOR was undertaken in the towns of Tabaco and Ligao in August 1995. Adopting the Grameen Banking Model, these two programs were merged as Socio-Economic Development Program or SEDP and became the seeds for the establishment of the SEDP-Simbag sa Pag-Asenso, Inc. on December 31, 2003.

Coming from a pioneer of less than 200 members in Albay in 1995, SEDP-Simbag sa Pag-Asenso, Inc. has grown its membership to more than 37,000

in 23 branches covering 5 provinces of the Bicol Region and Samar Province in the Visayas. The institution “commits to deliver financial and non-financial services with training and formation to micro-entrepreneurial families towards improved socio-economic condition, political empowerment, and enhanced spiritual well-being”, and offers loans, microinsurance, social services, spiritual development and formation, and enterprise and business development services to members. It also grants scholarships to deserving students of good performing members.

St. Martin of Tours Credit and Development Cooperative

Fifteen visionary Cursillistas of St. Martin of Tours Parish of Bocaue led by Dr. Antonio B. Fortuna, in 1969, organized the church-based St. Martin of Tours Credit Union, named after the patron saint of Bocaue, Bulacan. It had as “its main objective the creation of wealth through a system of allowing people to help themselves.”



What is now known as St. Martin of Tours Credit and Development Cooperative (SMTCDC), changed its name twice, adapting to changes through the years, while continuously growing and expanding its reach, bringing its products and services outside Bulacan. From the initial capital of Php250.00, the Cooperative now has a gross loan portfolio of Php742.6 million, Php22.2 million of which is for Agapay microfinance program. Its ten full service branches serve more than 33,000 members in Central Luzon. SMTCDC has four AGAPAY microfinance branches serving more than 7,000 clients in Bocaue and Sta. Maria in Bulacan, and Cabanatuan and Talavera in Nueva Ecija. They offer financial services such as AGAPAY

Regular Loan, Pamilihan Loan, AGAPAY Regular Savings and Gabay sa Pag-unlad Savings; and social services like business and skills training, St. Martin Life Plan (SMTLP), medical and dental services, and awareness programs such as dengue awareness and disaster and risk management. ♦

ASHI, TSPI partner with DSWD for livelihood of 4Ps beneficiaries

Ahon sa Hirap, Inc. (ASHI) and Tulay sa Pag-unlad, Inc. (TSPI) have partnered with the Department of Social Welfare and Development in providing livelihood assistance to DSWD's Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program - Conditional Cash Transfer (4Ps-CCT) beneficiaries. ASHI and TSPI will be providing microfinance services to the beneficiaries of the program.

Of the 3.9 million poor households under the 4Ps program, the first set of 300,000 will be graduating by December 2013. By June 2013, all of them would have been provided with livelihood assistance and the focus would then shift to the sustainability and profitability of the livelihood projects.

Another NGO, the Ayala Foundation, Inc., is also part of the partnership.

For the full story, please go to <http://www.businessmirror.com.ph/index.php/en/news/regions/11486-ngos-boost-dswd-s-livelihood-programs>. ♦

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