

**Feed the Hungry, Inc.**  
**Infrastructure (Classroom) Program**  
**How CLASSROOM Nos. 115 and 116 came to be!**  
**USUSAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SPECIAL ED. CENTER**  
**TAGUIG CITY, METRO MANILA**

By  
**Pablito Alarcon**  
*Program Director*

When DR. BAYANI MANALO called, I listened and off we went to meet him right away before he can change his mind. How can you refuse, when out of the blue, Dr. Manalo told me that he wants to make a donation for a classroom in his Alma Mater in Ususan Elementary School in Taguig City?

When we met up with Bayani, he said: "IF a foreigner like Paul M. was willing to donate 2 classrooms in Cebu City, a place Paul has never seen, a city Paul has never been", Bayani felt that he needed to do something to match this kind of philanthropy from a foreigner, an adopted Pinoy golfer. And Bayani did!

Feed the Hungry ("FtH") tries to build two classrooms at the same time to economize and to maximize the use of the common wall between two classrooms. When we receive a donation for one classroom, half the battle is won; just one more donor and the construction can be started.

IT wasn't long before I got another call from Anita Sy, from California, a former donor of another Special Education classroom in Indang, Cavite. Anita agreed to partner with Dr. Bayani for the FtH classrooms in Ususan ES in Taguig City. Funding for two classrooms already assured, I started the project in motion by requesting the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) to validate Ususan ES, i.e., that the school really needed the classrooms and that the school has title to the property. The contractor in tow, CFO verified that there's enough space to build the classrooms.

With the preliminary requirements satisfied, CFO prepared the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between FtH (to provide the funds), CFO (to provide logistics, coordination, monitoring and reporting), Clean Makers and Construction Services (to build the classrooms), Principal Granada (to allow construction of the classrooms in the school and provide utilities and housing for the contractors), Barangay Captain (to provide security and some filling materials, as needed). The MOA was signed, sealed and delivered and the funds were released to the Contractor to start the construction.



March 14, 2013 : Tobi (CFO) and Martin (FtH) inspecting construction site and progress.

Inauguration day was set for 10:00 AM on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 while FtH volunteers/supporters Vi Baluyut from Washington, DC and Dr. Sonny Genio from Hawaii were in town. How to get all parties together for inauguration day? CFO Tobi did an excellent job of coordination and providing transportation. CFO picked up Ms. Vi at her condo in Greenbelt (Makati), Dr. Genio at Mandarin Hotel in Makati, Tessie and myself from our place in Hillsborough Alabang Village in Muntinlupa City, and then CFO driver Angie inched his way through the famous, congested, bumper-to-bumper Manila traffic, one traffic light at a time.



April 10, 2013 Martin delivering the message of the donor, Ms ANITA SY, inside the completed classrooms.7

When we arrived at Ususan ES by 10:30 AM, Martin who came from his office in Pasig, Jeffrey Manalo (representing the donor, his uncle, Dr. Bayani and Ursula Manalo) from his place in Taguig, the Barangay Captain Sonny Marcelino and some councilmen of Brgy. Ususan were already waiting at the Principal's office. Principal Josefina R. Granada immediately contacted the priest, Rev. Father Diony de Pedro, from the parish nearby and thereafter started the ceremonies with the blessing of the building and cutting of the ribbons.

A short program followed. Messages of the donors were read by Jeffrey Manalo for his uncle Dr. Bayani and Ursula Manalo, from Vienna, Virginia, and by Martin for his sister in law, Ms. Anita Sy and her husband Jack Tiethof from California. A few remarks were made by Erwin Paul S. Cristobal representing

CFO, myself for FtH, and by Barangay Captain Sonny Marcelino. Principal Josefina Granada officially accepted the classroom donation, and Certificates of Appreciation from the Office of the President of the Philippines, through Sec. Imelda Nicolas of CFO, were awarded.



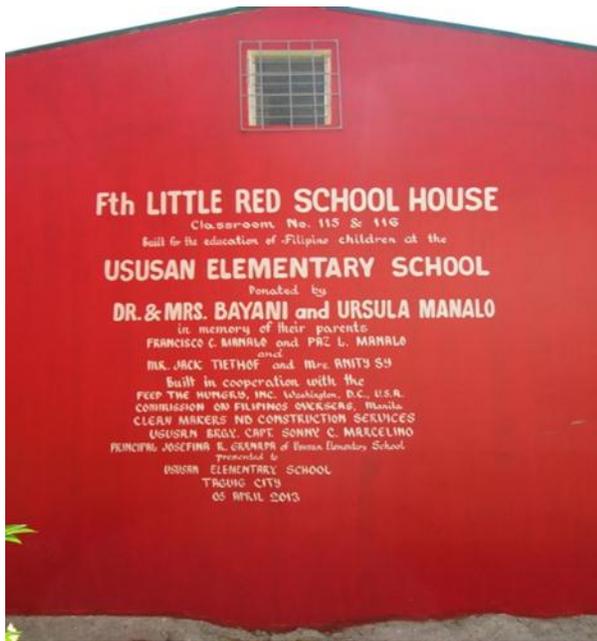
I was seated beside Brgy. Captain Sonny during the program and he shared with me his surprise that the building was already completed and ready for inauguration, when it was only a month before when the contractor was asking for filling materials to finish the floor, and that in just a short period of time, a very high quality construction was undertaken and two classrooms, complete with bathroom and school equipment, are ready to be occupied. I believe the Captain was trying to compare our construction with regular government projects that take too long to complete.



The representative students who will occupy the classrooms were treated to a Jollibee lunch of spaghetti and fried chicken with rice and juice. The visitors and guest had a late lunch at the cafeteria with the school staff. Martin had to leave immediately after the ceremonies to attend another business meeting in Makati.

These students, who are the future of the Philippines, are the beneficiaries of these newly constructed classrooms. These students will have a very clean, well-lighted, not crowded, and fan-ventilated, with their own bathrooms that will be conducive to learning.

One of these students will be a doctor like Dr. Bayani, an engineer like Anita, an accountant like Bobby, etc.



Through the cooperation among the donors, DR BAYANI and URSULA MANALO, in memory of their parents, FRANCISCO C. MANALO and PAZ L. MANALO and MS ANITA SY and JACK TIETHOF, FEED THE HUNGRY, COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS, CLEAN MAKERS CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, PRINCIPAL GRANADA, and BRGY CAPTAIN MARCELINO these FtH LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE NOS. 115 AND 116 were donated to USUSAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL in Taguig City on April 10, 2013 for the use of Special Education

Left to right, Martin Gaw, honorary Chairperson of Feed the Hungry, representing his sister in law, the donor of the first classroom, MS ANITA SY AND her husband, JACK TIETHOF and Jeffrey Manalo, representing the other donor of the second classroom, his uncle, DR.BAYANI and URSULA MANALO, and Tess Alarcon of FtH behind Jeffrey, a barangay councilman, two Ususan teachers, watched after the unveiling of the stainless steel marker which will forever identify the effort of all concerned to have these classrooms built for the use of Special Education

