



# THE UCMPFI NEWSLETTER

VOL. 9 ISSUE NO. 7 | DECEMBER 2021

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE UCM PHILIPPINES FOUNDATION, INC.

**You bring smiles to all those we help!**

From the UCMPFI family—

**A blessed Christmas  
and a new year  
full of possibilities and promises!**



The CENEP students received their Christmas presents from the Foundation on December 17. Distributed were 20 packs for CENEP Cainta, 35 packs for CENEP Mandaluyong, and 31 packs for CENEP Project 8. Each student received two sets of house wear, a piggy bank, and vitamins. Our thanks to volunteer Celly Hafalla who helped in packing the gifts.

# Achievers!

Online classes bring out people's creativity. Take **Teacher Nena (Gapul Abit)**, who has been serving at CENEP Mandaluyong for almost five years. Not only does she make sure she knows the lesson well in advance, she also uses props and other materials to make the lessons fun and exciting for her students. This is one upside of the pandemic!



Congratulations to two of our GEESE scholars who completed the first quarter of this school year creditably: **Joshua Atip**, who finished Grade 12 at the top of his class and with high honors at Makati High School, and **Lester Samonte**, who finished Grade 10 with high honors at Gen. Pio del Pilar National High School. Lester expressed his gratitude to the Foundation (translated from Filipino): “Thanks to all of you for helping poor students like me who have dreams. Thank you because through the allowance you provide, I can meet my needs for my studies.”

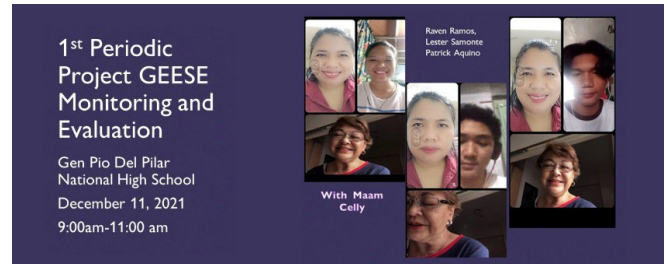
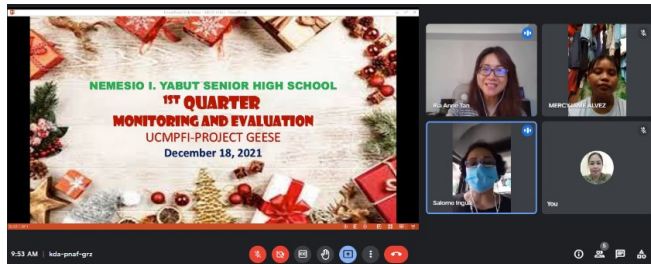
One of our college (TRACE) scholars, **Joje Ariego** (3rd year BSBA Supply Management, University of Makati), was a speaker in a university-wide forum called Coffee Talk: Fun Kwentuhan. The forum, held on November 3 via Zoom and facebook, was in conjunction with the celebration of Mental Health Awareness Week. Joje shared, “It was a great pleasure to be chosen as one of the speakers. I had the chance to share my knowledge and experience about coping, not just now in the time of pandemic, but also coping with life’s challenges in general.”





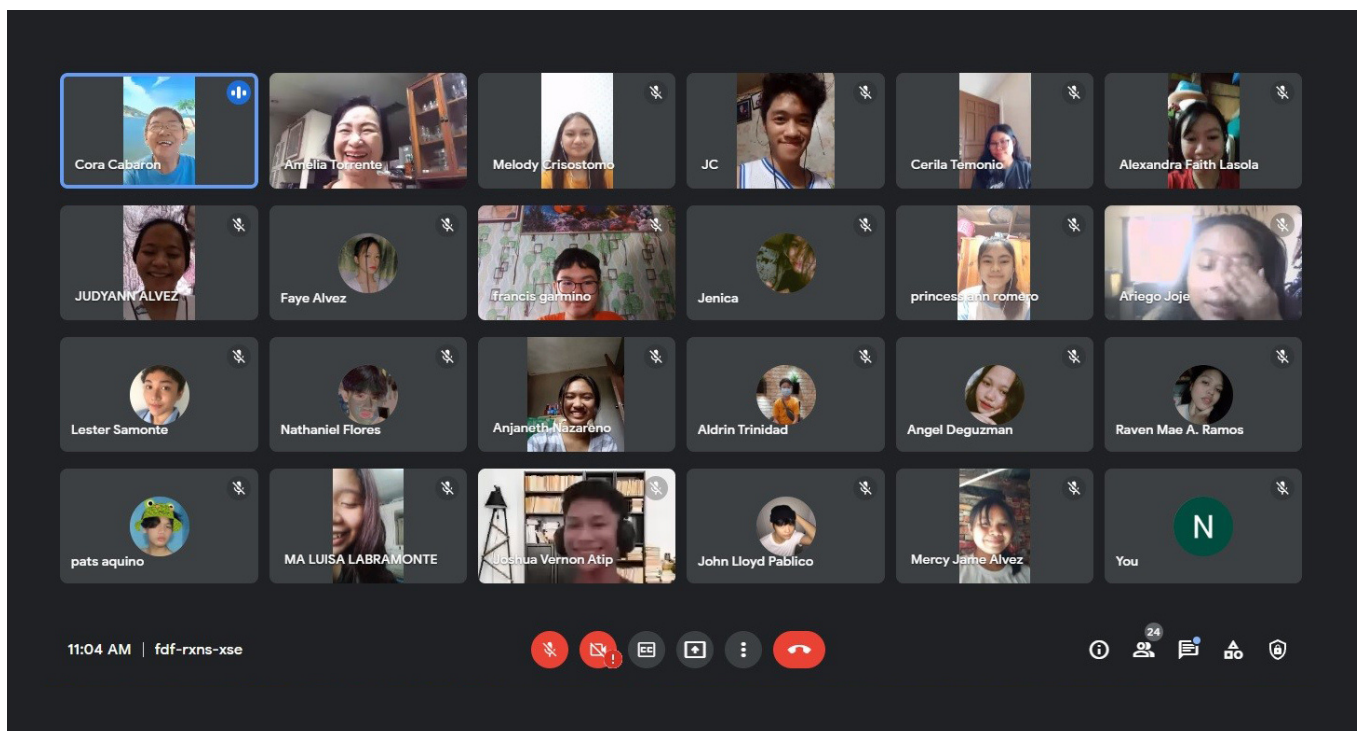
# Scholars' monitoring and evaluation continue

In school year 2021-2022, UCMPI is supporting 32 scholars, both high school and college. The monitoring and evaluation of these scholars, upon their completion of the first quarter, were held on December 4, 11, and 18. Volunteers Ria Tan, Celly Hafalla, and Cora Cabaron took turns interviewing the scholars as well as the teacher foster parents to see how the scholars are doing academically and in other areas of their lives.



## Scholars' Bible Study series ends

The 2021 online Bible Study for the scholars ended on December 18 with Trustee Lily Torrente leading the final Lessons 7 and 8. The participants ended the series by praying for one another and sharing their anticipation of face to face fellowship in 2022 once everyone is vaccinated. An added blessing from the series is the acceptance by four of the scholars of Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.



# Know Your Scholars: Judy Ann Alvez

Judy Ann is the middle child among 9 children. She and her siblings are being raised by their mother, Mercymar, who was widowed when the children were still young. The family lives in an informal settlement on the edge of Bonifacio Global City where they experience waist-deep flooding during heavy rains.

Judy Ann is the first among the children to reach college. She started with the Foundation as a GEESE scholar when she was Grade 8, maintained her good standing to graduate from high school, and is now a TRACE scholar in college. She will be among the Foundation's first batch of college graduates when she completes her B.S. Education in Social Studies at the University of Makati.

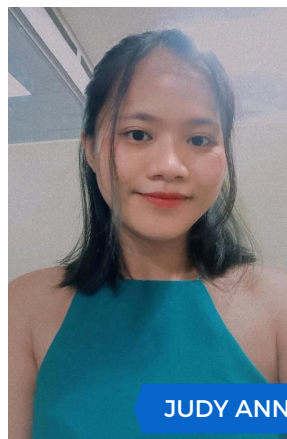
Judy Ann is an exemplary scholar. She is always on time, pays close attention during orientations and meetings, and responds respectfully but honestly. She maintains high grades and participates in extracurricular activities. Her younger sisters, Mercy Jane and Faye, are now also GEESE scholars.

Their mother, Mercymar, is extraordinary herself. She has navigated her way through life's difficulties, managing to keep her children safe, sheltered, fed, and clothed. She is very grateful to the Foundation for the help it has extended to them over the years. On December 3, she expressed to our Administrator her gratitude through these words (translated from Filipino):

*I am thankful to God that we are in a good situation, especially the studies of my children. Judy told me last week that they will hold their pinning in January. I am so happy because this means that the end of another school year is fast approaching. And I am very thankful to God that my children's studies have been good. This is because of the support of UCMPFI.*

*This has always been my dream for my children—that they be able to continue their studies. That is why I am grateful to all those who are part of the Foundation because you are the reason that my children are in school. Thank you for everything!*

*I pray to our almighty God that He will give back to you a million times. We love you all. And God bless you all.*



JUDY ANN



MERCYMAR

Do visit our website [www.ucmphilfoundation.org](http://www.ucmphilfoundation.org) to know more about the Foundation's activities and to participate in continuing to provide a better life to these children and young people. For your inquiries, please call (63 2) 8812-6062 or 8812-5609 or email us at [info@ucmphilfoundation.org](mailto:info@ucmphilfoundation.org).