



HOPE STREET ASSOCIATION CYBRARY (CYBER LIBRARY)

MISSION

The Hope Cybrary (Cyber Library) is the link to a past we can no longer see and the bridge to a limitless future, as yet undefined. This Cybrary will represent the most democratic of institutions, established to enlighten deserving children with access to the information they need to create the future of their choice.

The Hope Street Cybrary will provide Library and Cyber Center services in the Olympia Barangay to virtuous, community minded, and underprivileged children, who are filled with the "Power of Hope". This facility will serve to lay the foundation for the 1st Hope Street Corps, breathing new life into the Philippines, while presenting the Filipino people with an opportunity to believe in and contribute to defining their future.

GOALS

- To be a first class library and cyber center for poverty level through middle class children, inspiring them to read, research, and study in an environment of learning.
- To provide our young patrons with a broad selection of high quality, relevant, textbooks, reference materials and librarian services, as well as online access to the best educational sites available.
- To foster a community conscience and virtues by encouraging patrons to provide organized community service to their Barangay; thereby earning the credits to redeem for Cybrary time and facility use.
- Inspired by the philanthropy of Andrew Carnegie, the Hope Cybrary can serve as the stimulus for opening small, Barangay level public libraries and motivating all Filipinos toward increased literacy and personal enlightenment.

Why a Cybrary ?

"You don't have to burn books to destroy a civilization, all you have to do is get people to stop reading them." (Author-Ray Bradbury)

The profound statement above, by Author Bradbury, only tells part of the story. Civilizations are not only destroyed by burning books or having people stop reading them, it also happens when people can't read them or don't have access to that literature or information.

Modern civilization was built upon the foundations of literacy, and as our information-based world and information-based economies evolve and intertwine, literacy among all classes of people becomes more crucial than ever. Nowhere more important than in the Philippines, with its small upper class of well financed, well educated people, a virtually non-existent middle class, and a burgeoning lower class with

little or no prospects for a better life. The first opportunity to expand the Filipino middle class is through literacy and access to information.

In the year 1850, Colonel James Anderson opened a free, 400 book library for children in the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. Every Saturday, an eager, young boy visited the free library with a thirst for knowledge, and a heart filled with dreams and ambitions. In fact, this young boy was so impressed and grateful for that small library, he made a vow to himself that “if ever wealth came to me, it should be used to establish free libraries”. The grateful, young boy was Andrew Carnegie, who grew to be one of the richest men in history. Andrew kept his vow and formed an endowment, granting funds to build 3000 libraries throughout the USA and the world.

Today, the Filipino government, while recognizing the value of literacy and the critical role that public libraries play, has enacted special legislation in an attempt to expand the library system. Sadly, this has not proved to be enough as resources are just not available to add or maintain additional libraries. Unfortunately, many libraries have even closed and in a populous area like Makati, where 15 libraries once stood, are now reduced to one.

Therefore, in countries like the Philippines, it is obvious that the government cannot make it all happen. Here and in similar countries, it is imperative that the private sector takes an active role in coming up with solutions to provide the tools that these children need to improve the foundation on which their future is built. This is where the Cybrary becomes an integral part of that foundation. By starting with the Hope Street Cybrary, this one of a kind facility can serve as the model from which others are built. Our dream is to inspire a Filipino version of Andrew Carnegie, to recognize the potential of the Cybrary and commit to building others in places like Makati and Manila. Through an effort such as this, Filipino children will finally be given an opportunity to take that first step toward envisioning and ultimately realizing their dreams.

Cybrary Design and Objectives

Inspired by Col. James Anderson, who opened the small library for working class children in the mid 1800's, the Hope Cybrary is a multi-faith, non-denominational cyber library facility. Our goal is to provide children with the literacy tools necessary to lift themselves out of poverty and fuel their ambition to research and study, enabling them to achieve this goal.

Hope Street will begin as a small 8-10 seat facility capable of serving the children of a single Barangay, with plans to eventually expand to 25 seats. The Cybrary will be equipped with networked computers that have access to broadband Internet and color printing. The computers will be installed with productivity and other software, which can be used by the children for their school assignments and entertainment. The Cybrary will also be furnished with school texts, reference books and encyclopedias.

One employee, as well as a number of volunteers, serving as librarians, tutors and mentors, will staff the Cybrary. Our plan is for the Cybrary to have the look and feel of a futuristic time travel craft, able to transport the children towards a positive future and inspire a new generation of young Filipino scientists and entrepreneurs.

Community service is a key component of the Cybrary. While the facilities and services are free of charge, our child patrons will be required to provide community service to the Barangay in order to gain access to the Cybrary. Each hour of community service to the Barangay, will entitle that child to 5 hours of Cybrary use. To track the community service work being done by the children and providing them

with the proper credit, we will use specialized “time currency” computer software, similar to what is used in time and volunteer banks.

Our belief is that, although, information technology alone cannot solve the social and economic divide, but in combination with social technology it is a great enabler and equalizer!

Selection of child patrons

Prior to using Cybrary facilities, each child must complete a Screening, In-processing and Familiarization program. The Screening program evaluates the child based upon our standard prerequisites, including age, health, geographic location, economic status, and virtues.

- **Age:** Our Cybrary is primarily designed for children ages 7-12, however, children to age 17 will be admitted, during specific hours.
- **Health:** Children who have communicable diseases or disabilities preventing them from using the facilities will not be admitted. Before entering the Cybrary, each child is required to have clean clothes and have acceptable hygiene.
- **Geographic location:** The Hope Cybrary is a community-based facility, intended to support and be patronized by the local Barangay(s). Admittance will be restricted to children that live in the immediate geographic area.
- **Economic Status:** “The last shall be first and the first shall be last.” Cybrary availability will establish priority to children of the lowest economic status, but also allowing children of higher economic status to use the facility, based upon their demonstrated community service virtues.
- **Virtues:** Virtues are the key admittance factor to the Cybrary. Those children who are the best behaved and have a history of community service will be given first priority. Children who demonstrate behavioral problems or who break the Cybrary rules will not be admitted, until they resolve their issues and atone through community service. Our goal is to foster an environment where children are rewarded for ethical behavior, and community service.

Upon completing the Screening process, filling out an application and completing 3 good deeds of community service, the child will be initially issued a temporary Cybrary card. Although a child may be barred from the program for disciplinary or other violations, they will be given opportunities to reapply for membership upon successfully overcoming the obstacle or atoning for their indiscretion.

Cybrary Programs

The center is primarily a research and study center for children. It is a safe, supervised place where children can go to have access to the information they need to complete their school assignments. Upon completion of their assignments, the children can select from one of our learning activities.

In-processing and Cybrary Familiarization – This program will familiarize the children with Cybrary rules, regulations, and procedures. The children will be taught the proper care and use of the books and facilities, along with the basic operating procedures of the Cybrary. Before the children can use the computers they will be required to participate in and pass a computer & Internet familiarization program.

We will also explain to the children the requirement for Community Service, and how they can earn Hope Dollars to spend in the Cybrary. Temporary Cybrary cards will be issued to each child that passes our selection process, and once the child is regularized he will be issued a permanent Cybrary card and a special folder on the network.

Library facilities – Our priority is to provide the children with educational books, to include text-books, encyclopedias, and reference books. We will also provide age-appropriate literary or entertainment books. Books for loan/checkout will be available to qualified children, and children will also be able to purchase selected books using their excess Hope –community service dollars.

Computer and Internet Learning – The Cybrary will be furnished with modern Pentium class computers, with Internet access. The children, under the supervision of a librarian can use the computers to research and prepare their homework and special projects. The computers will be installed with open source software including the Linux operating system, the Open Office productivity software and other software. We will also provide Internet and CD based learning, and for those children who complete their assignments, will be able to play computer games. Through the use of Information Technology, we hope to inspire the children to develop an interest in technology, and help them develop a solid foundation of Information Technology skills.

Research Assistance – Volunteer librarians will be available to help the children research the books and Internet, for the information they need for their studies and personal projects.

Special Programs: The Cybrary will also provide special reading sessions, and educational videos. On a case-by-case basis, volunteer tutoring will be provided to both impaired and gifted children. We will also provide Citizenship and communications programs. These programs will strive to reinforce the children’s patriotism through the teaching of Philippine History and Government, and develop the children’s public speaking, and English comprehension and literacy.

Emergency Help - Our Emergency Help Program will refer those children that require medical, counseling, shelter and other special assistance to the appropriate charitable organization.

Community Service – This program will assist the children in developing their social conscience. Through our Community Service programs such as clean and green, and elderly honor & support, the children will make civic contributions directed at improving the community on the Barangay level. Overall this program will build the children’s character traits and virtues and equip them with leadership and conflict management skills that are crucial to their lifelong success. Each hour of community service will earn the child a Hope Dollar, which they can spend for admittance to the Cybrary and use of its facilities and programs.

Youth Advisory Council - The Cybrary children will also be given the opportunity to become a member of the Youth Advisory Council. The Council will be consist of rotating members who will be involved in the governance of the Cybrary as well as program planning and design.

Entertainment – Children that complete their assignments and follow Cybrary rules, will be allowed to participate in the Cybrary entertainment program, including access to computer games, board games and other organized activities.

ADDRESS AND CONTACT NUMBERS

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If you give a man a fish, he will eat for a day. If you teach a man to fish, he will eat for a lifetime (Chinese proverb). If you teach a child to fish... he may feed the world (author unknown).