

MGA KUWENTO NG PAGSIBOL

The German Village Gawad Kalinga St. Joseph Primer



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Cabiao...

Cabiao is a 1st class municipality in the province of Nueva Ecija, Philippines. According to the latest census, it has a population of 78,000 people in 11,655 households, spread over 23 barangays.

It is located between San Isidro and San Antonio in Nueva Ecija; Magalang, Candaba and Arayat in Pampanga. Northwest is Concepcion, Tarlac. It is about an hour and a half drive from Manila.

Most of Cabiao's agricultural land is being used to cultivate rice. Also, most of the jobs available are related to agriculture.

Out of 78,000 people in Cabiao, an estimated 10,000 are informal settlers who remain in poverty.



Gawad Kalinga & St. Joseph Village

Before 2012, there were two GK Villages in Cabiao. The first is GK – Paul Lehman Village located in Brgy. Concepcion, Cabiao, composed of 120 units. Next is GK – Chicago Village located in Brgy. Sta. Rita, Cabiao, composed of 94 units. Former informal settlers received the houses.

German Village GK St. Joseph is the third and youngest GK village in Cabiao Nueva Ecija, which is in Barangay San Fernando Sur. This village was a dream that became into reality, as the mayor hopes that the Cabiaoños who leave along the danger zones of the irrigation canal be relocated to a better community.

PAGSIBOL

PAGLAAG

PAGBUNGA

GERMAN VILLAGE GAWAD KALINGA ST. JOSEPH



DR. PETER SCHEID
Chairman
GAWAD KALINGA, e.V.,
Göttingen, Germany

A message from Dr. Peter Scheid

Dear residents of the new village, dear friends,

We would have liked to be with you today, to celebrate with you the inauguration and the blessing of your new homes. Since this cannot happen, let me send you a few words to indicate that our hearts and minds are with you today.

This day is full of joy for us, as it certainly is for you. And we look back with gratitude to the three years in which our dream has come to reality. It was on 11 April 2012 when Cornelia and I visited you in your rather temporary shelters down at the irrigation canal. We were on a journey with Fr. Ben and his colleagues from Ateneo, and it was when we were received by Mayor Congo that we discussed possibilities to help you find your own homes in a safe area. All were driven by the idea to build a new

GK village for you. We were able to obtain funds from friends of our association in Germany and from the Ministry of the German Federal Republic. But what is probably even more important is that so many people have helped unselfishly and tirelessly to make this day happen. Let me mention in the first place Fr. Ben Nebres, our dear friend, and his team at Ateneo, led by Noi Quesada. Then Baby Congo who has not only worked in her office as Mayor but has also helped in person to build the houses. I should mention the local GK team and so many volunteers without whom it would have been hard to meet this date. I wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to all of them. I wish to thank in particular His Excellency, the German Ambassador to the Philippines, Thomas Ossowski that he is

is present today despite his full agenda. Last but by far not least, I appreciate your work, dear residents, offered as sweat equity to erect your homes.

Today is literally the darkest day in our country, which is so far north from the Philippines. It is the winter solstice, the day in which the sun rises above the horizon for the shortest time of the year. However, at the same time it is the day in which the days get longer, in which the light is becoming brighter as the sun rises up higher during the day. It is, thus, the day in which a new confidence is appearing replacing the dark days of the past. And even though this feeling may not easily be understood in your more equatorial country we want to convey to this same confidence: May this new village bring you new impulses to your life, for yourself, for your children and for your community as a whole. God bless you!

- Peter Scheid

Representing the Board of GK e.V.



ABOVE: Nationbuilders all the way from GK e.V. in Germany. From R-L: Beatrix Hean, Dr. Peter Scheid and his wife, Cornelia.

BELOW: Some snaps from Dr. Peter Scheid's and his wife, Cornelia's visit to the Philippine back in April 2012 where they visited Gawad Kalinga villages all across the country.



Our life before GK

"Noong una hirap kami sa buhay, yung bahay namin palagi kaming nangangamba kapag bumabagyo kung ito ba ay masisira."

Our life was difficult in the past. When storms struck, we would feel anxious because we were not sure that our houses would stand the disaster.

- JONAVEC E. BUAN

"Noon mahirap ang aming buhay dahil tuwing umuulan nasa sulok kaming lahat dahil kung hindi kami pupunta sa isang sulok kami'y mababasa."

Back then, we had a difficult time every time it rained. We would all go to one corner; otherwise we would be soaked.

- AMELIA LOPEZ

"Sa una po mahirap, pero noong unang tira namin dito di ko alam kung matutuwa ako o maiiyak kasi syempre di ako makapaniwala na may bahay na kami. Kasi syempre iba noon na kasama mo yung mga magulang mo. Ngayon kasi syempre lahat ng gastos samin na ngayon. Alam na namin kung pano magbudget sa lahat, sa pagkain, sakuryente, at iba pa."

At first it was difficult. When we first moved into our GK houses, we were so emotional. We didn't know if we were going to cry or rejoice, because we couldn't believe that we finally had a house. Now, we take care of all the expenses. We already know how to budget properly-- to set aside money for everything, like food, electricity, and other things.

- MARY GRACE MASUCOL

In depth target

Hundreds of families of informal settlers in Brgy. Maligaya, Cabiao resided beside an irrigation canal. Their houses were made of scrap materials like corrugated cardboard, used steel roofing, and plastic. These families are at high risk, especially during typhoons. Their houses are washed away during heavy rains because the irrigation canal overflows.

People in the rural areas remain very poor. They earn little from their agricultural jobs, and aren't able to meet the most basic needs, such as education and health. Educational attainment for most does not surpass 3rd Grade in elementary school.

Income is seasonal, brought about by farm labor during planting and harvest time, or work in the rice mills. Some construction work is also available, but this too is irregular.

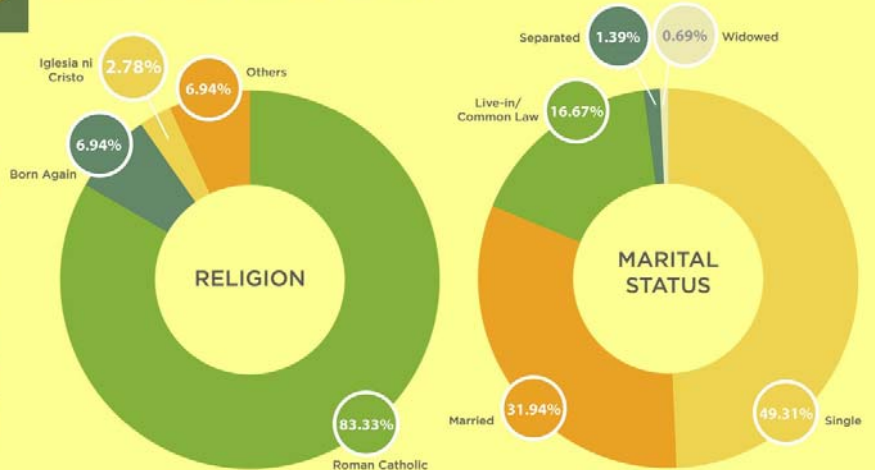
The community by the numbers

The results here are lifted from a survey administered by Gawad Kalinga – Ateneo and students from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines – Cabiao. A total of 67 families were interviewed for this survey.

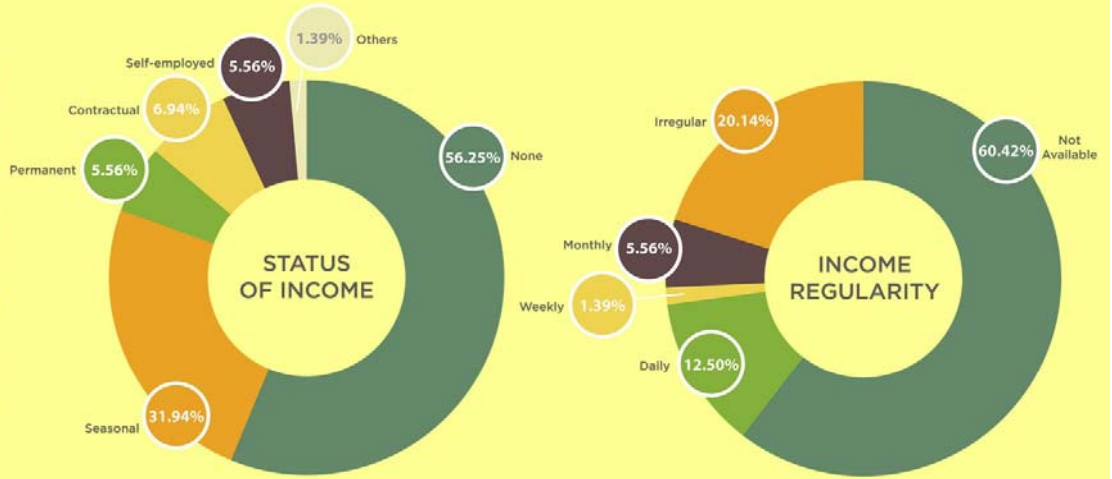
48.61% VOTED IN THE MOST RECENT ELECTIONS



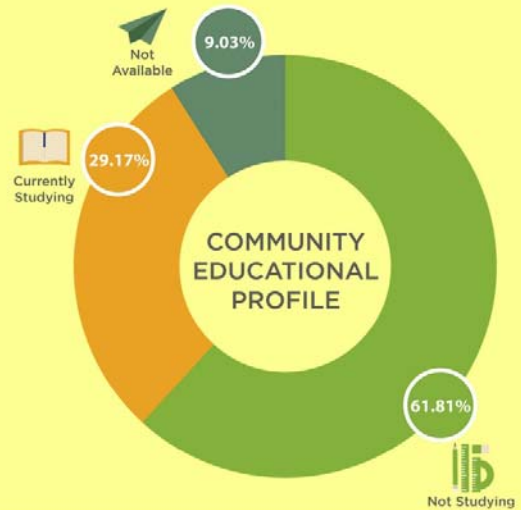
9.72% PAY TAXES



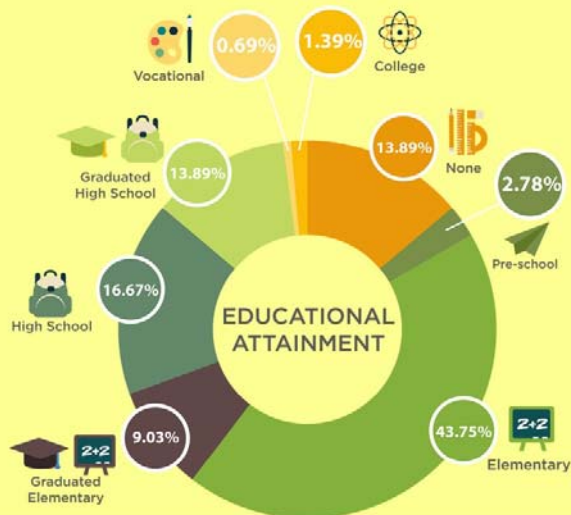
Questions on educational attainment, marital status, source and regularity of income were asked, as well as behavioural habits, skills, and involvement. The participants' responses give way to how we can better develop projects for the community, and continue to cater programs for their needs and facilitate the replication of the Gawad Kalinga model.



By the numbers



By the numbers



27.78% ARE INSURED IN PHILHEALTH



The infographics presented here provide a snapshot of what life is like in German Village GK St. Joseph.

However, these numbers do not define the kapitbahayans, but rather act as an opportunity to get to know them better and hear their stories - stories of hope, inspiration, and growth.

By the numbers



"Dito sa GK medyo lumuwag yong buhay naming kasi nakakapagtanim na kami tsaka nagkakasya na yong pamilya ko sa bahay na ito kahit na pansamantala lang."
 Once we moved to GK, our lives became more prosperous because we were able to plant on agricultural land. Also, this house fits all of our family.
 - MARY JANE A. TOLENTINO

Tahimik ang aming buhay at nagkaroon kami ng pangarap. Hindi na kami nag-aaway. Di katulad ng dati, na puro sugal noong hindi na kami nakatira rito, ngayon ay masaya na at medyo may kaunting ipon na rin.
 Our lives became peaceful, and we started having dreams and aspirations. There was no more fighting and conflict. Before we moved here, gambling was rampant. But now we are happy, peaceful, and even get to save money.
 - RADEN BRIONES



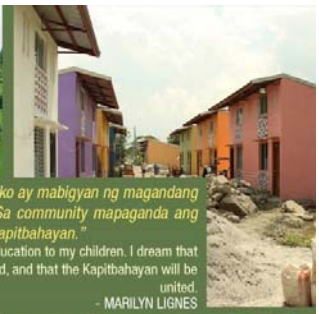
From a hopeful youth

JEROME A. TOLENTINO

"Bago ako dumating sa Gk, Kami ay nakatira sa isang maliit na bahay ng aking Lola. Ako ay isang mahiyaing bata pa lamang noon at wala pang kaalam-alam tungkol sa GK."
 Before we went to GK, we lived in a small house owned by my grandmother. I was a shy kid, unaware of the existence of GK.

"Nang dumating na ako sa GK ay nabago ang buhay ko pati na ang aking pamilya. Nagkaroon kasi kami ng bagong bahay at bagong buhay. Higit sa lahat ako ay nagkaroon ng responsibilidad sa buong community."
 Joining GK changed my family's life, and my own. We received a new house, and in turn, a new life. Most of all, I felt a sense of responsibility to our whole community.

Pangarap kong makatapos ng pag-aaral upang maipakita sa lahat ng tao na ang isang tao tulad ko na nakatira sa GK ay umangat sa buhay. Nais ko kasing mabigyan ng maayos na buhay ang aking magulang. Bilang youth leader, nais kong maging matatag ang pagsasamahan at pag-uugnayan ng aking mga member.
 My dream is to finish my studies, so that I can show everyone that a person like me who lives in GK is able to succeed in life. I want to give my parents a good life. As a youth leader, I want to establish good camaraderie and communication among my members.



"Dito na rin ako nagkaroon ng lakas ng loob upang makilungo sa mga tao. Kasabay pa nito ang pagkakaroon ko ng responsibilidad sa aming komunidad. Masasabi kong nakapalaking tulong din ng values formation sa paghubog ng pagkatao ng aking pamilya."
 It was here that I gained the confidence to be able to deal with other people. Along with this was feeling responsibility for our community. I can also say that the Values Formation helped in shaping the character of the members of my family.
 - ROMEO TOLENTINO

"Ang pangarap ko para sa pamilya ko ay mabigyan ng magandang edukasyon ang aking mga anak. Sa community mapaganda ang kapaligiran at magkaisa ang mga kapitbahayan."
 I dream to be able to give a good education to my children. I dream that the community will be beautified, and that the Kapitbahayan will be united.
 - MARILYN LIGNES



"Gusto ko makapagtapos ang aking anak para pag nagkapamilya na siya mabuti ang kalagayan niya."
 I want my child to finish his studies so that he will be stable by the time he has his own family.
 - ROSALINDA GALANG

Milestones &

● **APRIL 2012** Dr. Peter Scheid and his wife Cornelia Scheid visited the GK villages. Accompanied by Ateneo de Manila University, they observed the GK villages and poor areas of Cabiao.

They were touched with the plight of Catherine, a very young motherless girl. The third eldest among 12 children, she stood as a mother to her younger siblings.

Mayor Baby Congco shared her longstanding dream of building a 3rd village in Cabiao for families at risk of the accidents from the irrigation canal.



● **JULY 2013** HDZ (Dentist's Sponsorship, Germany) through GK e.V. donates 6 additional houses

● **SEPTEMBER 2012** Gawad Kalinga e.V. donates starter funds for GK St. Joseph for 17 houses.

● **MARCH 2013** Through an SB resolution and with the help of Mayor Baby Congco, the Cabiao LGU acquires a piece of land for the relocation of informal settlers from the irrigation canal. The land, donated by Mrs. Maxima dela Cruz Garcia, was located in Sitio St. Joseph, Barangay San Fernando Sur, Cabiao.



Activities

● **AUGUST 2014** BMZ through GKe.V. donates 40 houses



● **JANUARY 2014** Gawad Kalinga, e.V. donates 4 additional houses



● **AUGUST 2015** Inauguration of 2 high school classrooms in St. Joseph German Village, thru the efforts of the following partners: Ang-Hortaleza Foundation Inc., Katinko, and Got Heart Foundation



Para sa patuloy na pagsusumikap DOMINGO LIGNES

Noon, nakikitira kami sa aking biyanan dahil wala kaming sariling tahanan. Kahit ganoon pa man wala akong masasabi sa aking biyanan at mga hipag, napakabait nila at wala silang sawang sumusuporta sa amin. Hindi ko sila makakalimutan. Nagpapasalamat kami sa kanila ng marami.

Back then, we lived with my in-laws because we didn't have our own home. Our in-laws were kind people who consistently supported us. I will never forget them, and we are very grateful to them.

Nang kami ay magkabahay na sa Gawad Kalinga, napakasarp pala nang may sariling tirahan. Kaya nagpapasalamat kami sa panginoon at marami siyang ginagawang instrument para tulungan ang mga mahihirap na tulad naming na nangangailangan ng maayos at malinis na masisilungan. Nang dahil sa kanila nabago ang sitwasyon ng aming buhay at marami kaming natutunan.

When we received a house from Gawad Kalinga, we felt how good it was to have our own home. We thank the Lord, who made a lot of instruments to help poor people like us who needed a clean and proper place to live. Because of them, our life changed completely, and we have learned a lot.

Para sa aming hinaharap, patuloy kaming nagsisikap na mapaunlad ang aming buhay at patuloy kaming makikisama sa mga kapitbahayan at magsisikap na mapaganda ang komunidad.

We are continuously working hard for our future to achieve success. We are continuously living in harmony with the Kapitbahayan, and striving to improve the community.



"Ako po si Gerard Cervantes isang myembro ng Gawad Kalinga St. Joseph German Village. Nagpapasalamat po ako sa biyayang nakamit ng aking pamilya. Ito po ay aking pag-iingat habambuhay."

I am Gerard Cervantes, a member of the Gawad Kalinga St. Joseph German Village. I give thanks for the blessing that my family has received. I will cherish this for the rest of my life.

- GERARD CERVANTES



Maraming maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat!

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&
Vice Mayor Ernesto "Pompet" S. Talens Jr.

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To the many others, who we may have failed mention, who contributed to bringing our German Village Gawad Kalinga St. Joseph to reality our heartfelt thanks.

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