



*Partnering to Bring
Hope and Change
To Precious Lives
- One By One -*



July 2021 News

BRIGHT LIGHTS 2021-2022 YEAR BEGINS

In midst of an ongoing COVID crisis in the Philippines, the Bright Lights 2021-2022 school year has started. This year there will be 172 students in the Bright Lights program, supported in their education by sponsors, mainly from Australia and the USA.

2021 Enrolments - 172 Students

Bright Lights ALS	Elementary = 05; Secondary = 36	Total = 41
External Students	Elementary & Secondary = 65; Senior Secondary = 24	Total = 89
College		Total = 42



**A big
thank
you**
for all your
support.

Thank you so much for your support in this vital work that is continuing to change lives of young people in poverty. Many of them believed that education was only a dream, but your sponsorship has begun to turn their dream into a reality. Throughout the past 16 months there have been fires, floods, and typhoons, as well as COVID. Our students and their families have been receiving an education, food support with 14 food distributions and many been helped in rebuilding houses, lives and hope.

FLEXIBLE EDUCATION IN A PANDEMIC

Voice of Grace Compassion Ministries oversees has a number of different ways that it delivers hope through education to young people in poverty.

The Bright Lights Learning Center provides catch up education through the Philippines DepEd Alternative Learning System (ALS) for those who have missed vital parts of their education and are now too old to go back to normal schools.

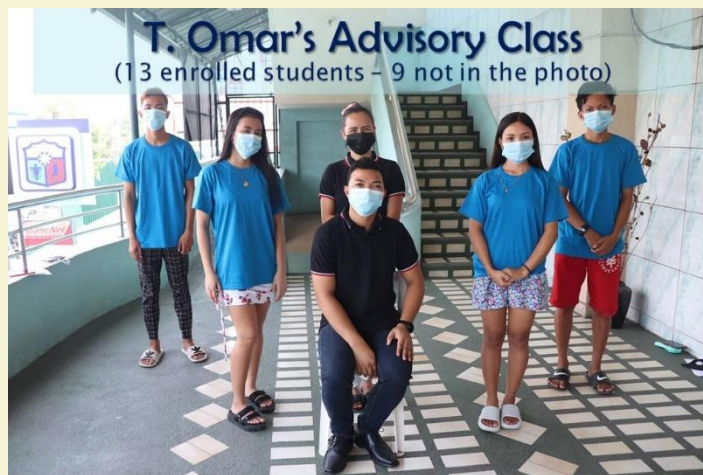
External Students are in two categories. Firstly, there are squatter settlement students who are able to be part of government schools but need help with costs such as uniforms, books and travel. Secondly, there are students who have passed the Bright Lights ALS program and are now eligible for Senior Secondary studies.

College students have completed Senior Secondary or its equivalent and now study at tertiary level. They are enrolled at various Colleges or Universities in the region.

Due to Covid restrictions all of the students in the VOGCM programs are receiving their education in a different way to that which was previously offered.

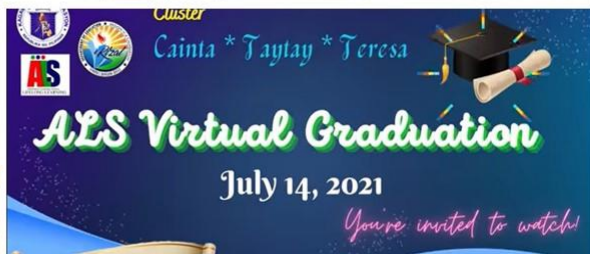
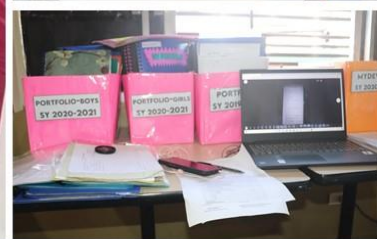
ALS students have modules delivered to their homes. Students are divided into Advisory Groups with each group having a Teacher advisor (*see the photos below*)

Public school students and College students are able to do online learning. The Bright Lights Learning Center's school facility computer lab and laptops are used by students as most of them do not have any access to this type of technology at home. There is a rotating time schedule with small numbers at any one time in order to fulfil social distancing requirements.



2019 -2020 ALS GRADUATION (finally!)

Due to COVID there were no ALS exams in 2020. The DepED decided students could complete graduation requirements by portfolios. This required a huge amount of work at Bright Lights by Principal Cathy Felicilda-Cipriano and her amazing staff. In June 4 Elementary and 24 High School ALS students at Bright Lights passed their portfolios. The Virtual Graduation will take place on July 14th.



48 College Graduates since 2004



At Bright Lights, precious lives were changed.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

In 2003 Bright Lights Learning Center opened its doors to 5 students. Since that time many have been through the ALS, External and College programs.

As of 2021, 48 students who were once trapped in poverty have succeeded in graduating College.

GIVING TO VOGA.

Without tax deductibility:

Account: "Philippines Work Specials" BSB: 064050 A/c No: 10061312

Please note your surname & first initial in the deposit. (SmithJ would be John Smith)

Tax deductibility:

All tax-deductibility giving goes through World Relief Australia. If you have already registered with them, then give to the project 1723 VOGA. If you have not registered with them yet please email our Sponsorship Coordinator, Maria Coman, and she will reply with the details you need.

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Voice of Grace Australia Inc. is a registered Australian Charity fully run by 13 Aussie volunteers

If you require any information, please contact our Sponsorship Coordinator Maria Coman at mariacoman.voga@gmail.com