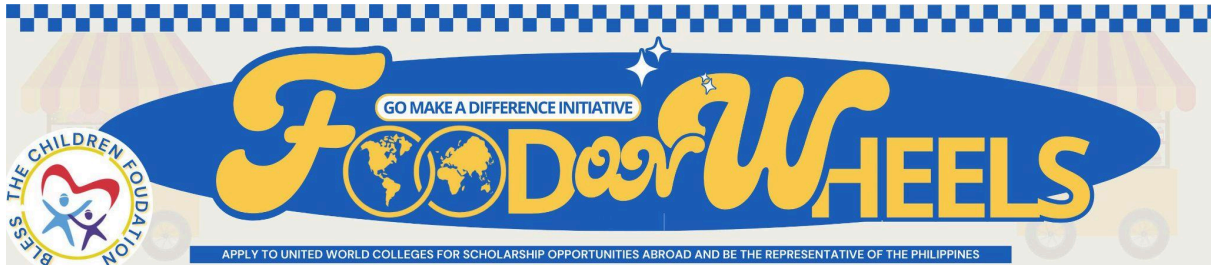


# FOOD ON WHEELS PROJECT REPORT

Summer 2024 | GoMakeADifference



**In Tondo, Manila, Philippines**  
Implemented by Lhana Cruz and Keziah Bayson

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Food on Wheels is on a mission to increase access to safe and nutritious food in impoverished neighborhoods of Tondo in Manila, Philippines. Embracing the popularity of mobile street food in Asian culture, we plan to purchase and revamp secondhand food carts. Our goal is to donate these to benefactors who provide food to people in need. Five refurbished mobile hubs will be donated to NGOs running feeding and livelihood programs in the local slums. We will collaborate with Bless the Children Foundation to tackle undernutrition and food insecurity experienced by 25,000 residents in extreme poverty. To further the UWC cause and raise awareness, as the area lacks access to quality educational opportunities, we will showcase UWC on the food carts in partnership with 2recall Design. Instead of worrying about what to eat, the people of Tondo can focus on improving their lives and breaking free from the slums.

## **WHAT OUR PROJECT ACHIEVED**

The Food on Wheels project was able to provide five refurbished, flood-resistant food carts to underserved communities in Tondo, Manila. In partnership with Bless the Children Foundation (BCFI), these food carts were designed to distribute daily meals and promote the educational opportunities of UWC. Through expanding the NGO's feeding programs, we reached more children and high-need areas that are considered food insecure.

Throughout the project, we ensured consistent meal distribution while creating sustained employment opportunities for community members who manage the carts, helping them to have a stable livelihood. Each cart also promotes the United World College movement, allowing marginalized people to see the potential educational opportunities that are available to them.

Also, we focused on creating long-term sustainability through forming partnerships with BCFI. This collaboration with an NGO ensures the project's continuation and potential growth even after our initial involvement. We believe that this partnership is crucial to the long-term success of the initiative.

In the future, we would concentrate on strengthening these partnerships for sustained impact and refining budget management to accommodate unforeseen challenges. Ultimately, this initiative combined practical solutions to hunger with long-term empowerment, making a lasting difference in the lives of the people in Tondo by offering opportunity and a path toward self-sufficiency.

## **HOW WE MADE A DIFFERENCE**

We made a difference by immersing ourselves in the community and understanding the struggles people in Tondo face daily. Through the Food on Wheels project, we provided a practical solution to food insecurity through refurbished food carts, but more importantly, we contributed a sense of hope and empowerment within the community. Seeing the gratitude and relief of those we helped reaffirmed that our efforts had a real impact on their lives.

## **WHAT WE ACHIEVED**

The project began on 12 March 2024. We contacted the Bless the Children Foundation, an NGO implementing health and wellness programs for 530 children in Barangay 105, Tondo, and Barangay 649, Gasangan in Manila. We met with their program director, Quirlyno Sanchez, and discussed our plans to help combat food insecurity in the area.

After signing the collaboration agreement, we worked together to figure out how to meet the NGO's needs and fit them within our budget, timeline, and objectives. Since Tondo is prone to flooding and is located on rough terrains, we worked with a manufacturer to redesign and engineer the secondhand food carts to be flood-resistant and heavy-duty for long-term use. BCFI also requested equipment to ensure

We donated 5 food carts to BCFI, reaching isolated and high-need communities. Each cart came fully equipped with storage, cleaning materials, and kitchen utensils. Each cart also markets the United World College movement, encouraging marginalized youth to apply for a scholarship. These carts distribute meals daily which increased the NGO's reach from 2 locations to \_\_ locations, and from 530 children being fed daily to \_\_. Aside from multiplying the effectiveness of the NGO's work, this also enables us to share the opportunity of UWC to deserving children.

## **WHAT WE ARE PROUD OF**

We are particularly delighted with the fact that we successfully pushed through the project despite facing challenges like a typhoon, ensuring our commitment to the community never stopped despite disruptions. We also made sure the initiative was genuinely impactful through creating real and sustainable benefits rather than helping for the sake of it. In particular, we took the time to understand the specific needs of the Barangays, allowing us to craft our project in a way that is best for them.

## **THE ENDURING SUCCESSES OF THE PROJECT**

- Consistent meal distribution, even in harsh conditions.
- Increased reach and capacity, and the possibility of additional locations (depending on the NGO's resources).
- Sustained employment opportunities for community members manning the cart.
- Promotion of the UWC movement through BCFI.
- Sustainability through NGO partnerships allows the FOW initiative to remain active.

## **HOW THE PROJECT MADE A DIFFERENCE TO THE PEOPLE WE ARE AIMING TO HELP**

The project made a difference by giving the people of Tondo not just access to regular nutritious meals but also fostering a sense of honor in the community, as the project not only addressed hunger but also supported long-term empowerment and self-sufficiency through employment and showcasing education opportunities like UWC.

## **HOW THE PROJECT MADE A DIFFERENCE TO US**

This was our first time implementing a grassroots initiative and we found it truly transformative. Returning to our home country and now having the tangible resources to help our community gave us a deeper connection to the work. Seeing the direct impact of our efforts on the children in need and the relief and gratitude of BCFI employees made the experience fulfilling.

## **WHERE THE MONEY WAS SPENT**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Price Unit</b>	<b>Total Price</b>
Food Carts	5	220	<b>1,100</b>
Cart Materials	5	25	<b>125</b>
Travel to Manufacturer Fee	1	17	<b>17</b>
Bank Transfer Fees	1	77	<b>77</b>
Cart Equipment	1	100	<b>100</b>
Tarpaulin Printing	5	21	<b>105</b>
Casserole Pots	8	30	<b>240</b>
Travel and Shipping Fee (Equipment)	1	10	<b>10</b>
Additional Equipment Requests (Utensils, etc.)	1	50	<b>50</b>
Lamination Fee + Tarpaulin Application	5	10	<b>50</b>
Transportation to Tondo	1	35	<b>35</b>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,909</b>

## **WHAT LESSON WE LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT**

From this project, we learned the importance of being adaptable and working closely with others to address real community needs. In particular, working with BCFI gave us an in-depth understanding of the community and what they actually need within the area which allowed us to adjust to their specific needs that were sustainable and effective, instead of just aiding help without acknowledging the context of a community. Also, the journey of the project showed us that even small, grassroots efforts can make a lasting difference when they are rooted in empathy and collaboration.

## **WHAT WE WOULD DO DIFFERENTLY**

- Prioritization of securing more long-term partnerships for better measurement of the sustainability of the project.
- Better calculation and management of budget to accommodate unforeseen expenses and unexpected challenges.