THE JCI MANDAUE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

MANDAWE

Serve&Rise
ISSUE

Bright Stars

AND HOW THEY SHINE

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ISSUE

SERVE &RISE

LETTER FROM THE PRESI

This 2024, we dared to rise above challenges and embraced every opportunity to serve with passion and resilience. Together, we have turned dreams into realities, uniting as one family to ignite meaningful change in our communities. As the season of Christmas surrounds us, let it remind us of the power of hope and the joy of giving. Every step, every project, and every life touched this year stands as a testament to our commitment to building a brighter JCI Mandaue. Let us close this chapter with gratitude and continue to rise, for our mission of service shines brightest during this season of love and unity.

Kritoffer Jun Yutong
2024 JCI MANDAUE PRESIDENT

DENTS

This 2025, we step into a new dawn, emboldened by the foundation built by those who came before us. With unwavering hearts and relentless drive, we will serve with strength and action, guided by the mantra: "This Is How We Do It!" As Christmas approaches, we are reminded of the spirit of generosity, togetherness, and the light we can bring to others. Our path is clear—to rise higher, dream bigger, and impact deeper. Together, let us channel the warmth and magic of this season into inspiring, empowering, and transforming our communities. Merry Men, let us march forward with purpose and pride, for the future is ours to shape, and the spirit of Christmas leads the way.

Mark Samuel Uy
2025 JCI MANDAUE PRESIDENT

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NOTE FROM THE *EDITOR*

As we bid farewell to another remarkable year, the holidays invite us to pause, reflect, and celebrate the journey that has brought us here. This issue's theme, ***We Serve & Rise***, resonates deeply with the spirit of JCI Mandaue, encapsulating our collective commitment to service and our relentless pursuit of growth. In this festive issue of ***MandaWe Magazine***, we shine a light on the extraordinary efforts and triumphs that have defined our year, showcasing the impact of our projects and the dedication of our members.

On the Cover Story, we are proud to feature our young, bright stars—beneficiaries from our flagship programs. These inspiring individuals embody the hope and promise of the work we do, representing the positive ripple effects of our initiatives. Their stories remind us that the true measure of our success lies in the lives we touch and uplift, proving that through service, we create opportunities for others to rise and thrive.

As we turn the page to 2025, let us carry forward the lessons and inspiration from this year. The work we do today lays the foundation for an even brighter tomorrow. May this holiday season be a reminder of why we serve, the people we serve with, and the vision that keeps us striving to rise.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US
AT MANDAWE MAGAZINE!

Mike Yapching
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

MANDAWE COVER SHOOT TEAM

HERE'S TO A SEASON OF SERVICE, GROWTH, & GIVING BACK.

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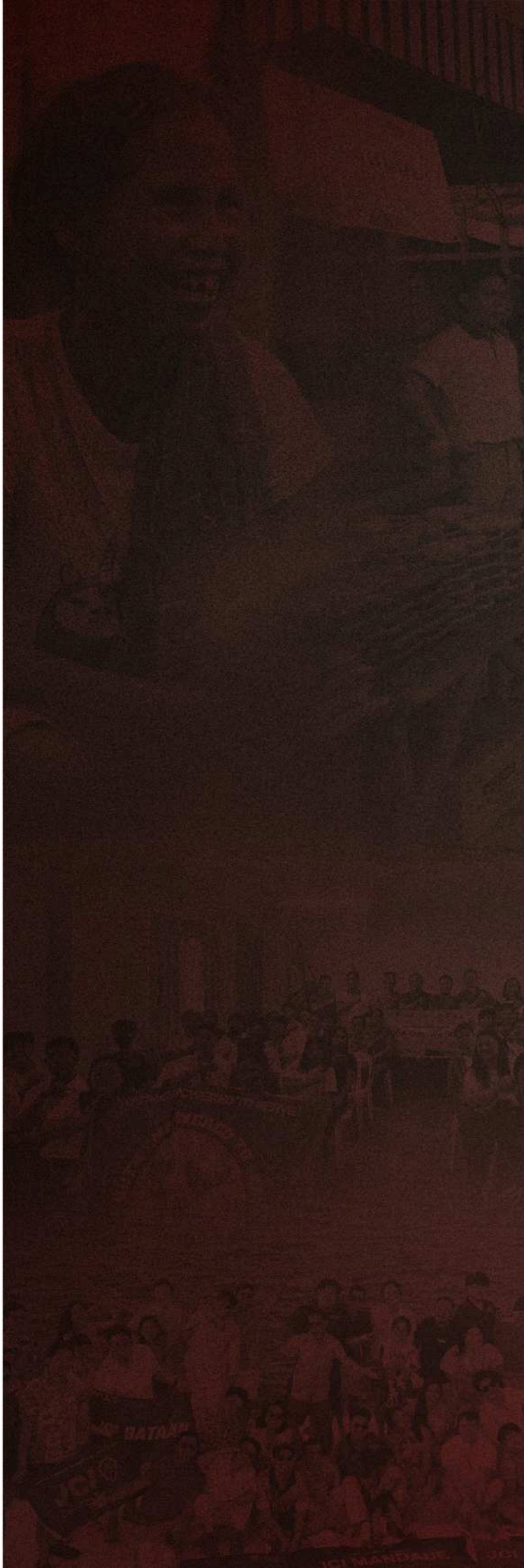
"Through trials, we found strength; through service, we found purpose. Together, we rose to make it Mandaue, and in doing so, made it possible."

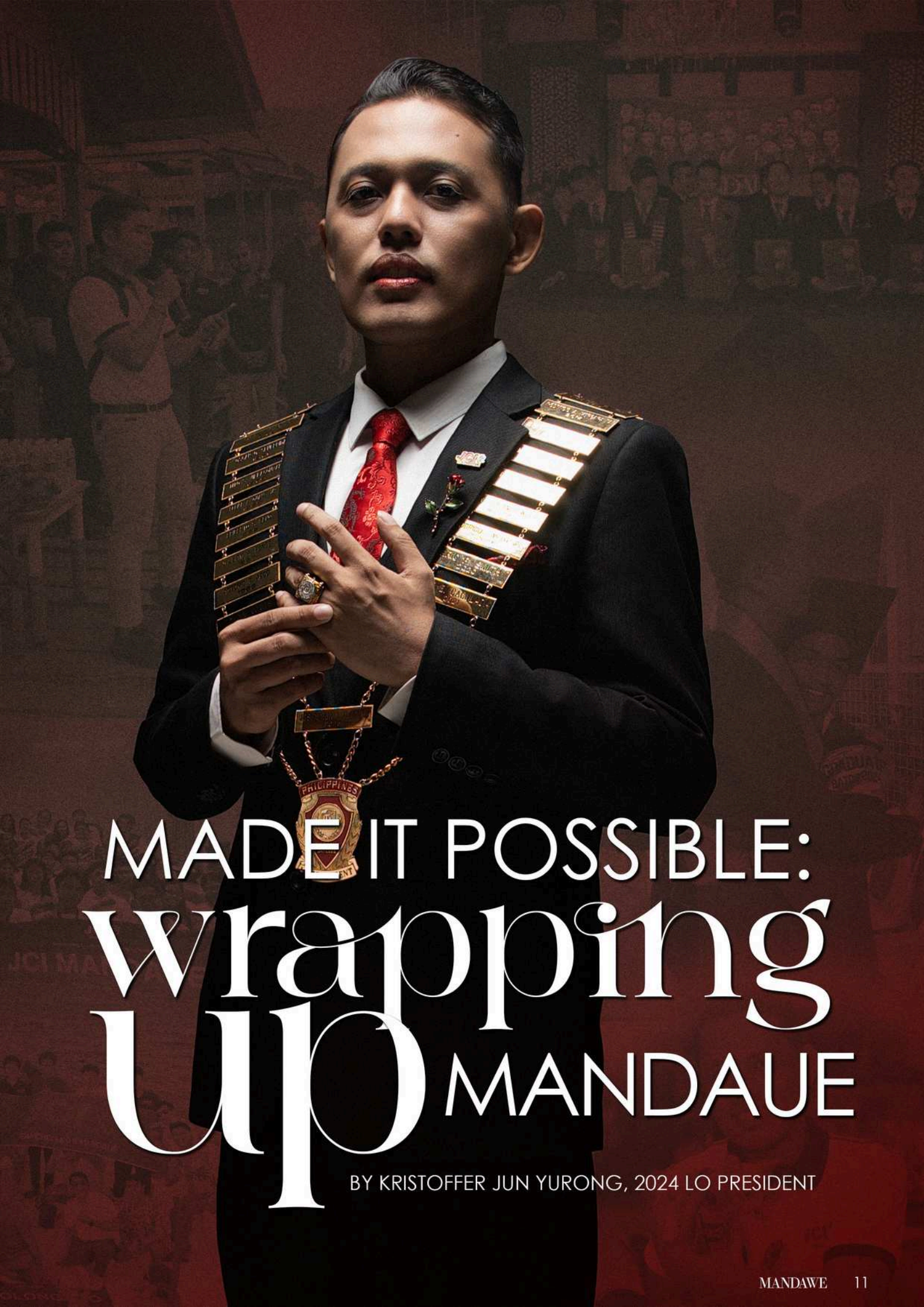
The year 2024 was not a straightforward path for JCI Mandaue. It was a journey fraught with challenges, uncertainty, and moments of doubt. Yet, as the year draws to a close, it is evident that the hurdles we faced only strengthened our resolve. We navigated stormy waters, and together, we finished strong. This year has proven that, indeed, when we give, we rise.

At the heart of our endeavors was the theme that united us: "***Make it Possible, Make it Mandaue.***" It wasn't merely a slogan; it was a call to action. In every project, every outreach, and every achievement, this theme served as a reminder of our commitment to not just dream but to deliver impactful change. This year, the Merry Men of JCI Mandaue stood steadfast, embodying the belief that giving is the ultimate act of rising together.

THE RIBBON OF GROWTH

Our organization's growth was a testament to the dedication of its members. This year, 81





MADE IT POSSIBLE: wrapping up MANDAUE

BY KRISTOFFER JUN YURONG, 2024 LO PRESIDENT

JCI MANDAUE
Project Ally 3.0:

PET PET DE SARAPEN

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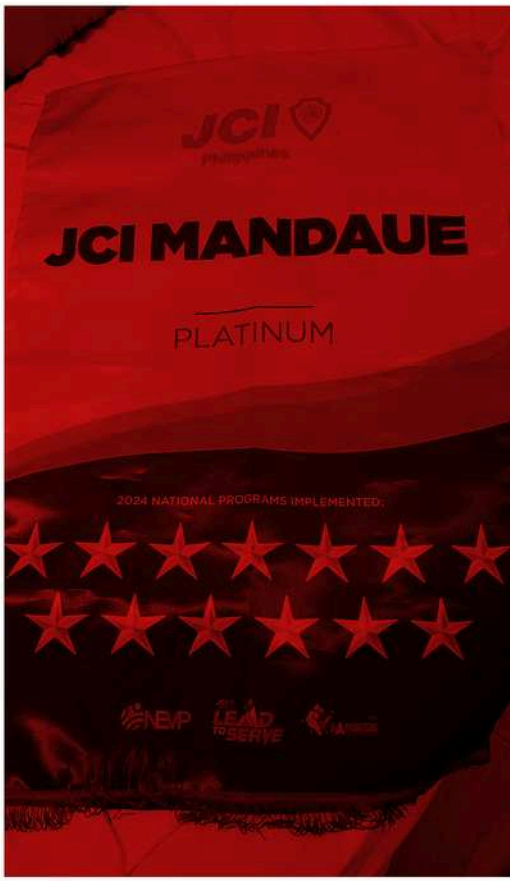
Developing Leaders for a Changing World.
JCI MANDAUE
THE MERRYMEN OF MANDAUE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JCI MANDAUE
PLATINUM
2024 NATIONAL PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED.

JCI
MAKE IT MANDAUE

Merry Men stood strong, a remarkable increase that speaks volumes about the vitality of JCI Mandaue. Among them were new members who, despite their recent induction, eagerly stepped into leadership roles. Four Gabay aspirants began their journey to becoming mentors, and three members attended the Future Leaders Academy, ready to carry forward the torch of leadership.

This growth in membership is not merely a statistic but a reflection of the growing spirit of camaraderie and purpose within JCI Mandaue. It's proof that we are cultivating a new generation of leaders dedicated to our shared vision.

WRAPPING THE COMMUNITY IN CARE

Service to the community has always been the lifeblood of JCI Mandaue, and this year was no exception. We deepened our commitment to making a difference by launching and sustaining programs that touched lives and created lasting impact.

Among these initiatives was ***Hope for Badjao***, a program that brought healthcare, livelihood opportunities, and cultural preservation to a marginalized community. Through this project, we didn't just provide assistance; we forged a connection, becoming part of their journey toward empowerment.

"Hope isn't just given; it is cultivated through action and compassion."

Similarly, ***TOGAther We Stand*** ignited hope and ambition among the youth, demonstrating that with unity and determination, anything is achievable. This program wasn't just about providing opportunities—it was about inspiring young people to dream bigger and work harder for a brighter future.

Through these and many other initiatives, JCI Mandaue proved that service is not a one-way street. It's a partnership—a collaboration with the communities we aim to uplift. This year, we didn't just extend help; we built relationships, shared stories, and created connections that will endure for years to come.

A CARD OF ACHIEVEMENTS

The hard work and dedication poured into every project and initiative did not go unnoticed. JCI Mandaue proudly placed 6th in the JCPEA JCI Area 4 rankings and secured a spot among the Top 25 chapters nationwide for JCI Philippines.

These achievements are more than just accolades; they are affirmations of the collective effort, passion, and resilience of every Merry Man. They are a testament to the hours spent planning, the resources mobilized, and the unwavering commitment to excellence that defines JCI Mandaue.

A THANK YOU TO REMEMBER

As we wrap up this incredible year, it feels like presenting a well-thought-out gift—not just to myself as the leader of this term, but to every Merry Man and every community member we serve. The successes of 2024 are not mine alone. They belong to each member who dedicated their time and energy, to every partner who believed in our vision, and to every individual who opened their hearts to our initiatives.

As we turn the page to a new year, let us carry forward the lessons, achievements, and spirit of 2024. The work is far from over, and the challenges of tomorrow will demand the same dedication, resilience, and creativity that defined this year.

But as we've proven time and again, no challenge is too great when faced with unity and purpose. Let us continue to embody the spirit of giving, the determination to rise, and the belief in the power of collaboration. Let us keep striving to make the impossible possible—for Mandaue, for our communities, and for the world.

"After all, to make it Mandaue is to make it possible, together."

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"Celebrating a year where resilience turned challenges into triumphs, proving that unity and purpose create boundless possibilities."

Merry Moments

A YEAR OF RESILIENCE AND SUCCESS

BY RENIEL FLORES, 2025 VICE PRESIDENT FOR LINKAGES

2024 was a year of trials and triumphs for JCI Mandaue. Despite facing numerous challenges, the chapter's commitment to innovation, service, and excellence never wavered. The organization turned adversity into opportunity, proving that with unity and purpose, anything is possible.

President Toffee reflected on this transformative journey:

"This year has been a testament to our collective strength and determination. We have proven that no challenge is too great when we work together with passion and purpose."

The moments of achievement were precious for many, especially for those who won awards for the first time. Tears were shed, and hard work paid off, marking a journey of perseverance and growth. These moments were more than just recognitions; they were symbols of triumph and the embodiment of every member's dedication to the cause.

The Area and National Conferences became the highlight of the year, offering a platform to showcase the chapter's groundbreaking initiatives. These recognitions were not just awards— they symbolized the resilience, passion, and dedication that define the Merry Men.

LOOKING AHEAD

While 2024 was a year of remarkable achievements, JCI Mandaue views these milestones as stepping stones to even greater heights. The chapter continues to build on its legacy of excellence, determined to set new benchmarks in community service, leadership, and empowerment.

JCI Mandaue's journey serves as a beacon of inspiration, emphasizing the importance of visionary leadership, strategic planning, and community engagement. More than a celebration of success, it is a call to action—to rise above challenges, break barriers, and achieve greatness. As the Merry Men move forward, they remain steadfast in their mission: to ignite a movement of empowerment and innovation, inspiring others to follow their lead.

2024 QUADRO AWARDS
JCI VISAYAS AREA CONFERENCE

QUADRO AWARDS

BEST JCI LOCAL ORGANIZATION PUBLICATION
MandaWe: Words into Actions, Actions to Legacies

BEST CULTURAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM
Paglaum sa Badjao (Hope for Badjao): A Resilience that Echoes through Generations

BEST YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
TOGAther, We Stand

BEST CIVIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM
MerryGalo Year 6: A Box of Happiness

MOST OUTSTANDING ASSOCIATE MEMBER
JESSE Rx

BANAAG AWARDS

BEST GENDER EQUALITY PROGRAM
Project ALLY 3.0: Educate, Advocate, Support and Empower

BEST LONG-TERM LOCAL COMMUNITY PROGRAM
MandaWE Build Year 7: 4th Day Care on the RISE

MOST OUTSTANDING JCI TRAINER
Sam Uy - Striving for Progress, Not Perfection

BEST INTER-ORG COLLABORATION PROJECT
TaiOneDaue's BEST: Bridging Economies through Sustainable Technologies

MOST OUTSTANDING MEMBER
EmpoweREYng Excellence: Elevating Growth and Development through Membership Empowerment

MOST OUTSTANDING LOCAL ORGANIZATION CATEGORY 1
JCI Mandaue: 61 Years of Making Things Possible

TOP 5 FINALIST

BEST SPORTS AND WELLNESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Make fIT Possible: The Wellness Era

BEST PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM
Labyu Langga Year 2: Healthy Families, Stronger Communities

Quadro
JCI MANDAUE

Quadro
JCI MANDAUE
TOGAther
TOGAther, We Stand
ABOUT
11 MILLION
YOUTH
NEED
OUR HELP

JCI MANDAUE
JCI MANDAUE

Quadro
JCI MANDAUE
MANDAWE
MandaWe: Words

BEST ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAM
Pet Pet De Sarapen: A JCI Mandaue Animal Welfare Program

MOST OUTSTANDING JCI PROJECT CHAIRPERSON
From RAIN to Shine for the Badjao Community

BEST DIGITAL MARKETING CAMPAIGN
R.O.S.E Digital Flourish: Relevance, Outreach, Success, Engagement

BEST LOCAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
The Mandaue Way

MOST OUTSTANDING LOCAL ORGANIZATION PRESIDENT CATEGORY 1
Make it Possible with Toffee

SPECIAL AWARDS

TOP 6 JCIPEA AREA 4 RANKING
2nd PLACE JCI VISAYAS GOT TALENT CHAMPION - 1ST TIMER CHALLENGE
James Benavente
1ST RUNNER UP - 1ST TIMER CHALLENGE
Brylle Dwight Ag-ag

2024 TEMIONGAWARDS
JCI PHILIPPINES NATIONAL CONFERENCE

SINAGTALA

BEST CULTURAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM
Paglaum sa Badjao (Hope for Badjao): A Resilience that Echoes through Generations

TOP 5 FINALIST

BEST JCI LOCAL ORGANIZATION PUBLICATION
MandaWe: Words into Actions, Actions to Legacies

BEST SPORTS AND WELLNESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Make fIT Possible: The Wellness Era

BEST GENDER EQUALITY PROGRAM
Project ALLY 3.0: Educate, Advocate, Support and Empower

BEST LONG-TERM LOCAL COMMUNITY PROGRAM
MandaWE Build Year 7: 4th Day Care on the RISE

BEST ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAM
Pet Pet De Sarapen: A JCI Mandaue Animal Welfare Program

MOST OUTSTANDING JCI TRAINER
Sam Uy - Striving for Progress, Not Perfection

SPECIAL AWARDS

GOLDEN LAUREL RECIPIENT
Business, Economics, Entrepreneurship, Agriculture Category
Sam Uy: Mechanizing The Agriculture Industry

SIBOL AWARDS FOR MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

PLATINUM 2024 SEAL OF EFFECIENCY

RANK 25 - OVERALL JCI PERFORMANCE AWARDS

JCI PHILIPPINES GAVEL RECIPIENT

Merry Moments encapsulates more than just a chapter's milestones—it is a testament to the power of resilience, unity, and vision. It is a celebration of every challenge faced and overcome, every bond strengthened, and every goal achieved through unwavering commitment. The journey of JCI Mandaue in 2024 reflects how a shared mission can turn adversity into opportunity and dreams into reality.

As the Merry Men move forward, they carry the spirit of this remarkable year—undaunted by obstacles, driven by purpose, and inspired to elevate their community further. Merry Moments is not merely a look back at a year of success; it is a call to continue building a legacy that empowers, innovates, and transforms lives.

"The chapter continues to build on its legacy of excellence, determined to set new benchmarks in community service, leadership, and empowerment."

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The glow of Christmas lights, the sound of carols, and the warmth of family gatherings paint a season of joy that captivates young and old alike. But beyond the festivities lies a timeless story—a narrative of kindness, generosity, and love embodied in the figure of Santa Claus. For parents, the magic of Christmas is not just in the gifts but in the values they pass on to their children.

For many children, their first Santa isn't the jolly man from the North Pole. It's their father, their Papa—the one who gives, loves, and makes Christmas come alive. Fathers, in particular, often become the unsung heroes of the holidays, their quiet efforts and sacrifices becoming the cornerstone of their child's festive joy.

For 2025 LO President Mark Samuel Uy, Christmas is not just an event—it's a deeply personal celebration of love and family.

"In the eyes of a child, Santa is magic. In the heart of a parent, Santa is a mirror of the love they give."

MY CHILD'S First Santa

BY RENANTE ONAS, 2025 EVP INTERNAL

Photograph by ROBIN LUMAPAS *Set Styling by* ALNAIR AGUJAR

PRES. SAM WITH HIS SON, JACOB.

"Christmas for me is family time, and I want to celebrate this occasion with them," he shares. As a father to five-year-old Jacob, the season brings a special kind of excitement to their home. Jacob may not believe in the literal existence of Santa Claus, but his father has painted Santa as a symbol of selflessness, generosity, and compassion.

"The essence of Santa isn'tabout gifts; it's about giving from the heart."

Pres. Sam sees himself as Jacob's first Santa—not in the sense of providing material gifts, but as the person who introduces him to the values Santa represents. Every year, they prepare food packs for the less fortunate and share gifts with friends. "I want Jacob to understand that the spirit of giving isn't about material things. It's about making someone's day a little brighter, a little better," he reflects. In these small but meaningful acts, Mark mirrors the essence of Santa, becoming a role model of kindness and love.

A similar sentiment fills the home of Atty. Michael Hubahib, 2025 JCI Mandaue Legal Counsel, who is the father of Bella, 4, and baby Rosie, 8 months old. For Atty. Mike, Christmas is a celebration of love in all its forms—love for God, his family, and those in need. "Without love, the essence of Christmas is lost," he says.

Bella, still enchanted by the idea of Santa Claus, eagerly writes her wish list every December. For her, Santa is the ultimate giver of joy and happiness. But for Atty. Mike, this magical belief is an opportunity to instill deeper lessons. "I always remind Bella that while it's nice to receive, the true joy lies in giving and sharing," he explains. As he watches Bella hang ornaments on the tree or help bake cookies, he sees the same joy he felt as a child—a reminder of how love and care create the magic of the season.

Atty. Mike also reflects on his role as a father, his quiet contributions weaving the

fabric of Bella's Christmas memories. I am Santa—not because of the presents, but because I make her feel safe, loved, and cherished." For Atty. Mike, these moments of connection and meaning are what make Christmas truly special.

"To my child, I am Santa—not because I give, but because I care."

Director Delmer Tillo, fondly called DB, treasures Christmas as a season of gratitude and faith. Living in Cebu with his wife Lyzel and their cheerful son Zeik, he views the holiday as a time to reconnect with loved ones and reflect on the blessings of the year. "Christmas is a time to remember the birth of Jesus Christ and the importance of family, embodying faith through love, generosity, and service," he shares.

For Zeik, his father is the ultimate Santa Claus—the one who ensures the holidays are filled with gifts, laughter, and love. "He sees me as his provider, his role model, and that makes me want to be better every day," says Director Delmer. Zeik eagerly awaits the sight of his dad placing gifts under the tree, a ritual that becomes more about the bond they share than the presents themselves.

Through his eyes, Delmer sees the true weight of being Santa: "It's not about the gifts; it's about the love and faith I pass on to my family." He believes that the values he instills in Zeik—faith, generosity, and love—are the greatest gifts of all.

"The most treasured gifts are those we give without expecting anything in return."

As these stories reveal, parents are a child's first Santa—not because of the gifts they bring, but because of the love and values they embody. Whether through small acts of kindness, the joy of shared traditions, or the sacrifices made behind the scenes, parents show their children what it means to give

ATTY. MIKE WITH HIS DAUGHTERS, BELLA & ROSIE.

DIR. DB WITH HIS SON, ZEIK.

selflessly.

For children like Jacob, Bella, Rosie, and Zeik, their fathers are the embodiment of Santa's spirit. Through their eyes, they see a parent who works hard, loves unconditionally, and ensures the season is filled with magic. For their parents, this role is both a privilege and a profound reminder of the power of love.

This Christmas, let us honor the Santas in our lives—the ones who give without asking, who love without limit, and who inspire us to be better. As we celebrate, may we also reflect on whose life we can touch and whose heart we can warm. For in the end, the magic of Christmas isn't in the gifts we receive but in the joy we bring to others.

"In the end, every parent is a child's first Santa, the quiet guardian of dreams, the bearer of love, and the giver of life's most precious gifts."

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Photograph by JAMES BENAVENTE | *Creative Direction by* ROBIN LUMAPAS | *Produced by* CHRIS BACOLOD

"This holiday season, JCI Mandaue celebrates these bright little stars, reminding us all that through the collective power of serving, we rise as one."

Bright Stars

AND HOW THEY SHINE

BY JERRY BUAL, VP FOR ORG DEVT.

In the vast, dark corners of our communities, little stars wait to shine—children, families, and individuals whose resilience and determination inspire hope. This holiday season, JCI Mandaue celebrates these stars, reminding us all that through the collective power of serving, we rise as one.

With the steadfast commitment of our members, partners, and sponsors, we have not only brightened these lives but also ignited a ripple of change that continues to uplift entire communities. From building safe learning spaces in Brgy Guizo to empowering marginalized groups in Brgy Mambaling, healing smiles, and ensuring public health, our award-winning flagship projects are shining

"It's a beautiful cycle of giving, healing, and rising together."
-Dir. Clyde

Each of these initiatives has a story. ***MandaWe Build*** created day care centers that nurture young minds and encourage bigger dreams. ***Hope for the Badjao*** uplifts a marginalized community by preserving its culture while providing essential support. ***MandaWe Smile*** transforms the lives of children with cleft lips and palates, giving them confidence and joy. ***Labyu Langga*** empowers families with life-saving health services, securing brighter futures.

GUIDING STARS: THE HEARTBEAT OF JCI MANDAUE'S FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

Behind every transformative initiative by JCI Mandaue are passionate individuals who lead with purpose and a deep commitment to creating lasting change. The project chairs—**VP Jess Anthony Dela Cruz *(MandaWe Build)***, **VP Reniel Flores *(Hope for the Badjao)***, **Dir. Clyde Maratas *(MandaWe Smile)***, and **Dr. Lowell Bascara *(Labyu Langga)***—are the guiding stars, turning vision into reality and ensuring that each act of kindness ignites a wave of transformation.

These leaders embody the spirit of service, giving their time and energy to uplift the lives of others, and proving that when we serve, we rise together.

Looking ahead to 2025, these same project chairs will continue their legacy, guiding these impactful programs once again. Their unwavering dedication ensures that the light they've sparked will keep shining brightly, creating opportunities for the children and families they serve.

A SPARK OF LIGHT : IGNITING CHANGE THROUGH COMPASSION

Q: What inspired you to champion this project, and how does it resonate with the theme of "When We Serve, We Rise"?

VP Jess: "***MandaWe Build*** is fueled by the belief in early childhood education as the key to unlocking the potential of future generations. When we give children access to

safe, nurturing spaces for learning, we don't just change their lives—we change the community at large. This theme speaks to me because when we empower the next generation, we rise together as a collective force for good, and that power multiplies as we continue to support and uplift those around us."

VP Reniel: "The inspiration for ***Hope for Badjao*** stems from the resilience and spirit of the Sama-Bajau community. Despite facing immense challenges, their culture has endured. This project is not just about providing aid—it's about standing with them, offering solidarity and proving that true giving uplifts both the giver and the receiver. When we help others rise, we rise too, and that's the essence of community and compassion."

Dir. Clyde: "My inspiration comes from the simple yet profound power of a smile. Through MandaWeSmile, we show that compassion and medical care can restore hope and transform lives. When we lift others, their

joy and newfound confidence become a source of strength for everyone around us. It's a beautiful cycle of giving, healing, and rising together."

Dr. Lowell: "As a physician, I've always believed that healthcare is a fundamental right. Labyu Langga is my way of giving back, ensuring that families facing health challenges don't have to face them alone. When we focus on their well-being, we create a ripple effect that impacts the entire community. This project is a testament to the power of service, and how, when we prioritize health, we lift everyone to new heights."

Q: Can you share a memorable, touching or unexpected moment during the project that reaffirmed the importance of giving back to the community?

VP Reniel: "During a feeding program, a young boy hugged me tightly and asked, 'Can you carry me?' In that brief moment, I realized that giving is not just about providing resources—it's about offering love, comfort, and the kind of support that helps people feel seen and valued. Sometimes, it's the smallest acts that have the most profound impact."

Dir. Clyde: "There was a young boy who had undergone surgery for his cleft lip. When he looked at himself for the first time in the mirror and smiled, it was a moment of pure transformation. His mother's tears of joy reminded me that our work is more than just physical change—it's about restoring confidence, hope, and the belief that anything is possible."

RISING TOGETHER – HOW OUR STARS ILLUMINATE A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Q: How do you feel knowing your work has given others hope and a chance to rise above their challenges? and how has this project personally changed your perspective on giving and serving others?

VP Jess: "MandaWe Build and all of our JCI Mandaue Community Projects remind me of the importance of empathy and how deeply we can impact others' lives through small acts of kindness. These experiences challenge me to reflect on how much more we can give as individuals and as a community. Witnessing positive change in others ignites a ripple effect of kindness, reminding me that even the smallest gesture can lead to meaningful change. It has made me feel more committed to serving my community, building resilience, and raising awareness on important social issues."

Dr. Lowell: "As a healthcare provider, there's a deep sense of gratitude that comes from knowing that our work is making a difference. Even if we provide just a glimmer of hope or relief to those facing immense challenges, it's humbling and fulfilling. This project has reaffirmed my commitment to my profession, but it's also taught me that being a physician goes beyond treating illnesses—it's about offering compassion and humanity, which are essential in making a lasting difference."

"...When we empower the next generation, we rise together as a collective force for good.."

-VP Jess

"It's about offering compassion and humanity, which are essential in making a lasting difference."
-Dr. Lowell

A LEGACY OF LIGHT – BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES THROUGH SUSTAINED IMPACT

Q: How do you envision this project continuing to uplift lives in the future?

VP Jess: "***MandaWe Build*** will continue to evolve by integrating holistic child development programs, providing job opportunities, and creating community sustainability projects. These initiatives will ensure lasting impact for generations to come, nurturing children and families in ways that build resilience and strengthen our community."

VP Reniel: "My vision for ***Hope for the Badjao*** is to grow it into a model initiative that not only preserves the culture of the Sama-Bajau community but also fosters education and health. I hope this project inspires others to take action, creating a ripple effect that leads to lasting positive change."

Dir. Clyde: "Our dream is to expand ***MandaWe Smile*** beyond Cebu to reach more children across the Philippines who need cleft lip and palate surgeries but don't have access to them. By partnering with more medical professionals and organizations, we can bring smiles to more faces, helping these children face the world with newfound confidence. Every child deserves this opportunity, and we'll tirelessly work to make it happen."

Dr. Lowell: "Public health isn't just about offering consultations or lectures—it's about creating a culture where people value their health and feel empowered to make informed choices. For ***Labyu Langga***, I see a future where we build a sustainable program that includes mobile clinics, continuous education, and partnerships with local governments to address specific needs at the barangay level. The impact of this initiative has the potential to transform entire generations."

STARS OF THE MISSION: STORIES OF IMPACT

At the heart of every project lies the true stars: the children whose lives are transformed by the unwavering commitment of JCI Mandaue. Through their heartfelt stories, we see the profound impact of initiatives like ***MandaWe Build***, ***Hope for Badjao***, ***MandaWe Smile***, and ***Labyu Langga***. These testimonies remind us that beyond the statistics and milestones are real young lives whose futures have been brightened for the better.

Through the voices of young beneficiaries like **Henrick**, a smart child from ***MandaWe Build***, **Juma**, a brave little girl from ***Hope for Badjao***, **Amara**, a joyful young girl from ***MandaWe Smile***, and **John**, a resilient boy from ***Labyu Langga***, we glimpse the essence of these projects and the boundless potential they hold. These children are living proof that when we serve, we rise together, and through their stories, we celebrate the power of giving to uplift lives.

Q: How did it feel when you first heard about this project and realized you would be part of it?

Henrick: "I felt happy and excited when I

first heard about the ***MandaWe Build*** project. I never thought I could go to a school like this, where I could play and learn new things with other kids. It made me feel like I was part of something special."

John: "When I first heard about ***Labyu Langga***, I felt so happy because I knew it would help me feel better. I had a lot of pain and illnesses, and I didn't know how I could get help, but now I know that people care about me."

Q: What difference has this project made in your life or your family's life?

Amara: "Before the surgery, I felt different, like I couldn't smile properly or talk clearly. But now, I can smile without feeling ashamed. My family is so happy because I can now smile like other kids, and I feel more confident."

Juma: "This project gave us hope. We now have a safer place to live and better food to eat. My family is healthier, and we don't have to worry about where our next meal will come from. It's like we are no longer invisible, and people care for us."

Q: What message from your heart would you like to share with the people who made this possible?

Henrick: "Thank you for helping me go to school and have a better life. I'm so happy I get to learn and make new friends. I will always remember you, and I hope you keep helping other kids like me!"

John: "Thank you for giving us hope. You made our lives better and showed us that we matter. We are so grateful for all the help, and I will never forget you for making our dreams come true."

Amara: "Thank you JCI Mandaue for giving me the chance to smile again. You made me feel like I'm just like any other kid. I will always be grateful to you, and I hope you keep helping other kids who need your kindness."

Juma: "Thank you so much for making me feel better. I will always remember the people who helped me, and I hope you continue to help other kids like me. You made me happy again!"

SHINING STARS, BRIGHTER TOMORROWS: THE POWER OF KINDNESS AND COMMUNITY

As we reflect on the journeys of our project chairs and beneficiaries, we realize that every small act of kindness we offer creates a ripple of hope and resilience. Through JCI flagship projects like ***MandaWe Build***, ***Hope for Badjao***, ***MandaWe Smile***, and ***Labyu Langga***, we've witnessed lives transformed by the simplest acts of support.

"When we help others rise, we don't just lift them; we create constellations of love and strength that continue to shine, guiding others toward brighter futures."

"Sometimes, it's the smallest acts that have the most profound impact."
-VP Reniel

These stories are not just about overcoming challenges—they're about the little stars who never gave up and the community that rallied behind them. Each smile, each success, reflects the power of coming together. Together, we make a difference by offering support, resources, and opportunities for growth.

While we may not always see the full scope of our impact, every life we touch reminds us that when we help others rise, we all rise together. We shine brighter, and in doing so, we not only create a future of hope, but a legacy of love, unity, and the unwavering belief that kindness has the power to transform the world, one star at a time.

"Our beneficiaries are the stars; we are merely the sky, holding space for their light to shine."

MIKE
YAPCHING BRIDAL

FROM THE Heart: THE JOY OF GIVING

BY DWIGHT MOZO, 2025 LOCAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"Celebrating the season with a mother's love and JCI's spirit of service – bringing warmth, connection, and the true magic of Christmas to families and communities alike.

The act of giving is a universal language that transcends borders, beliefs, and barriers. It is a gesture born from the depths of the human spirit, a manifestation of empathy and love that binds communities and uplifts individuals. When we give, it is not only the recipient who feels joy—the giver, too, experiences an unparalleled sense of fulfillment. There is something profoundly transformative about opening one's heart and sharing one's blessings, no matter how small or grand they may seem.

Giving is not merely a transaction; it is a relationship. It creates connections, fosters trust, and nurtures hope. When you give, you send a message: "You matter. You are seen. You are valued." This powerful affirmation can change lives and ripple through communities. For those who have received, the memory of kindness often lingers long after the material gift has faded. For the givers, it is the realization that they have been instruments of grace, carriers of hope, and messengers of joy.

This season, as lights twinkle and carols echo, let us remind ourselves that the true essence of the holidays lies in giving—from the heart, with no expectation but the quiet satisfaction of having made a difference. This spirit of giving has been beautifully embodied in the Merry Galo initiative by JCI Mandaue, a testament to how generosity can spark hope and joy in countless lives.

MERRY GALO: JCI MANDAUE'S LEGACY OF GENEROSITY

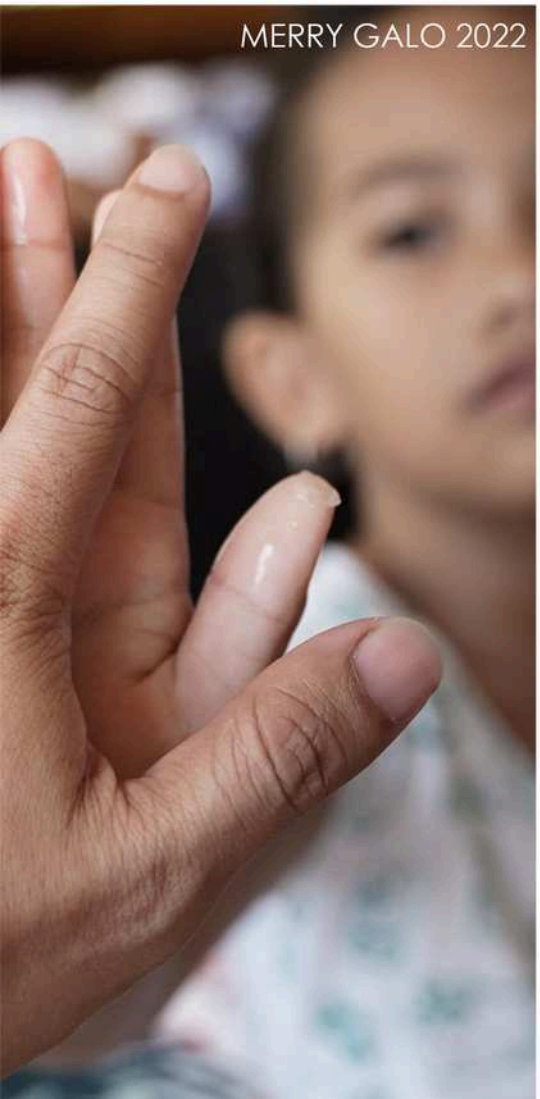
In the heart of Mandaue City, a spark of hope ignited seven years ago with the birth of Merry Galo, JCI Mandaue's flagship initiative. What began as a modest effort to bring Christmas cheer to an adopted community for the kids during its first two years has grown into a beacon of compassion, spreading joy to thousands across Cebu.

The story of Merry Galo is one of resilience and dedication. In its early years, the initiative focused on gift-giving to children, creating moments of happiness and hope in their lives. However, when the pandemic struck, the program adapted to the needs of the time, shifting its focus to providing essential items

MERRY GALO 2023

MERRY GALO 2021

MERRY GALO 2022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JCI MANDAUE

to families struggling to make ends meet. This pivot highlighted the initiative's ability to respond to the evolving needs of its beneficiaries.

In 2022, as a devastating fire broke out in Barangay Looc, Merry Galo once again rose to the occasion, extending support and gift-giving to the fire victims, bringing much-needed relief during a challenging time. By 2023, the initiative added a unique and heartwarming experience to its efforts, organizing a free ballet show for children, demonstrating its commitment to enriching their lives through diverse and meaningful activities.

The essence of giving has remained at the heart of Merry Galo. It's not just about material gifts but about the thoughtfulness and care infused into every activity. As of 2024, Merry Galo has reached an astounding milestone, impacting over 9,000 beneficiaries. From distributing toys and food packs to organizing community events, Merry Galo has not only provided tangible gifts but also intangible ones—the gifts of hope, happiness, and love. This initiative has become a tradition that reflects the boundless generosity of the human spirit.

*"Through its seven-year journey, **Merry Galo** has touched the lives of children, families, and entire communities. It has bridged gaps, fostered unity, and reminded everyone involved that giving is not about the size of the gift but the size of the heart behind it."*

MERRY GALO 2024: THE GIFT OF CHILDHOOD

This year, Merry Galo reaches another heartwarming chapter with a special event dedicated to 500 children. In partnership with the Cebu City Government, this event also serves as the culmination of the city's Children's Month Celebration. Aptly named "Children's Fun Day," the 2024 initiative celebrates the pure, unadulterated joy of childhood, aiming to provide an unforgettable day filled with laughter, play, and the magic of the season.

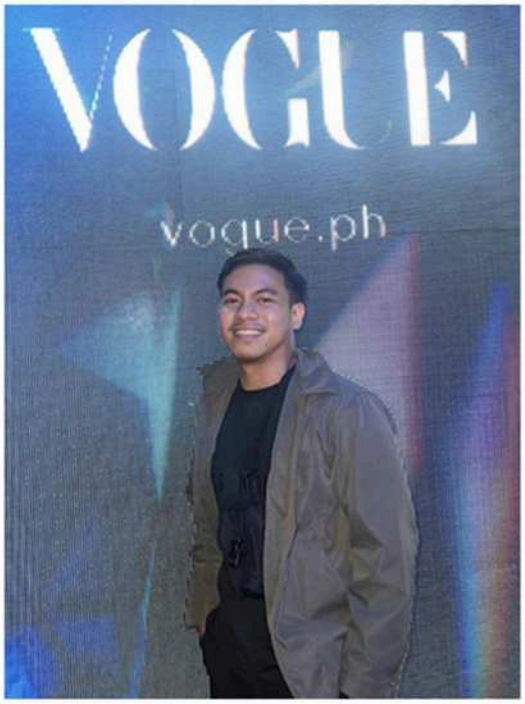
For many of these children, life's hardships have often overshadowed their childhood innocence. Merry Galo 2024 seeks to remind them of what it means to be children—to dream freely, laugh wholeheartedly, and feel the wonder of the season. From interactive games and entertainment to thoughtful gifts tailored to their needs and wishes, every aspect of the event is designed to create a haven of happiness.

The beneficiaries of Merry Galo 2024 come from 80 barangays of Cebu City, as well as youth centers, adoption centers, and child development centers—organizations that dedicate their efforts to helping children who have been abandoned, neglected, or faced with significant challenges in life. Each child's presence represents a story of resilience and hope, and this event seeks to honor and uplift these young lives.

As the children's laughter fills the air and their eyes light up with excitement, the spirit of Merry Galo shines brighter than ever. It is a celebration of humanity—a reminder that even in challenging times, the simplest acts of kindness can create profound impacts. Through Merry Galo 2024, these children are gifted more than a fun-filled day—they are reminded that they matter and that their dreams are worth celebrating.

The journey of Merry Galo, from its humble beginnings to its incredible milestones, illustrates the transformative power of giving. It is a story of love, hope, and resilience, a testament to what can be achieved when people come together with a shared purpose. This holiday season, as Merry Galo brings joy to 500 more children, let us all be inspired to embrace the joy of giving. In doing so, we not only make a difference in others' lives but also discover the true meaning of the season—a season of love, generosity, and unending hope.

ROBIN LUMAPAS
fashion photographer



Hello! I'm Robin, and I'm a fashion and event photographer based in Cebu. I have been shooting professionally for the last 5 years doing celebrity shoots, catalogues, portraits, events and lifestyle campaigns.

I love imagining ideas, creating images and sharing them on various platforms.

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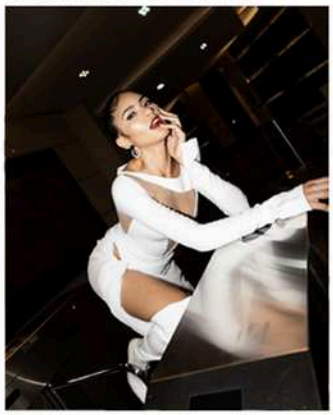
Heart Evangelista, MEGA Ball 2023

Pia Wurtzbach, Bvlgari Opening

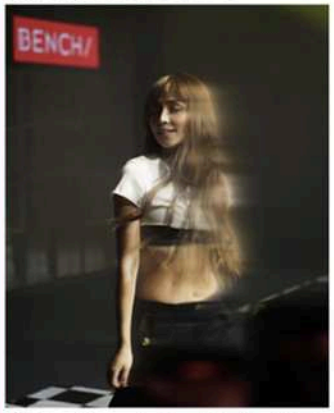
Larz Dawson, Ginoong Pilipinas 2023


Gazini Ganados, Love Yourself Campaign

Georgina Wilson, Sunnies World Opening

Kim Chiu, ABS-CBN Ball 2023

LAVA Issue, Victor Magazine (International)



Kathryn Bernardo, Bench Fashion Week

MAKING Christmas Magical WITH Mama:

A CELEBRATION OF LOVE AND SERVICE

BY JOAHANNA VELOSO
2025 EVP EXTERNAL, JCI WOMANDAUE

Photograph by ROBIN LUMAPAS *Set Styling by* ALNAIR AGUJAR

"Celebrating the season with a mother's love and JCI's spirit of service – bringing warmth, connection, and the true magic of Christmas to familie and communities alike.

Christmas is a time of joy, love, and giving – a season when families come together to create memories that last a lifetime. For many, the magic of the holidays is shaped by one special person: Mama. Mothers have an incredible way of making Christmas truly magical. From putting up decorations to preparing special meals, their love and dedication make the season unforgettable. This care and effort mirror the values we hold dear in JCI, where service begins at home and extends to the community.

In JCI, our mission to serve others shares the same heart as a mother's love for her family. As an all-woman chapter in JCI, our service is motherly – nurturing, thoughtful, and impactful. We pour our hearts into what we do, just as mothers do for their families. Whether it's organizing projects to help communities or leading initiatives that inspire change, JCI members dedicate themselves to creating a better world with care and compassion.

2025 JCI WOMANDAUE PRESIDENT MARICAR CATALAN WITH HER KIDS,
ALONGSIDE 2023 JCI WOMANDAUE PRESIDENT LARA TRICIA SAYSON WITH HER DAUGHTER.

Our members focus on making a difference, especially during the holiday season. Whether it's hosting toy drives, organizing community feeding programs, or supporting shelters, JCI's efforts bring the spirit of Christmas to life. These acts of kindness reflect the lessons we learn from mothers, who teach us to give love freely and to help those in need.

The connection between serving family and serving others becomes especially clear at Christmas. Just as Mama lovingly plans a holiday feast, JCI members work hard to bring communities together. These efforts go beyond material gifts; they foster connection and unity, showing the true meaning of the season. Through service, we demonstrate that giving is an act of love, whether it's for family or for strangers.

One of the most inspiring examples of JCI's commitment to service is our 2025 Local Organization President, Maricar Catalan. Maricar is not only a dedicated JCI leader but also a mother of three. She balances her career

in real estate with caring for her children, showing incredible strength and compassion. Even before her term officially begins, Maricar has demonstrated what true service is about. Her ability to lead with love and dedication makes her an inspiration to us all.

Both Mama and JCI remind us that love and service are the foundation of meaningful connections. By putting others first, we create moments that matter. This is the spirit of Christmas: giving without expecting anything in return. It's a lesson that stays with us long after the decorations are taken down.

"As children learn from their mothers' selflessness, communities also grow from JCI's acts of service. The values we pass on – kindness, generosity, and empathy – ensure that the spirit of Christmas lasts beyond the season. JCI's work inspires others to give back, creating a culture of service that strengthens communities year-round."

2025 JCI WOMANDAUE EVP INTERNAL GLAIZA MEI MONTOYA-ILAGAN WITH HER KIDS, AND JCI WOMANDAUE MEMBER ELLA URIKA OMOLON WITH HER SON.

This Christmas, let's take a moment to celebrate both the mothers and the JCI members who make the season brighter. Their efforts, often quiet and behind the scenes, are the true magic of the holidays. Beyond the gifts and decorations, it is their love and service that bring warmth and light to our lives.

As we gather with loved ones this holiday season, let's remember that the essence of Christmas lies in giving and caring. Just as Mama creates a warm and loving home, JCI members bring communities together with their dedication. Together, they remind us that love and service are the greatest gifts we can give.

Merry Christmas to all and especially to our fellow JCI members who turn ordinary moments into something extraordinary. Your love and dedication make all the difference.

"Just as Mama creates a warm and loving home, JCI members bring communities together with their dedication. Together, they remind us that love and service are the greatest gifts we can give."

Jingle DEALS

BY VP PETER PAUL CABABAHAY, VP FOR BUSINESS DEVT.

JCI MANDAUE BUSINESS DRIVE PROGRAM

"Accelerating business growth for our members, unlocking value through exclusive perks and unparalleled advantages."

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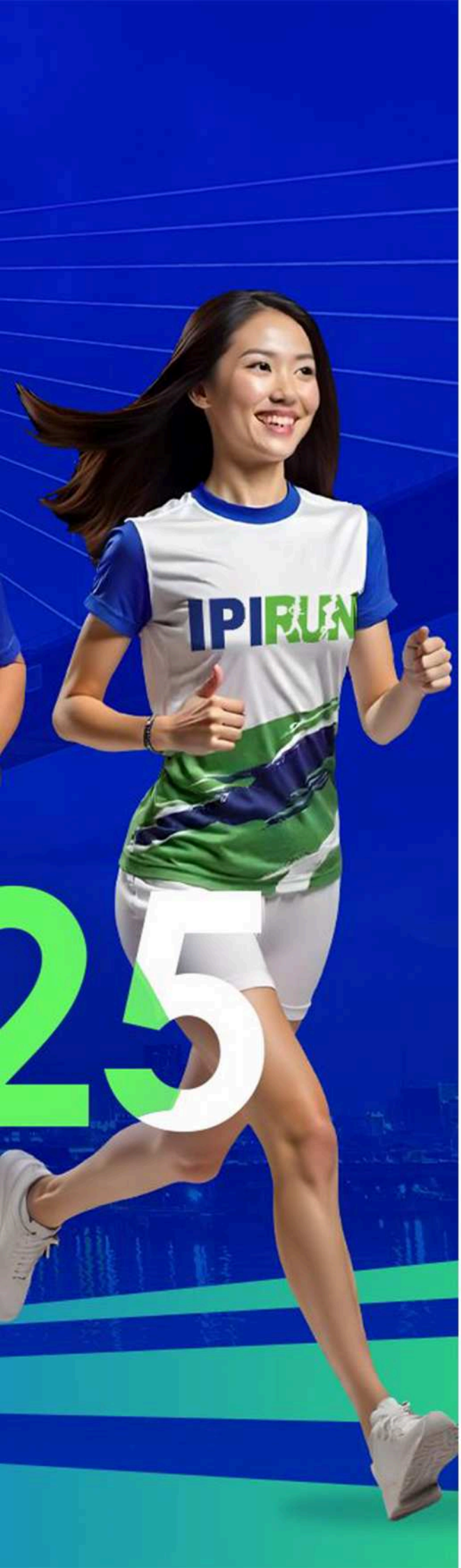
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We believe:
That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life;
That the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations;
That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise;
That government should be of laws rather 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.