



# ANNUAL REPORT Of OIKOS PTOCHOS THEOU MISSION (The Poor Household of God)

## INTRODUCTION

Oikos Ptochos Theou Mission is a small religious missionary community based in Borongan City, Eastern Samar. It is a welcoming community for everyone who finds their way to the Oikos homes especially the poor, the downtrodden, those in the fringes of society. In mid-2010, Oikos went into community-based apostolate focusing on two adjacent upland barrios -- Brgys. Sohutan and Calicoan, west of Borongan. Evolving as a fruit of the spiritual life of the OIKOS PTOCHOS THEOU Sisters, Oikos dreams of Christ-centered communities where people live in dignity and harmony, sharing and journeying together towards fullness of life

### Supplemental Feeding in Brgys. Sohutan and Calicoan



Last year, another six-month supplemental feeding program was held in Brgy. Calicoan involving 97 children, with ages ranging from a year old to 10 years old. Calicoan ranks 10 in malnutrition among children in the city of Borongan. Of these 97, 21 were severely underweight, most were in grade school already. Health experts say that the best window of opportunity to address malnutrition and under-nutrition is in the pre-school years. By the time children reach school, much of the damage related to poor nutrition has been done, therefore impacting their ability to learn and their long-term productivity.

The feeding was an everyday affair, Monday to Friday, every lunchtime. Beneficiaries were the daycare and primary pupils of Brgy. Calicoan. A number of intermediate pupils were also enrolled in the program especially those underweight notwithstanding their age.



The barangay leadership provided the organization with the feeding area - the old barangay chapel which OIKOS renovated and became now the center for OIKOS activities in Calicoan. Mothers of the children beneficiaries took turns in the cooking and served the children during the feeding. Each feeding day saw four mothers and led by the barangay health worker volunteering their services. After each feeding session, the mothers join the staff for lunch which spontaneously became a good avenue for exchanging thoughts on child rearing, family life, and even sharing of concerns, feelings about issues, anxieties on life conditions, paving the way for a closer relationship with the people, especially the mothers, in the barangay. This relationship with the mothers resulted in the forming of a Bible sharing group with the children's parents. Being big in number, they were divided into three (3) bible sharing groups each group meeting once a month.

### Educational assistance

Starting on the second semester of School Year 2010-2011, Oikos supported 10 college students from very poor families: one taking up Nursing, two are Elementary Education majors, one is taking up Accountancy, one in Civil Engineering, two are taking up Computer Science, one taking up Social Work, another in Business Administration, and one Associate in Computer Technology. The scholarship covered school supplies, enrollment, tuition, and miscellaneous fees, and financial assistance to cover school projects. These college beneficiaries also availed of the center's other learning enhancement services, like the mini library and internet connection. Some were trained to become choir members.



Last school year (2011-2012), Oikos supported 10 more college students in the local state university, making the college-sponsored 20. Aside from this, Oikos assists 150 elementary and high school students enrolled in public schools through the provision of educational supplies.





## Community & Character Development



For the children beneficiaries, entrance to this program is through the catechism which is held every other Saturday of the month. Fifty-five children are enrolled in this program, 28 male and 27 female. In the youth category, value formations done through the Youth Faith Formation program held once a month. The sessions are interspersed with Gospel values on the importance of faith, trust and confidence in GOD, and our being responsible for one another, for being 'our brother's keeper.'



Late last year, the Oikos Youth Missionaries (OYM) was formed so with the Oikos Little Missionaries. These are avenues where the youth and the children can grow in their relationship with Christ making Him the center of their lives. On the first week of Easter, OYM held its First Summer Camp in Salcedo, Eastern Samar. Pictures can be seen at the facebook account of OIKOS-Borongan.