

Our Voices, Their Future

“Salamat, Ates and Kuyas. Thank you, Corpus Christi School.” (*Thank you, older sisters and brothers. Thank you, Corpus Christi School.*) simple yet it holds a lasting memory that feels genuine. Last December 12, 2025, our school organized an outreach program for children in a rural area. At first I was nervous because I didn’t know what to expect or how the children would react to us because for them we are a total stranger. But when we arrived at the venue, I saw kids running around with bright smiles, waving at us, and playing on dusty streets despite their simple surroundings. Their laughter was contagious, yet I also noticed the challenges they faced—limited resources and classrooms with barely enough materials. It made me realize how important our visit even if it’s simple.

Each group was assigned with a specific students, which is our major goal is to bring happiness for the upcoming holidays and share the blessings that God has given to us. Before going, I prepared a small gift—a reading material, stickers, crayons and other school supplies. And we also brought food for them, including the ultimate favorite, Jollibee. When my group and I handed the food to the children, one boy looked at me and said, “Wow, lami kaayo, Ate! First time nako naka-tilaw ani!” in Bisaya (*Wow, this is so delicious, Ate! It’s my first time tasting this!*). That moment made me reflect on how privileged I am to have decent meals at home and tried some fast food restaurants in our city. It reminded me that even small gestures can create lasting happiness.

After giving the food, I handed out the gifts. The children came to me, hugged me tightly, and said, “Thank you, Ate Mar!” Their joy was simple but genuine. In that moment, I realized that happiness does not always come from grand gestures—it comes from attention, care, and the willingness to make someone feel seen. Small actions can plant seeds of hope in a child’s life, inspiring them to dream and believe in a better tomorrow.

The experience also made me reflect on the theme “Voices of Today, Vision of Tomorrow.” Our generation has the energy, creativity, and compassion to make a difference in our society. Every small action we take, every word of encouragement we speak, carries the potential to shape the future. By using our voices and action, we can inspire positive change.

As I left the community that day, I felt humbled, inspired and grateful. The children’s laughter, their smiles, and their heartfelt “thank you” reminded me that the future is not something we passively wait for—it is something we build. Our voices today, paired with action, can create hope, opportunity, and joy for the next generation. Even small act of kindness can echo far into tomorrow. Let us remember that change start with a small action, and that small action can inspire a ripple of positivity that touches countless lives.