



**Peace  
Corps**  
PHILIPPINES



# 2025

Annual Report



*FRONT COVER: Volunteer Viviana L. helping out at her organization's booth by handing out flyers to raise awareness for their mission.*



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Corps**  
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# 2025

## Annual Report

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Batch 279  
Close of Service  
Conference



Batch 281  
In-Service Training



Response Batch 55  
Swearing-In Ceremony



Batch 282  
Swearing-In Ceremony



Batch 280  
Close of Service  
Conference



Batch 281  
Mid-Service Training





ABOVE: Volunteer Hayley F. collecting trash during an underwater clean up.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

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*Mabuhay* from Peace Corps Philippines! It is my privilege to present our 2025 Annual Report. Guided by our theme, “What Drives Your Service,” we reflect on the motivations and relationships that continue to strengthen our work across the country.

“What Drives Your Service” speaks to the heart of our work. Service is driven by connection, collaboration, and a shared commitment to community-led development. Across regions and sectors, Volunteers partner with local institutions by listening, learning, and working side by side with community members to support locally identified priorities.

This year marked an important milestone for Peace Corps/Philippines as the Post with the highest number of currently serving Peace Corps Volunteers worldwide. We also welcomed our fourth post-pandemic batch and celebrated two cohorts completing their two-year service.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Philippine National Volunteer Service

Coordinating Agency, Department of Education, Department of Social Welfare and Development, along with the many Local Government Units and community partners who make this work possible and ensure Volunteers can serve meaningfully and effectively.

To our Volunteers, thank you for your dedication, professionalism, and commitment. Your collaboration with the Filipino community reflects the best of the Peace Corps’ mission and the values that drive your work each day.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to strengthening these partnerships and visiting more communities across the country. Thank you for being part of this journey, and here’s to another year of service and collaboration!

## **MARGUERITE ROY**

Country Director  
Peace Corps/Philippines

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PNVSCA

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The Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) extends its warmest congratulations to the Peace Corps for another year of meaningful partnership and dedicated service to the Filipino people.

Our enduring collaboration continues to show how volunteerism serves as a cornerstone of sustainable development. Through the commitment of Peace Corps Volunteers and their local partners, communities across the country have strengthened capacities in education, youth empowerment, environmental protection, and institutional development—fostering resilience, self-reliance, and shared growth.

This year's reflections from Volunteers on what drives them to serve shed light on the deeper motivations that inspire action. Each story reveals how service becomes both personal and transformative, connecting individuals and communities in the pursuit of progress and understanding.

Volunteerism is a powerful expression of solidarity. It bridges people and cultures, cultivates empathy, and turns collaboration into lasting partnerships that uplift lives and strengthen inclusive development.

As PNVSCA advances volunteerism as a strategy for development, we take pride in our partnership with the Peace Corps. Your steadfast commitment exemplifies how purpose-driven service can build stronger communities and lasting change.

On behalf of PNVSCA, I extend heartfelt appreciation to the Peace Corps leadership, staff, and Volunteers. May your stories of service continue to inspire a culture of volunteerism that empowers individuals and communities to build a more compassionate and sustainable future for all.

**DONALD JAMES D. GAW**

Executive Director  
PNVSCA

# ABOUT THE PEACE CORPS

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Founded in 1961, the Peace Corps is a United States government agency that sends American Volunteers abroad to promote peace and friendship.

Today, the Peace Corps remains committed to promoting world peace and friendship by pursuing three goals:

1. To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women;
2. To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served;
3. To help promote a better understanding of other people on the part of Americans.

The Philippines was one of the very first countries to welcome Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs), beginning in 1961. Since then, more than 9,500 Volunteers have served across the archipelago, making Peace Corps/Philippines one of the agency's oldest and most established programs, with the largest community of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) in the world.

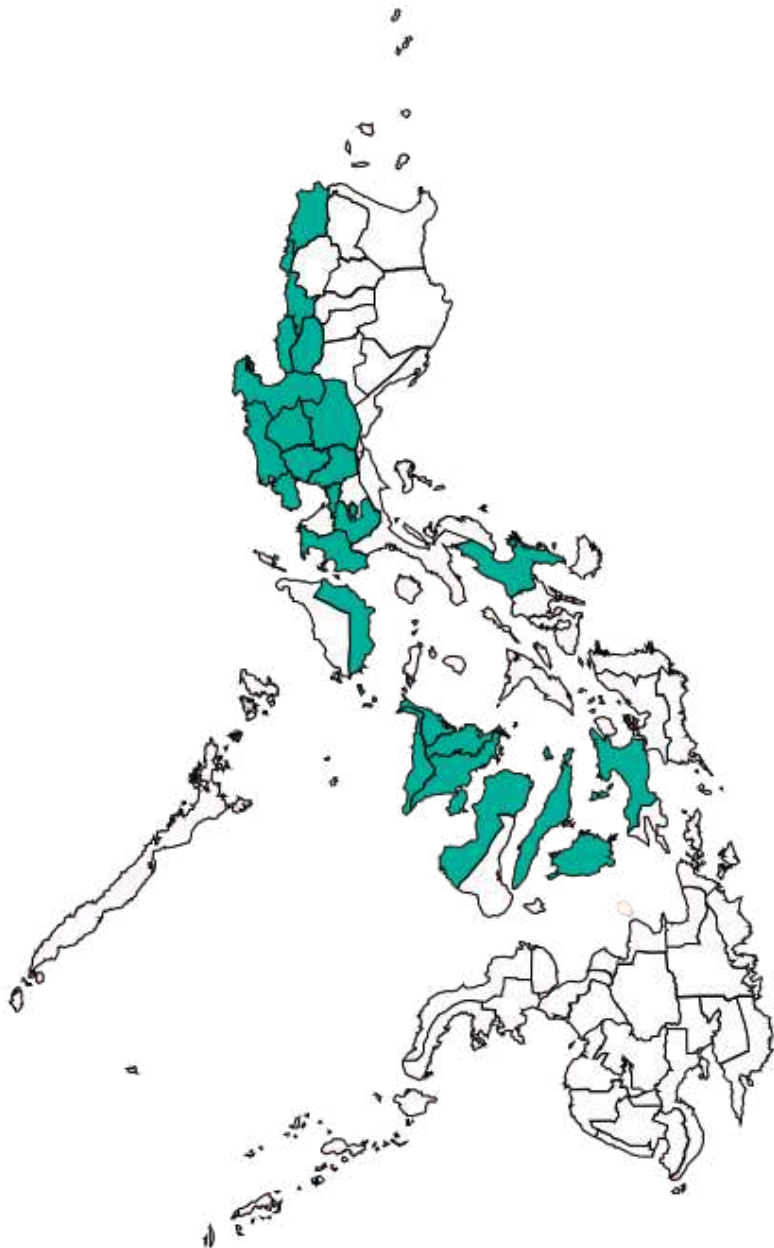
Two-year Volunteers in the Philippines serve in three primary sectors: Children, Youth, and Family; Coastal Resource Management; and Education. In addition, Response Volunteers support shorter-term, specialized assignments in partnership with host country institutions.

Across these sectors, Volunteers are placed with community-based organizations, social welfare institutions, public schools, environmental offices, and local government units (LGUs). They collaborate closely with social workers, youth leaders, teachers, and government technical staff to strengthen systems and support locally identified priorities, working alongside Filipino counterparts to promote sustainable, community-driven impact.

Together, this partnership reflects a commitment to strengthening communities across the Philippines.



# PEACE CORPS PLACEMENT BY REGION



# 173

Peace Corps Volunteers who served in the Philippines in 2025

**61** Children, Youth, and Families Volunteers

**59** Coastal Resource Management Volunteers

**41** Education Volunteers

**12** Peace Corps Response Volunteers

**3** Peace Corps Volunteer Leaders\*

\*Not included in the overall total, as they are already counted under a different sector

## Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)

Benguet

## National Capital Region (NCR)

Metro Manila

## Region 1 - Ilocos Region

Ilocos Norte      La Union  
Ilocos Sur        Pangasinan

## Region 3 - Central Luzon

Bataan            Pampanga  
Bulacan            Tarlac  
Nueva Ecija        Zambales

## Region 4A - CALABARZON

Batangas        Laguna

## Region 4B - MIMAROPA

Oriental Mindoro

## Region 5 - Bicol Region

Camarines Sur

## Region 6 - Western Visayas

Aklan                      Guimaras  
Antique                    Iloilo  
Capiz                        Negros Occidental

## Region 7 - Central Visayas

Bohol                      Cebu

## Region 8 - Eastern Visayas

Leyte





## Children, Youth, and Family

*Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) Volunteers work with vulnerable populations in the Philippines, focusing on at-risk youth, children with disabilities, children in conflict with the law, and survivors of abuse and neglect. Volunteers also empower youth to serve their communities through volunteerism.*

*LEFT: Volunteer Vish J. working with the SK Leaders in strengthening their relationships with their peers and the city government.*

### Crystal

*“The youth inspire and motivate me to create more activities. I want them to know the importance of leading and giving back to the community.”*



Crystal serves in Iloilo, where she works with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). A big part of her service is showing up for the youth, creating spaces where they can feel comfortable, build confidence, and start to see themselves as leaders in their own communities.

In the beginning, Crystal led most of the sessions, guiding conversations on life skills and leadership. But over time, that shifted. She started inviting youth and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) leaders to help out, whether that meant translating, co-facilitating, or eventually

leading sessions themselves. It wasn't always smooth, especially with language barriers, but she kept encouraging them to try anyway and just do their best.

A lot of that mindset comes from her experience as a mentor with the organization Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. She brings that same energy into her work, meeting youth where they're at, keeping things supportive, and reminding them they don't have to be perfect to show up. For Crystal, it's less about getting everything right and more about building confidence and giving youth the space to grow.

Now, the shift is really visible. Youth who once sat quietly in the back are now leading sessions, choosing topics, and supporting each other. Crystal's role has become more of a mentor than a facilitator, and she continues to encourage young people to give back, take initiative, and believe that even small efforts can make a difference.



### Viviana L.

*“I think success for the end of my service is seeing [the girls] improve. Even if I can't be there for their whole journey, I just want them to improve whatever they need or want to improve on while I'm there, that I can help them with.”*

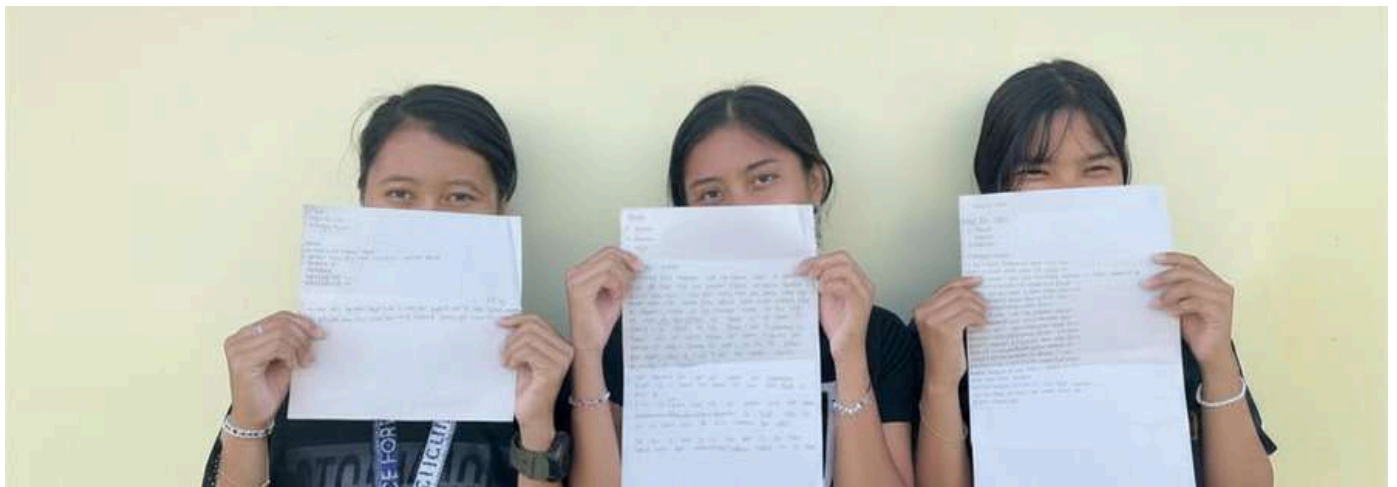
Viviana serves in Cebu, a shelter that supports young survivors of online sexual abuse and exploitation. The girls at her site come from challenging circumstances, and many were admitted when they were very young. Now they range from kids to college students, all at different points in their healing journey, and Viviana's role is to be there alongside them.



Going into service, she knew she wanted to work with youth, but being at her site made that feel a lot more real. It's not always about big programs or structured sessions; sometimes it's just about showing up, being consistent, and building trust over time. That looks different for every girl, so a lot of her work is just meeting them where they're at.

Viviana spends a lot of time creating spaces where the girls can feel comfortable, whether that's through activities, conversations, or just hanging out. Over time, those small moments start to add up. The goal isn't to force anything, but to give them a place where they can feel safe, express themselves, and just be kids.

What really keeps her motivated is seeing how resilient the girls are. Even with everything they've been through, they still show up for each other and keep moving forward. Being part of that has shaped how she sees this work. It's not about fixing things, but about being present, building trust, and creating space for growth.



### Jarret C.

***“[What defines my service are] the children and social workers I have been able to work with. I think I have learned so much from all of them and they will always have a special place in my heart.”***

Serving in Pampanga, Jarret’s service has been defined by how quickly things can change and the need to adjust along the way. He’s learned to come in prepared, but not expect everything to go according to plan. At his site, each day can look different, and he’s focused on showing up and doing what he can with what’s in front of him.

When he first arrived in 2023, the center had around 70 residents, mostly young children. Within a short time, that number more than tripled as children were transferred from other centers that had closed. In just 24 hours, the site became an emergency intake center. During that time, Jarret learned to slow down, observe what was happening around him, and respond in a way that was thoughtful and steady.

Being an American at his site also means he stands out. That pushed him to think more about his role and how he fits into the space. Working with children who have experienced trauma, he has had to rely on being mindful of when to step forward and when to give space.

Even with all the changes, Jarret stays focused on building relationships. It can be difficult in a setting where children come and go, but he continues to prioritize connection. For him, service looks like being consistent, present, and doing his best to support the kids, even in small ways.



# CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY



# CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY



# CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY







# Coastal Resource Management

*Coastal Resource Management (CRM) Volunteers collaborate with local government units and non-governmental organizations to assist communities and individuals in managing coastal resources. They help promote sustainable, healthy, and productive environmental practices.*

*LEFT: Volunteer Simonne D. assisting in coral reef assessment, collecting data for a Coastal Environmental Profile (CEP).*

## Max

*“I’m really proud of how well I’ve been able to integrate, and I feel like I am very much part of the community.”*



Max serves in Camarines Sur, where his work centers on supporting youth-led climate action. When he first arrived, he learned that the municipality had previously been recognized for its strong disaster risk reduction efforts, even gaining international attention. That foundation created an opportunity to build something new: a major funding initiative focused on youth-designed climate projects.

Max took the lead in helping the municipality apply for the funding, working closely with local government partners to navigate the process. He spent time going to high schools and communities, introducing the opportunity to students and encouraging them to think critically about the environmental challenges around them. To make the process accessible, he developed both online and paper applications and guided youth through each step, helping them turn ideas into clear, actionable proposals.

As interest grew, so did the scale of the project. Dozens of youth submitted proposals, and a group of project leaders were selected to move forward. Max played a key role in mentoring them throughout the process, supporting everything from refining their ideas to managing timelines and implementation. As a result, the LGU received funding for different youth-led community projects. The projects ranged widely, from artificial reefs to energy-saving initiatives, all anchored on the needs of their own communities. What started as a funding opportunity quickly became a platform for youth leadership and innovation.



# COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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The project's success led to even more momentum, with the municipality advancing to a second round of funding and expanding its reach. Throughout it all, Max remained closely involved, not just as a coordinator, but as a mentor, helping youth navigate challenges, build confidence, and stay committed to their goals.

For Max, the most meaningful part of his service has been watching that shift happen. It wasn't just about securing funding or completing projects, it was about seeing young people recognize their own potential. Through this work, youth began to see themselves as leaders capable of creating real change in their communities, and that impact continues to drive Max's service.



## Aubree H.

***“My relationships at site [defines my service]. I want to say I didn’t struggle very much because of that. Any issue I had, either Debbie or someone in the office helped me and made me feel at home.”***

Aubree serves with the Municipal Agriculture Office in Iloilo, and a big part of her experience has really come down to the relationships she built there. From the start, she and her counterpart, Debbie, clicked right away. Their working relationship quickly turned into something that felt more like a sisterhood. As an only child, that connection meant a lot to Aubree. In Debbie, she found someone she could be fully herself around, and that made everything else feel easier to navigate.

Aubree is direct and honest, and while most people would consider that a challenge, Debbie embraced it. She saw it as Aubree’s strength and encouraged her to keep speaking up, setting boundaries, and growing into that confidence. At the same time, Aubree learned a lot from Debbie: her professionalism, her work ethic, and how much she genuinely cared about what she was doing. Whether they were in the office, out doing habitat assessments as dive partners, or facilitating together, it felt like constant learning, both personally and professionally.

Their relationship extended beyond the workplace. They spent time together, traveled, and even welcomed Aubree’s family when they visited. She also built strong connections with others in the office, who made her feel comfortable and supported from early on. It became a space where she felt like she belonged, not just worked.

For Aubree, what really defines her service isn’t just the projects or the day-to-day tasks, it’s the people. Those relationships made a huge difference in her experience, giving her a sense of support and confidence. Because of that, she didn’t feel like she was going through service alone. Instead, she felt encouraged to grow, contribute, and fully lean into the experience.



## Danielle A.

*“The work isn’t the only reason I’m here. It’s also the relationships, the cultural learning, and the language. Those have been the most fruitful and meaningful part of my experience.”*

Danielle served in an LGU in Cebu, where a significant amount of her work focused on supporting community programs and building relationships across different partners. From early on, she found herself stepping into spaces where flexibility mattered, working with local staff, youth, and community members to figure out what support looked like day-to-day.



A big part of Danielle’s service has been learning how to adapt. Plans and schedules change, and not everything went as expected, but she leaned into that and found ways to stay consistent and present. Whether through helping facilitate sessions, supporting activities, or just showing up in community events, she built trust by being reliable and open to wherever she’s needed.

Danielle also placed great value on making connections. She took time to build deeper relationships by getting to know the individuals she worked with and creating a space where collaboration feels natural. That has made it easier to work together, share ideas, and support each other through challenges.



# COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



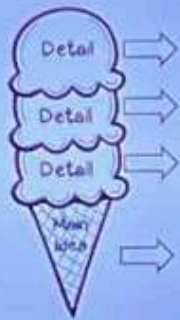
# COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



What do you  
hope to grow in  
during...

• 2 weeks

Activity 5: Identify  
the Main Idea and  
Decode the Details





## Education

*Education Volunteers work in public elementary and high schools to support students in improving their English communication skills to access academic and/or professional opportunities. They co-plan and co-teach with Filipino teachers and conduct remedial reading and tutorial sessions for students. Volunteers also carry out secondary projects such as library development, teacher training, environmental education, and sports/recreational activities.*

*LEFT: Volunteer Max R. teaching English to Grade 8 students attending her remedial reading camp.*

### Ashlin K.

*“Two years in the Philippines gave me a community that shaped me and friendships that will stay with me for life.”*



Ashlin partnered with the Youth for Environment in Schools Organization (YES-O) and developed the project Plastic Reimagined: Brick to Benches. They launched the project with capacity-building sessions on trash segregation. Each class in their school competed to turn in the most ecobricks (1.5 L bottles packed with single-use plastics). The school community has expressed the need for recreational areas, so the Brick to Benches project created a pocket garden featuring benches out of ecobricks.

The project took an unexpected turn last October as Typhoon Kristine hit the community. All the ecobricks

were carried away with the flood. Ashlin had little hope of returning to this project as there were other priorities. However, over the course of a few weeks, Ashlin noticed more and more ecobricks showing up in the science lab. The students were taking the initiative on their own. Seeing all the efforts of the students, the project committee was motivated to relaunch the project.

After the relaunch, the community was able to collect over 700 ecobricks. Ashlin mentored the YES-O officers on project design and presentation in order to apply for grants and present the project to parents, local government representatives, and school staff. In cooperation with over 90 community volunteers, they were able to build four benches.

With the support of the Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development (PCAFPD), Ashlin and her community were able to build the capacity of their students, creating a more vibrant campus, and became stewards of taking care of their school environment. Together, they learned the power of collective intentionality, community-based goals, and the importance of addressing environmental impacts and stressors using localized resources and methods.



### Maxine

*“As a Volunteer, the work I do contributes to a cause larger than myself. I wouldn’t be successful without the many meaningful relationships that have shaped how I contribute to that cause today.”*

Maxine together with her work partners co-developed, co-planned, and co-implemented the project, “Building Achievement and New Skills (BAANS) Remedial Reading Camp” during the summer of 2025. BAANS is a community-driven remedial reading program for the students.



The Remedial Reading Summer Camp provided interested Grade 8 students the opportunity to hone and strengthen their English reading comprehension and literacy skills by participating in various learning activities, interactive lessons, and reading practice at school. Their two-week learning camp held half-day sessions in school focusing on the targeted literacy skills of the students. In preparation for this camp, Maxine and her work partners spent a week co-planning and organizing the summer camp program. Her counterparts—who volunteered their own vacation time to help—were especially effective in eliciting interest and participation by contacting students, parents, and guardians. Meanwhile, Maxine took the lead on researching and creating English language reading activities.

By working together, they successfully coordinated, planned, and facilitated a meaningful remedial reading camp for their students before the official start of the school year. This secondary project was implemented with zero funding, but with the kindness and generosity of the community members and the support of Maxine.



# EDUCATION



# EDUCATION







RESPONSE

# Peace Corps Response

*Response Volunteers have higher technical expertise and work in more specialized, short-term assignments requested by partner organizations to help increase and sustain organizational competency with diverse capacity-building activities.*

*LEFT: Response Volunteer Piotr B. helping distribute food aid packages following a natural disaster.*

## Julian

***“[What defines my service:] the desire, dedication, and commitment of assimilating into a new culture with the intent of both positively influencing the host agency and being positively influenced by said community.”***

During a seven-month assignment with the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO), Julian helped turn a simple idea into something the city still uses today to keep communities safer.

Working closely with different DRRMO teams, Julian reviewed over 30 barangay disaster preparedness plans and noticed a gap: many early warning systems relied on technology that not everyone could access. From that, he worked with city partners to create a Flag Early Warning System (EWS), inspired by Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) typhoon signals. The idea was simple: color-coded flags that give real-time storm warnings without needing electricity or internet.

The system was especially designed for people who might otherwise be left out, particularly those without access to phones or those who are deaf or hard of hearing. It works alongside existing systems like public announcements and river monitoring, offering a clear, visible signal when other systems might fail, especially during power outages or severe weather.

What started as a pilot in five barangays didn't stay small for long. The city saw its value and continued expanding it even after Julian's service ended. Now, it's part of trainings and disaster preparedness efforts across communities, and it's actively used during storms.

For Julian, the project is less about the idea itself and more about what came out of it. It showed what can happen when communities take ownership and keep things going. Seeing it continue to grow after he left was a reminder that impact isn't just about being there, it's about building something sustainable.



### Ashlyn L.

***“Working with the local government taught me how Filipino culture is deeply rooted in relationship-building, and this sometimes challenged my American perspective on what defines success.”***



During her service as a wastewater management specialist in the province of Capiz, Ashlyn came in ready to dig into data, looking at water quality and financial records to figure out ways to improve wastewater systems. But instead of jumping straight into analysis, Ashlyn found herself moving through a much slower, more relationship-driven process. Getting the information she needed meant talking to different offices, meeting new people, and building connections first. What felt like a delay at the beginning ended up changing how Ashlyn approached her work.

Once she had gathered and organized all the information, Ashlyn presented her findings, expecting a lot of discussion. Instead, she was met with blank stares. It was a turning point; she realized that while the data made sense to her, it didn't mean much to the people in the room. They didn't know her yet, and the numbers didn't feel connected to their day-to-day work.

So Ashlyn adjusted her approach. Instead of big presentations, she started having smaller, more casual conversations. She spent time getting to know people, hearing their perspectives, and understanding how things actually worked on the ground. Through that, she realized the issue wasn't just technical, both the LGU and the Water District wanted the same thing, but they didn't really have a strong way to communicate or work together.

Ashlyn naturally stepped into that middle space, helping bring the two groups together. What started off a bit hesitant slowly turned into real collaboration. By the end of her service, they had drafted a wastewater management ordinance. For Ashlyn, the biggest takeaway wasn't just the outcome, it was realizing that getting things done doesn't follow one path, and that sometimes the most important work is building the relationships that make everything else possible.

### Bono

***“Service to me means using my skills and experiences to inspire others, to strengthen their capacity, and to support them as they develop the skills, confidence, and vision needed to address the challenges their communities face.”***



Bono brought a mix of experience and real-world perspective into her work with students, helping them build confidence and think bigger about what they could do in their communities. With a background as a health Volunteer in Botswana and experience as an editor for an environmental health journal in the U.S., she led hands-on workshops on research writing and publication, breaking things down in a way that felt practical and actually useful for students.

However, much of the impact she made came outside of those formal sessions. Bono spent a lot of one-on-one time with students, getting to know their interests, answering their questions, and helping them think through their goals. Those conversations became spaces where students felt encouraged to be curious, ask deeper questions, and take their ideas seriously.

Over time, that support made a difference as students started gaining more confidence in their work, feeling more sure of their direction, and taking steps toward opportunities they might not have considered before. Bono made it a point to validate their ideas and remind them that their voices and choices mattered.

For Bono, service wasn't just about teaching skills; it was about sharing what she knew in a way that helped others grow. Through both workshops and everyday conversations, she built connections that left a lasting impact on her students and the community.



# PEACE CORPS RESPONSE







## Staff

*Peace Corps/Philippines staff are a huge part of what makes Volunteer service possible. From training and program support to safety, logistics, and partnerships, they're the ones helping things run smoothly behind the scenes and on the ground. They're often the first people Volunteers meet and the ones they turn to throughout their service.*

*Staff work closely with Volunteers, host families, and local partners to build strong relationships and make sure everyone feels supported. Their local knowledge, guidance, and steady presence help create the kind of environment where Volunteers can learn, adapt, and do meaningful work alongside their communities.*

*LEFT: Peace Corps/Philippines and Pre-Service Training staff celebrating in preparation of the arrival of Batch 282.*

## Honoring 20 Years of Service



**Peace Corps/Philippines' 20-year honorees with U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines MaryKay Carlson.** Pictured from left: Anya Mayor (Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation Specialist), Bonifacio "Boni" Bucol (Training Manager), Bernadette Dayrit (Maintenance and Custodial Support Staff), and Sheila Chan (Resource Coordinator).

In 2025, four Peace Corps/Philippines staff received the U.S. Embassy's Length of Service Award in recognition of 20 years of committed service. Anya Mayor, Bernadette "Bernie" Dayrit, Bonifacio "Boni" Bucol, and Sheila Chan have been an asset to the post for two decades—showing up, day after day, for the Volunteers and communities who are at the heart of the Peace Corps mission. To mark this milestone, we sat down with three of them to hear what has kept them grounded, motivated, and connected to the work after all these years. (Our fourth awardee, Training Manager Boni, is featured separately on page 37.)

Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation Specialist Anya Mayor didn't originally start out in the role she holds today. She began her Peace Corps journey as a Program and Training Resource Assistant, later becoming a Program Assistant for Education, and eventually finding her home in MRE work—a journey that, in many ways, mirrors the quiet, steady nature of the work itself.

What keeps her going? It's the stories. Capturing and documenting data on Volunteers' work, community successes, and relationships built along the way is what inspires her most. For Anya, the numbers only matter because of the people behind them. "Behind every statistic are stories of Volunteers and communities working together as they respond to local needs and pursue shared goals," she shared. "Knowing that my work contributes to highlighting these stories gives me purpose for the work that I do and inspire me to continue."



Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation Specialist Anya Mayor (left) guides a Volunteer through navigating the Volunteer Reporting and Grants (VRG), a web-based monitoring and evaluation system used by Peace Corps Volunteers.

## STAFF

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Resource Coordinator Sheila Chan gives an overview of the Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP) during Batch 280's pre-service training.

If you've ever needed guidance or simply someone to help you think through a problem, chances are Sheila Chan has been that person for you. Many would agree that her patience, calm presence, and willingness to guide others and extend a helping hand have made her a natural fit for her role.

As Resource Coordinator, Sheila helps community-driven projects move from ideas into action through the Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP). She mentors the grants committee

members, walks Volunteers through the often unfamiliar process of developing proposals, and patiently guides them through every stage of project management. When asked about her motivation for work, Sheila shares, "This is my pride and joy—to have an opportunity to be involved in community development. I would not be here this long if I did not find meaning and purpose in what I do."

Ask anyone at the office about Bernie, and you'll likely hear the same thing: she takes care of people. As Maintenance and Custodial Support Staff, Bernadette "Bernie" Dayrit has spent 20 years caring for all the Peace Corps/Philippines staff. Whether it's by doing her daily administrative tasks, preparing food for office gatherings, or checking in on staff, Bernie brings a quiet warmth into the office through gestures that are small in effort but never small in meaning or impact.

That same care extends to her life outside the office. Having lost her parents at a young age, Bernie understands what it means to desperately need someone to lean on. "I know how it feels like to not have someone to rely on, so I want to be that person for [my family]," she shared, speaking about the nephew and adopted son she continues to support through school. Her motivation, it turns out, has always been the same: to be there for the people who need her.



Bernie shares a big smile during the despedida celebration for Peace Corps Volunteer Leaders, one of the many office events she helps bring to life.

"*Still the toughest job you'll ever love*" is a slogan that has long been associated with Peace Corps Volunteers and their work with communities. But after hearing from Anya, Sheila, and Bernie, it's hard not to feel that the staff who work behind the scenes to support Volunteers have earned that phrase too. Twenty years of service—through changing leadership, evolving programs, and the ordinary and extraordinary demands of the work—takes the same spirit that the Peace Corps has always stood for: genuine care for people, deep commitment to community, and the quiet conviction that the work, however challenging, is worth every bit of it.

# Training Manager Bonifacio “Boni” B.

*“When I see Volunteers inspire a Filipino child to dream bigger, motivate fisherfolk to protect our seas, or shape a young Pinoy leader’s future—I know I played an important role in supporting that journey.”*



For Training Manager (TM) Boni, service with Peace Corps/Philippines is deeply personal. Growing up in the Philippines with limited resources, he’s always seen his work as a way to give back to the community that shaped him. His early encounters with Peace Corps Volunteers and seeing how they connected with people in the community left a lasting impression on him—one that eventually led into his own long-term commitment to service.

For more than 20 years, TM Boni has been working with Volunteers as they first arrive in-country, helping them prepare for service and integration through training, cultural orientation, and the early stages of settling into their communities. He works closely with host families and local partners, helping the Programming Team in finding successful placements for Volunteers. Being part of that process year after year is something he really values.

What keeps TM Boni motivated is seeing the changes that happen over time. He watches Volunteers come in unsure, then slowly grow more confident as they learn the language, adapt to daily life, and build meaningful relationships with their communities. Those moments, where things start to click, are what stand out the most to him.

TM Boni is also continually learning. Through opportunities to visit the U.S. and engaging with different cultures, he’s been able to reflect on his own perspectives and bring that back into his work. It reminds him that cultural exchange always goes both ways.

What drives TM Boni’s service is simple: people. The connection, growth, sharing of experiences, and learning from one another. That’s what has made 20 years of service worth every moment.

# STAFF







## Volunteer Leaders and Committees

*Peace Corps Volunteer Leaders and committees play a significant role in shaping the Peace Corps/Philippines experience from within. Made up of dedicated Volunteers, these groups create spaces for connection, support, and collaboration through peer mentorship, events, and helping bring Volunteer voices into conversations with staff.*

*At the end of the day, it's about Volunteers supporting Volunteers. These leadership roles and committees help build a stronger community and make sure people feel heard and connected throughout their service.*

*LEFT: Peace Corps Volunteer Leader Joshua and CYF Program Manager Ambet collaborate during a workshop.*

# VOLUNTEER LEADERS AND COMMITTEES

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## Peace Corps Volunteer Leaders



Peace Corps Volunteer Leaders (PCVLs) are experienced Volunteers who extend their service to provide leadership and support to other Volunteers and staff. The PCVLs in the Philippines report to the country office in Manila to assist with training design, facilitation, and site development.

To assist with trainings this year, the PCVLs lived alongside the newest batch of Peace Corps Trainees as training co-facilitators throughout their entire Pre-Service Training. They also assisted various Volunteer trainings and conferences for three different batches.

Beyond training, PCVLs also facilitated discussions for thousands of students and faculty at different universities on building communities through volunteerism and peace building. They then represented Peace Corps/Philippines at PNVSCA events to promote international volunteerism.

For site development, the PCVLs traveled across Luzon and the Visayas to help prepare Host Country Agencies and Host Families for both two-year Volunteers and Response Volunteers.

They also took on additional responsibilities, including creating and managing social media content for Peace Corps/Philippines, spearheading policy development that will eventually allow Volunteers to safely obtain scuba certification in the Philippines, developing supplemental materials for trainings and processes, and leading the creation of the 2025 Annual Report.

The PCVLs are grateful to the leadership, staff, and the Volunteer community for trusting and empowering them in their efforts to support Peace Corps/Philippines.

**Batch 279:** Alex, Anne, and Josh

## LEADERSHIP AND COMMITTEES

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### Grants Committee



The Grants Committee is responsible for reviewing monthly small grants submission to align with development goals of Peace Corps.

(from left) **Batch 279:** Christopher, Courtney, and Grayson; **Batch 280:** David, Edward, Melissa, and Rohith; **Batch 281:** Brianna, Erika, Sage, and Sunghee; **Batch 282:** Cecilia, Dan, and Jade; **PCR B54:** Bridget

### Komite sa Pagpapabuti ng Serbisyo



Komite sa Pagpapabuti ng Serbisyo (KPS) bridges Volunteers and staff by sharing PCV concerns with staff and communicating staff perspectives back to the Volunteers.

**Batch 279:** Alex, Ashton, Colleen, Joe, Josh, and Samantha; **Batch 280:** Ashlin, Aubree, Claudine, Chloe, Finn, Lauren, and Vish; **Batch 281:** Alannah, Cherry, Chandler, Grace, Isaac, Kata, Max, Sage Simonne, and Viviana; **PCR B54:** Julian

### Wardens

Wardens serve as key liaisons between Volunteers and the Safety and Security team, helping relay important information and support efforts promoting Volunteer safety across their regions.

**Batch 279:** Aida, Anne, Colleen, Grayson, Joe, Niko, Rachel, and Sam; **Batch 280:** Abby, Ashlin, Ben, Chloe, Claudine, Coleen, Danielle, Gerald, Hayley, Madison, Rohith, and Stefan; **Batch 281:** Alannah, Bri, Heriberto, Jessica, Kennedy, Marlon, Opart, and Sarah





## Initiatives and Grants

*Peace Corps/Philippines continues to expand its reach through a range of initiatives that connect people, ideas, and resources across borders. Programs such as the Virtual Service Participant Program, Brand Ambassadors, and the Peace Corps Partnership Program create new ways for individuals and communities to engage with Peace Corps beyond traditional service.*

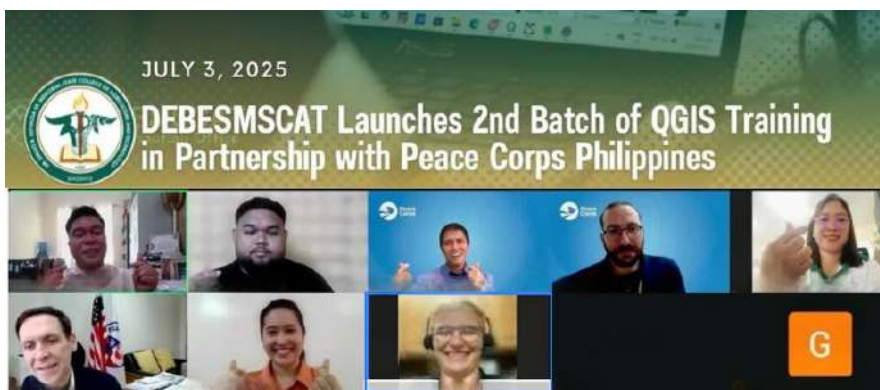
*These initiatives are rooted in collaboration and shared purpose, whether through virtual knowledge exchange, storytelling and outreach, or community-driven project support. Together, they strengthen connections between Volunteers, partners, and supporters, helping amplify impact and sustain meaningful, community-centered development.*

*LEFT: Volunteer Chris P. showcasing his completed PCPP grant project, "NurseRead," a space where students can read, discover science, and learn through gardening.*

## Virtual Service Pilot Program

*“The successful engagements of our VSP Participants in 2025 demonstrates the program’s value, allowing us to reach partners in areas where Volunteer placements are restricted. Our partners share a common appreciation of VSP Participants’ contributions in sustainable capacity development and their commitment beyond their official engagements.”*

**-Milo C.**



The Virtual Service Pilot (VSP) program is an innovative service model launched in 2020 to expand opportunities for Peace Corps engagement through online collaboration. VSP Participants are private American citizens who lend between 5 to 15 hours per week,

both synchronously and asynchronously, during virtual assignments that typically last six months. These remote engagements allow Participants to share their skills with partner organizations regardless of geography.

The VSP also enables Peace Corps to work with partners located in areas restricted for in-person Volunteer placements due to safety and security considerations. For 2025, three VSP Participants were matched with organizations in the provinces of Kalinga, Masbate, and Misamis Occidental.

**VSP Participants:** Anne, Carl, and Helena



# Peace Corps Volunteer Brand Ambassadors



Peace Corps Volunteer Brand Ambassadors serve as storytellers and connectors, helping share the mission and impact of Peace Corps/Philippines with broader audiences. They highlight Volunteer experiences, showcase community partnerships, and amplify stories that reflect service, cultural exchange, and collaboration across the country. Through written features, social media content, photography, and public engagement, they help ensure that the voices of Volunteers and host communities are thoughtfully and accurately represented.

In this role, Brand Ambassadors also support outreach and visibility efforts by contributing to campaigns, events, and communications initiatives. By capturing the everyday moments and milestones of service, they help strengthen understanding of Peace Corps' work and inspire continued partnership and support for the program.

**Batch 279:** Anne, Colleen, and Grayson; **Batch 280:** Ashlin; **Batch 282:** Lynn



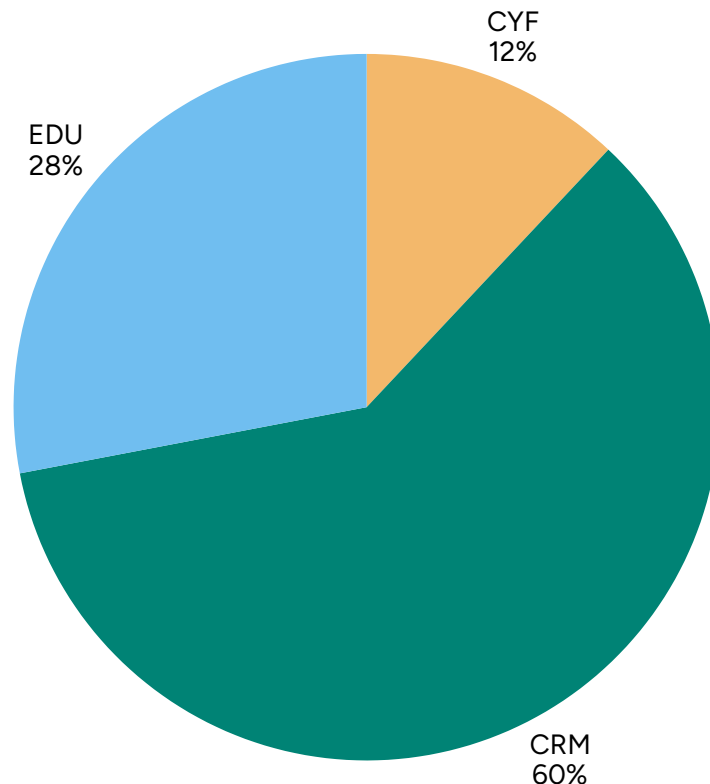
## Peace Corps Partnership Programs

In 2025, 25 Volunteer projects were approved for funding through the Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP). This mechanism allows projects to be posted online for donor support, with a community contribution of 25% of the total cost. The 25 community projects received a combined total of \$201,809.84 (₱10,235,405.93).

Peace Corps Volunteers received \$101,423.66 (₱5,920,323.10) in grant funds, while host agencies contributed 42% of total project costs at \$100,386.18 (₱4,315,082.83). On average, each Volunteer project received \$4,056.93 (₱236,812.92) in donor funding, with host agencies providing an average contribution of \$4,015.45 (₱234,494.28).

Of the 25 projects:

- Fifteen (15) CRM projects focused on habitat assessments, coastal resource management planning, marine protected area management, and bantay dagat (marine patrol) activities.
- Three (3) CYF projects centered on leadership engagements and youth camps.
- Seven (7) EDU projects supported library development, college preparation trainings, and sustainable livelihood initiatives.



**Total: \$101,423.66**

# INITIATIVES AND GRANTS







## Partnerships

*Peace Corps/Philippines continually seeks to build and strengthen relationships with government partners, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and civil society. Peace Corps' approach to partnership is grounded in mutual respect and collaboration and is a catalyst for lasting community-driven, community-centric development.*



*LEFT: Peace Corps/Philippines Country Director Marguerite Roy poses for a photo with DepEd Pangasinan Assistant Regional Director Rhoda T. Razon during a series of visits to Volunteer sites.*

# Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency



The Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) is the government agency mandated to promote and coordinate volunteer programs and services in the Philippines, including Peace Corps/Philippines. PNVSCA is an attached agency of the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DepDev) formerly known as National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). Working closely with the Peace Corps, PNVSCA helps identify suitable Volunteer placement sites by integrating site-selection into broader regional development priorities.

# Republic of the Philippines Department of Education



The Republic of the Philippines Department of Education (DepEd) oversees the country's elementary and secondary education system, including the Alternative Learning System (ALS), where some Education Volunteers are assigned. In 2025, Peace Corps renewed its five-year memorandum of understanding with DepEd and the PNVSCA, outlining shared roles and responsibilities in implementing and supporting EDU programs across all levels of DepEd governance. This agreement ensures the continued placement of EDU Volunteers in priority public schools. Placements in private institutions and State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) are formalized through separate two-year agreements with each institution.

## PARTNERSHIPS

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# Republic of the Philippines Department of Social Welfare and Development



The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is the executive department of the Philippine government responsible for the protection of the social welfare of Filipinos and to promote social development. It oversees regional field offices, licensed welfare agencies, and shelters that host Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) Peace Corps Volunteers. DSWD collaborates with Peace Corps/Philippines to design, implement, and review CYF projects while connecting Volunteers with local offices and partner organizations.

## RARE

Rare is an international non-governmental organization that partners with coastal communities and governments to strengthen fisheries management and local leadership. Their work centers on the nearshore waters where millions depend on healthy fisheries for food, livelihoods, and cultural identity. In the Philippines, Rare provides technical assistance during Peace Corps Volunteers' pre-service training, delivering lectures and workshops on coastal resource management, fisheries management, and related best practices that support Volunteers working in coastal communities.

# Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development

Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development (PCAFPD) is the official Returned Peace Corps Volunteer group for the Philippines and an affiliate of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). Founded in 1983 by returned Volunteers and staff, the foundation supports human development through scholarships for young Filipinos who lack the financial resources to pursue a university degree and by funding community grants in areas where Peace Corps Volunteers serve.

## 2025 Annual Report Team



*This report was shaped by the stories, partnerships, and everyday moments that define service. As a team, we had the privilege of listening and helping bring these experiences to life. We share this with deep gratitude for the communities, staff and Peace Corps Volunteers who continue to inspire the work.*

***From the 2025 Annual Report Team***

*Anya M., Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation Specialist*

*Sheila C., Resource Coordinator*

*Anne Nicole T., Peace Corps Volunteer Leader*





**Peace  
Corps**  
PHILIPPINES

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