



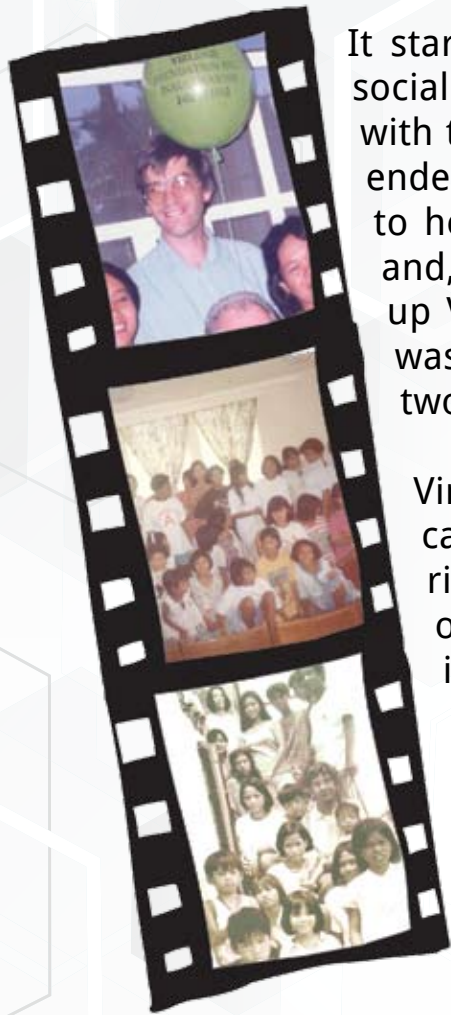
# THE POWER OF STORIES

*Annual Report  
2014*



**Virlanie**  
*Giving back the smile to street children*

# HOW IT ALL BEGAN



It started with the vision of Dominique Lemay, a French social worker who came to the Philippines for a project with the street children of Manila. But even as the project ended and Dominique went back to France, he was moved to help in a much bigger way so he returned to Manila and, together with a team of Filipino social workers, put up Virланie Foundation, Inc. in 1992. The name Virланie was inspired by the names of Dominique Lemay's first two daughters: Virginie and Laurianne.

Virланie Foundation today is a recognized child-caring institution that advocates and lobbies for the rights of the child, helps children who are in need of special protection, and enables them to become independent.

In 2014, Virланie Foundation helped a total of **819 children** through its residential, outreach, and support programs. And for the future, Virланie Foundation will continue its work of *"giving back the smile to street children"*.

## THE POWER OF STORIES

Stories are the way by which we know, discover, and understand each other. When we tell our stories, we share a bit of our selves. More important, stories have the power to change mindsets and inspire action.

Each child in Virланie has an amazing and inspiring story. These stories have the power to move any listener. But it doesn't stop at the children for our staff members, sponsors and volunteers also have riveting experiences that are worth sharing.

From these individual narratives, we can show you the way we work and the way the organization is structured. We hope that by sharing this personal part of ourselves, you will know and understand us and our work better.





# 2014 IN REVIEW

As part of Virlian's vision for the next 20 years, the Foundation refocused its core strength to better help children in need and keep them away from precarious situations. As the organization feels its way forward, guided by this intention, things slowly fell in place in 2014, signaling the start of an exploration towards more meaningful social service.



For example, Virlian's work in the area of caring for **children with special needs** is slowly being recognized and appreciated as an excellent model in this arena. The **Foundation's Education Program** shifted its focus this year to underline the belief that learning starts from the home. The family environment in the Virlian Homes plays a major role in education. The **Children's Legal Rights Office (CLRO)** also inked a partnership in the same year with the Correctional Institute for Women, bringing legal support to at least 10 cases from the facility annually.

The **Outreach Programs** likewise focused on creating more stable and independent families that are able to support the children holistically. The Mobile Unit, Open Day Center, Balik Probinsya, and Family Program are just some of the Foundation's programs that extend into the community and street to give support to individual families in terms of livelihood, children's education, and day-time shelter.

2014 was not without huge blessings as the Foundation celebrated 22 years of dedicated service via "**Indak, Galak**," a fiesta-themed party held in July at the Makati Coliseum. Sofitel Manila and RunRio, Inc. also organized a **Half Marathon** in August for the benefit of the organization, raising money from the sponsors and the more than 5,000 runners who participated. Finally in November, the annual **Philippine Tatler Ball** featured an auction for the benefit of Virlian Foundation, Inc.



Our President and Founder Dominique Lemay added more jewels to his crown of accomplishments as he received the very prestigious title of **Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor** in September in Paris, France. On local shores, he was also conferred in April with the **Order of the Knights of Rizal** in recognition of his service for the country.

The years ahead will prove to be interesting, indeed, for Virlian Foundation, basing on the milestones of 2014. The organization continues to encourage partners and friends to keep supporting our programs for the benefit of the children.

# MESSAGE FROM DOMINIQUE LEMAY (PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER)

## *Continue creating good things out of challenges*



I want to tell you two stories of how two Virланie Homes began.

One day long ago I was walking in a park, Luneta, when I saw a mother and her baby by the road side. The child was placed underneath a small chair and the mother was sniffing solvent from a plastic bag. From time to time she would put the bag near the baby's face for the little child to sniff, too. So of course I went up to her and talked to her. I asked her why they were there, why she was doing that. She said she didn't have any money. After a while I went to the drugstore to buy milk for this baby. I gave it to the mother and then I left.

I could not keep them out of my mind after that. After a few days I went back to see how they were doing. I saw the mother in the same place, but the baby was not there anymore. I asked her about the child. She said her baby was dead.

This experience made me realize the urgency of setting up a Home for mothers and their children. This was how Virланie's **Mother & Child Home** started. Today, it has evolved into the **Babies & Toddlers Home**. We take care of very young children from 0 to 3 years of age.

Virланie today is also taking care of children with special needs through two Homes called **Jade Home** and **Aime Home**. Jade came first in the mid-90s and this is how it began.

During the Christmas of 1994 I brought some of my friends to the **RAC (Reception and Action Center)** in Manila. When we were there I saw a boy being beaten up by other boys, but strangely, he was not reacting and not fighting back. He was just keeping still, taking all the blows. I came closer and realized he was different. To make a long story short, I was able to bring this boy to Virланie. But since we did not have a special Home at that time for children like him, he was placed in one of our existing Homes until we opened Jade Home. To this day he is still with us. And I believe he is happy and thriving, together with the other children in Jade.

Many of the things we are doing in Virланie were spurred by stories like this. This annual report prepared for the year 2014 aims to tell a very tiny portion of the countless stories that make up our collective history. Through these short tales we wish to show that from difficult lives, inspiration, hope and a better future are always possible. We hope that you will be inspired by this year's report.



# MESSAGE FROM LAURENT GOIRAND (VICE PRESIDENT)

*"More than ever, Virlanie is focusing all its efforts on preventing children from ending up in the streets."*

I have been with Virlanie for around 15 years, and one of the nice things about being here for a long time is that the kids who were 6 to 12 years old 15 years ago are now 21 to 27 years old... it's their stories that inspire us every day in Virlanie.

One great example showing the long term impact of what we do is the story of the community of Moriones, Tondo. I was assigned to tutor and support a group of 50 children from 6 to 13 years old in 2002. At the same time, someone else was supporting the group of teenagers, and a third person was working with the mothers. In 4-5 years an incredible job was done to empower each one of them.

When we started, most of the kids were out of school and the community was surviving on day-to-day jobs. When we go back there now, we see that most of the young kids are now adults, some are married with children but most, if not all, have decent jobs and earn enough money to sustain their families. One of them even graduated from the most prestigious university in the Philippines.

A long time ago, someone told me that it takes 2-3 generations to move people out of poverty. I am amazed to see the truth in this. If we look back at the Tondo community, you would see the parents (1st generation) who barely knew how to read and write. Almost all of their children (2nd generation) have decent jobs and proper education. We can be sure that most of their kids (3rd generation) will be out of poverty.

This is a really nice and real example of a program that has a major impact on the life of the poorest, a program that becomes sustainable as parents are enabled to run things by themselves with minimal support.

More than ever, Virlanie is focusing all its efforts on preventing children from ending up in the streets. We do this by working with communities like the one in Tondo. For those who are already in the streets, we are pushing all our efforts to give back to these children the safe and loving family environment they need.

Thank you all for the support you are giving us.



# VIRLANIE FOUNDATION'S CORE VISION, MISSION AND BELIEFS



## **Vision**

To protect and empower children for a brighter future

## **Mission**

To take care of children in need of special protection towards independence-enabling, and to advocate and lobby for the rights of a child.

## **Beliefs**

To achieve its Mission and Vision, Virlanie has recently focused its efforts on 0 to 12 year-old children and those with special needs. This is being done in the following Homes: Babies and Toddlers, MPCC, Masaya and Tanglaw (0 - 12 years old) and then in Aime Home and Jade Home (special children).

Virlanie still has 4 Homes for young adults: Ella Yallah Home, Elizabeth Home, Weaning Home and the Drop-In Center.

Virlanie believes that it is in the best interest of all our children that they are placed back into a family structure as soon as possible. To achieve this, we aim to give our children a family structure within 3 to 5 years. This can be done through reunification with their family, through adoption, or by putting them in a foster family. But in all cases, the preparation and the follow-up done by Virlanie are crucial to make sure that the placement can become a long-term success.



For Virlanie, a family is a stable place where adults understand and assume their responsibility to give love and education to their children--all within a safe and stable emotional environment.

Virlanie is a strong supporter of the children's Right to Education and their Right to have a Family. As an organization, we are committed to answering the needs of the children in our care to the best of our intellectual, emotional, and organizational capabilities.



# VIRLANIE'S PROGRAMS

*Exit Points*

Independent Living  
Family Reunification Program  
Adoption  
Foster Care

*Support Services*

*Residential Programs*

*Child Care*



YAP and LIFE  
The Passage

Magellan Learning Center  
Sibuhi  
Medical Program  
Psychological program

CLUSTER 1  
Babies & Toddlers Home  
Marco Polo Care Center  
Tanglaw Home  
Masaya Home

CLUSTER 2  
Drop-In Center  
Ella Yallah Home  
Elizabeth Home  
Weaning Home

CLUSTER 3  
Aime Home  
Jade Home

*Outreach Programs*

*Child Rights*

Reception and Action Center (RAC)  
Children's Legal Rights Office (CLRO)

Family Program  
Balik Probinsya  
Open Day Center (ODC)  
Mobile Unit

Bangon Probinsya  
Social Development Center (SDC)

Children  
from the streets

*Entry Point*

# BABIES & TODDLERS HOME (BTH)

*"He is a survivor. Today, Paul is a happy, healthy baby!"*



happy, healthy baby.

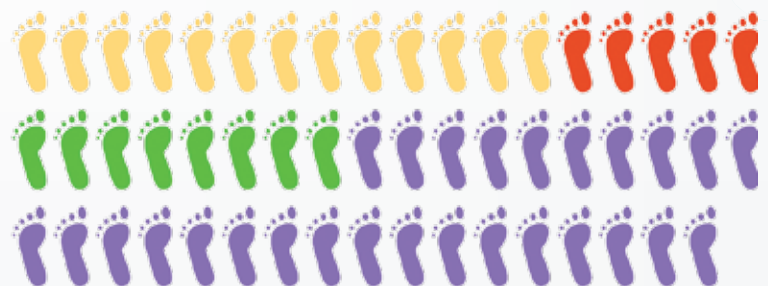
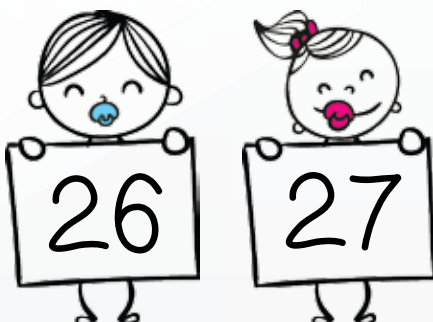
The story of Paul's unbelievable rescue from a prominent shopping mall in the district of Makati City hit the local news headlines towards the end of 2014. A mall maintenance employee saw the newly born baby and brought him to the hospital where he was checked, given first aid, and confined for observation. The young child ended up under the care of Virlanie Foundation and into the loving, welcoming arms of BTH's house parents and caregivers. Today, he is a



The Home where Paul is growing up in, **Babies and Toddlers Home (BTH)**, provides a nurturing, loving and caring environment for children aged 0 to 3 years old who were surrendered, neglected, and abandoned.

SITUATION IN DECEMBER 2014:

**53** children served, 20 new children and 33 old admissions



- Reunified to family (13)
- Adopted (5)

- Transferred to other VFI Homes (8)
- Still in BTH (27)



# MARCO POLO CARE CENTER (MPCC)

*"I like Math and I want to be a doctor. And I like playing with my best friend Sophia!"*



When Angel was 1 year old, she entered Virlanie Foundation together with her mother who had a physical disability. She just came from hospital confinement due to severe diarrhea and was seriously malnourished when she arrived. A few months later, her mother left the Foundation and gave up Angel for adoption. In the same year, Angel's mother died.

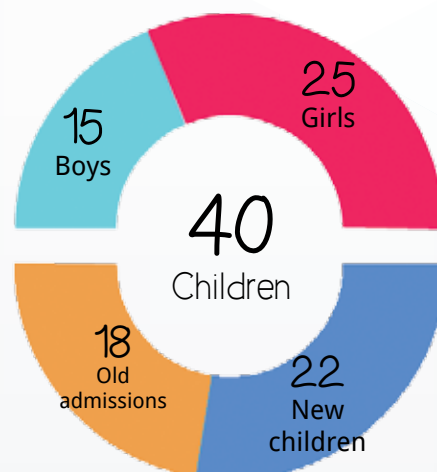
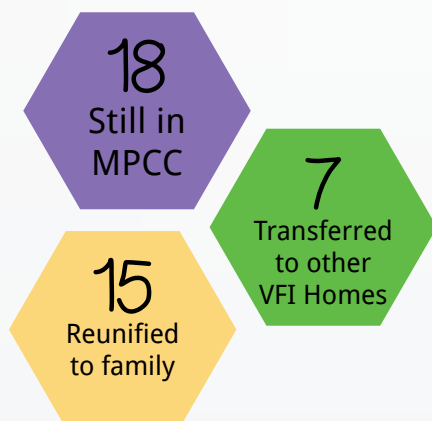
From the weak baby who could barely stand up, Angel today at 5 years old is a picture of happiness and hope. She is a quiet and sweet child with a beautiful smile that could light up a room. With the help of her house parents and caregivers in Virlanie, Angel underwent therapy and was able to return to good health.

Her life now opens up brightly before her as VFI was able to facilitate her adoption process. She will be joining her adoptive family in the United States soon. And with their brilliant plans for this little child, her dream of becoming a doctor when she grows up could now become a reality!

**MPCC** is Angel's Home for the moment. It is Virlanie Foundation's residence for children 4 to 6 years of age. The children here go to school and attend supplemental classes in the Foundation's learning center. The house parents and caregivers are teaching and training them to grow up with confidence, good values, and discipline.



## SITUATION IN DECEMBER 2014:



# TANGLAW HOME (HERROD 1)

*"To the children whose parents left them, don't blame your parents because there is a reason why they did it. Just pray always and God will help."*

Anna has a grand dream: to one day become a beauty queen.

As someone who has never seen nor met her biological parents, it is inspiring to know that 13-year old Anna does not harbor anger or pain in her heart. Instead, she feels gratitude for her good fortune of finding a new family.

Through Virlanie, she was matched with her adoptive parents from the United States and will be leaving the country soon to start a new life with them. But Anna plans to go back to the Philippines to build a Foundation like Virlanie to help those children who don't have parents.

In Virlanie, the young girl underwent a huge transformation from being a very shy crybaby into a confident, prayerful, and athletic young lady. She thanks Kuya Dom for helping *"children like me."*

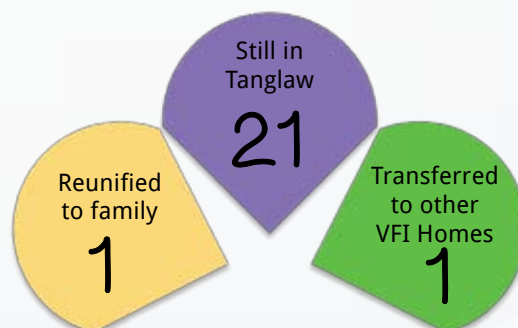
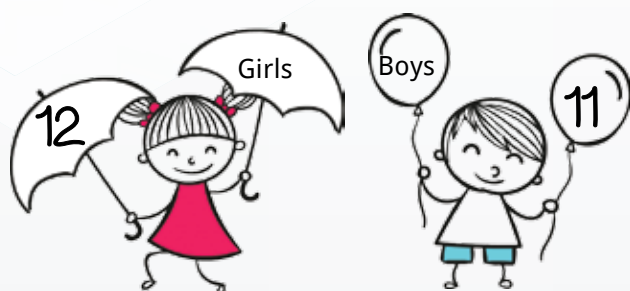
*"I am grateful to Virlanie for my education," she said. "I would like to thank a lot of people, the volunteers, friends from France who are helping us, Papa Ricky, who taught us lessons from the Bible, and Kuya Lolo, who taught us Math and who is always funny. I will miss him."*

Anna's current Home, **Tanglaw Home**, shelters children from 7 to 12 years old. The house parents are training the children on housekeeping in preparation for independent living. As it happens, the current batch is very interested in sports and many of the children have made significant achievements in this arena. For example, some of the children are members (and recipients of MVP awards) of the Global Football Club, joining tournaments in and outside Metro Manila.



SITUATION IN DECEMBER 2014:

**23** children served, 3 new children and 20 old admissions





# MASAYA HOME (HERROD 2)

*"Mama used to get up early to wake us up because we had school. She would give us twenty pesos. But I wouldn't eat so I could give the money back to my mama so she could buy food with it. My mama is gone now. She had gone to heaven to rest."*



10-year old Lita used to frequent the streets of Tondo, Binondo, and Divisoria. That's how she met Ate Marie of Virланie Foundation's Mobile Unit. The van goes around the communities of Manila to provide literacy sessions for children, mostly street children. Lita presented herself to Virланie because, in her own words, she was having such a *"hard time studying."* In fact, Lita used to have an unsafe and challenging home life. Her mother had a stroke and was confined in a wheelchair. Her father and brother (she has four siblings) have been in jail. *"Many of them have been in prison,"* she related, *"Papa went to jail for fighting with Mama. And with me."*

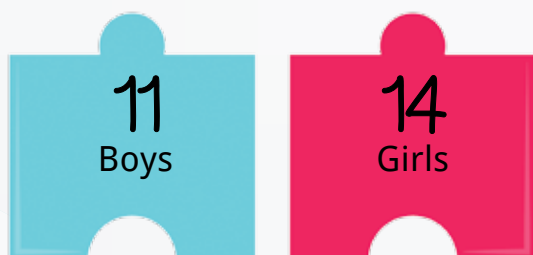
Lita loves Math, drawing, and coloring. She immensely enjoyed the lessons with the Mobile Unit. When she grows up, she said that she would like to be a lawyer *"to defend and help people."*

When her mother died recently, she was already in Virланie. *"I cry when I miss my mama,"* Lita said. *"But last night I prayed for her and my sisters. She is buried by the river. I love my mama very much!"*

Lita is a resident of **Masaya Home**. And like Tanglaw, Masaya Home is where children aged 7 to 12 years old live. Here, the children are also trained in housekeeping in preparation for independent living. The children engage in sports and other physical activities, as well as recreational, academic, and arts-oriented events.

SITUATION IN DECEMBER 2014:

**25** children served, 4 new children and 21 old admissions



# DROP-IN CENTER (DIC)

*"I used to be dirty, I slept anywhere and was used to begging for food. Now, in Virilanie, I have my own bed, I take a bath every day, and there is always food for us."*

Alma's journey has so far been very difficult. She spent countless nights sleeping in various dark corners of Manila, has experienced swimming in thick, murky waters to dodge authorities, been so badly injured in the streets that she needed surgery, lived with and worked for strangers who ended up maltreating her, got very sick in a government facility, ended up in Virilanie, escaped, then asked to be taken in again. And she is only 15 years old.

Virilanie has given her a new lease in life, so to speak. Today, she goes to school as a Grade 4 student, has good friends in the Foundation, and is slowly nurturing her dream of becoming a pediatrician in the future. *"Our house parents are very kind to us,"* Alma revealed. *"Tita Naty taught me how to color and draw—I didn't know how to do that. They make us eat our vegetables. I didn't get sick here, from 44 kilos I am now at 47."*



Aside from the physical and health changes, Alma has learned self-control and discipline from living in DIC. *"If you're angry at someone, you will learn how to control yourself and not get into a fight,"* she said. *"I am happier here now, although I will miss my friends when I am finally reunified with my mother."*

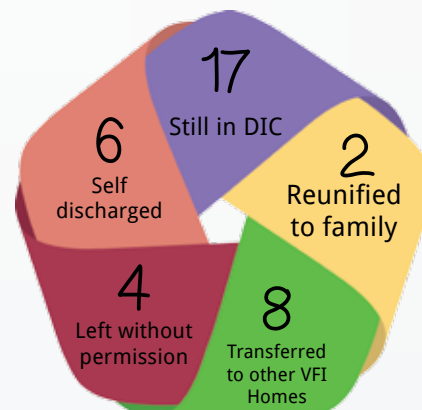
The **Drop-In Center** is where children aged 13 years old and up are first taken when they enter Virilanie. Here they are assessed and taught about house rules, responsibilities, and routine. The children here are active in sports and activities related to the arts. They often participate in recreational activities and outreach programs hosted by VFI's numerous volunteer outreachers.

## SITUATION IN DECEMBER 2014:

**37** children served  
- 18 new children  
- 19 old admissions

17  
Boys

20  
Girls



**Cluster 2:** 4 homes for Young Adults 13 years old and up



# ELLA YALLAH HOME

*"I have fond memories of my time in Ella Yallah. I learned how to be independent."*



17-year old Emma spent around four years in Virlian Foundation, living first in DIC and then in Ella Yallah. Her mother entrusted her to the Foundation, and then they lost touch. The organization is currently working on a possible reunification between Emma and her family.

*"I would feel both sad and happy when I leave," Emma shared. "Happy because I will finally be with my mother, but sad because I've grown close to the people in Virlian — we're like a family."*

Emma is talented and lucky enough to be part of the Virlian Children's Choir, and it is indeed one of the highlights of her stay in the Foundation. Aside from the travels, concerts and training, she treasures the friendships that she has developed with the other choir members.

**Ella Yallah** is Virlian Foundation's Home for young adults aged 13 to 18 years. This is where they are trained to be self-sufficient and given advice and guidance about their future. Being a few years away from independent living, the Ella Yallah team prepares the children so that they are armed with the necessary skills and values to face the realities of adult life.



SITUATION IN DECEMBER 2014:

Boys

13

Girls

9

**22** children served  
- 4 new children  
- 18 old admissions

18

Still in  
Ella Yallah

2

Reunified to  
family

2

Transferred  
to other VFI  
Homes

# ELIZABETH HOME

*"We love to dance. Through dance, we are able to express our feelings. There is happiness in this Home. So much happiness."*



15-year old Francine is cheerful, charming and athletic, spending a lot of time playing badminton and soccer. She laughs and talks like a young girl but she has learned to be stronger and wiser to defend herself and to learn from her experiences. Through her favorite sports and working out in the Home's simple gym, Francine has found positive ways to channel her energies.

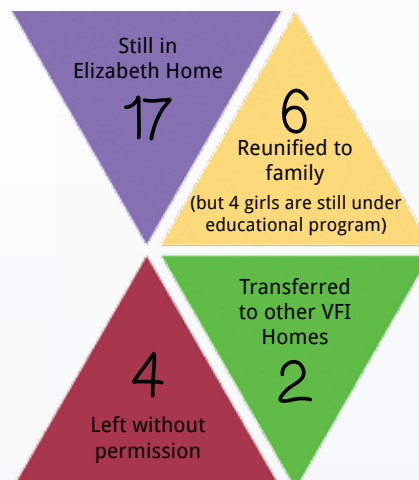
She loves her friends in the Foundation dearly and clings to them for support and understanding. She likewise cherishes her guardians in Elizabeth Home, saying that they have always made her feel that *"I'm your mom."*

Francine builds good habits so she could ace her school lessons. More important, she takes the life lessons to heart. *"In Virlanie, they teach us how to be humble always. I am also learning how to be more responsible and accountable, how to give advice to the younger girls—I am now one of the older sisters,"* she smiled. Being trusted makes her feel good about herself—it makes her try harder to be better.

**Elizabeth Home** is VFI's loving shelter for girls who have suffered abuse. A team of experts helps them deal with their pain and traumas. Through kindness, love, gentle lessons, and medical/psychological support, the girls slowly regain their emotional and mental strength to help them process their feelings and move positively towards a better life.

## SITUATION IN DECEMBER 2014:

**29** girls served  
- 9 new children  
- 20 old admissions





# WEANING HOME

*"I have been in Virланie for more than 15 years and I had a happy childhood here. Even if I know that we are not their biological children, I feel that we are important to them."*

Alicia came to Virланie when she was only 3 years old. She does not remember her family and has never met any of them. Today, at 19, she is already in college and studying to be a teacher.

Alicia spent a year in Weaning Home where she learned all the practical things—like running a household, menu planning and budgeting—that would prepare her for independent living. Young adults like her are being primed to leave the Virланie Homes and start living on their own. *"I felt I was not ready to leave, but I try to boost my self-confidence and tell myself I could do it."*



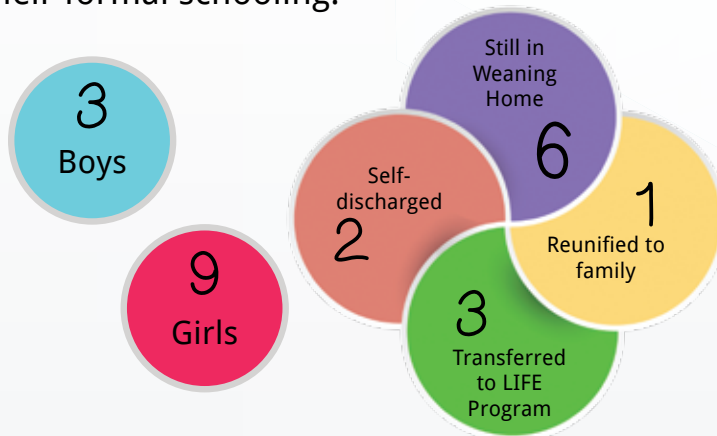
Alicia plans to give back what has been generously given to her by coming back to Virланie as a teacher after she graduates. She remembers the teachers in Magellan Learning Center who have selflessly helped her whenever she had a difficult time with her academics.

Alicia's last Home in Virланie, the **Weaning Home**, is a place where the Foundation's young adult beneficiaries live as they prepare themselves for independent living. The coaching and mentoring are intensive as they are given home management tasks including budgeting, purchasing, maintenance of cleanliness in the Home, cooking, and the like. They are likewise guided to find and keep jobs, undergo training or workshops, and finish their formal schooling.

SITUATION IN DECEMBER 2014:

**12** children served

- 2 new children
- 10 old admissions



# AIME HOME

*"I am thankful to Aime house parents for teaching me how to do work."*



Yanna is Aime Home's 23-year old beneficiary who has been residing in the home for about 8 years. She is cheerful and always ready to give a helping hand. Daily work fulfills her—she sweeps the floor as soon as she wakes up, mops it, cleans the bathroom, waters the plants, hangs and folds clothes, and helps out with the younger children. *"I am very happy when I take care of the children,"* Yanna said.

Her progress is remarkable enough that she is being taught additional skills to equip her for future work. Yanna herself says that caregiving is her favorite task of all. *"I want to learn more about it and I want to be a caregiver here in Virllanie—I can give the children baths, change their clothes, feed them, change their diapers,"* she said.

Yanna also cooks. Some of her favorite dishes to make are hotcakes, champorado, and congee. She is very happy when Aime welcomes new visitors, and when she is with her dear friends from the Home.

**Aime Home** cares for children with special needs. In 2014, the beneficiaries underwent various activities to promote well-being and independence. Among the activities were paper tearing (calming for the psyche), gardening (to improve mood and behavior), cooking (vocational training/entrepreneurship), embroidery (to improve fine motor skills), and others.



## SITUATION IN DECEMBER 2014:

**26** children served  
- 15 new children  
- 21 old admissions



**1** Transferred to  
other VFI Homes

**25** Still in  
Aime Home



*"I used to be a pessimist, but now I understand."*

Sam entered Virланie as a little girl in MPCC. She was transferred to Elizabeth Home and then to Jade Home in Cavite City. Currently, Sam is at Level 4 in SPED School. She loves to read and write, especially in her daily journal. She also loves fixing herself to look good.

She used to not like being in Jade Home. She thought she would be unhappy because she would be with children who are physically- and mentally-challenged. But she has been happy in Jade because, according to her, the people are jolly even if they have problems. *"They won't let you feel you're different. The children in Jade Home are fun to be with. They are too playful,"* Sam said, but she understands them because they have difficulties. She feels blessed and hopes that, like her, at least they could speak.



When she was a little girl, she could not understand why the staff members were strict with her, but as she grew older, she came to realize that they only wanted the best for her. She feels proud every time her achievements, whether big or small, are acknowledged.

Sam knows her life has not been easy. She grew up not having a mother (her mother died of cancer), yet she has a strong support system in the presence of Virланie staff members. Like the other children, Sam is treated like their own. She used to get hurt when some people would say she's just from Virланie. Now, in fact, she feels luckier than some of them because she has a family in Virланie that is always there for her.

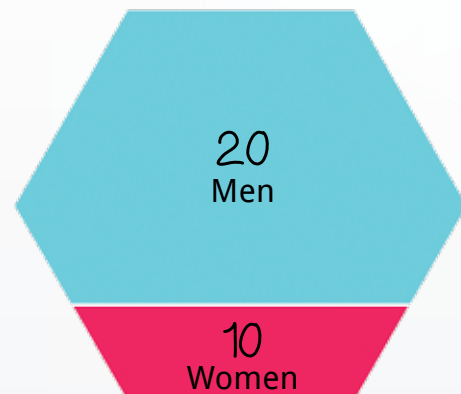
Sam is a resident of **Jade Home**, one of Virланie's two Homes for children with special needs. Located in the countryside, this home offers the young beneficiaries quiet and peaceful surroundings, with enough space for therapeutic activities and gardens for training, planting, playing, and other recreational and physical activities.

## SITUATION IN DECEMBER 2014:

**30** young adults served  
 - 1 new young adult  
 - 29 old admissions

Still in  
Jade Home

**30**



# SIBUHI



**SIBUHI** stands for **S**ining, **B**Uhay, **H**ilom (**Art, Life, Heal**), a program that helps the Virilanie children discover and hone their skills and creativity through music, arts, and sports.

For example, in 2014, the sponsored children worked on handmade greeting cards to send to their sponsors. There were also sporting tournaments, like the Blue Pitch Football Tournament wherein they won first place. And to develop their appreciation for the visual arts, the SiBuHi young artists visited two art exhibits, one at the National Museum and the other one at the Galleria de las Islas.

These excursions gave them inspiration and creative insights to help them enhance their creative talents.



SITUATION IN DECEMBER 2014:

131 children served

## MAGELLAN LEARNING CENTER



The **Magellan Learning Center (MLC)** has a team of educators who give children tutorials in Math, English, Physics, and other core subjects. The teachers also give additional lessons like Mental Math and computer lessons. Children below 6 years old also come to MLC in preparation for primary school. Here they learn their alphabet, the numbers, and writing, among others. MLC aims to help the children overcome their struggles in school and boost their self-confidence to prepare them for school life and for life in general.

Some of MLC's learning programs include Discovering Me, Pre-schooler, Early Start, Beginning Reader, Let's Read and Count, Basic English and Mental Math Class, Level-up Class, National Service Training Program, Sofitel's "Teach to Reach Program", and One-on-One Direct Instruction.

SITUATION IN DECEMBER 2014:

**284** children served



# FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROGRAM



Virланіe Foundation helps children reunite with their biological families under its **Family Reunification Program (FRP)**.

The Foundation believes that if it is safe for the child — social workers determine this after visits to the home and conversations with family members — the best environment to grow up in would still be with family and relatives.

So in 2000, Virланіe Foundation opened FRP and since that time, it has helped quite a number of children rejoin their families.

SITUATION IN DECEMBER 2014:

**25** children reunified



## PSYCHOLOGICAL PROGRAM

Virланіe's **Psychological Program** aims to take care of the mental, emotional and psychosocial needs of the children living in the Virланіe Homes. Through therapy and other activities, the Foundation aspires to give the children hope for a brighter future.

In 2014, for example, group therapy sessions on Aggression and Bullying were carried out in Masaya and Tanglaw Homes, the Drop-In Center, and Ella Yallah. These sessions focused on building and enhancing the conflict resolution skills of the children, as well as giving them guidance on how to cope with negative emotions.



## MEDICAL PROGRAM

Virланіe's **Medical Program** gives medical support to the residential and non - residential child beneficiaries of Virланіe. This program promotes the good health and wellness of the children under the Foundation's care. It also helps the families of the Virланіe children.

In 2014, two (2) nurses conducted ten (10) educational sessions on Fire Awareness and Proper Garbage Disposal to provide additional knowledge for the staff members of 10 Virланіe Homes. The Fire Awareness and Safety seminar was administered by officers from the Makati Fire Department together with Virланіe staff members.

# THE PASSAGE

*"The Passage was envisioned by Lola Michèle to help the children appreciate Education, Arts, Sports, and Leisure, guided by responsible freedom and, most especially, family."*



Kind, strict, and very consistent – this is how the staff and children from Virvanie see Michèle "*Lola Michèle*" Martin-Goudet. Since 1999, Lola Michèle has devoted herself in helping the children through English lessons, and through Arts and Sports therapy. **The Passage**, her yearly project for the Drop-In Center, Marco Polo Care Center, and Open Day Center, already helped numerous children with their transition from the streets into homes. It has instilled in their young minds the importance of being with a Family, and having a new sense of Freedom.

The Passage was conducted yearly in Mindoro. Lola Michèle, together with the organizers, prepared structured activities for the whole day. The children would start their day early with breakfast, then some sporting activities, lunch, artistic activities, and then they cap off the day with a meeting with the organizers and the other participants.



The Passage 2015 may be the last year of camp for the children, but the values and memories that were imparted by Lola Michèle will forever be remembered.



## YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM

## LIFE

Virланіe's **Young Adult Program (YAP)** is for beneficiaries who are 13 years old and above. Here they are trained for independent life by developing their skills and talents.

In 2014, the young adults attended a seminar on world- and self-consciousness. It served as a reminder on who they are and what they can become in the world. Some of the other YAP activities for the year include: an educational trip to the Mind Museum, a training session on how to engage with VFI volunteers and partners, and a career assessment activity to help the young adults of Ella Yallah determine what career would suit their interest.



Daniel, a young adult beneficiary, recently got regularized at his job and then got a promotion as Team Captain in a Japanese fine dining restaurant. Daniel was one of the young adults who completed the Foundation's **LIFE (Living Independently for Full Empowerment) Program**. This program was launched in 2011 to help the Foundation's young adult beneficiaries transition from semi-independent to fully-independent living.

In 2014, there were 3 new admissions into the program, all coming from the Weaning Home. In this same year, the LIFE young adults also went to the Reception and Action Center for an outreach activity focusing on sports and arts.

*Support services for the children living in Virланіe's Homes*

## FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES



Through Virланіe Foundation's **Family Support Services**, those families from France, Switzerland, and Quebec who are adopting children from the Philippines are given much needed assistance.

In the past years, the program has also been instrumental in introducing Virланіe to more people. Families who were involved in the program also engaged with Virланіe in other ways, like sponsoring children or organizing fundraising events.

One such event happened in October 2014 when Mr. Michael Thebert, one of the adoptive fathers, raised money for the Open Day Center through a marathon event.

# OPEN DAY CENTER



Families who live in the streets come to Virланіe's **Open Day Center (ODC)** to take baths, cook, do laundry, or wash their things. Apart from this, the ODC is where parents can leave their young children while they go out to work and earn money for the family. The ODC has also been used as a place where street mothers are taught how to sew and sewing activities are actually conducted to produce items for sale, like bags and pouches. The children who are left in the center are given space to learn and play.

In 2014, there were 12 street families who were ODC regulars. Each family, on average, has 3 children. And their sources of income include scavenging, pedicab driving, and sewing.



SITUATION IN DECEMBER 2014:

**95** children and **20** street families served

## FAMILY PROGRAM

One of the ways that Virланіe Foundation helps families in the poor communities is by providing educational scholarships to deserving children and by extending to the families some basic social services. These projects are being done through VFI's **Family Program**. Started in 1992, the program also provides the children educational and job opportunities like on-the-job training, career seminars, and other activities that empower the youth.

As part of its community service, Virланіe also helps families in cases of emergencies. On March 21, 2014, a fire burned a part of the community in Tondo wherein 520 families were affected. Through the assistance of Virланіe Spain, Virланіe Foundation was able to help 26 former beneficiaries renovate their homes after this incident. The families received emergency relief and were given construction materials.

SITUATION IN DECEMBER 2014:

Number of Graduates:

**13** High School, **8** Elementary, **9** Vocational/Technical Courses, **3** College/University



# MOBILE UNIT



Originally established as an educational program for the street children of Manila, the **Mobile Unit (MU)** provides non-formal education to the children and support for street families to help them improve their living conditions. The children engage in routine activities as well as exercises to help develop their leadership skills and their sense of teamwork.

But more than just providing educational programs to children, the Mobile Unit has been extending other services to them and their families. In

2014, the street mothers produced four new kinds of paper-rolled items made exclusively for Virlanie's IGP (Income Generating Projects) Program. It's good to note that sales of IGP items amounted to Php 216,974 from June to December 2014. By the end of 2014, the IGP beneficiaries' (mothers) savings fund reached a total of Php 63,116.



The fund works such that the mothers, who make the items, also earn an "allowance on sale." This is on top of their income from production. This allowance is set aside by MU until it reaches Php 10,000 (per mother). And when it does, MU doubles it and rewards the mother with Php 20,000 in total. This amount is then used as seed money for the family's own business or relocation to their province.

Aside from providing additional income to street families through IGP, the Mobile Unit offers helpful seminars as well. In 2014, five street-based couples attended a 9-day seminar on effective parenting, with a focus on child development, parenting styles, family planning, child care, disease prevention and nutrition, and time and budget management.



## SITUATION IN DECEMBER 2014:

Number of Graduates:

**1** High School, **8** Elementary, **4** Kinder or Day Care

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

*"There is a big difference between my life then and now. Now I have a salary, I can help my family, I can help send my siblings to school."*



Rod is your typical male youth who loves sports, spending time with friends and, engaging in hobbies like dancing and singing. He used to stay at the **Social Development Center (SDC)** in Negros, a government facility for youth offenders and street children.

Rod's life is completely different now after Virlanie helped him get out of SDC and rebuild his life. At 20, he is currently employed as a cook in a restaurant and he has fallen in love with the culinary arts. *"I love making crème brulée, chocolate fondant, pumpkin soup, quiche, among others."* Indeed, Rod has come a long way. In his own words: *"There is a big difference between my life then and now. Now I have a salary, I can help my family, I can help send my siblings to school."*

It's all because of Virlanie Foundation, which gave him learning and earning opportunities. In SDC, the Foundation initiates activities for the youth—sports, martial arts, dancing, values formation, and many others. Rod has been very interested as well in aikido and basketball. And then he got the chance to work as a dishwasher at the restaurant, until the chefs there started teaching him to cook like them. Today, Rod's culinary creations get the thumbs-up from the restaurant patrons.



Virlanie Foundation's presence in Negros began 10 years ago when VFI founder Dominique Lemay visited the SDC and saw that he could do something to help. Virlanie started working with the children in SDC by giving them opportunities to learn and make a living, by upholding their rights as children and helping provide some necessities including necessary psychosocial intervention for the children.



# BANGON PROBINSYA

**Bangon Probinsya** is a program that aims to rehabilitate and empower the communities that were affected by the super typhoon Yolanda.

One of Virланіe Foundation's projects under this program is the one in **Tiglawigan** in Negros Occidental. It aims to help the members of the communities (175 families in all) rebuild their lives after the destruction of the typhoon. Through the kindness of international funders, Virланіe was able to help rebuild some structures in the public school, as well as establish an organization for the fishermen to help them improve their earnings. VFI donated fishing nets and boats, and carried out training sessions for the residents of the fishing village. Through some of these learning activities, the people are being taught alternative ways to make a living, like sari-sari store management and cooked food vending.

Additionally, in 2014, Virланіe Foundation also helped communities in **Samar** and **Leyte** by giving school supplies to 300 children in 7 municipalities. Through these projects, Virланіe tries to bridge the distance to get to the children and their families who need help the most. These projects are only the start of greater efforts to assist the poorest of the poor. Virланіe hopes that more funders will step forward to help so more children can benefit.



## CHILDREN'S LEGAL RIGHTS OFFICE

Virланіe Foundation is also working to protect the rights of children, basically through **CLRO (Children's Legal Rights Office)**. This program offers legal assistance to rehabilitate Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL). CLRO works towards the reintegration of these children into the community and helping them become responsible citizens. The Foundation also monitors the status and development of these children and gives them after-care services, as necessary.

In 2014, three children were given educational assistance including monthly allowances and tuition fees through the Foundation's Sponsorship Program. In the same year, CLRO also started working with the Correctional Institute for Women (CIW); the partnership was formalized in August. For the mean time, the CLRO will not be an active program of the Foundation.

### SITUATION IN DECEMBER 2014:

### Beneficiaries Served:

- 2** Reunified with families and monitored
- 3** Minors under the after-care program, with educational assistance

- 2** Children served under partnership with CIW
- 4** Other children monitored and given other interventions

# BALIK PROBINSYA



Translated to English, **Balik Probinsya** means “going back to the province.” Virланie Foundation realizes that, if offered to them, many street families living in the metropolis would grab the opportunity to go back to their home provinces and start anew. Life in the city is difficult and living in the streets poses its own dangers. VFI would like to help those who are willing and ready to go back by providing financial help, as well as educational sponsorship, housing assistance and livelihood opportunities.

SITUATION IN DECEMBER 2014:

- 40 Family beneficiaries
- 38 Beneficiaries of housing assistance
- 38 Beneficiaries of livelihood assistance



## RECEPTION AND ACTION CENTER



**The RAC (Reception and Action Center)** in Manila gives temporary shelter to people living in the streets. It is run by the local government. Virланie’s role is to provide additional support by conducting social, recreational and healthcare activities for the children there. Usually, these programs are carried out through the help of Virланie’s local and foreign volunteers.

In 2014, Virланie provided free medical consultation to 525 children. Apart from this, 150 beneficiaries were also given multivitamin supplements.

The Foundation likewise conducted 2 sessions on health education, regarding scabies and diarrhea in particular, two of the most prevalent health issues among the residents of the RAC.



# VIRLANIE CHOIR

*"I learned to listen well, to follow instructions, and to be a bit less shy."*

Tony auditioned for the **Virланie Choir** last August 2013 and was qualified to become a trainee. In addition to his musical gifts, Tony was also observed to be punctual and very disciplined in choir rehearsals, so his hard work paid off and he eventually became one of the core members of the Choir in October 2014. He lives in Virланie's Tanglaw Home.



The Virланie Choir has come a long way since its first beginnings in 2004. Today, with ten years of inspiration under its belt, the Virланie Choir continues to be ambassadors and beacons of light not only for the rest of the children cared for in Virланie Foundation, but also for the public at large.

With their enchanting voices, the Choir has been invited by numerous private, public, and multinational organizations to grace their private events. The Virланie Choir serves as a reminder that with the proper care, training, and love, children from very difficult circumstances can rise to heights previously unimagined. Tony, for example, after expressing his desire to visit a different country, was recommended to be part of Virланie Choir's Spring Tour in France in April 2015.

You can invite the choir to sing at your event! Email: [choir@virланie.org](mailto:choir@virланie.org)

## INCOME GENERATING PROJECT

*"Virланie is a big help, but I also know I need to do my part."*



The mothers living in the slums of Divisoria or Del Pan (under Virланie's Mobile Unit) and in Quiapo (under Virланie's Open Day Center) are eager and willing to do something with their hands in order to provide for their children's daily survival and education. Ate Elisa is one of these brave, hard-working moms.

Her daughter's education is being sponsored by Virланie, and Ate Elisa supplements her daughter's educational needs with the earnings she makes from ODC's hand-sewn bags. In her dedication and hardwork, Ate Elisa inspires her daughter (who is in the honor roll) and is able to show her that more than finances, it's the integrity and honesty that you put into your work which count the most.

Ate Elisa has grown in **Income Generating Project (IGP)** and is one of the most trusted mothers in the program, helping and training other mothers who are just starting out. In 2014, IGP mothers created new paper coasters and decorations. Their designs include colorful paper bead earrings, necklaces, bracelets. There are also new weekend bags, vanity kits, and sling bags that delight and receive great feedback from buyers.

# SPONSORSHIP STORY: BÉATRICE BONNAT



A deep emotional bond could form between a child beneficiary and his or her sponsor, just like what happened with Béatrice Bonnat and her **sponsored child** from Virlande Foundation. Although they are miles apart, they are able to give what each one needs: love and support.

This is a description of their relationship, in Béatrice's own words.

*"I discovered Virlande Foundation while travelling to the Philippines in 2012. I had already searched for a foundation on the Internet because we are adopting a Filipino child. So as I am waiting for a child from the Philippines, my desire to become a mother is so strong that when I received the*

*drawings and photos from my sponsored girl, I really had an emotional moment and started crying while looking at the photos.*

*"This girl is looking for a mom and I am trying to become a mom. Then I told myself that life is like this—she crossed my life so that we can give each other lots of love and support. I will always be there for her, every time she needs me.*

*"When I receive the drawings and pictures I always cry tears of joy. That's pure happiness. On the contrary, the months between the letters when we have no exchange are most difficult for me. I try to be there for my sponsored child, to listen to her needs and wishes. She is my sunshine during the adoption process."*



Béatrice Bonnat lives in Lyon, France. She has been a sponsor since November 2014. Béatrice loves the cinema, reading, taking care of her adoption project and, while waiting, making her sponsored child happy.



# SPONSORSHIP STORY: JENNIFER PERREAU



In Virланie, a sponsor takes the hand of a child beneficiary and guides him or her through the growing up years. Through the ups and downs the sponsor helps the child not only financially, but also by giving advice, attention, and love. Jennifer Perreau is one such sponsor. This is her story.

*"I first visited the Philippines and Virланie Foundation in January 2013 together with my mom and brother. The children there gave us such an overwhelming welcome and this made such a huge impact on my family. I thoroughly enjoyed my holiday and fell in love with the Philippines! The warmth of the people touched my heart and I felt that I wanted to give back, even in a small way.*

*"So later that year I started to sponsor a child. Knowing that I can help in some way.*

*To improve the life of a child is what love is all about. I watched her grow into a lovely, healthy, happy child. And I have been returning to this beautiful country every quarter and visiting her each time, bringing her pretty clothes, shoes, and toys for her and the other children. Her bright smile and warm hugs to welcome me each time is something I wouldn't trade for anything in the world!*



*"It is such a joy as well to see them happily munching on the merienda we bring. But most of all, nothing beats the love and the time spent to interact with the children. I hope that through Virланie's **Sponsorship Program**, the children will be equipped with the skills and education they need to succeed in life. My dream is for them to grow up as passionate, God-fearing individuals with a vision to provide a better life for themselves and their families.*



*"My birthdays are now spent in the Philippines, and every year in Virланie! After all, It's more fun in the Philippines!"*

Jennifer Perreau lives in Singapore but she often comes to Manila to visit her sponsored child. She has been a sponsor since April 30, 2013.

# VOLUNTEER STORY: TEACHER JEENA

*"I am not the one who's helping them. I am the one feeling fulfilled. It's not a sacrifice anymore; I feel happy that I have a purpose."*



One day, Jeena Postanes went to Divisoria for some shopping. She saw Ate Marie and her Mobile Unit with the children of the streets. Jeena took note of the name and discovered soon after that Virllanie's office and homes are just a few steps away from her own home! She started to help the Mobile Unit once a week and that's how it all started. That was four years ago and until now Jeena is still actively teaching and helping the children of the Foundation.

Jeena, who finished Finance Accounting, works in an office every day but she starts after lunch. In the morning, one would find her in Virllanie starting at 8:00 in the morning, tutoring children until around 10:30 a.m. She then takes her lunch and goes to work until the evening. *"I don't get tired because I enjoy being with children,"* she said. *"You see that the children appreciate what you do for them and it makes them happy!"*

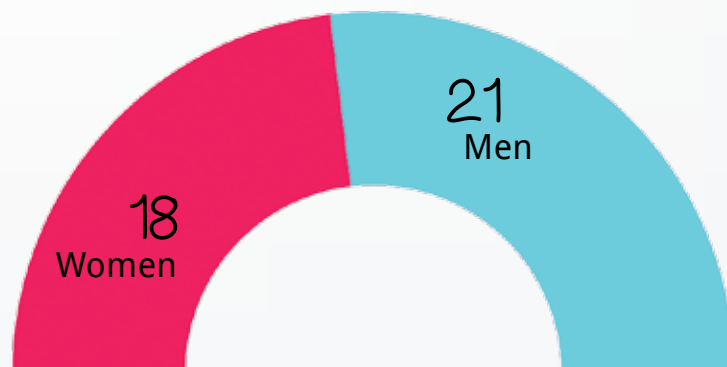
Her work as a **volunteer** keeps her going and inspired. And even if she doesn't get paid, she plans to continue for as long as she could. *"I should have done this earlier; I didn't know I would enjoy it so much!"*



## SITUATION IN DECEMBER 2014:

Number of local  
volunteers

39





# VOLUNTEER STORY: NINA FILLOL

*"If you see a child as a special child, he will stay special. But if you see him as a normal child, it will help him improve and become part of society."*



For **French volunteer** Nina, working with Virlanie's special children poses two barriers in communication. First, she doesn't speak Filipino so the children have a hard time understanding her. Second, some of the children are not verbally expressive, so it creates yet another challenge in communication.

Despite these blocks, Nina is still with Virlanie and plans to extend her volunteer work until 2016. She is learning the language and has come up with different approaches in communication, like playing and

*drawing. "I can see progress—sometimes they improve, sometimes they don't. Sometimes they improve a lot in the beginning; it's not the same all the time. But even if there are many challenges, I know that I can do something," she said.*

Before coming to the Philippines, Nina finished her Master's degree in Clinical Psychology in Paris. She pursued this track because she has always been interested in helping people. She has a soft spot for special children in particular because she sees that society has placed them on the fringes. *"I want to help them be accepted because if we really listen to them, and really take time for them, (we will see that) they are just like us, only with some difficulties,"* Nina explained.

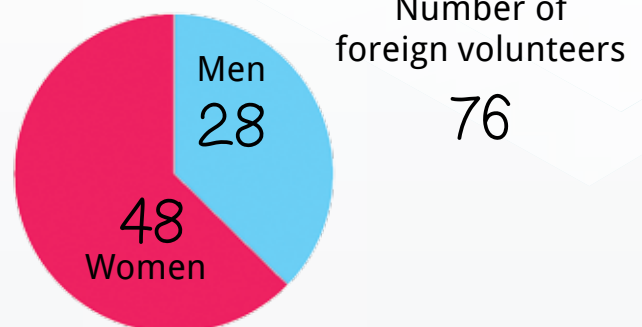
*"It is important for me to be a psychologist because this is who I am. When I see that we are making progress in therapy, it makes me proud of the work that I do. So even if I don't earn any salary, I have something else."*



## SITUATION IN DECEMBER 2014:

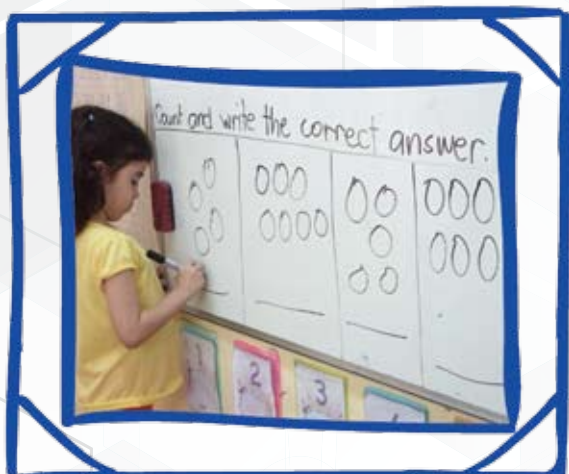
- 9** Long-term volunteers (more than 5 months)
- 19** Mid-term volunteers (3 to 5 months)
- 48** Short-term volunteers (less than 3 months)

Nationalities: 66 French, 3 Americans, 3 Germans, 1 Belgian, 1 Korean, 1 Dutch and 1 Italian



# FINANCIAL REPORT

*Statement of cash flow  
for the year ended December 31, 2014  
Amounts in Philippine Pesos*



*Statement of revenue and expenses  
for the year ended December 31, 2014  
Amounts in Philippine Pesos*

Revenue	
Foreign donation	58,540,878
Local donation	4,868,191
Other income	5,711,970
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>69,121,039</b>

Expenses	
Programs and services	56,913,282
General and administrative	10,171,443
Fundraising and Communication	5,193,444
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>72,278,169</b>

Finance income (Cost)	
Realized foreign exchange gain	705,724
Interest expense	(108,965)
<b>Total finance income (Cost)</b>	<b>596,759</b>

<b>Excess of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>(2,560,371)</b>
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Cash Flow from Operating Activities	
Excess of (expenses over revenues) / revenue over expenses	(2,560,371)
Adjustments to reconcile excess of (expenses over revenues)	
Interest income	(137,637)
Depreciation and amortization	2,231,607
Interest expense	108,965
<b>Operating income/(Loss) before working capital changes</b>	<b>(357,436)</b>
Changes in working capital components	
Decrease (Increase) in:	
Receivables	(1,178,650)
Investment - Institutional trust fund	(26,372)
Prepayments	-
Increase (decrease) in:	
Accounts payable and other liabilities	1,164,453
Accrued retirement liability	-
<b>Net Cash (Used in) / Generated from operations</b>	<b>(398,005)</b>
Interest received	137,637
<b>Net Cash (Used in) / Generating from operating Activities</b>	<b>(260,368)</b>
Cash Flow from Investing Activities	
Acquisition of property and equipment	(18,991)
<b>Net Cash Used in Investing Activities</b>	<b>(18,991)</b>
Cash Flow from Financing Activities	
Payment of bank Loan	(820,795)
Interest paid	(108,965)
<b>Net Cash Used in Financing Activities</b>	<b>(929,760)</b>

<b>Net (Decrease) / Increase in Cash</b>	<b>(1,209,119)</b>
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<b>CASH, BEGINING OF YEAR</b>	<b>24,616,690</b>
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<b>CASH, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>23,407,571</b>
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# FINANCIAL REPORT

*Statement of assets, liabilities and fund balance  
as of December 31, 2014  
Amounts in Philippine Pesos*



Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	23,407,571
Receivables	4,181,535
Investment - Institutional Trust Fund Account	7,086,793
Prepayments	387,596
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>35,063,495</b>

Non-Current Assets	
Property and equipment	48,881,114
Other non-current assets	708,063
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>49,589,177</b>

<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>84,652,672</b>
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## LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Liabilities	
Accounts payable and other liabilities	5,049,809
Accrued pension cost	8,329,465
Loans payable	539,092
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>13,918,366</b>

<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>70,734,306</b>
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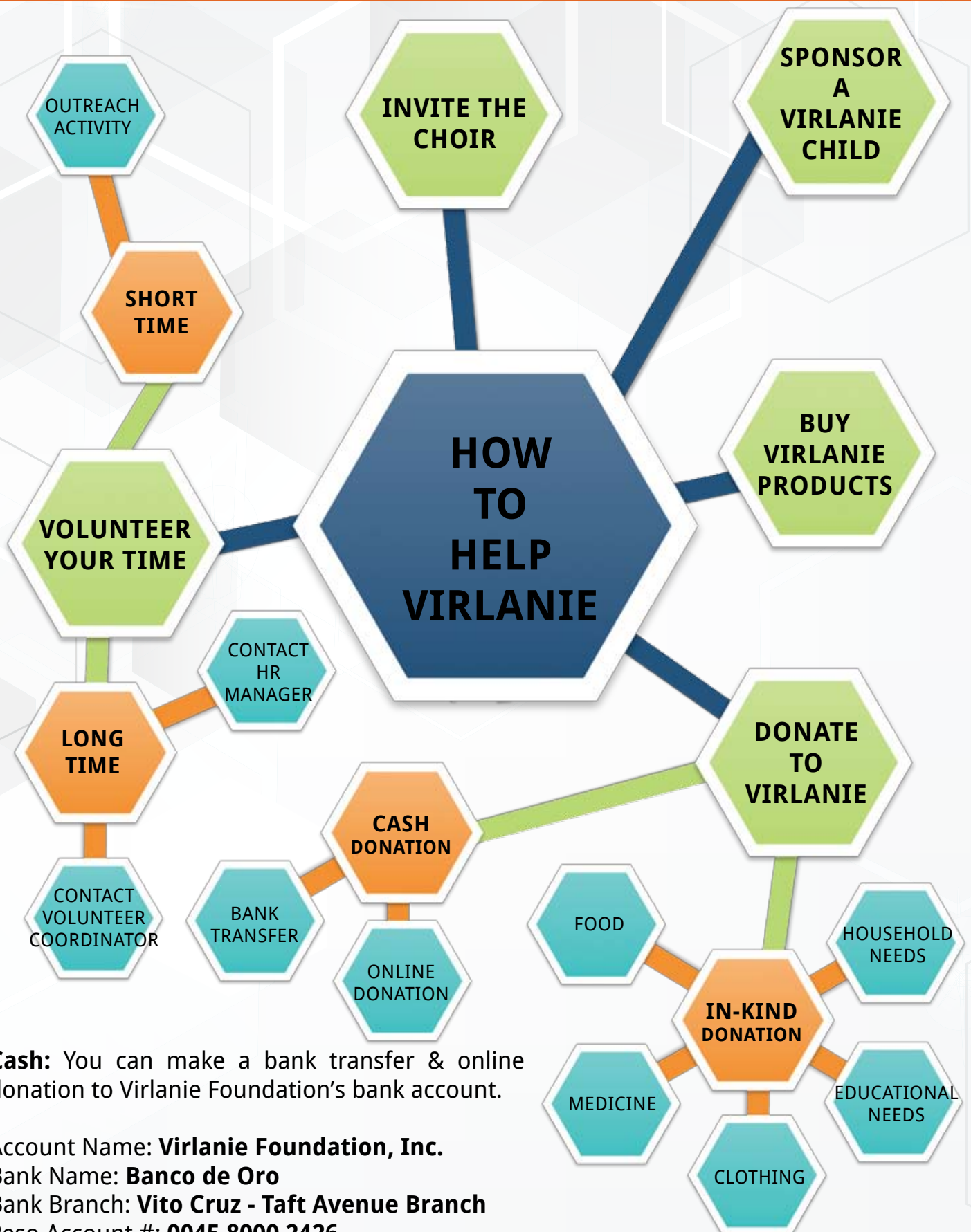
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>84,652,672</b>
-------------------------------------	-------------------

*Statement of changes in fund balance  
for the year ended December 31, 2014  
Amounts in Philippine Pesos*

Fund Balance	
Balance at the beginning of year	73,294,677
Prior period adjustments	-
Excess of revenue over expenses	(2,560,371)
<b>Total fund balance</b>	<b>70,734,306</b>



# HOW TO HELP VIRLANIE ?



**Cash:** You can make a bank transfer & online donation to Virlanie Foundation's bank account.

Account Name: **Virlanie Foundation, Inc.**

Bank Name: **Banco de Oro**

Bank Branch: **Vito Cruz - Taft Avenue Branch**

Peso Account #: **0045 8000 2426**

US dollar Account #: **1045 8010 8577**

Euro Account #: **3045 8011 2833**



# HOW TO CONTACT VIRLANIE ?



**General concerns:** [info@virlanie.org](mailto:info@virlanie.org)  
**Sponsorship:** [sponsorship@virlanie.org](mailto:sponsorship@virlanie.org)  
**Donation:** [campaigns@virlanie.org](mailto:campaigns@virlanie.org)  
**Outreach:** [outreach@virlanie.org](mailto:outreach@virlanie.org)  
**Communication:** [communications@virlanie.org](mailto:communications@virlanie.org)  
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*Giving back the smile to street children*