

**For immediate release**

**February 20, 2006**

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## **Locals travel to Philippines to build library for relocating families**

Through the support of Enspire Foundation, a local non-profit organization established in 1999, a team of Lower Mainland young adults will embark on a life changing experience to Bulacan, Philippines.

On May 5, 2006, the team of thirteen will head on their journey to participate in the construction of a library in Norzagaray, Bulacan – part of village relocation project.

Enspire co-founder, Dennis Cojuco, is a resident of Richmond and is one of the 13 leaving for Bulacan. He explains, “We founded Enspire so we could provide a means to help disadvantaged children in developing countries by giving them access to education and educational tools.”

A local philanthropist has donated a portion of land in Bulacan, Philippines to Enspire Foundation’s affiliate charity, Pag-aalay Ng Puso Foundation (PPF), with plans to create low-income housing for impoverished families currently living in Navotas City, one of the poorest areas in the country. These families will be relocated to the new area in Norzagaray, as the new housing is built. Development and construction just began in late January 2006.

“Enspire has taken on the challenge to fully fund the building of a library for the families in their new location. And we’ve collected and will ship over 300 children’s and youth books, computers and other educational materials and resources,” says Cojuco.

Over the last five years, Enspire has raised approximately \$30,000 from various fundraising events such as the annual *Resonance* Charity Amateur Choir Festival. Enspire has also successfully sponsored the annual educational fees of 18 children in Navotas City, for two years.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information on the Bulacan Library Project, please check out their web site at [www.enspire-foundation.org](http://www.enspire-foundation.org)

For tickets to the fifth annual fundraiser - *Resonance 2006 Voices of Hope*, held on Saturday, February 25, 2006 at 7 p.m. at the Broadway Church, 2700 East Broadway, Vancouver, email [resonancechoir@yahoo.ca](mailto:resonancechoir@yahoo.ca) or call 778-552-2941.

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***Pictures available.***

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### **About Enspire Foundation**

- Established in 1999 by five UBC graduates, who continue to make up the executive committee.
- Enspire is a non-profit organization that believes education is the key to empowerment.
- Enspire dedicates itself to funding educational initiatives and tools for disadvantaged children living in developing countries.
- Over the past five years, Enspire has raised \$30,000 which has helped to fund the educational fees for 18 children in Navotas City and to now finance the construction of a library in Bulacan, Philippines.
- Through its variety of awareness initiatives, Enspire provides members of the community the opportunity to reach out and assist the less fortunate, and thus make a difference in the global society.

### **Facts on the Philippines**

- For children in the Philippines, education is relatively expensive even for the public schools. Although some families send their children to private schools, most children attend public schools.
- In the schools, English is the primary medium of instruction, although Filipino and local dialects are sometimes used.
- The goal of basic education is to provide the school age population and young adults with skills, knowledge, and values and to help them gain a sense of identity.
- [http://www.deped.gov.ph/about\\_deped/history.asp](http://www.deped.gov.ph/about_deped/history.asp)
- Both Navotas City and Norzagaray, Bulacan are located a 1-2 hours north of Manila on the island of Luzon.
- Metro Manila has a population of over 10 million.
- Philippines total population is 87.9 million.
- Over 7,000 islands make up the Philippines.

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