

A CALL TO MISSION

As Catholics, we are challenged by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching to demonstrate a preferential option for the poor. In response to this principle, one of the calls of the 2000 RSCJ General Chapter was to collaborate in reciprocity with all peoples who share in their life and mission. Consequently, the RSCJ started a formal mission in the poverty stricken region of Catarman in Northern Samar, the Philippines. Rather than establishing a new school, the RSCJ made the decision to live and work within the context of the local community. This has since led to the establishment of Sophie's Farm.

Over the past six years, Sacré Cœur community has taken up this challenge, developing an ongoing sister community relationship with Sophie's Farm. A relationship that is responsive to the Sacred Heart Goals of living a social awareness that impels to action; and a call to educate about, and live out, the responsibilities of being empathic and compassionate members of the global human family.

A REGION IN NEED OF OUR HELP

The Northern Samar region is one of the poorest in the Philippines with 70% per cent of families living in poverty. Half of these families live in absolute poverty, surviving on less than \$1 a day.

Recent official NGO assessments describe the region as:

- Exhibiting an extremely low socio-economic profile;
- Unable to produce enough food and basic living commodities to support its population;
- Highly vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters;
- Heavily reliant upon non-government aid agencies to provide access to education and health services.



SOPHIE'S FARM

For further information on how you can support Sophie's Farm through the initiatives of Sacré Cœur contact:

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Sacré Cœur

*An RSCJ mission supported by the Sacré Cœur
community since 2011*



SOPHIE'S FARM

SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART MISSION

A sister community relationship with Sacré Cœur



ASSIST Sacré Cœur to make a DIFFERENCE

Sacré Cœur's connection with Sophie's Farm began in 2011, when Sr Lydia Collado RSCJ visited Sacred Heart schools around Australia, seeking support for the work of the RSCJ in Northern Samar. This led to the development of a formal sister community relationship with Sacré Cœur.

This sister community relationship seeks to foster stronger connections between the two international Sacred Heart communities and an ongoing partnership characterised by mutual understanding.

Some of the current core programs of this sister community relationship include:

- Shoes for Samar Initiative - where over 600 backpacks filled with shoes, cloths and toys have been provided to date by the Sacré Cœur community to local children living around Sophie's Farm as Christmas gifts;
- Sophie's Farm Immersion Program - where for the past four years recently graduated alumnae have experienced a three week volunteer immersion experience at Sophie Farm;
- Ongoing donation of proceeds from Sacred Heart Mission Fetes to update and repair Sophie's Farm facilities and other vital resources.

SOPHIE'S FARM

What is Sophie's Farm?

Sophie's Farm is situated on 4 hectares of land, of which half is dedicated to organic farming that provides food and work for the local people. There are four major buildings at the Farm, including a convent, an accommodation block and two buildings used to support the Farm's educational, social and cultural programs.

Sophie's Farm offers a multitude of diverse initiatives for the local community including:

- Early Childhood Learning Centre offering free preschool education for more than 80 local children between the ages of 2-4 years;
- Extended food supply programs, with a focus on children and the elderly;
- Typhoon emergency assistance programs;
- Training programs aimed at upskilling the local population to become more self-sufficient such as organic farming, craft skills and cooking.
- Community support groups for locals on the margins of society
- Extensive volunteer programs, offering GAP year opportunities to youth

Sophie's Farm and Sacré Cœur

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