

THE OFFICIAL JCI MANDAUE PUBLICATION

MANDAWE

PaintItMandaue

ISSUE



EXCLUSIVE TELL-ALL

VIBRANT VISIONARIES

IS IN THIS

FEEL

- 04** Letter from the President
by *Kristoffer Jun Yurong*, 2024 JCI Mandaue President
- 08** A Vision Realized
by *Josemaria Ylaya III*, 2023 JCI Mandaue President
- 13** 61 Shades of Red
by *Mark Samuel Uy*, 2024 Executive Vice President - Internal
- 17** Breaking Through the Shadow:
Making It Mandaue
by *Dr Marue Ladera*, 2024 Vice President for Membership Devt.
- 22** Pigments of Impact:
Creative Café for Sustainable Solutions
by *Jerry Lelis Bual*, 2024 Local Skills Devt. Director
- 24** Wellness Era: Make Fit Possible
by *Reniel Flores*, 2024 Vice President for Communications
- 28** Painting Smiles: A Heartfelt Journey
with the Sama-Bajau
by *RB Neñeria*, 2024 Vice President for Community Devt.
- 32** COVER STORY
Visionary Leaders:
The Man Behind the Canvas
by *Ignatius Borromeo*, 2023 Local Skills Devt. Director
- 45** Sketching Dreams in Flying Colors
by *Brylle Dwight Ag-ag*, 2023 Auditor
- 50** Sailing Through the Golden Hour
by *Brandon Lavilla*, 2024 Vice President for Business Devt.
- 54** Brotherhood in Safety: Guns & Roses
by *Christian Bacolod*, JCI Member
- 57** A Bright New Partnership in
Youth Empowerment
by *Dwight Mozo*, 2023 Chapter Secretary



PAINTING OUR **61ST YEAR** WITH INSPIRING STORIES,
BRIGHT TRIUMPHS, AND VIVIDLY MAKING IT MANDAUE.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings My Fellow JCI!

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I address you as we launch this issue of our magazine, "Paint It Mandaue." This theme encapsulates our mission, vision, and the very essence of what it means to be part of JCI Mandaue. As we journey through the 61st term, our rallying cry, "Making it Mandaue," serves as our message of action, inspiration, and commitment to our community, members, and partners.

In JCI Mandaue, we believe in the power of collective action to create a dynamic community. Our programs and projects are the strokes of paint that bring to life the canvas of positive change, showcasing the spirit of the Merry Men. Behind every successful project and program are the dedicated Merry Men who tirelessly work to make things happen. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our JCI Mandaue members, who have shown exemplary dedication and passion. Your hard work and perseverance are the brushstrokes that paint the beautiful picture of our achievements.

None of our accomplishments would have been possible without the strong support of our partners, sponsors, and supporters. Your belief in our vision and your generous contributions have been the foundation upon which we have built our successes.

I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to the MandaWe Editorial Board for their outstanding work in bringing this magazine to life. Let every project be a brushstroke of excellence, every initiative a splash of creativity, and every action a reflection of our collective commitment to making a difference.

In JCI Mandaue, we don't just dream of a better community; we work together to make it a reality. We are the artists, and the community and our organization are our canvases.

Let's Paint It Mandaue! Let's Make it Mandaue!

With gratitude and pride,

Kristoffer Jun Yurong
KRISTOFFER JUN YURONG
2024 PRESIDENT, JCI MANDAUE

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Stepping into the role of the newest editor-in-chief of this magazine is truly exhilarating. MandaWe's first year has been a resounding success, and I couldn't be prouder of the dedication and hard work that everyone has poured into it.

In this issue of MandaWe, we delve deeper into the experiences of some of our Merry Men as baby Jaycess. You'll read about their journey in JCI Mandaue and the meaningful impact they made while holding national positions. Get ready to be amazed (and swoon) with an exclusive tell-all beautifully framed by the talented Robin Lumapas. We also highlight some projects that are dear to our hearts, causes that deserve attention, and achievements that merit celebration.

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

These words are just as true today. This issue of MandaWe wouldn't be possible without the immense support of our brilliant Board of Directors under President Toffee's leadership. On behalf of the entire MandaWe team, I share this publication with everyone. May its pages ignite a glimmer of hope and inspire brighter days ahead.


MIKE YAPCHING
MANDAWE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF





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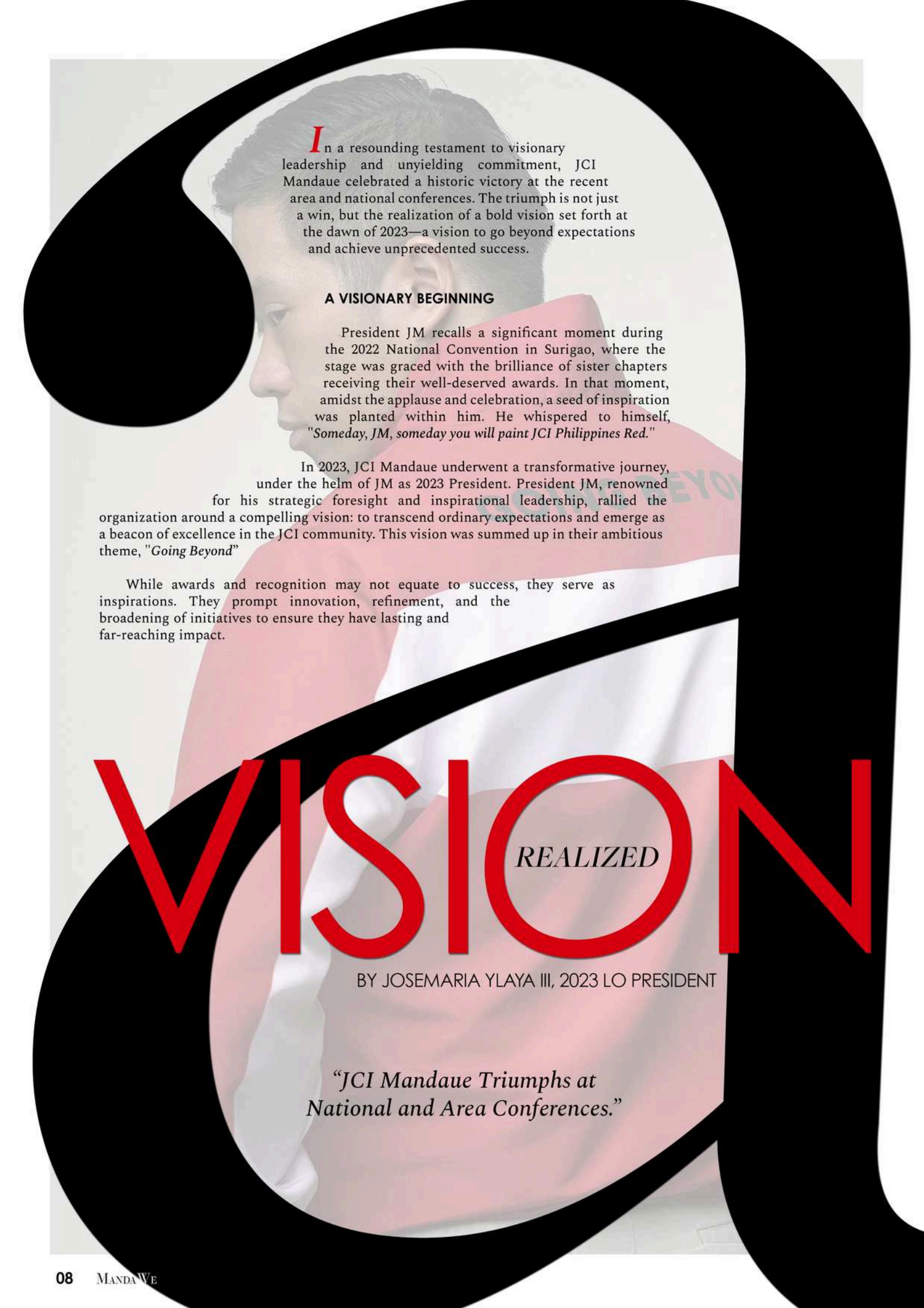
Lower Laguerta, Salinas Drive Extension

Brgy. Lahug, Cebu City 6000 Ph

T. +63 32 328 3699 | +63 32 402 0017

M: +63 917 714 4433 | +63 917 167 9992

E: cititruckservice@gmail.com | W: www.citicar.com.ph



In a resounding testament to visionary leadership and unyielding commitment, JCI Mandaue celebrated a historic victory at the recent area and national conferences. The triumph is not just a win, but the realization of a bold vision set forth at the dawn of 2023—a vision to go beyond expectations and achieve unprecedented success.

A VISIONARY BEGINNING

President JM recalls a significant moment during the 2022 National Convention in Surigao, where the stage was graced with the brilliance of sister chapters receiving their well-deserved awards. In that moment, amidst the applause and celebration, a seed of inspiration was planted within him. He whispered to himself, *"Someday, JM, someday you will paint JCI Philippines Red."*

In 2023, JCI Mandaue underwent a transformative journey, under the helm of JM as 2023 President. President JM, renowned for his strategic foresight and inspirational leadership, rallied the organization around a compelling vision: to transcend ordinary expectations and emerge as a beacon of excellence in the JCI community. This vision was summed up in their ambitious theme, *"Going Beyond"*

While awards and recognition may not equate to success, they serve as inspirations. They prompt innovation, refinement, and the broadening of initiatives to ensure they have lasting and far-reaching impact.

VISION

REALIZED

BY JOSEMARIA YLAYA III, 2023 LO PRESIDENT

"JCI Mandaue Triumphs at National and Area Conferences."

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

In 2023, JCI Mandaue introduced the Five Pillars as the foundation of their leadership philosophy, anchoring JCI Mandaue's commitment to Going Beyond. This mantra became the battlecry for all activities.



PEOPLE. This year JCI Mandaue has had a 20% increase in membership. There was an increase in public and membership engagement, which resulted in increased salience of the JCI Philippines and JCI Mandaue brand. New members were empowered through mentorship. With each new member taking on directorship and project chairman roles, guided by the Board of Directors.

PROGRAMS. JCI Mandaue launched more than 60 projects, with a specific focus on individual and community development. Notable initiatives include: *MandaWe Smile* provided support to 80 cleft lip and palate patients and raised 3.5m in funding. *Sagop Bakhaw*, an environmental and economic empowerment program which we have planted and potted over 4,000 mangrove propagules. An international partnership program called *Beyond Borders*, partnered with 10+ International JCI chapters not only in Asia but also in Australia and in Europe. *Springboard Series*, a membership development program which became a masterclass in JCI training and special topics.



PROCESS. JCI Mandaue revolutionized and redefined the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Directors. Ensured that the BOD structure is aligned with the organization's size and goals.

Implemented an enhanced recruitment process, allowing prospect members to undergo training and experience JCI Mandaue through a peer-to-peer approach known as the Merry Men Roadmap.

PARTNERS. JCI Mandaue forged 21 local sisterhood agreements with partner projects such as Project Ugat with JCI Regatta, Beyond the Rainbow with JCI Womandaue, and NAKN! with JCI Aklan Kalantiao. Furthermore, 3 International sisterhood agreements were signed, and 2 are expected to be signed this year expanding JCI Mandaue's global network.

This year, 50 non-government organizations signed a memorandum of agreement with JCI Mandaue to undertake various projects, on top of 100 private individual partnerships, increasing the organization's positive image and opening more networking opportunities.



PROMOTIONS. JCI Mandaue launched the first ever publication for JCI Mandaue. "*MandaWE*" released two issues in just one year. This serves as a vehicle to drive and promote our partners, recognize our activities and increase the Merry Men brand presence.



JCI Mandaue social media pages and other digital platforms saw a staggering 500% growth in its metrics resulting in the increase in community engagement.

VICTORY AT THE NATIONAL AND AREA CONFERENCES

The culmination of these efforts was gloriously evident at the area and national conferences. JCI Mandaue's projects were recognized for their innovation, effectiveness, and sustainable impact, earning the organization top honors across several categories. The accolades included:

**2023 QUADRO AWARDS
JCI VISAYAS AREA CONFERENCE**

QUADRO

Most Outstanding JCI Local Organization
JCI MANDAUE: Brotherhood with a Purpose Going Beyond

Most Outstanding Local Organization President
BEYOND JM : Finding Purpose Beyond Oneself

Best JCI Local Organization Website
JCI MANDAUE.ORG: REVAMP and RISE FOR IMPACT

Best Tourism Program
EXPERIENCE 032: The Amazing Sugbo Race

Best Gender Equality Program
Project Ally 2.0: Educate, Advocate, Empower and Support

Best Long-Term Local Community Program
MANDAWE BUILD YEAR 6

Best Local Growth Development Program
MERRYMEN 60GB: Reengineering a Sustainable Membership Growth

Most Outstanding New Member
JESScover : JESSplore

BANA-AG

Best JCI Local Organization Publication
MANDAWE: Treading Uncharted Waters Together

Best International Development Program
HUDYAKA: Experience JCI Mandaue and Beyond

Best Civic Involvement Program
Merry Galo Year 5: Dance for Dreams

Best Inclusivity Program for Differently Abled Persons
MandaWE Smile: A World where NO ONE is CLEFT-BEHIND

Best Fund Raising Program
GOING BEYOND FUNDRAISING: A Stellar Celebration of JCI Mandaue's 60TH Year

TOP 5 (FINALIST)

Best Sports and Wellness Development Program
LIGA-YAH: A Merry League, Elevate Your Game

Best Digital Marketing Campaign
C.L.O.U.T. Cultivating Lasting Opportunities: Unleashing Triumphs

Most Outstanding JCI Project Chairperson
CLYDESCOPE: Collaborative Leadership Yearning for Development & Engagement

Most Outstanding Member
The RiPPLE EFFECT

Best Local JCI Rise Project
SAGOP BAKHAW: Build a Forest, Sustain a Community

Best International Cooperation Project
BEYOND BORDERS: Building Bridges for Success

JCI VISAYAS GOT TALENT CHAMPION
BEACH TENNIS CHAMPION

PUBLIC SPEAKING 1st RUNNER UP
FIRST TIMERS CHALLENGE 1st RUNNER UP
BEACH VOLLEYBALL 1st RUNNER UP

JCI BODIES Finalist



**2023 TEMIONG AWARD
JCI PHILIPPINES NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

TEMIONG

Most Outstanding JCI Chapter President
BEYOND JM : Finding Purpose Beyond Oneself

Best Inclusivity Program for Differently Aabled Persons
MandaWE Smile: A World where NO ONE is CLEFT-BEHIND

SINAGTALA

Most Outstanding Local Organization
JCI MANDAUE: Brotherhood with a Purpose Going Beyond

Best JCI Local Organization Publication
MANDAWE: Treading Uncharted Waters Together

TOP 5

Best International Development Program
HUDYAKA: Experience JCI Mandaue and Beyond

Best Public Health Program
LABYU LANGGA: Healthy Families, Stronger Communities'

Best Sports and Wellness Program
PAUGNAT SA KUSOG: Elevate your Game

Best International Cooperation Project
BEYOND BORDERS: Building Bridges for Success

100% JCI PHILIPPINES *EFFECIENCY AWARD*
SPECIAL 75TH *PLATINUM BANNER AWARDEE*
JCI PHILIPPINES *GAVEL RECIPIENT*
JCI PHILIPPINES *GOT TALENT CHAMPION*

A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

President JM, reflecting on the journey, expressed immense pride in the organization's achievements. *"Our victory is a reflection of our collective commitment to excellence and our unwavering belief in the power of community. We went beyond what was expected, while setting new standards for what is possible,"* he said.

As JCI Mandaue looks to the future, the organization remains steadfast in its commitment to driving positive change and empowering communities. The triumph at the area and national conferences is a milestone, but it is also a stepping stone towards even greater achievements.

JCI Mandaue's journey from vision to victory serves as an inspiration for organizations everywhere. It underscores the importance of visionary leadership, strategic planning, and community engagement. By daring to go beyond what is expected, JCI Mandaue has not only achieved remarkable success but has also laid the groundwork for a brighter, more empowered future.

JCI Mandaue is not just celebrating a victory, but igniting a movement. They will continue to rise, breaking barriers and setting new benchmarks, inspiring others to dream big, act boldly, and achieve greatness.

“The legacy of JCI Mandaue is a testament to the POWER OF VISION AND ACTION, and it PROMISES A FUTURE where no goal is too lofty and no dream too grand.”





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Sixty One SHADES OF RED

BY MARK SAMUEL UY, 2024 EVP INTERNAL

“61 on 16, celebrating JCI Mandaue’s legacy and spirited future in a night painted in passionate red hues.”

JCI Mandaue celebrated its 61st Induction and Turnover Ceremonies on March 16, 2024. The event, held at the Golden Peak Hotel and Suites in Cebu City, marked another milestone in the chapter’s illustrious history.

Hathaway Events painted the ballroom in ardent shades of red – a nod to the chapter’s banner color embodying tradition and spirited future. The décor, from the scarlet velvet drapes to the crimson rose centerpieces, infused a regal and warm aura, tempting guests to partake in a night of celebration and camaraderie.

THE ESSENCE OF RED

Red, the trademark color of JCI Mandaue, symbolizes energy, passion, and action; qualities that define the essence of this dynamic organization. As the evening unfolded, it became clear that red was more than just a color, it was the embodiment of the chapter’s organizational culture. It also symbolizes the strength and unity of the JCI Mandaue members and represents the different facets of the chapter’s identity – its history, the present, and its promising future with the current members being molded to become future leaders. The 61st Induction served as a reminder of the chapter’s enduring legacy and its commitment to nurturing positive change in the community.

“**RED**,
the trademark color of
JCI Mandaue, symbolizes
ENERGY,
PASSION,
and **ACTION.**”





PASSING THE TORCH

Outgoing President Josemaria Ylaya III delivered a heartfelt speech on the achievements, milestones, and challenges of the past year under his term as President.

The ceremonial turnover of leadership was marked by the turnover of the Presidential Gavel, a symbol of the highest vested power and authority in the chapter. Followed by the turnover of the Medallion and Presidential Ring, a symbol of the president's marriage to the chapter and the brotherhood. And lastly, the traditional chair toss that symbolizes the challenges that the President will face in his one year to lead and Merry Men's vital role in supporting the new President throughout his presidency. President Kristoffer Yurong in his inaugural address, outlined his vision for the future, emphasizing brotherhood and promising to build on the chapter's strong foundation while exploring new horizons.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

With over 300 attendees, the event commenced with a grand welcome and a stately processional. Members of JCI Mandaue, along with Past Presidents, the Board of Directors, Sambisig Presidents, the 2024 JCI Philippines National Board, guest speakers, and both the outgoing and incoming Presidents of JCI Mandaue, walked the red carpet in a display of prestige and unity. Honor guards from the Cebu Technological University cadets ushered guests and dignitaries while Meghan Ssamote and Francis Cascaño from the Ballet Academy of Cebu mesmerized the crowd with a spellbinding performance.

A SPECTRUM OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Throughout the evening, various awards and recognitions were presented, celebrating the exceptional contributions of the members. The Ariston Cortes Leadership Excellence Award is given to outstanding JCI Mandaue members who have demonstrated unparalleled dedication to the tenets of JCI and contributed immensely to the success of the chapter in the preceding year.

Two JCI Mandaue past presidents, Josemaria Ylaya III and Benjamin Ruel Kuizon were awarded with the JCI Senatorship, which is the singularly highest honor and most coveted award that the Junior Chamber International can bestow upon an individual in his lifetime.



NOTABLE GUEST AND SPEAKERS

The event was graced by notable guests, including the JCI Philippines National Board, local government officials, business leaders, and JCI members from other chapters. Mandaue City Mayor Jonas Cortes delivered the keynote address, inspiring the audience to embrace leadership, service, and excellence.

The Topline Group of Companies Vice President for Operations, Brigitte Lim, shared an inspirational message, resonating deeply with the attendees. International sister chapters traveled all the way to the Philippines to celebrate this momentous occasion. JCI Samcheonpo President delivered a congratulatory message for JCI Mandaue. And last but not the least, was a message from the Guest of Honor, JCI Philippines National President Atty. Mark Peter Quilaneta.

CEREMONY HIGHLIGHTS

As the evening drew to a close, guests left with more than just memories, they carried with them the inspiration to paint their own paths with the vibrant colors of passion and positive energy.

The 61st Induction and Turnover Ceremonies of JCI Mandaue was not just a celebration for the past but a colorful canvas of what's to come. Even more so with the 18 promising new members who were officially inducted after completing the roadmap. In a world that often seems painted in monochrome, the Merry Men stand out in brilliant red, a testament to the enduring spirit of its members and their unwavering commitment to "Make it Possible, Make it Mandaue!"

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

JCI Mandaue is grateful for the overwhelming number of donors and sponsors who generously shared their resources to support this event. The Executive Vice President for Internal Affairs and Overall Induction Chairperson, Sam Uy, would like to give credit, especially to the Ways and Means Committee, led by EVP External Cyrus Honoridez, program director Dr. Mareu Ladera, Visuals Chair Reynante Oñas, Logistics Chair Reiner Flores, the whole Technical Team, and all the Merry Men for all their efforts and contributions in making this induction a success.



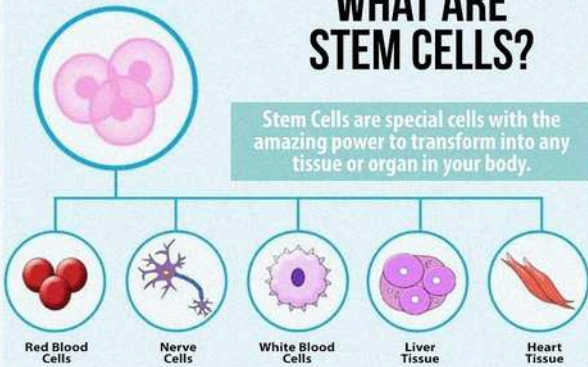
“The 61st Induction and Turnover Ceremonies of JCI Mandaue was not just a celebration for the past but a COLORFUL CANVAS of WHAT’S TO COME.”

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2024 DIRECTOR FOR NATIONAL RELATIONS
JCI MANDAUE

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Breaking

THROUGH THE SHADOW: MAKING IT MANDAUE

BY DR MARUE LADERA, 2024 VP FOR MEMBERSHIP DEVT.



“A Call to Action for every member to step out of the shadows and contribute to the greater good.”

2023 was a transformative year for JCI Mandaue, as the organization embraced the theme "Going Beyond," showcasing their ability to surpass expectations and set new standards. However, the year 2024 ushers in a new mantra: "Make It Mandaue" This battlecry is more than just a slogan; it's a commitment to fortify the community, elevate the organization, and inspire every member to break through their own shadows.

Leading the charge for JCI Mandaue are the Merry Men, a team of dedicated and dynamic individuals who have pledged to drive the organization's mission forward. Each director brings a unique set of skills, experiences, and a shared passion for making a difference.



JOSEMARIA "JM" YLAYA III
Immediate Past President

IPP JM, with six fruitful years in JCI Mandaue, consistently demonstrated unwavering dedication and resilience, even in the face of personal challenges. His steadfast commitment to the organization embodies the spirit of perseverance and leadership, continually surpassing expectations and inspiring others to break through the shadows and Making it Mandaue.



CYRUZ "CY" HONORIDEZ
Executive Vice President - External

Balancing a demanding career with his commitment to JCI Mandaue, Cyruz steps up as EVP External. More than a decade journey with the Merry Men is marked by a relentless pursuit of excellence. By answering the call to serve despite his busy schedule, Cyruz embodies the spirit of breaking through the shadows of time constraints and professional commitments.

KRISTOFFER "TOFFEE" JUN YURONG
Local Organization President

With eight years of dedication to JCI Mandaue, Pres. Toffee is more than ready to take the lead as President. His journey has been one of resilience and growth, overcoming personal and professional challenges to emerge as a beacon of leadership. Breaking through the shadows of doubt and adversity, Kristoffer's story is a testament to perseverance and vision.



MARK SAMUEL "SAM" UY
Executive Vice President - Internal

Six years as a Merry Man have prepared Sam for his pivotal role as EVP Internal. Returning to the board of directors, Sam is no stranger to the responsibilities and challenges that lie ahead. His ability to navigate through the complexities of organizational dynamics while maintaining a clear vision for the future exemplifies breaking through the shadows of uncertainty.





NIÑO BRAD LUKE DABLOS
Secretary

Brad's five-year loyalty to JCI Mandaue has been unwavering. As Secretary, his dedication and willingness to embrace challenges head-on make him a vital asset to the team. Brad's story of breaking through the shadows lies in his steadfast commitment to the chapter, always ready to say yes to new opportunities and responsibilities.



KHEM NERIO VILLAMOR
Treasurer

Now serving his second term as Treasurer, Khem envisions a transparent and accountable organization. His four-year tenure with the Merry Men has been a journey of financial stewardship and integrity. Breaking through the shadows of ambiguity and mistrust, Khem is dedicated to fostering a culture of transparency within JCI Mandaue.



BRYLLE DWIGHT AG-AG
Auditor

As a newcomer, Bryle's passion for service shines brightly. His role as Auditor is critical, providing an objective eye and ensuring accountability within the organization. Breaking through the shadows of inexperience, Bryle's fresh perspective and enthusiasm are invaluable to JCI Mandaue.



DR. MARUE LADERA
Vice President for Organizational Development

In his two years with JCI Mandaue, Doc Mareu has focused on streamlining processes and ensuring internal order. As VP for Organization Development, his vision for a more efficient organization is clear. Breaking through the shadows of operational chaos, Doc Mareu's efforts are directed towards creating a more structured and effective JCI Mandaue.



RENANTE "REY" OÑAS
Vice President for Membership Development

With only two years as a Merry Man, Rey has quickly come to see the brotherhood as more than just friends but as family. His role as VP for Membership is crucial in nurturing this sense of community. Breaking through the shadows of initial unfamiliarity, Reynante has embraced his role with warmth and inclusivity, strengthening the bonds among members.



RAINFREDO "RB" NEÑERIA
Vice President for Community Development

In his second year with the Merry Men, VP RB channels his passion for community service into creating meaningful change. He staunchly believes that active community engagement is crucial for building a better society. Breaking through the shadow of the notion of "tenureship," asserting that true impact transcends mere years of service and hinges instead on genuine passion and action.

RENIEL FLORES

*Vice President for Communications
& Vice President for Linkages*

Holding a dual position, Reniel's two years as a Merry Man have been marked by his willingness to take on double the responsibility. His roles require a delicate balance and immense dedication. Breaking through the shadows of overwhelming duties, Reniel's belief in his abilities ensures that all tasks are accomplished with excellence.



BRANDON "BRANZ" LAVILLA

Vice President for Business Development

A returning Merry Man with six active years under his belt, Branz is dedicated to securing the financial stability of the organization. His role as VP for Business involves making strategic efforts to enhance JCI Mandaue's economic foundation. Breaking through the shadows of financial instability, Branz's work is pivotal in ensuring a sustainable future for the chapter.



JERRY "JB" LELIS BUAL

Local Skills Development Director

Just inducted this year, LSDD JB sees a significant opportunity for the Merry Men to enhance the training and individual development programs. He is dedicated to breaking through the shadows of entrenched cultural norms, helping to foster a practice of continuous learning and growth within the organization.



PAOLO TOLENTINO

Local Awards Director

Paolo is dedicated to ensuring that the organization's legacy continues. He brings a unique perspective to recognition and success, focusing on the true value and impact of these accolades. Committed to breaking through the shadow of traditional awards and accomplishments - emphasizing the importance of meaningful recognition that inspires and motivates members to strive for excellence in all their endeavors.



The theme "*Make It Mandaue*" is about transcending limitations and manifesting the collective dreams and aspirations of the community. It's a call to action for every member to step out of the shadows and contribute to the greater good.

As JCI Mandaue embarks on this journey, the Board of Directors stand united in their commitment to the organization's vision. Their stories of breaking through shadows are not just personal triumphs but also inspirations for others to follow. Each director's journey underscores the importance of resilience, dedication, and a forward-thinking mindset.

"*Make it Mandaue*" is a powerful testament to the potential that lies within each member of JCI Mandaue. It's about turning challenges into opportunities, shadows into light, and dreams into reality. As the Merry Men move forward, their commitment to this theme will undoubtedly lead to remarkable achievements and a brighter future for Mandaue.

“...Turning challenges
into OPPORTUNITIES,
shadows into LIGHT,
and dreams into REALITY.”



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PIGMENTS of IMPACT: CREATIVE CAFÉ FOR SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

BY JERRY BUAL, 2024 LSDD

*“A problem well stated
is a problem half solved.”*

This philosophy underscores the importance of clarity in identifying and articulating challenges before devising solutions. By breaking down complexities into understandable components, we pave the way for innovative and effective interventions. This approach is particularly crucial in the context of sustainable development, where the intricacies of social, economic, and environmental issues demand thorough understanding and thoughtful action.

JCI Mandaue, ever forward-thinking and community-focused, has embraced this principle through its innovative initiative, Creative Cafe. Launched by 2024 Executive Director for Area 4, Earl Thomas Corregidor in 2022, this endeavor serves as an incubator for projects and programs aimed at sustainable solutions. The essence of Creative Cafe lies in its collaborative spirit, bringing together both new and regular members to present, deliberate and refine their ideas to guarantee success.

At Creative Cafe, the journey is as valuable as the results. Meticulous care is taken to analyze each project, uncovering its strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for growth. This thorough assessment guarantees that every idea pursued is designed for lasting impact. By nurturing an environment of supportive critique and ongoing refinement, Creative Cafe enables our members to turn their creative dreams into tangible achievements.

SPOTLIGHT ON PROJECTS

This year’s Creative Cafe, held on April 13, produced four diverse and noteworthy projects that cements the drive and compassion of the Merry Men.

WeConnect drew inspiration from the classic Yellow Pages to establish a robust networking platform. By facilitating connections within the community, WeConnect aims to enhance professional and personal networks.

Mine-Daue seeks to bridge the gap between virtual and physical commerce. This project envisions a seamless integration of online and offline shopping experiences, promoting local businesses and ensuring accessibility for consumers in an increasingly digital world.

Pet Pet De Sarapen addresses a critical community need by focusing on the health and welfare of stray animals. This initiative not only seeks to provide immediate care and shelter for these animals but also aims to educate the public on responsible pet ownership and animal welfare.



TOGA-ther We Stand celebrates educational milestones and supports students as they transition into the real world. By acknowledging the achievements of graduates and providing them with resources and guidance, this project ensures that the journey of learning continues beyond the classroom.

THE BROADER IMPACT

At Creative Cafe, our commitment to global goals is a vivid canvas of passion and purpose. We artfully foster projects that brush against critical Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) like quality education, reduced inequalities, and sustainable cities and communities. By infusing sustainability into the essence of every initiative, we not only amplify their relevance and impact but also enrich JCI Mandaue’s pledge to paint a brighter future for many, if not all.

In supporting its members, Creative Cafe cultivates an environment where creativity meets purpose. It inspires members to engage in critical thinking and responsible action, cinching that their initiatives are not only innovative but also sustainable and meaningful in impact.

As we reflect on the journey of Creative Cafe, it becomes clear that its essence lies in transforming ideas into action, dreams into reality. The projects birthed from this initiative are more than mere concepts; they are the pigments of impact, coloring our community with sustainable solutions.



FAT
and DOIS
CHICKEN

AS FORTUNA ST, BANILAD,
MANDAUE CITY, PHILIPPINES

The Wellness Era

MAKE FIT POSSIBLE



BY RENIEL FLORES, 2024 VP FOR COMMUNICATIONS



"The Wellness Era in Cebu isn't just a trend; it's a transformative reality – and JCI Mandaue is making fitness possible."

As we usher in 2024, Cebu is experiencing a shift towards a new fitness era. This transformation is not just a fleeting trend but a substantial movement embracing a holistic approach to wellness. From bustling gyms to outdoor community parks, the city is alive with activities that emphasize the importance of physical fitness and mental well-being. This year, JCI Mandaue is at the forefront of this movement, championing initiatives that promote a healthy lifestyle among its members and the broader community.

WELLNESS ERA

Cebu emerges as a focal point for fitness amidst its vibrant cultural landscape. The city sees a proliferation of new fitness facilities and outdoor gym spaces, accompanied by a surge in community-driven fitness events. This burgeoning enthusiasm reflects a deeper societal shift towards wellness, emphasizing mental and emotional health alongside physical fitness. From scenic morning runs along coastal routes to intensive HIIT workouts in local gyms, Cebuanos are integrating fitness into daily routines to enhance overall quality of life, boost energy levels, and foster community spirit. The frequent Fun Runs and bustling business parks filled with fitness enthusiasts highlight that fitness in Cebu is now a communal endeavor encouraging active participation and mutual growth.



For the younger generation, wellness assumes critical importance in navigating today's digital age. Integrating regular physical activity into daily routines helps counteract sedentary lifestyles prevalent among youth. Beyond physical health benefits such as enhanced cognitive function and mood improvement, prioritizing wellness from an early age establishes a foundation for lifelong health. Youth engaged in fitness activities also benefit from strengthened social bonds and a supportive community environment, vital for emotional and mental well-being and laying the groundwork for sustained wellness into adulthood.

MERRY LEAGUE X F45

JCI Mandaue has always been a proactive organization, and this year marks a significant leap forward with the Merry League, now in its second year. In collaboration with F45, a globally recognized fitness franchise, this initiative aims to democratize high-quality fitness training for all members. F45 is renowned for its innovative approach, blending cardio, strength, and endurance workouts into effective training sessions.

During the 2024 JCI Week kickoff event, the Merry League program attracted over 50 attendees, including both JCI and non-JCI members, with free access. Building on this momentum, the collaboration extended its free access offer for four weeks (1 Month). The program offers structured fitness programs tailored to different fitness levels, ensuring inclusivity from beginners to seasoned athletes. Beyond physical training, the Merry League fosters a spirit of camaraderie and mutual support among members. Participants encourage each other, share their fitness journeys, and celebrate achievements together, making it a cornerstone of JCI Mandaue's comprehensive wellness initiatives.



COACH JAY, JCI MANDAUE MEMBER

RUMEN (RUN with MERRY MEN)

As witty as its name suggests, *RUMEN*, derived from "Run with Merry Men," brings a unique twist to running in Cebu. This exciting initiative by JCI Mandaue aims to foster cardiovascular health and social engagement through community running. Running is celebrated as one of the most accessible forms of exercise, and *RUMEN* harnesses this simplicity to unite people. The program features regular group runs along scenic routes in Cebu, providing members with an opportunity to embrace a healthy lifestyle in picturesque backgrounds. It's also a platform for JCI Mandaue to actively participate and support various fun runs across the city.

RUMEN goes beyond mere running; it serves as a robust support system. Whether you're an experienced or a novice embarking on a fitness journey, *RUMEN* offers a welcoming environment. The program promotes consistency, aids members in setting and achieving personal fitness goals, and underscores the joy of running as a communal activity. Through *RUMEN*, JCI Mandaue reinforces the notion that fitness is not only beneficial but also deeply rewarding on a social level, enriching the community with every stride.

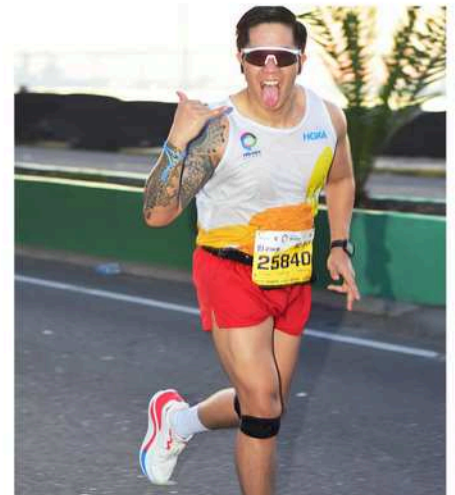
MAKING FIT POSSIBLE

As Cebu embraces this dynamic fitness era, it's crucial to recognize that wellness is a continuous journey rather than a final destination. The initiatives spearheaded by JCI Mandaue, from the Merry League to *RUMEN*, underscore that fitness transcends mere physical appearance. It's about cultivating inner well-being, fostering resilience, and nurturing a sense of community.

For JCI Mandaue, making fitness possible is not just a goal but a mission. Through innovative programs and partnerships like the Merry League and *RUMEN*, the organization actively promotes a culture of wellness. These initiatives provide inclusive opportunities for members to engage in fitness activities that suit their individual needs and preferences, ensuring that everyone can participate in and benefit from a healthier lifestyle.

The Wellness Era in Cebu is not just a trend; it's a reality that's transforming lives - and JCI Mandaue is Making FIT Possible.

“Fitness TRANSCENDS mere physical appearance. It's about promoting INNER WELL-BEING, RESILIENCE, and DEVELOPING a sense of COMMUNITY.”



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Painting
SMILES:

A Heartfelt Journey
with the **Sama-Bajau**
BY RB NEÑERIA, 2024 VP FOR COMMUNITY DEVT.

*“Uplifting and empowering Cebu City’s Sama-Bajau.
Weaving hope into their lives, painting a canvas
of resilience and shared humanity.”*

In the vibrant, bustling streets of Cebu City, a unique community of sea nomads known as the Sama-Bajau adds a splash of cultural diversity. Yet, beneath their colorful traditions lies an array of struggles. JCI Mandaue recognized this and set on a mission to weave hope into their lives through a thoughtfully phased project.

The first step of our journey was immersion. Not only did we visit the Sama-Badjau community, we immersed ourselves in their stories. For days, we adopted their customs, listened to their narratives, and understood their problems. This phase was all about building trust and breaking barriers. We learned that many Sama-Bajau families moved to Cebu seeking better opportunities, only to find themselves grappling with poverty and marginalization. Their vibrant traditions stood in stark contrast to the challenges they faced daily.

Health and hygiene are fundamental, yet many of them lack access to basic medical care. Our second phase focused on addressing this gap and organized a comprehensive medical and hygiene mission. On March 15, 2024, leaders from the community attended lectures on proper hygiene practices, from handwashing to maintaining cleanliness in their living spaces. Simultaneously, medical professionals provided free check-ups and treatments. The impact was immediate; smiles and sighs of relief filled the air as ailments were treated, and the seeds of better health practices were sown.

No mission is complete without ensuring that the youngest members of the community are cared for. Phase three was a

heartfelt initiative to bring joy and nutrition to the children. JCI Mandaue organized a heartfelt feeding program, serving nutritious meals that nourished both bodies and spirits, filling hearts with happiness and hope. Laughter echoed as children enjoyed their meals, a simple yet profound reminder of the power of community and care.

On the day of implementation, we were joined by members from other JCI sister chapters, who came to support and witness the project firsthand. Their participation added a sense of unity and shared purpose. Many expressed how touching and inspiring it was to see the positive impact of the initiative, further motivating all involved to continue such meaningful work in their own communities.

As we move forward, our commitment to the community grows stronger. This August or September 2024, we are excited to launch Phase Four of our initiative: Livelihood and Education.

We aim to provide them with tools and skills to sustain themselves economically and access to education that can open new doors of opportunity. This phase will include vocational training for adults and educational support for children, ensuring a holistic approach to community upliftment. We believe that by equipping the Sama-Bajau with knowledge and skills, we can help them build a more secure and comfortable future.





A CANVAS OF HOPE

Through these phases, JCI Mandaue dreams to illuminate hope for the Sama-Bajau community in Cebu City. Our journey was a blend of learning and giving, where each phase added a new pigment to the canvas of our shared humanity. The Sama-Bajau, with their resilience and rich cultural heritage, inspired us as much as we aimed to support them.

This endeavor is just the beginning. We envision a Cebu City where every community thrives, where every child smiles, and where cultures blend in a harmonious symphony. As we look to the future, JCI Mandaue is committed to continuing this mission, expanding our efforts, and painting more smiles across the faces of those who need it most.

By immersing in their lives, healing their wounds, feeding their futures, and empowering their dreams, we learned that the true essence of community is found in the colors of compassion and the strokes of shared humanity. Together, let's paint it Mandaue, one vibrant community at a time.

“ JCI Mandaue is committed to CONTINUING THIS MISSION, expanding our efforts, and PAINTING MORE SMILES across the faces of those WHO NEED IT MOST. ”



MIKE
YAPCHING BRIDAL



*“Visionary leaders never set their 'paint brushes' aside;
they are ever poised to add another stroke of brilliance to their masterpiece.”*

VISIONARY LEADERS:

THE MAN BEHIND THE CANVAS

BY IGNATIUS BORROMEO, 2023 LSDD

Photograph by ROBIN LUMAPAS | *Styling by* MIKE YAPCHING | *Grooming by* TATIANA AGUSTIN & LOUISE CENIZA

No one is born a leader. Great leaders are weaved through time, oscillating between great perils and great successes. There is also no clear-cut recipe to leadership, only that it is as dynamic, colorful and vibrant as the community the leader wishes to serve.

In the throngs of history of JCI Mandaue, it has produced various leaders who have embraced its mantra of transformative and collective leadership. These vibrant leaders who in various capacities have served not only the community which we have called ourselves to serve but the larger community which they have poured their efforts into – be it in the corporate world, grassroots organizations, business and even in politics.

All of us started as a Baby Jaycee, from initially being added to the groups chats, eventually attending the OTI, to being inducted as a regular member and then taking on different roles in the organization.

I sat down with some of our distinguished leaders, who have painted their leadership canvases with vibrant and diverse colors, transforming themselves and our community in awe-inspiring ways. These leaders include 2023 National Treasurer Nike Cagulada, 2021 Area Vice President for Visayas Eric Paolo Smith, 2024 Area Chair for ASPAC Josemaria Ylaya III, 2021 National Director for Membership Mark Samuel Uy, 2024 Area Executive Director - Visayas Earl Corregidor, and 2024 Bags to School Regional Chair Alnair Agujar. They graciously shared insights into their remarkable leadership journeys.

THE PALETTE OF BEGINNINGS

Every journey begins with a stroke of possibility—a palette of hues waiting to be mixed into the canvas. These beginnings signify not just a new chapter, but a kaleidoscope of opportunities to paint change, shape connections, and ignite passions. Each brushstroke of enthusiasm blends into a collective masterpiece of growth and service, shaping a narrative of leadership and brotherhood.

Q: Can you share a defining moment from your time as a Baby Jaycee that has shaped your journey in JCI Mandaue?

NT Nike: “In 2012, I joined an outreach program in Bantayan Island, the experience turned out to be an experience incompatible with my expectations. I was disappointed. The experience became my driving passion to change the direction of JCI Mandaue should I become an officer of the organization.”

AVP Eric: “My time as a baby Jaycee was quite short since I needed to step up and fill-in BOD roles during the induction of Pres. Richard SD Labitag in 2017. Perhaps it was just that; stepping up numerous times for the chapter that included intently aiding our Secretary and EVP for Induction preparations, to becoming the Local Training Director.”

AC JM: “I have always been inspired by community work, leading me to advocate for “Eating Well for Nation Building.” I believe everyone deserves access to nutritious food. My first project with JCI Mandaue involved engaging with children who often went hungry. This experience moved me, and I realized I

could make a difference. My goal is to support these children so they can help others in the future. And there my JCI Journey began.

ND Sam: “When I was a baby Jaycee back in 2017, I attended a community project in Barangay Umapad and Barangay Guizo in Mandaue. My role there was very simple, just stick some things on the wall, carry some boxes, and hand out school supplies to the children. But when I saw the smiles on their faces, it really touched my heart in a different way. That was the moment I decided to run as the next VP for Community and that’s officially the beginning of my JCI Journey.”

AED Earl: “I’d have to say it was the first face-to-face general membership meeting I attended last 2021 during NT Nike’s presidency. I was to report updates and secure more support for my first community project, GrabPx then. It became more interesting to witness a big group of like-minded people who were conducting a very organized session with style as if they were paid to do it and without hesitations rally behind my back on a project that would help COVID ward patients in Mandaue. This got me onboarded.”


RC Alnair: “A defining moment from my time as a Baby Jaycee that has profoundly shaped my journey in JCI Mandaue was when I first attended the “Bags to School” project. This experience marked my initial foray into the impactful work of JCI. As I participated in this project, distributing school supplies to children in need, I felt an overwhelming sense of purpose and fulfillment. Witnessing the joy and gratitude on the faces of the children and their families deeply moved me. It was at that moment that I realized the immense potential I had to contribute positively to the community.”

Q: How has working with various personalities in JCI Mandaue influenced your teamwork and leadership style?

AVP Eric: “Dealing with various personalities not just in JCI Mandaue but in the JCI world has allowed me to practice more openness toward others and tolerance to new ideas and opinions. It has forged my practice of a consultative approach to teamwork and leadership, and conversely, timely, sound and firm decision making.”

AC JM: “As a chef, I have worked with various personalities in the kitchen. To produce and serve exceptional food, teamwork is essential. Whether you bring extensive experience, have no prior cooking knowledge, or simply possess a passion for the craft and a desire to create, the essence lies in collaboration. In JCI Mandaue, despite our diverse personalities and working styles, we share a common vision and goal which is to help others. This shared commitment reinforces the importance of unity and collective effort in achieving meaningful outcomes.”

ND Sam: “With more than 76 members in JCI Mandaue I had to work with so many different personalities and this taught me to be more flexible and to be a team player. I had to learn how to follow to become a good leader and I always try to lead by example. As my position got higher in the chapter, the more I strive to be a servant leader. JCI is a volunteer organization, so we always have to be very understanding of everyone’s priorities.”

A photograph of three men against a vibrant red background. One man stands in the back center wearing a bright red blazer over a black t-shirt. Two other men are seated in the foreground, both wearing dark maroon blazers over black shirts. The man on the left has his arms crossed, and the man on the right is looking directly at the camera.

“I had to learn how to follow to become a good leader and I always try to lead by example. As my position got higher in the chapter, the more I strive to be a servant leader.”

-ND Sam

“I found the most genuine, humblest, and kindest of people who mean well through the connections forged in the organization.”

-AED Earl

“Leadership roles offer substantial personal and professional growth, valuable networks, and the chance to leave a lasting legacy.”

-RC Alnair

Q: What project stands out as most impactful, and why? How did it affect you personally and the community?

NT Nike: “The JCI Mandaue Community Daycare Centers. Because of the 2012 disappointment I decided to become inactive in the organization for 5 consecutive years. It was only during 2017 when the organization offered me to take the role of VP for Community Development I felt the time had come for me to take an active role and lead a legacy project! To date, the JCI Mandaue Community Daycare Centers in Barangays Guizo and Umapad in Mandaue City are still operating and have been producing at least 120 kindergarten graduates every year.”

AED Earl: “I’d like to believe that Creative Café is a truly special place. It may be an internal project where members collaboratively create, improve, and pitch their pet projects, but it’s also where the seeds of community impact are first sown. Since its inception in 2021, Creative Café has given birth to several award-winning initiatives like MandaWe Smile and Experience Mandaue, which have profoundly benefited the communities we serve.”

RC Alnair: “The most impactful project I chaired was my Mother’s Day project, honoring a deserving and resilient mother. We sold gift boxes to fund a special day for her and her family, including a lovely dinner, wellness treats, groceries, and upgrading her chicken store. Witnessing her joy was incredibly moving and showcased the power of community support and small acts of kindness. This project underscored the importance of recognizing unsung heroes and inspired many to join future initiatives, fostering a stronger sense of community and shared purpose.”

As visionary leaders, they believe in stepping out of their comfort zones to realize their full potential. Through their experiences with JCI Mandaue, they have discovered that their early involvement was instrumental in preparing them for leadership roles, enhancing their leadership skills, personal growth, and self-discovery. This has prompted them to reflect deeply on the profound responsibilities associated with leadership positions within the organization. Thus, these visionary Merry Men have earned the titles they hold.

Q: How did your early experiences in JCI Mandaue prepare you for leadership roles and deepen your leadership skills?

NT Nike: “My initial disappointment in our local organization during the early days of my JCI journey became the burning fire of wanting for something more substantial for the organization and its members. Taking on various roles prepared me for the leadership roles and at the same time deepened my understanding of effective leadership. This understanding equipped me with the skills and instilled in me the values of integrity, inclusivity, and continuous learning. And above all, instill in all members that brotherhood is the most valuable asset and the strength of JCI Mandaue.”

AVP Eric: “Stepping out of my shell in the early days of my involvement in the chapter prepared me very well for leadership roles specifically in becoming the chapter President in 2020 and as Area Vice President in 2021. Not just the operational know-how of the things-to-do in JCI, but I would say it was more of being comfortable to embody these leadership roles confidently. For me, it’s the confidence that I

was able to practice early on and solidify. I was able to hone this when I led several training and speaking engagements.

RC Alnair: “My early experiences in JCI Mandaue prepared me for leadership roles by sharpening my skills in communication, teamwork, and strategic planning. Engaging with diverse members and participating in various projects offered practical experience in project management and underscored the importance of active listening and empathy. The mentorship and supportive environment boosted my confidence and refined my leadership style, instilling a strong commitment to service, integrity, and continuous improvement.”

Q: How have your relationships in JCI Mandaue enriched your personal and professional life?

AC JM: “For most of my life, I grew up feeling alone after my parents separated and my mother and brother migrated to the US. JCI Mandaue has been more than just a family to me; it has become my home. I’ve found brothers who have helped me grow both personally and professionally. From being a carefree Baby Jaycee to becoming a president who went above and beyond, JCI Mandaue has been an integral part of my life and will always remain in my core memories.”

ND Sam: “The relationships I made in JCI Mandaue and other chapters are the most important treasures I gained in my JCI journey. I was able to make deep meaningful relationships in different areas in the Philippines because of this organization and I would say that my closest friends right now are mostly friendships that started in JCI. And in our line of business, I have to travel a lot for work and wherever I go there’s always a JCI chapter or members that I can hang out with, and this makes my business trips a lot more fun.”

AED Earl: “I found the most genuine, humblest, and kindest of people who mean well through the connections forged in the organization. I never even thought I’d find some if not most of my inner circle from chapters beyond JCI Mandaue that continues to keep me sane and serve as personal and professional mentors of which I am most grateful for.”

Q: What does “bleed red” mean to you, and what defines a Merry Man?

NT Nike: “Bleed Red” means ONEDAUE, which was my call to action as the 2021 President of JCI Mandaue. This allows for a strong sense of identity across the whole JCI organization and camaraderie within our local organization. It reverberates loyalty, dedication, and a willingness to give one’s all for the betterment of our local organization and the personal development of its members. This also means to embody the spirit of a Merry Man - a catalyst of positivity and teamwork that to grow into something beautiful, we must “bleed red” and endure the difficulties and challenges.

The Merry Men in this context is not just a nickname for the organization and its members but a vibrant and effective organization that leaves a lasting impact composed of inspiring members that share a commitment in fostering a dynamic culture where everyone feels motivated and supported in their personal growth and community impact.”

AVP Eric: “It means joining a bloodletting session and ensuring your blood is red. Just kidding. It simply means being proud, loyal, and confident that I am a Merry Man of JCI Mandaue. To be a Merry Man of JCI Mandaue means being a fun gentleman. Knowing that in life we have to be both serious and joyful, yet we must be faithful in carrying out these personalities in the proper times; that it is in fellowship we develop deeper understanding of one another; and that it is in building a character aligned to core values that we gain true power and regard.”

RC Alnair: “As one of the past directors of JCI Mandaue, “bleed red” means embodying a deep commitment to making a positive community impact. It signifies a passion for service that runs through our veins, driving us to go above and beyond in our efforts to create meaningful change. To “bleed red” is to be dedicated, resilient, and compassionate, always striving to uplift those around us and improve our society. A Merry Man embraces JCI’s core values of brotherhood, leadership, and impact, exemplifying dedication, collaboration, and a readiness to inspire through action and positivity. They are pillars of strength and encouragement within both the organization and the community.”

BROAD STROKES AND FINE DETAILS

Amidst the rich mosaic of JCI leadership, transitions from local officers to national, area, or regional board leaders represent significant milestones. Each stroke reveals fresh vistas of responsibility and opportunity, fundamentally reshaping perspectives. Going deeper, we explore the journeys of these visionaries: how their transitions unfolded and the personal truths and details they embraced.

Q: What was the biggest change when moving from a local officer to a National/Area/Regional board member, and how did it broaden your perspective?

AVP Eric: “After my Presidency in 2020, I became the Area Vice President in 2021 for the Visayas. Immediately, it gave me more responsibility because my administrative responsibility was to the community of about 30 presidents at that time. Dealing with various personalities was nothing new for me. In my time, it was more on dealing with the pandemic, balancing personal challenges while fulfilling my administrative responsibilities. It truly tested my patience as I had to deal with a COVID hospitalization and the death of my mother. But at the same time, it brought to light the right people in friends and family who should be in my life, as they stood by me without judgment or complaint and supported me in any possible way.”

AED Earl: “The scope of the work and the people you collaborate with make all the difference. An essential key to serving the area effectively and efficiently is the friendships and connections built over the years. Given the distance, work becomes much easier when you have already bonded with your peers. Serving the whole of Visayas isn’t necessarily physically taxing, but it is highly collaborative and requires open and constant communication to achieve goals.”

RC Alnair: “Moving from a local officer to a Regional Chair member brought significant changes. The increased scope of responsibilities and broader impact of decisions required a more strategic approach and deeper understanding of diverse community issues. This transition expanded my perspective through exposure to various cultures, viewpoints, and

challenges, improving my ability to collaborate across diverse stakeholders. It also heightened my awareness of the interconnectedness between local and global issues, emphasizing the need for inclusive and comprehensive solutions.”

Q: As someone who has served or is currently serving in JCI Philippines, what do you perceive as its greatest strength and its most significant weakness?

NT Nike: “Before I delve to answering this question, it is important to note that strengths and weaknesses can vary across different terms and periods in the organization, influenced by factors such as past and present leadership’s political dynamics, transparency, accountability and membership engagement.


During my time as a member of JCI Philippines National Board, I have observed that the greatest strength actually comes from the efforts and dedication of the grass roots. These are the regular members who share their time, resources, and valuable efforts because they believe in the vision and mission of the organization that in return promises strong focus on empowerment through leadership development, community service, networking and entrepreneurship.

The most significant area for improvement is ensuring that leadership roles are attained based on merit, without being influenced by politicking. Emphasizing the principle of merit-based leadership is crucial for fostering an effective, fair, and successful organization. Leaders chosen for their skills and achievements are more likely to uphold accountability for their actions and decisions. This builds trust among members, stakeholders, and the broader community, enhancing the organization’s reputation and credibility. And finally, these leaders will be given unobstructed autonomy to make decisions based on data driven analysis to produce efficient systems and sustainable projects that truly give impactful results beyond their terms.”

AVP Eric: “I’m no longer serving in JCI Philippines in any national position capacity, but for me its greatest strength is being a force of community formation and service. When it sets its mind on helping and serving a community outside of JCI, it is able to do so in great numbers. On the other hand, it seems to me that its significant weakness is its leadership formation. More can be done to really mold leaders that rest on not just JCI values but the basic good moral values. True it may be such an ideal, especially if the leadership formation appears too familiar to the ways of local patronage and politics, but isn’t that supposed to be the point of being part of an international leadership and civic community like JCI? To be part of something greater than yourself, so we all can aspire together to achieve something greater for ourselves and for others? The national organization needs to be clear what kind of leaders they want to develop.”

AC JM: “The greatest strength of JCI Philippines lies in its local chapters and their dedicated members. These tireless individuals address community needs, creating a profound, unified impact nationwide. Their collective efforts demonstrate JCI’s ability to drive positive change, with their commitment forming the backbone of the organization.

One critical focus should be balancing growth with maintaining high standards of leadership and effectiveness across chapters. It’s vital to carefully evaluate the benefits of expanding membership and forming new chapters, while

A photograph of three men against a solid red background. The man on the left is standing, wearing a maroon blazer over a black shirt. The man in the center is sitting on a black stool, wearing a maroon traditional-style jacket with silver buttons and a black shirt. The man on the right is standing, wearing a maroon blazer over a black t-shirt with a small logo and a black belt with a gold buckle. All three men have serious expressions and are looking towards the camera.

“..It is in building a character aligned to core values that we gain true power and regard.”
-AVP Eric

“The organization was foundational in shaping many aspects of my capabilities and understanding.”
-NT Nike

“Assisting others is a continuous endeavor that knows no downtime. Every act of kindness, regardless of scale, constitutes a significant contribution to the community.”
-AC JM

ensuring each one maintains quality. Providing support and ensuring they receive the necessary guidance for long-term success and sustainability, while preserving the organization's overall effectiveness."

Q: What advice would you give to JCI members aiming for leadership roles? Will the effort be worthwhile?

ND Sam: "It is definitely worth it. I believe that our personal growth starts when we decide to step out of our comfort zones and accept roles that are intimidating in the beginning. Then after doing it for a while, it starts to feel like our new normal. What I learned in JCI is that the more we give in terms of our time, effort, and resources, the more we will get in terms of learnings, experiences and even friendships because it creates a strong bond with other members whenever we work together for a common goal."

AED Earl: "Two things. First, check your heart. In everything you do, check your intentions and be sure it is not to seek self-gratification alone. There's nothing more fulfilling when you lead out of your sheer intention to learn or help others than when you serve to be praised. Second, be humble enough to learn. It takes a lot of humility to know that we are not the best people in the room and by acknowledging that, we allow ourselves to learn from others. After all, this is a leadership development organization and we have to learn to be effective and relational leaders."

RC Alnair: "To JCI members aspiring for leadership roles: Make your position count with excellence and dedication. Continuously improve skills and knowledge, demonstrate integrity and resilience, and foster open communication and collaboration. Define achievable goals, support your team, adapt to new ideas, and aim to inspire. Leadership roles offer substantial personal and professional growth, valuable networks, and the chance to leave a lasting legacy. Despite challenges, the rewards of seeing your team succeed and achieve meaningful goals make the effort worthwhile."

As their canvases unfold with depth and resonance, these visionaries reflect on how they stay engaged in their local communities and how their lives have evolved since their time with JCI. Beyond organizational boundaries, we delve into what "positive change" truly signifies for them—a mission embraced by all. These inquiries not only illuminate their personal narratives but also celebrate the ripple effects of individual commitment to collective well-being, painting a vivid tableau of ongoing evolution and impact.

Q: How do you stay involved and contribute to your local community outside of JCI?

AC JM: "Assisting others is a continuous endeavor that knows no downtime. Every act of kindness, regardless of scale, constitutes a significant contribution to the community. It doesn't require lavish spending; rather, it hinges on the willingness to share the lessons gleaned from both experiences within organizations like JCI and the broader spectrum of life itself. By continually striving for personal improvement, one becomes a beacon of influence, inspiring the youth within the community to step forward and occupy leadership roles. By igniting this spark, individuals can mobilize members of society to perpetuate the cycle of service. Leveraging the

knowledge acquired from education, professional endeavors, and personal experiences, individuals can empower others, thereby enabling them to in turn share their newfound wisdom with those in need."

ND Sam: "Everything we learned during our time in JCI would be wasted if we don't apply them in our daily lives and our local community. Once we develop leadership skills and love for service, it would be our second nature to want to contribute to our society. Personally, I just keep looking for ways to help improve the industry that I am in, which is the agriculture sector. It gives me more purpose and motivation to work knowing that our business helps the Philippine economy and the Filipino farmers."

AED Earl: "Before assuming my current role, I had already been involved in conducting training sessions for JCI Mandaue. Whenever my schedule allows, I gladly accept invitations to conduct training on topics such as leadership, practical skills, and gender equality for local communities and other organizations."

Q: How has your life evolved from your time in JCI to now?

NT Nike: "Overall, my active time in JCI Mandaue and JCI Philippines has been pivotal in shaping who I am today, providing me with skills, perspectives, and relationships that continue to influence and evolve my life positively. The organization was foundational in shaping many aspects of my capabilities and understanding.

The 'Nike' who began his journey in JCI is a different 'Nike' today. I gained valuable experiences and learned a lot about leadership, accountability, and a whole lot of personal development. Overall, my experiences in JCI have laid a strong foundation for my development, and I continue to build on that foundation every day."

AED Earl: "Before JCI was introduced to me, I never had the chance to reach out to communities the way I do now – a feat so aligned with my passion in teaching that I find very fulfilling. From weekends spent at home to making sure my laptop is fully charged to crossing places I've never been to between Cebu and the rest of the country."

RC Alnair: "Since my time with JCI, my life has undergone significant growth. JCI equipped me with invaluable leadership skills, a strong sense of purpose, and a deep commitment to community service. These experiences have shaped me into a more confident and proactive individual. In subsequent leadership roles, I've applied lessons learned from JCI to enhance my effectiveness, expand my network, and maintain a steadfast dedication to making a positive impact in my community. My experience with JCI laid a solid foundation for continuous personal and professional growth, fueling my enduring passion for creating positive change."



Q: What does "positive change" mean in your life beyond JCI?

RC Alnair: "Positive change" in my life beyond JCI means continually striving for personal growth, contributing to the well-being of those around me, and making a meaningful impact in my community. It involves embracing lifelong learning to enhance my skills and knowledge, nurturing healthy relationships, and promoting kindness and empathy in my daily interactions.

Positive change also means advocating for social and environmental causes, supporting initiatives that lead to a better future, and inspiring others to join in making a difference. Ultimately, it's about living a life of purpose, constantly seeking ways to improve myself and the world around me."

Q: What does "positive change" mean in your life beyond JCI?

AED Earl: "Positive change to me means being able to improve lives in the capacity I am in. I spend most of my time at work if I'm not doing JCI duties and I strive hard to practice this mantra in the organization - whether it be through mentoring colleagues, introducing streamlined processes, or building new projects. This perspective helps me to continue to live life not just for myself but for others as well."



Q: What does "positive change" mean in your life beyond JCI?

AC JM: "Positive change signifies growth, whether it's small or significant. Failures impart lessons, while success humbles us. As we journey through life, we endeavor to improve ourselves — personally, professionally, and for our families. Whether it's volunteering in our communities, adopting sustainable habits, or nurturing meaningful relationships, positive change extends beyond JCI and encompasses every facet of our lives. What truly counts is that we emerge better than we were before."



Q: What does "positive change" mean in your life beyond JCI?

ND Sam: "For me, "positive change" means always aiming to be the best version of ourselves. Because when we show up at our best, we show up better for everyone else around us. We can be a positive influence towards other people and inspire them to create positive change as well, and this allows us to have a bigger impact in our society."



Q: What does "positive change" mean in your life beyond JCI?

AVP Eric: "It simply means embodying or instigating good, meaningful things in your daily activities. As simple as having a positive mindset and attitude that will help inspire others to see things in a different perspective, to taking part in projects that contribute to its success. There are so many problems in the world, and seeing that we have the opportunity to embody and take part in solutions is truly empowering."

Q: What does "positive change" mean in your life beyond JCI?

NT Nike: "In essence, "positive change" in my life beyond JCI means striving for personal excellence while making meaningful contributions to society, the environment, and the well-being of others. It is about making deliberate efforts to grow personally and professionally, contribute positively to my community and environment, build meaningful relationships, and advocate for issues that align with my values and beliefs. It is a commitment to leaving a constructive impact on the world through empathy, integrity, and a desire to make a difference."





Cliché as it may seem, every journey begins with a single step — and in every journey, that is the single, most important, and life changing moment. Just like how great painting masterpieces are made, visionary leaders begin with an empty, desolate canvas. And then, an ember forges a fire in them that spews colors of various intensities as they start to paint their leadership canvases.

As one journeys to go above and beyond, the transformative power of change comes into play. They are no longer the person that started the journey. Through the peaks

and valleys of leadership, they continue to create and recreate their masterpieces. Each time, they acquire skills that continue to shape their journeys – they learn to redefine and refine the details of their leadership canvas.

Each leadership masterpiece remains perpetually unfinished, for visionary leaders never set their 'paint brushes' aside; they are ever poised to add another stroke of brilliance to their masterpiece. And that is how we know that the man behind the canvas is not merely an artist and a leader, but a visionary.





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“Celebrate every graduate's achievement by addressing educational challenges and promoting inclusivity.”

SKETCHING DREAMS IN FLYING COLORS

BY BRYLLE DWIGHT AG-AG,
2024 AUDITOR

In a symphony of blue hues, TOGather, We Stand project spread its wings on April 27, 2024. And at the helm of this transformative initiative is Brylle Dwight Ag-ag, JCI Mandaue's visionary Auditor, supported by a dynamic duo of co-chairs Christian Bacolod and Christian Castillanes. This initiative is evidence of the power of unity, trust, and stability. Celebrating every graduate's victory, bridging the gap for educational challenges, and fostering a community where every accomplishment counts.

Education stands as the most formidable yet often underestimated force in shaping futures. According to the PSA's 2019 Functional Literacy, Education, and Mass Media Survey, the Philippines is grappling with a high number of school dropouts, with 15.4% citing insufficient income and 28.3% citing lack of personal interest as primary causes.

Additionally, schools are regarded as a second home, a place where we should feel understood and valued. However, the Philippine education system is designed in a punitive nature and focuses heavily on

academics. Students are often subjected to disciplinary measures without addressing the underlying issues that may have led to the misbehavior. Also, the emphasis on grades, test scores, and rankings can create a highly competitive environment that creates anxiety, stress, and burnout among students, leading them to lose their personal interest. This system overlooks the importance of social-emotional learning and other essential skills that are vital for success in the real world.

“Adopt-a-Graduate: TOGather, We Stand” is a bayanihan project uniting people aiming for one goal: Toga for all. Celebrating every graduate through bridging the gap caused by educational challenges.

Embracing the spirit of blue, symbolizing trust, unity, and stability, the different members of the community come together to adopt our graduates and pay for their toga. It not only validates and appreciates our graduates' years of hard work and perseverance but also offers a priceless feeling that transcends any monetary value.

This sense of unity that comes with collective support has enabled us to achieve a remarkable milestone, adopting all senior high graduates from three schools: Regino Mercado Night School, Alaska National High

School, and Tejero National High School. This achievement exceeded our target from one school to three schools, showcasing the project's impactful resonance within the community.

INCLUSIVE RECOGNITION

In a bold move to ignite interest, the project highlights the achievements of graduates by introducing a new form of recognition that promotes the equal importance of academic and holistic development through two awards: 'The Most Outstanding Student' and 'The Champion of Adversity Award.'

The former, rooted in our tradition of honoring academic excellence, signifies a high sense of responsibility towards schoolwork. Conversely, the latter is intended for individuals who face insurmountable challenges in their personal lives, such as deprivation of basic needs or health concerns, which would typically lead them to forego schooling. Despite these daunting obstacles, these individuals demonstrate exceptional perseverance and determination by actively seeking ways to pursue education. This new form of recognition promotes diversity, inclusivity, and empathy within the educational community. It recognizes that excellence comes in various forms and that every student has unique strengths, talents, and challenges.

CREATING PATHWAYS FOR SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION

To help overcome financial barriers, the project hosted a job fair in collaboration with companies providing competitive compensation packages and opportunities for further education. This initiative provides an opportunity for students to pursue higher education while working. This platform provides pathways to access both basic needs and educational aspirations.

The TOGather We Stand project also aims to inspire students and administrators to transform the educational system into a nurturing home, shifting from punitive measures to a compassionate approach that cultivates empathy, understanding, and appreciation. It also aims to enlighten the community that it's the deprivation of basic needs, not educational expenses, that hinders youth from pursuing education. Thus, by implementing a sustainable program to alleviate hunger and fostering a nurturing atmosphere for learning, we can inspire more youth to eagerly embrace education, transforming schools into centers of excitement rather than anxiety.

Success is about resilience and perseverance. Every journey is unique, and every accomplishment counts. Celebrate all wins and together, we stand.





“...Schools are regarded as a SECOND HOME, a place where we should feel UNDERSTOOD AND VALUED.”



“Gi-buhi pajud kos Ginoo para makab-ot akong pangandoy,”

- JOVEN GONZAGA
 JCI MANDAUE'S CHAMPION OF ADVERSITY AWARDEE THROUGH THE TOGETHER WE STAND

At 24, Joven balanced work, night classes, and fatherhood. Despite undergoing liver surgery just a month before graduation, he persevered to achieve his dream of graduating. May he rest in peace.

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SAILING THROUGH THE GOLDEN HIC

BY BRANDON LAVILLA, 2024 VP FOR BUSINESS DEVT





"A golden hour for Cebu, highlighting how progress can come at a cost and the need to address those affected."

As the sun began to set over Cebu, casting a soft, golden glow over the city, the MandaWe Sail set off from the South Road Properties (SRP). Organized by JCI Mandaue, this fundraiser was a special evening event that brought together over 80 attendees from different national and international chapters. The route took us through the new Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX), offering clear views of the iconic Mactan Bridge. This was a significant journey, marking a golden hour in various senses – the natural scenery, community bonds, reflections on history, and a shared mission of helping the displaced Badjao community.

The sunlight during the golden hour adds a special touch to Cebu City's landscape. The warm light highlights the beauty of the city's coastlines and architecture, providing a unique and calming perspective. As we crossed the water, the setting sun's glow reflected off the waves in a serene environment. The Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway stood out against this backdrop, a monument to Cebu's progress. The Mactan Bridge, with its familiar structure, offered a nostalgic view of Cebu's journey towards modernization.

Metaphorically, the golden hour of this event represented the strengthening of bonds between JCI Mandaue with other JCI chapters. The relaxed atmosphere of the cruise provided an opportunity for members to connect more deeply; sharing stories, ideas, and experiences.

REFLECTING ON HISTORY

The South Road Properties, where our journey began, has a complex history, marked by the displacement of the Badjao community. This development, while bringing economic opportunities, also led to struggles for these indigenous people. The golden hour of our cruise was a reminder of the passage of time and the impacts of urban development. As we sailed, there was a moment of reflection on how progress can sometimes come at a cost and the importance of addressing the needs of those affected by such changes.

The story of the Badjao community is a poignant one. Their displacement from the SRP area underscores the need for inclusive growth that considers the well-being of all community members. The cruise served as a reminder of the ongoing need to balance progress with social responsibility.

A CAUSE WORTH SAILING FOR

The MandaWe Sail was not just about enjoying the scenic views, it was also about giving back. The event successfully raised around PHP100,000, which will be used to help the displaced Badjao community. By participating, attendees contributed to efforts aimed at resolving the challenges faced by the Badjao people, helping to improve their living conditions and provide better opportunities.

The funds raised will go towards various initiatives designed to support the Badjao community. These might include educational programs, healthcare services, and livelihood projects, all aimed at empowering the Badjao people and helping them build a brighter future. The generosity of the event's attendees will make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who have been displaced, offering them hope and support as they navigate their new circumstances.

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LOOKING AHEAD

Twilight came, the lights of Cebu began to twinkle, marking the end of our cruise. Yet, the impact of the event lingered. The MandaWe Sail was a reminder of the beauty of our surroundings, the strength of our community bonds, and the importance of supporting those in need.

As the sun set over Cebu, it marked not just the end of a beautiful day, but the beginning of renewed efforts to support and uplift those in need. In every sense, it was a golden hour—a time to appreciate, connect, and make a difference. The success of the MandaWe Sail demonstrated the power of community and the positive impact that can be achieved when people come together for a common cause. As we returned to shore, there was a sense of accomplishment and hope, knowing that our evening on the water had helped make a positive difference in the lives of the Badjao community.



“ ...A REMINDER of the ongoing NEED to BALANCE progress with social responsibility. ”



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On March 10, 2024 at the Cebu Wonderland Shooting Range in Lapu-Lapu City, a significant event unfolded under the banner of "Guns & Roses." This gathering, organized by JCI Mandaue, in collaboration with the PNP Lapu-Lapu City, is aimed at educating the Merry Men on gun-safety while infusing a deep sense of unity and responsibility among its diverse participants.

PARTNERING FOR PURPOSE: JCI MANDAUE AND PNP LAPU-LAPU CITY

The partnership between JCI Mandaue and PNP Lapu-Lapu City was a powerful union of community service and law enforcement expertise. PNP officers, deeply knowledgeable in firearms training and safety protocols, brought invaluable guidance to the day's activities. This collaboration highlighted the profound impact of uniting community members and law enforcement to champion responsible firearm ownership and prioritize safety measures for all.

The day kicked off with PNP officers leading engaging lectures and workshops. They dove into the nitty-gritty of gun safety protocols, stressing the dangers of mishandling firearms. Everyone was eager to soak up this info, understanding how crucial it is to keep their communities safe and prevent accidents.

BY CHRISTIAN BACOLOD

BROTHERHOOD IN SAFETY: GUNS AND Roses

*"This new partnership and commitment embodies
the vision of enhancing community safety and well-being."*



Following the discussion, the group headed to the shooting range for a practical session. Under the watchful eyes of the PNP officers, each participant had the opportunity to apply the safety protocols they had just learned. This hands-on experience underscored the importance of responsible firearm handling and significantly enhanced the participants' confidence and skills.

**BEYOND FIREARMS:
ADDRESSING SOCIETAL CHALLENGES**

For JCI Mandaue, "Brotherhood in Safety: Guns & Roses" represented more than just a firearms safety event. It underscored their commitment to tackling societal challenges such as gun violence and crime through education and community engagement. By promoting responsible practices, JCI Mandaue aimed to empower individuals to become catalysts for positive change in their neighborhoods.

The event's title, "Guns & Roses," encapsulated its dual symbolism perfectly. "Guns" symbolized the serious and potentially perilous aspects of firearms, highlighting the responsibilities associated with ownership. Conversely, "Roses" represented the ideals upheld by JCI members—symbols of peace, harmony, and social progress.



BROTHERHOOD, SAFETY, AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

Through partnerships like that with PNP Lapu-Lapu City and initiatives driven by organizations like JCI Mandaue, significant strides are made towards building a safer and more responsible society. The event not only strengthened bonds among participants but also reinforced the notion that true brotherhood includes a shared commitment to enhancing community safety and well-being.

As we reflect on our journey, it's clear that true brotherhood goes beyond camaraderie; it's about a shared commitment to safer, thriving communities. By continuing to educate, collaborate, and promote responsible practices, we can create a future where safety and brotherhood go hand in hand.

“...True BROTHERHOOD goes beyond camaraderie; it's about a SHARED COMMITMENT to SAFER, THRIVING communities.”



LION OF JUDDAH SECURITY AGENCY

A BRIGHT NEW PARTNERSHIP IN YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

BY DWIGHT MOZO, 2023 CHAPTER SECRETARY

“YORP certification marks a new chapter of growth and opportunity for JCI Mandaue.”

On February 12, 2023, Junior Chamber International (JCI) Mandaue proudly earned certification under the National Youth Commission’s (NYC) National Youth Organization Registration Program (YORP). This achievement followed months of hard work, with all requirements met and verified by the Mandaue City Youth Development Office (MCYDO) on November 12, 2022. Spearheaded by our dedicated 2023 Local Organization President, Josemaria Ylaya III, and our passionate Board of Directors, this milestone marks a significant step forward for both JCI Mandaue and the broader JCI movement.

This recognition not only highlights our commitment to youth welfare and development but also aligns perfectly with the goals of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Reform Act of 2015 (amended by RA No. 11768). It fosters youth involvement in governance and community service, simplifying the registration process and providing access to essential resources, training, and opportunities. We’re excited to continue this journey, making a positive impact on our community and empowering the next generation.

WHAT YORP BRINGS TO THE TABLE

YORP registration isn't just a title; it's a gateway to a wealth of benefits and opportunities. Registered organizations gain a voice in local youth development councils and can advocate for much-needed financial and logistical support from local government units. This recognition opens doors to expanded networks and partnerships, leading to more opportunities for capacity building and international exchange programs.

Being YORP-registered means that youth and youth-serving organizations, like JCI Mandaue, gain invaluable experience in team building and leadership. This experience not only enhances job prospects but also makes them eligible for prestigious awards and commendations. For us at JCI Mandaue, this registration brings privileges such as representation in exclusive congresses and activities, the honor of using the YORP Seal on official materials, access to free organizational training programs offered by NYC, and the chance to promote our initiatives through NYC media outlets.

JOINING FORCES FOR A GREATER IMPACT

JCI Mandaue’s dedication to nurturing young leaders is a cornerstone of the JCI movement’s mission to create positive change. We are proud to stand alongside 17 other JCI Local Organizations that are also YORP-registered, such as JCI Sagay Sigay, JCI Naguilian Basi, and JCI General Trias Katipunan, among others. Each of these chapters shares our commitment to making a difference in their communities, with a special focus on youth development.

Even before achieving YORP accreditation, JCI Mandaue had forged a strong partnership with the Mandaue City Government, SK Federation - Mandaue City, and the MCYDO. This collaboration has been instrumental in driving youth development initiatives in the city. A standout event was the Mandaue Young Aspiring Entrepreneurs Convention 2022, held on August 29, 2023, at Big Hotel. This inspiring convention empowered 50 young entrepreneurs to start and grow their businesses, contributing to the city’s economic stability and the nation’s growth.

A FUTURE FULL OF PROMISE

The strong collaboration between JCI Mandaue and its partners continues to benefit Mandaue’s youth. With its extensive network of trainers and resources, JCI Mandaue is poised to make a lasting impact, especially among Sangguniang Kabataan officials, youth, and youth-serving organizations.

Achieving YORP registration and receiving commendation from MCYDO mark a significant milestone for JCI Mandaue. This accomplishment highlights our vibrant commitment to community development and emphasizes the vital role of youth in governance and community service. Through these partnerships, JCI Philippines is fostering a more inclusive and dynamic approach to youth development, harnessing young people’s potential for the greater good. This achievement truly showcases JCI Mandaue’s dedication to empowering youth and advancing community welfare.



Mandaue City Youth Development Office
November 15, 2023

Section 24(d) of Republic Act No. 10742, otherwise known as the Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015, as amended by RA No. 11768, provides the rules on registration and verification of youth and youth-serving organizations (subject to the revitalized Youth Organizations Registration Program or YORP Guidelines) within Mandaue City.

In line with this, Mandaue City Youth Development Office sincerely congratulates **JCI - Mandaue** for the successful completion of the Youth Organizations Registration Program. Your commitment to promoting youth development is exemplary and deeply appreciated.

#MCYDO
#YORP
#MovingTowardsYouthEmpowerment
#MoveMandaue
#PadayonMayorJonas



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Office of the President of the Philippines
NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION
The Voice and Advocate of the Youth



By virtue of Republic Act No. 8044 and Republic Act No. 10742, upon compliance with the requirements set forth in the Policy Guidelines in the Registration of Youth Organizations and Youth-Serving Organizations (2017 Revitalized Youth Organization Registration Program Guidelines), and pursuant to NYC Resolution No. 08 Series of 2024, this

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

is conferred to

JCI MANDAUE INC.
Mandaue City, Cebu

as a Community-Based Organization
with Unique Registration Number (URN) YS-5623-111523

As a registered organization, it shall be entitled to all rights and privileges provided for NYC Resolution 08 Series of 2024, and such other policies that the Commission may adopt hereafter.

It shall comply with the laws and orders issued by the duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines, and to the policies, rules and regulations issued by the Commission. It shall also submit an annual accomplishment report and updates on organizational information. In its failure to do so, this Certificate of Registration, which shall be valid for a period of three years from date of issuance hereof, may be revoked or suspended by the Commission.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Commission to be affixed at Quezon City, Philippines, this 12th Day of February, Two Thousand and Twenty Four



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JCI VALUES

We believe:

- That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life;
- That the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations;
- That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise;
- That government should be of laws rather than of men;
- That earth's great treasure lies in human personality;
- And that service to humanity is the best work of life.

JCI MISSION

To provide leadership development opportunities that empower young people to create positive change.

JCI VISION

To be the foremost global network of young leaders.