



## OUR LONG JOURNEY TOGETHER

The fields that once produced an edible harvest  
now produce an eternal one.







# CELEBRATING THE YEARS TOGETHER

It is not an uncommon experience to look back on one's life journey and conclude that life is a mass of disjointed experiences. On closer and more thoughtful examination, there appears to be a 'thread' that runs through it all, tying our actions together into a common focus or cause.

Sacred Harvest Foundation is no different. From the beginning we explored and probed as we cast a wide net to discover what was truly dear to our hearts. Over time, we became more focused. Yet, after looking back to the very beginning, there were common and consistent themes that stood out.

First and foremost, we sought to bring God's shalom, the wholeness of spirit, mind, body, relationship with God and others, to three geographic areas: Orange County, California, Maui, Hawaii and Mindanao, Philippines.

To achieve our goals and express God's vision for Sacred Harvest, we employ certain values that we feel are essential:

**An endearing presence** — meaningful and sustainable impact begins with relationships. The ministries listed in this book are partners with whom we have forged long-term relationships, sustained through financial support, coaching and mentoring by our staff and board.

**An enduring presence** — bringing God's shalom to these meaningful relationships is built on time. There are no shortcuts to the work God wants to do in the lives of His people. To establish wholeness and health one must be willing to go deep and possess a long-term vision.

In celebration of Sacred Harvest's fifteen years, this book is designed to illustrate the efforts made to touch these communities with the healing presence of God's shalom and an "endearing and enduring" commitment to the friends and partners God has called to be His agents of blessing.





# THE SACRED HARVEST WAY

## FIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

For the past fifteen years Sacred Harvest has built relationships with local and international ministries. We strive to support and invest in Kingdom leaders who are effectively living out God's purposes in their communities.

We have discovered principles and practices that have helped us provide quality policies, products, and programs. Our strategic practices have helped us determine where we need to make improvements and how we can best achieve high-performance levels.

As we have reviewed and analyzed our work, we have identified five key themes that consistently characterize how we choose what organizations to support, and which projects to fund. We landed on each of these themes through a combination of intuition,

research, trial and error, personal preference, and theological conviction. Today these five guiding principles define and describe how we operate, as well as shape how we function. These five principles have become guideposts for us.



*"He will be like a tree firmly  
planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in its season  
and its leaf does not wither; and in  
whatever he does, he prospers."*

Psalm 1:3

Our goals are to meet tangible needs and to encourage life-on-life transformation that incorporates God and community. We strive to effect sustainable change and bring shalom to the communities of Orange County, Mindanao and Maui, with the God-given resources entrusted to Sacred Harvest.

Often those effected by poverty, disability, sin and injustice have lost their dignity. Our understanding of God's shalom can be described as salvation, completeness, wholeness, fullness and harmony. Our

passion is to see the communities we serve experience the fullness of God's shalom, and to help in the restoration and reconciliation of individuals to the image of God, as exemplified in the life of Jesus Christ.

When individuals are transformed by God's shalom, communities will follow. We want to help communities flourish like a tree planted by water as portrayed in Psalm 1:3.

It is our vision that communities will thrive, grow and experience reconciliation. We describe ourselves as "spiritual environmentalists," doing what we can to help create the right environment for growth that accomplishes God's intended purposes.



# 1. WE VALUE RELATIONAL OVER INSTITUTIONAL.

Sacred Harvest values ministries that cultivate long and deep relationships — ones that go beyond organizational connections to real friendship and support, seeking Kingdom results more than ministry success striving to maintain continuing deep relationships with ministry partners, regarding grantees more as co-workers than as grantees.

In 1981, in the remote town Jolo, Sulu in Western Mindanao, Pastor Florentino de Jesus began ministering to the Muslim Tausug people. In the following years, other ministries to Muslim tribes grew out of the relationships Pastor Florentino built. His zeal and efforts impassioned others to reach out as he had.

In 2007, Sacred Harvest partnered with LYN Foundation, based in Zamboanga City and led by Toti de Jesus, a relative of Pastor Florentino, to purchase a house that would become their ministry center for Muslim children and mothers. Since then, LYN has enabled schooling for eight hundred forty nine sponsored children from grade school to high school, twenty of them are now in college. These children and their parents, usually mothers, have been discipled through LYN's holistic ministry. Many of these former sponsored children are now leaders in their churches, and some of them are now finishing construction of a building to house four tribal outreach teams.

LYN and Sacred Harvest would partner up again to set up a multipurpose facility within the Zamboanga City center for youth from the Sama people. The Sama youth ministry grew under one of Pastor de Jesus' mentees, Mark Dimerin, who also led a ministry called Parhimpunan. LYN eventually turned over the youth center to Parhimpunan, recognizing that, given tribal

customs, the ministry would more flourish under a male leader. From seventy believers in 2000, the Sama ministry grew to plant seventeen house churches, with its youth meeting at the Sama center.

Parhimpunan's ministry to the Sama expanded to include livelihood and welfare support. At the same time, Mark was particularly concerned about the Samas having to cross over dangerous seas to bury their dead, since they were disallowed burial sites in the city. Looking for a lot that would both bolster

the livelihood program and serve as a cemetery, Parhimpunan partnered with Sacred Harvest to find a suitable place. They found a farm and developed it to accommodate growing pandan plants for the livelihood program, crop and animal farming to support the ministry, and creating a place for the Sama people to bury and honor their dead. The pandan plantation now supports fifteen Sama

women discipled by Parhimpunan, and three displaced Sama families have temporarily settled on the lot, tending the vegetable farms. Equally important is the affirmation of the Samas' dignity and traditions through the establishment of the cemetery.

The flourishing of these ministries all grew out of the relational seed planted nearly forty years ago. The impact on these Zamboanga communities began with just a vision and a resolve to build relationships, and this attitude inspired others to join in and make a difference. As more people caught and committed to the vision, hundreds and thousands have been touched by their loving service. Not only have these ministries developed relationships with their beneficiaries, they also share resources with their fellow organizations. This commitment to relational ministry amplifies the work of these ministries for the Kingdom.

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## 2. WE VALUE SLOWER OVER FASTER.

In 2000, Metro Davao Vineyard, a church in Davao City, began an outreach in an impoverished community. They began working with children and soon expanded to serve indigenous people in other areas. The main priority of the outreach was to foster relationships with the people they served so that they would experience transformation through Jesus. Building trust is slow work, but it has since paid off tremendously as individuals and families partner with them in building God's Kingdom in their communities. In 2011, Sacred Harvest Foundation partnered with the outreach financially. The following year, the church's ministry was formally registered as Family Care and Community Development Initiatives (FCCDI).

As an arm of the church, FCCDI aims to introduce Christ to vulnerable people through holistic development, and their goal is transformation within the context of the church. Free clinics, classes and livelihood programs are important, but these would only be superficial answers to poverty if relational and spiritual needs are not addressed. Everything FCCDI does begins and ends with God's call to make disciples.

One of the best ways to approach this is through a life-on-life relationship, taking time to be present in people's lives. "In the next two, three, or five years," says Charlyn, FCCDI's executive director, "we want to help families grow in the Lord by providing different opportunities for that." The ministry addresses physical, emotional and spiritual needs so that beneficiaries would deepen in their love for the Lord. This takes time, but FCCDI's workers are

willing to do what it takes. Over time, they have become a trusted partner among vulnerable communities, and seen God's Kingdom expand through transformed lives.

Former beneficiaries who have surrendered their lives to Jesus and are committed to the church have come on board as workers, volunteers and board members. FCCDI has also engaged local leaders who were once beneficiaries so that they themselves would build local churches. The trust produced through the relationships FCCDI built with communities is the same trust that has led "graduates" to return and take part in God's work of transformation.

In March 2019, during the 82nd anniversary of Davao City's founding, the city government awarded FCCDI for their contribution to the welfare of vulnerable people in the city. Additionally, they are an integral member of the city's Council for the Welfare of the Children, serve as the vice-chair of the Development Committee, and collaborate with other nonprofits in Davao City. The visible effects of their ministry have testified of God's power to other leaders in development.

But in many ways, the impact of FCCDI's work on vulnerable communities is its own reward. Recognition is only secondary to the transformation the organization has seen in adults learning to read, children finishing their education, health and hygiene improving, and most crucially, people knowing and loving Jesus and churches being established. FCCDI works with a vision for many more years of bringing God's shalom to these vulnerable brothers and sisters.





Blessed are those who believe without seeing

HONESTY

IS THE BEST

GLORY

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Ññ Ngng Oo



Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

Memory Verse : Panultihon 22

T... bata kon unsaon  
pagkinabuhon  
man niva  
kin-

Gg  
galit

Hh

nasera

11-06-19

LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE WITH LOVE

Pledge Bible  
A pledge designed for the whole family  
Word and will make a  
happy home for you, a  
light shining path, and  
help in worshiping the  
Lord. Thank you and may  
God bless you.

BLAST



### 3. WE VALUE DEEPER OVER WIDER.

Every ministry has a passion to impact as many communities as they can for God's Kingdom. LUMAD, however, has taken a different approach, working with one people group in one geographical area for over thirteen years. In 2006, while trekking the Arakan mountains, pastor and architect Yves Magdamo began his search for a people group to work with. It was there that he found the Tinananon tribe. Upon his return, Pastor Yves shared his vision for the Tinananons to his church, friends and family. Out of this came Leaders United for Missions and Development, or LUMAD, which also translates to "indigenous people." From here, the friendships began with the Tinananons of Sitio Paco Paco in Barangay Lanao Kuran, North Cotabato.

Since 2006, LUMAD has worked in several key areas to offer help and partnership to the Tinananon people. LUMAD provided clothing, taught basic hygiene and farming and implemented a water system, which helped to improve the health of the community. Where there once was wild grassland now stand fruit trees and vegetable plots.



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In addition, LUMAD learned and imparted best farming practices and are nearly done setting up a production facility that will help farmers increase the

value of their agricultural products. This production facility, scheduled to open in 2020, will also host agricultural training and Bible studies for the community. LUMAD provided

mentoring sessions for tribal leaders and equipped them to teach God's word, not only to their own people but also to neighboring tribes. One of them, Datu Timbol, the Sitio tribal chief, was trained and eventually became the tribe's chieftain pastor. Pastors from churches in nearby Arakan were engaged to continue the discipling of the Tinananons. Moreover, LUMAD values children as next-generation leaders and supports government teachers so that Tinananon children can maintain their education.

The Tinananons have flourished with the loving, faithful accompaniment of LUMAD. Once notorious, the Tinananon community of Sitio Paco-Paco has been awarded the "Most Peaceful," "Most Improved," and "Cleanest" sitio in Arakan. Besides Paco-Paco, fourteen other sitios have been touched by LUMAD's ministry since 2006. About 450 Tinananon families have benefited from improved livelihoods, medical missions, mentoring and church services. LUMAD's long and deep commitment to these communities has made this impact possible.









## 4. WE VALUE BETTER OVER BIGGER.

**B**igger does not always mean better, and it's possible for any church to lose sight of what's important. A well-intentioned desire to grow can overshadow the need for committed and healthy members. Many churches operate like institutions instead of families where people are warmly welcomed. Jesus gave us the Great Commission and the Great Commandment; we need to fulfill both.

Pastor Albert Bastareche is the pastor of a long-standing church in Davao City. Before its involvement with Mindanao Equipping Program (MEP), the church had about one hundred fifty members in its records, but many did not attend on a regular basis. The church's evangelistic efforts would fall flat since regular attenders were often unwelcoming to newcomers.

Pastor Albert knew that pursuing a healthy church meant obedience to God's command to go and make disciples, but this couldn't happen if church members weren't healthy disciples themselves. As a pastor, he renewed his own commitment to the Great Commission and the Great Commandment while encouraging his congregation to do the same. For a time, the church focused on strengthening the engagement of its members.

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The church started a discipleship class to emphasize the need for commitment to a local church. Normally,

the class is offered to new members, but Pastor Albert knew that both old and new members would benefit from these lessons. Over several weeks, the church took time to make sure everyone understood what it means to be a disciple.

To cultivate deep relationships with God and each other, the church strengthened its small group ministry. Members were encouraged to grow in love for God's word in fellowship with other believers. This led to relationships that weren't limited to Sundays only, as groups often met during weekdays. A year later, the majority of the church was not only attending the weekend service, but also participating in a weekly small group. Furthermore, members began investing not only time but also their resources into God's work.

Transformation was evident. Members who used to skip services are now committed to growing in their relationship with Christ, regularly participating in small groups and discipleship classes and investing time and resources into God's work. The church facilities expanded, not only providing more services to members, but also serving the community around the church.

Pastor Albert has delegated teaching and evangelizing tasks, encouraging the development of new leaders. We celebrate with them as nearly 200 people attend Sunday services each week!

The church's focus on discipleship led not only to a clearer direction and structure, but also to passionate, committed disciples. Pastor Albert's success shows the importance of finding where to best spend the resources God has given: focusing on building and equipping people and committing to doing things better. He and his team believe that they will soon see a greater harvest as they continue to fulfill the Great Commission and Great Commandment.





CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE  
COMMUNITY CHURCH





# 5. WE VALUE LONG-HAUL OVER QUICK FIX.

M

ost of our granting relationships are not for one or two years; they are for five, ten, even twenty-plus years.

Our mission is to bring God's shalom to those we serve. We have a passion to see communities experience the fullness of God's shalom and the restoration and reconciliation of every individual to the image of God. When individuals are transformed by God's shalom, communities follow suit.

Transformation occurs over the long haul, rather than with a quick fix. Many of the groups located overseas work to help people recover their dignity. Unfortunately, many lack the financial records and governance practices that qualify them to receive grants from Sacred Harvest.

## The Philippines

In 2003, Sacred Harvest's Board of Directors sought to expand our international grant portfolio. They had been convicted of the truth that, "God so loved the World," and not just the United States, that we set out to expand our international presence. We wanted to impact a region of the world by having a long and enduring presence there.



We decided to identify a region in the world where we could make a sustained investment that would make a big difference. After a few years of searching, we settled on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines.

From 2005 to 2012

our focus was to invest in local faith-based ministries. We started by providing grants that would help ministries better serve the needs of their community.



**We've learned from our mistakes and now use trainers to help prepare non-profits for success.**

The grants focused primarily in five areas: 1) Construction of multipurpose centers that serve as classrooms and churches; 2) Purchase of farm land to be used for livelihood training; 3) Building clean water solutions; 4) Assisting medical missions; 5) Lastly, we assisted with the purchase of all-terrain vehicles for many of our partners who serve in the remote regions of Mindanao.

In 2012 we made the critical decision to provide our partners with training that would further add to their capabilities to maximize their impact and organizational health. Subsequently, the Organizational Health Pathway (OHP) and the Church Health Pathway (CHP) were developed. Each of these initiatives takes a long view of training, involving a two-year process of teaching, coaching, and mentoring with continued follow-up and support.



Sacred Harvest has made 138 grants to support those whom God has called to serve the people of Mindanao. Tebow Cure Hospital in Davao has completed more than 11,000 outpatient visits and performed 2,300 surgeries in the past two years. The churches participating in our CHP process have recorded more than 22,800 first-time confessions of faith in Jesus Christ this year alone. Nearly thirty organizations

have gone through the OHP process and have increased their transformational impact.

For more than thirteen years, our enduring and endearing presence in Mindanao has given Sacred Harvest the ability to become a trusted partner and resource that churches and organizations in Mindanao look to for counsel and training.





# WHY MINDANAO?

**T**his is a question we often hear from Filipinos and Americans alike. Most Americans have never heard of Mindanao. For many Filipinos, Mindanao is the forgotten island of the Philippines and historically has been the least resourced island by the government, non-profits and churches.

How did we get to this decision? Proverbs 16:9 is a verse that has always seemed to define our journey with God: “The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps” (Proverbs 16:9 NRSV).

When I (Steve Perry) read the book of Acts, I see that God often leads his people by first telling them to go someplace, and then his plan unfolds. Our experience was no different.

It was during a visit to the Philippines in January 2005 that Sacred Harvest was

first introduced to Mindanao. Previously, Sacred Harvest had given little thought to this

part of the world. From 2003 to 2005, we had been on a journey to find a region in the world where we could have a long and deep relationship, knowing all too well that a lasting impact needs a lasting commitment. To our great surprise

and delight, we were overwhelmed by the passion and commitment of Filipino Christians to serve their people. Their embodiment of the whole gospel of Jesus Christ, in both witness and compassion, won my wife Susie and me over. We realized these are the men and women with whom Sacred Harvest can truly partner with in bringing God’s shalom to the Philippines and to Mindanao.

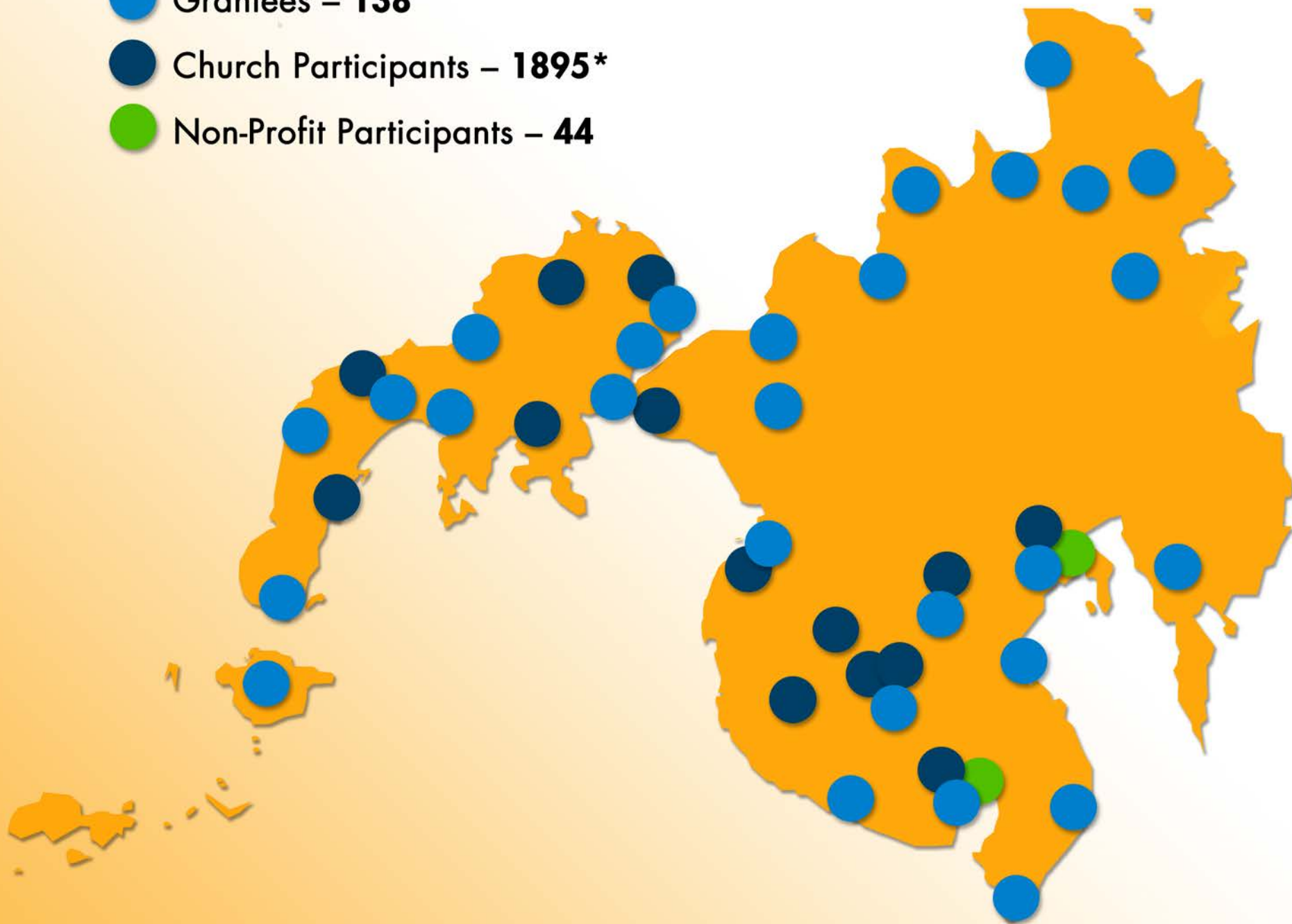
**...we were  
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Filipino Christians to  
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# OUR RELATIONSHIPS

- Grantees – **138**
- Church Participants – **1895\***
- Non-Profit Participants – **44**



\*Including International Care Ministries Church Partners.

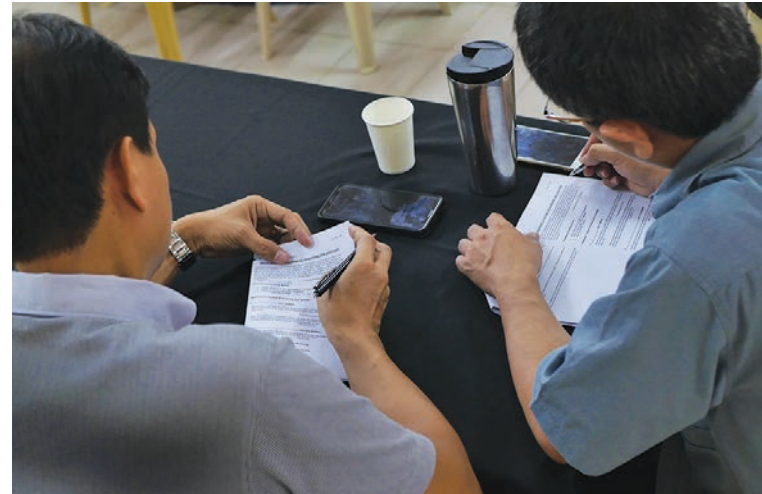


# MINDANAO EQUIPPING PROGRAM (MEP)

In 2014, Mindanao Equipping Program (MEP) was launched in Davao City by Sacred Harvest Foundation to assist ministries and Christian leaders seeking to transform the communities they serve. Christian organizations and churches are crucial in catalyzing and advancing development and transformation. MEP is committed to strengthening the capability of Christian leaders in Mindanao through its core programs, Organizational Health Pathway (OHP) and Church Health Pathway (CHP). These are both invitation-only, two-year plans designed for nonprofit organizations and churches. Additionally, MEP holds open-house trainings for leaders in Christian nonprofits and churches, covering crucial topics like resource mobilization and leadership development. Since its founding, the Lord has led MEP to expand out of Davao City to serve other areas of southern Mindanao.

MEP's partners work in a wide range of situations and communities: some work among the most marginalized communities in cities, others among previously unreached

**MEP is committed to strengthening the capability of Christian leaders in Mindanao.**



people groups in the mountains. Partner churches are found in both urban and rural areas, and comprise

large, medium, and small but growing congregations. Every single partner is passionate for the work God has given them; MEP comes alongside to help them do what they do even better. Key areas of growth include more committed boards and church members, robust

financial systems, clearer and more focused direction, and stronger community engagement. In their own unique ways, these partners are powerful agents of God's shalom in their communities; MEP is blessed to accompany them as they grow in capability and fulfill their calling.





# FOUNDERS

**T**hroughout our fifteen years as a foundation operating in Mindanao, Susie and I have leaned upon the assistance, skills and counsel of our board members, staff and volunteers. Sacred Harvest would not be where it is today without the trusted guidance, talents and godly counsel of these women and men. None of us ever succeeds solely by ourselves. Nor could we have come this far without the support and encouragement of these men and women who believe in our mission. As an African proverb reminds us, “If you want to go fast, you go it alone. If you want to go far, you go together.”

In these fifteen years, we have come farther than we could have ever dreamed or imagined in being a part of God’s shalom for Mindanao. Our humblest, deepest thanks and appreciation to each and every one of those listed here for your participation in “our long journey together.”

**Steve & Susie Perry**  
**Founders**

*"Plans fail for lack of counsel,  
but with many advisers  
they succeed."*

Proverbs 15:22



**"If you want to go fast,  
go alone.  
If you want to go far,  
go together."**

— African Proverb



MINDANAO  
EQUIPPING PROGRAM

[mep.com.ph](http://mep.com.ph)

**SACRED HARVEST**



[sacredharvest.org](http://sacredharvest.org)