



Excellence

CENTEX
Quarterly Newsletter
June 2007

TELLTALE SIGNS OF HOPE

By: Carol Atacador



Kreniene De los Santos De Juan
Born December 23, 1999

A daughter of a teacher and an insurance sales agent, Kreniene was taught to save whatever she could from the meager allowance she is allowed to get everyday. She would always tell her mom she is saving for some emergency, that she would only crack her piggy bank for some very urgent needs.

Kreniene did not indulge in the fish balls she sees from the vendors outside of the CENTEX campus in Tondo. Neither did she feast on the fast foods surrounding the neighborhood. Little insignificant toys from street vendors failed to induce her to spend what few change she had in her pocket. She was driven to save if only to feel secure that she would have the right amount of money in an emergency.

Monday, May 21, 2007, 10:30 A.M.. – Kreniene's mother, Rosalia, with tears in her eyes told me she called Kreniene to tell her about Mae Ann.

12:30 in the afternoon: Kreniene knocked at the AFI office in CENTEX MANILA. She handed me a colorful envelope she herself made. With her art design she stapled what looked like a letter addressed to Mae Ann Noche. In it is the full amount of her savings, P2,050. Her emergency? To try to save the life of Mae Ann Noche.

May 21, 2007: Parents sat in the courtyard under the heat and glare of the morning sun. The intense heat matched the issues discussed. Parent hours corrupted by the inability of some parents to live up to this responsibility by paying other parents to fulfill their commitment was brought to light. I explained the connection of this practice with the claims of fraud and vote buying in the recent election. Transformation within each person must happen before it creates the necessary impact on the CENTEX community as well as on our country. We cannot hold anyone accountable unless we hold ourselves to the highest ethical and moral standards.

I spoke about the condition of Mae Ann Noche, the outrage I had in me...an ICU without air conditioning, the patients I saw double lined along the hallways, the subhuman condition of this



Mae Ann Pama Noche:
Born August 25, 2000.

The telephone rang in the CENTEX office on Thursday afternoon. It was a panicked phone call from one of our teachers. Mae Ann Noche was run over by a car as she crossed the street. Both driver and Mae were in the hospital but Mae Ann was fighting for her life.

Mae Ann is from a family where poverty is no stranger. Unlike Kreniene, the goal of Mae Ann and her family is not to save money for some emergency but where and how to get money. A daily struggle for food is what the family wakes up to.

The day the accident happened, Menchu, the mother of Mae Ann, was washing clothes to earn the day's meal. Bernardo, her eldest son who graduated last March from CENTEX BATANGAS, qualified for a live-in high school in Cavite in the Sisters of Mary's Boys Town. He began his schooling last April. Bernardo, the designated caregiver of Mae Ann could not be there for his baby sister.

Mae Ann suffered a severe fracture in her skull. She is in a coma in the Batangas Regional Hospital. Dr. Renato Dimayuga, Director of the hospital, made it his commitment to see Mae Ann through this crisis. With the help of Dr. Mimi Nicholas, a high school classmate of mine, Mae Ann is afforded a chance to live.

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Telltale Signs of Hope continued...

6-year old fighting for her life. Don't get me wrong, the hospital was clean, but the crowded hallways and rooms are not the conditions by which doctors can live up to their Hippocratic oath to hold sacred the life of each of their patients.

I challenged our parents to be outraged, not in some people power cry of outrage but in the transformation of holding each other sacred, in the compassion, in the sharing of the good and not so good. I challenged them to remember every CENTEX child is family to both Tondo and Bauan.

The issues I discussed in the parent assembly spoke of the moral and ethical standards CENTEX strives to achieve. Pay offs and side transactions in lieu of parental obligations are totally unacceptable in a project that hopes to better the lives of others in a dignified and honest way.

At the end of the parent assembly, the PTCA president handed over contributions from parents of different grade levels. Without being asked, they passed the hat secretly and without fanfare. Their contributions towards the medication of Mae Ann Noche totaled P5, 346 add Kreniene's P2,050 from her savings. P 7,396 seems a billion in the spectrum of poverty among the hungry of Tondo.

What does this mean? Very simply...there is reason to hope that morals and ethics can once again permeate our society. There is reason to have faith in the promise of the cross. There is reason to believe that we can surmount poverty if only to reward honest living. There is reason to learn from the poorest of the poor.

We must insist on pointing out what is right. We must never falter in our responsibility to speak of malpractices in whatever level of society, whether in our churches, schools or workplaces and especially in our own homes. But above all we must practice what it is we speak about.

To you, Mae Ann Noche and Kreniene De los Santos, I promise I will never forget your worth to all of us. I will not forget how you, Mae Ann, continue to fight for your life despite the poverty you know. To you, Kreniene, may I always follow your example of selflessness. To all of you reading this article...be outraged at the subhuman conditions our fellow Filipinos take as their lot.

And for those whose lives are secured by 3 meals and more a day, whose waking and sleeping moments are cradled by the gentle breeze of air conditioners, remember the tale of 2 young girls, one fighting for her life, the other fighting to save it.

Balikbigay Foundation Awards Scholarship Grants to CENTEX



The newly formed Balikbigay Foundation recognized the merits of CENTEX and awarded scholarship grants to two Grade One students of CENTEX Manila. Mr. Valdemar Bough, foundation Chairman, and Ms. Cynthia Jimenez, Treasurer, awarded the grant to Carol E. Atacador, CENTEX Director, last May 4, 2007 at the Valle Verde Country Club. Balikbigay has committed to support

these children all the way to Grade Six. They hope that more funds can be generated to provide quality education to more CENTEX Students.



Balikbigay Foundation is primarily dedicated to support nutritional and educational needs of underprivileged Filipinos. As its name implies, Balikbigay is the members' way of "giving back" to the Philippines. They believe they need to share their blessings with others. They hope that their "brothers" may benefit from the improved nutritional and educational programs carried out by non-government organizations, not only in Manila, but also throughout the countryside.

Back to School

By: John Robert Rosales

Now that vacation is over, I'm already preparing for the new school year. I'm feeling so nervous because I know I'm going to have a new set of classmates. On the other hand, I also feel excited because I know my teachers have prepared challenging and interesting lessons for me this school year. I am also happy because I will see my friends again.

This year, I've set my mind on studying hard so I can get high grades. I will focus on my studies and I will strive to be a more active student this year. CENTEX is giving me so many privileges; I can only give back by staying focused on my studies. I know if I work hard enough, I can achieve a lot of things.

I'm sure I have an exciting year ahead of me! To all my friends, classmates and schoolmates, welcome back!

CENTEX GRADUATES 141 STUDENTS!

March 22, 2007 marked a milestone in the lives of 141 CENTEX students as they marched up the stage and received their diplomas at On Stage Theater Greenbelt 1, Makati. This is the third graduation of CENTEX-Manila and the first for CENTEX Batangas.

The program started with the traditional procession of the 141 graduates followed by a Baccalaureate Mass celebrated by Fr. Jeff Quintela. CENTEX Director, Carol E. Atacador, formally opened the ceremony after the mass. She invited the guests and sponsors to witness the fruits of their heart's generosity. After which, the principals from each school, Ms. Fe T. Duldulao of Manila and Ms. Matdarenda G. Marasigan of Batangas presented the graduates to the Department of Education's Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Romeo B. Santos.



Since this is the first graduation of CENTEX-Batangas none other than, Mr. Gerardo C. Ablaza, Jr., President of CENTEX Batangas' major champion, Globe Telecom, Inc, delivered the graduation message. This was followed by the distribution of diplomas, medals and special awards. Dale Wilson A. Garcia II gave the valedictory address for Batangas and Marielle R. Dacumos for Manila. After the speech of the graduates, Chairman of Ayala Land, Inc, Mr. Fernando Zobel de Ayala delivered his closing remarks.



But what made this graduation extra special is the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between St. Bridget College, Batangas, Santa Isabel College Manila and Ayala Foundation Inc. This agreement ensures the high school education of our CENTEX graduates.



Welcome School Year 2007



After months of testing and weeks of home visitation, finally, we would like to welcome the new CENTEX students! CENTEX opens its doors to 76 children in Manila and 79 children in Batangas this school year.

Teachers and principals are all excited for the opening of school. They started preparing the children's classrooms and materials last May 21, 2007 as they officially opened "Brigada Eskwela."



"Brigada Eskwela" is a yearly activity of all public schools where parents of the students do their part cleaning and fixing the school of their children. This activity also provides a way for the Kindergarten parents to meet and interact with each other for the first time. During this time, the principal of the school also orients and re-oriens all the parents regarding school policies.

To all the CENTEX students, welcome back to school and we hope that you are all ready to face the new challenges and lessons your teachers have prepared for you. And to the parents, thank you very much for helping us keep our school clean and beautiful. We look forward to an exciting and successful school year ahead!

CENTEX WILL STAY FOREVER IN MY HEART

By: Nicole Shanaine Castor

Seven years may seem long, but actually, it becomes short if every day is treasured and valued. Until now, I still look back to my graduation day. I remember feeling excited about it, anticipating the changes it would do to my life. I still feel the excitement that welled in my heart weeks before graduation.

I guess seven years have gone by so fast. My long awaited graduation is over. But mixed emotions fill my heart. I am happy because finally I've finished elementary; I am sad though because it is time to leave my beloved school. However, my heart will always belong to CENTEX because it has always been my second home, my "little piece of heaven on earth." Seven colorful years of my life were spent here. Here, I met true friends, caring teachers and a loving principal.

No words can really express my appreciation for CENTEX. Just a lot of thanks for all the wonderful things you've taught us for we could never be what we are now without you.

To our director, Ms. Carol Atacador, we all delighted in being your children. Thank you for the quality education you've provided us. You are such a blessing to underprivileged children like me. WE WILL ALWAYS BE A CENTEX CHILD IN WORDS, IN THOUGHTS, AND IN OUR HEARTS. You will always remain in our hearts even if we've move on with our lives. You will always be our graduation angel.

I am now ready to face another chapter of my life. I will be studying at St. Bridget College, Alitagtag this June. There I will face another world, another challenge. Of course, I am happy and excited, but I cannot deny the fact that I will miss CENTEX. But before I open the book of my life at St. Bridget, I leave CENTEX with these thoughts, "I love CENTEX yesterday, today, and forevermore. I am very proud to be called a CENTEX child. I am not saying good-bye, but only 'til we meet again.



Listen to the CALL... DREAM... RESPOND.



About 28.4 million Filipinos are living below the poverty line. 13% of this or an equivalent of 3.692 million Filipinos belong to the poorest of the poor.

Out of every 100 Filipino school children, 60 will complete elementary education, 45 will complete high school and only 3 will earn a college degree.



CENTEX: AIMING TO BREAK THE ECONOMIC BARRIER THROUGH QUALITY EDUCATION TO BRIGHT UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN

- * Integrated Curriculum: woven in life skills and values with emphasis on Filipino culture & traditions
- * Brain-based strategies and methodologies in small learning centers.
- * Attention to basic needs: Serves hot lunches, provides uniforms & transportation allowance to and from school



CENTEX: SERVANT LEAD: Serve the Filipino, nurture the environment, create a culture of peace, manage resources for just distribution, live the Good News of Jesus.

On to high school, where the dream is at risk of dying. Continued financial difficulties diminish the opportunity for continued quality education for our CENTEX graduates.

Sustain the dream of equal opportunities for the CENTEX children. Support them in their high school education. Catch the future and give it to them.

You and your friends can send a CENTEX child to High School. Look at the following donation schemes to link with us.

PLAN A

Pledge of P25,000 every year for 4 consecutive years.

	PLAN B <i>Individual</i>	PLAN C <i>Grp of 3</i>	PLAN D <i>Grp of 5</i>	PLAN E <i>Group of 10</i>
Daily	P68.00	P22.00	P 15.00	P 7.00
Weekly	P480.00	P160.00	P 96.00	P 48.00
Twice a Month	P1,040.00	P350.00	P210.00	P 105.00
Monthly	P2,080.00	P695.00	P420.00	P 210.00
Quarterly	P6,250.00	P2,080.00	P1,250.00	P625.00
Yearly	P25,000.00	P8,300.00 $x \quad 3$ P 25,000	P5,000.00 $x \quad 5$ 25,000	P2,500.00 $x \quad 10$ 25,000

Yes! I want to donate to the CENTEX High School Assistance Fund!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No. _____

Email: _____

I want to donate the amount of _____ (P _____) to CENTEX.

For further inquiries, please call Sarah Sevilla at 7521171 or 7521173. You may e-mail us at sevilla.sb@ayalafoundation.org

BE A DREAM CATCHER . . .