

Jonathan

At first, I was happy living with my family. Our life was peaceful and simple. My papa was a mechanic and my mama stayed at home. We were very happy that we could eat three times a day. But everything changed when my mama was implicated in a crime she didn't commit. She was with those who committed the crime so she got accused too. At first we tried to cope with our sadness. My papa forced himself to forget his sadness for us children. Papa knew that mama didn't want that to happen so he just continued alone, working to support us. We would have been happy if we were together with mama but it wasn't possible.

Until one day I saw papa was drunk and sleeping in a tricycle. From that time on, Papa changed. He was always drunk and coming home late. We started living with my grandmother. After many days, I saw that my papa was with another woman. I couldn't do anything but cry. I couldn't believe he could replace mama so quickly. All of us children had to start working to help support my grandmother and our needs. From then on, I survived by scavenging, stealing, begging and spending time with my friends using drugs.

But all of that changed when I was helped by ICAN to change my ways. They wanted to help me study so they took me to Kuya Center where I learnt to read and write and do household chores. After some time at Kuya Center I was transferred to Bahay Tuluyan and here I have been able to go to school.

Because of Bahay Tuluyan I have been able to develop my talents and I have learnt what I need to do to help myself and achieve my dreams. They also taught me what I shouldn't do so I don't destroy my life. This has all happened because of the people who have helped me. Bahay Tuluyan has become the way through which I have been able to do all of this.

Thanks to everyone who set up Bahay Tuluyan. Bahay Tuluyan has helped me and other children who need it. The mothers and fathers there guide us and Bahay Tuluyan has given us many opportunities. As a result, many children can now go to school, eat three times a day, play and know what they need to do. Thanks Bahay Tuluyan.