



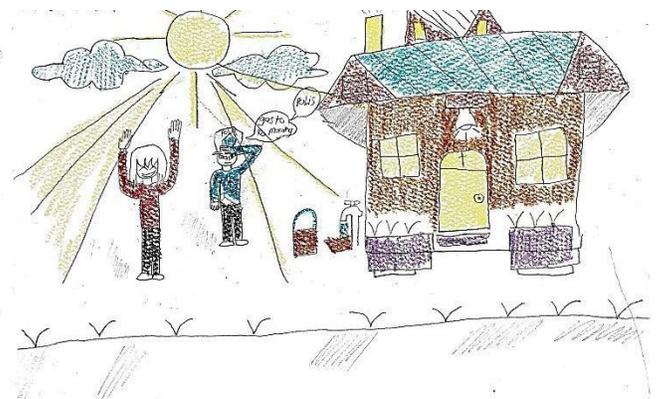
“Wala kasi kaming ilaw sa bahay,” Toto said. We don’t have electricity in the house. He is 11 years old and is in grade 5. He draws how he sees his current situation. There are six of them in the family. They live in an informal settlement, near the creek. Their community is one of the beneficiaries of the activity center provided by Cebu City Task Force on Street Children. Aside from teaching them values formation lessons, they are also provided hot meals.

and has lots of garbage which were thrown by the community because of the lack of access to proper disposal of garbage.

Their house does not have electricity, and they do not have access to water, which they have to buy. The creek surrounding them stinks of smell

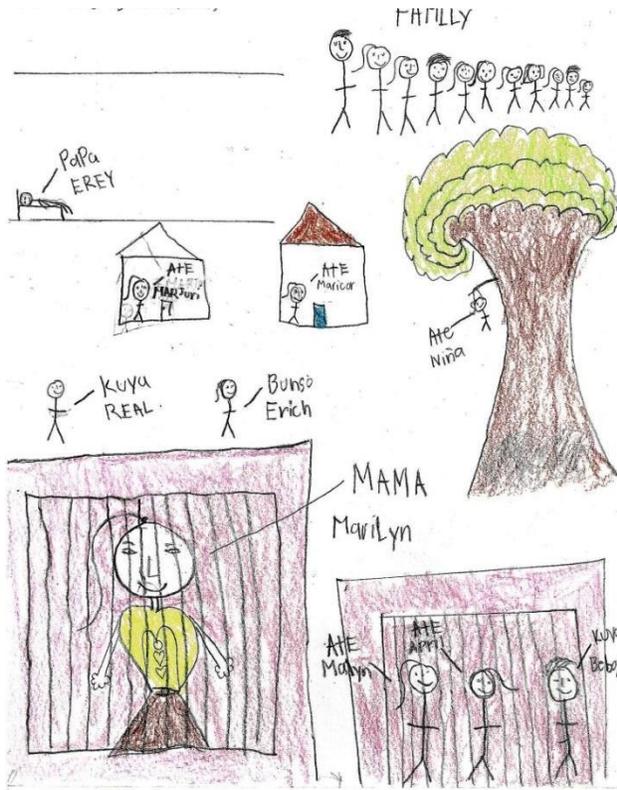
His mother works as a community welfare assistant, a livelihood training program provided by the Cebu City government. His father works as a labourer where his skills are needed. Because his parents did not have a regular job, he used to beg for money in the street to help his family. He went alone because he did not want his parents to know about his doing. One time, he witnessed violence: two people were fighting. They were trying to stab each other with a knife. He froze for a moment and hid somewhere he could not be found. He does not want to go back to the street in fear that he will be involved in such violence.

He wants to become a policeman one day to catch people who are doing bad things. There are “drug lords” who are living in their place, making their community not safe, he says.



The reasons that he is not able to attend school are if his parents are not able to provide him his allowance. But he believes education, with the help of God, is going to be instrumental in the realization of his dreams.

He believes that when he becomes a policeman, he will be able to help his mother and alleviate their status in the society. Eventually, he will build a house that has electricity and water supply and is no longer in the informal settlement.



Shiela is 11 years old and comes from a family composed of 11. She is currently a grade 6 student. Four members of her family are in jail: Kuya Bebo, Ate April, Ate Malin and her mother. She does not know the reason why they are in jail. Her father stays in bed at home most of the time because of leg pain he has been suffering for months. From time to time, he beats Shiela.

“Must because of his condition,” she says, explaining why he beats her oftentimes.

Two of her sisters have already their own families. They bring her food if they visit her. Currently, she is staying with her uncle and takes care of their *bunso*, the youngest in the family.

She stays at Senior Citizen Park to spend time with her friends and works as a parking assistant. When she is free, she goes to the internet shop to watch videos on Youtube. “Kiningkoy,” she exclaims. Cartoons. She also has a Facebook account, in which she chats with

random foreigners.

Her mother will be out in December, she was told. “What month is it now?” she asked. She misses her mother who has been in jail for years. She visits her, bringing food she buys from working as a parking assistant.

She studies hard because she wants to have a good future. The reasons why she can’t go to school include: not having money or allowance and school supplies. That is why sometimes she is late in attending school because she goes to the park to get some money.

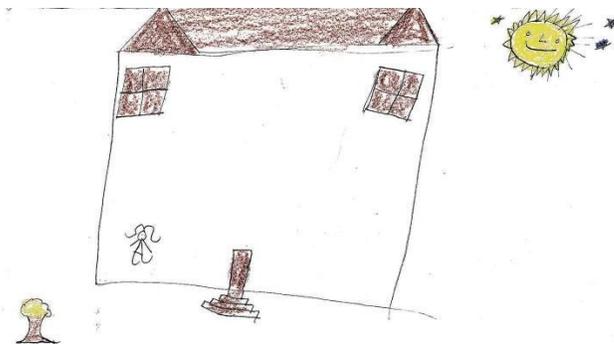
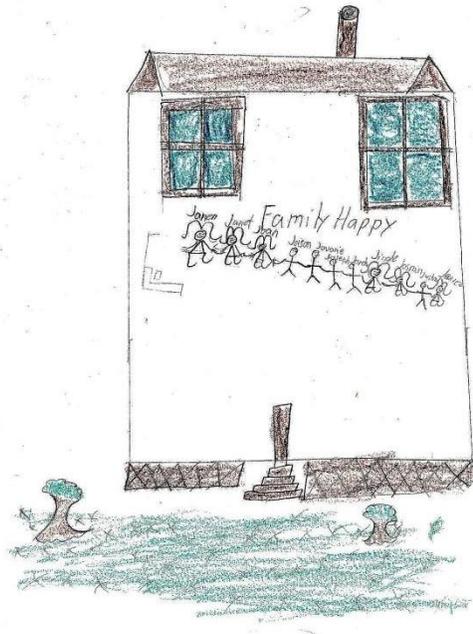
In the future, she wants to be a nurse to take care of her father who always complains about his leg pain. If she builds a hospital, she will also attend the needs of those people who are in need of medical attention but cannot afford to go to hospitals.



Nene is 11 years old and is in grade 6. There are 13 of them in the family. Two of her siblings graduated from high school and are currently working. Their house is located in an informal settlement, near the river in Senior Citizen Park, Cebu City. Because their house is too small to accommodate the 13 of them, some of her siblings sleep in places she doesn't know where. Her father beats her, which happens often when he gets drunk.

In the street, near their house, she earns money from working as a "parking assistant". It is also the place where she gets to play with her friends who also work as a parking assistant. In their spare time, they sing together.

She says she does not like policemen because they are bad people. Her sister's phone was taken by the police and never returned to her. She goes home when it is already dark. The climate of *tokhang* can be felt in their community. One reason why she does not like to go home is the fear of raid. Sometimes policemen are asking her if she knows people who are into drugs.



projects for the poor.

Though it is not clear what career she wants to have in the future, she wants to build a house big enough to accommodate her family in the house. The house should be big enough so that her siblings can live with them and will finally be together. At first, she says she wants to become the mayor of Cebu City but changes her answer to become the country's president: to scold bad cops and build housing



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“Mahirap ang buhay,” LEA said. *Life is hard. She is 11 year-old and is in grade 6. She describes their current situation. In her spare time, she goes to her neighbours to do laundry.*

She wants to help her mother who works as a Community Welfare Assistant, a livelihood program provided by Cebu City Task Force on Street Children to the parents and caregivers of street children. Her father works as a labourer in the city from where they live. He goes home during the weekend. If he does not earn enough money to go home,

stays the weekend at his workplace.

“Makaeskwela para makatabang sa pamilya,” she said to realize her dreams. *Finish education to help my family. Sometimes, she buys food for her brother and keeps it as a school allowance the money she earns from doing laundry.*

Very shy and soft-spoken, she wants to become a nurse and build a hospital. She wants to help people who cannot afford to go to the hospital for a medical check-up.

People in their community are like that. “Nagka-dengue siya,” she recalled. *He (her brother) suffered from dengue fever. Her brother was never brought to the hospital because of poverty. The barangay does not offer them medicine because they are not close to the barangay officials. When her dreams turn into reality, she will help not only her family but also other people.*

