TODAY, 515 MILLION YOUNG ADULTS LIVE IN EXTREME POVERTY

Compared to adults, the young are 3 times more likely to be unemployed. When they are employed, up to 56% remain poor: 515 million with less than US$2/day including 206 million in South East Asia; 209 million with less than US$1/day; and 160 million undeniably. Taking into account that in 2025, 42% of the world population estimated at 8 billion, will be under 25... we are looking at a billion young people living below the poverty line and 400 million victims of malnutrition! LP4Y has answered the global call for a new mobilization for Youth, launched by the International Catholic Child Bureau (ICCB) in 2009, defining its mission as the social and professional reintegration of young victims of great exclusion. The first pilot program was launched in Manila in December 2009, the second in Iligan in June 2010.

RESPOND TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUILD TO LAST

Less than a month after LP4Y’s arrival in the Philippines, typhoon Ondoy hit Manila, killing more than 8,000 people and leaving millions homeless. To respond to the emergency we decided to create a place of shelter and social and professional reinsertion – Life Project Centers – only for young adults and located close to the poorest neighborhoods. At the same time we also needed to give real chances to the most motivated young people by integrating them into lasting professional activities which would offer a real future, enabling them in turn to take part in the development of their families, villages, provinces, etc.

Out of this need we created the programs.
GREEN PROGRAM : 32\textsuperscript{nd} WEEK!

Already 8 months! It all began with a wonderful idea from sister Edith-Myriam of ACAY-Association Compassion Asian Youth in November 2009: the wholesale purchase of fruit and vegetables, and delivery to companies, church squares etc... by the young adults taken on by the association. For about a month we worked on the project with a dozen young people, ultimately developing a weekly delivery service of premium fruit and vegetables. The driving aim is the team's autonomy. The process is streamlined into 4 phases: sales, purchasing, packaging, delivery. All in all there are 18 specific tasks which each team member must learn and carry out. Each person must be able to do every task. The LP4Y staff are present to advise, accompany, suggest, motivate,... sometimes even to mediate or encourage but without interfering in the activity per se.

Sales: the order form is written, presented and sent to the clients. Each client is called in English to validate the orders. Then the quantities and qualities of the individual orders are consolidated into one big shopping list.

Purchasing: at the end of the day the team heads off to the wholesale market in downtown Manila, which takes up a whole neighborhood. There, every night, tons of fresh produce from all regions of the archipelago are traded and in turn sent off to the provinces. On arrival the team has to fight for a safe parking spot before heading to the best stands where they bargain fiercely before paying and carefully transferring the hundreds of kilos of fragile produce, on foot, to the vehicle.

Packaging: At night the team gathers to prepare each order in the beautiful woven palm leaf baskets. No plastic. Sometimes the 8 eggplants turn into 8 kilos of eggplant... but a solution is always found.

Delivery: At dawn, the car is loaded in reverse order of delivery... The last in first! Deliveries are made to three neighborhoods by 3pm. Back at the center the cash register must be balanced, recording the buying price, the sales, etc. Gradually the accounts are improving. Target: profitability in December 2010.

PTE (PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR ENTREPRENEURS)

Many NGOs who work with children deplore the lack of programs aimed specifically at young adults. What can be done when schooling ends or is impossible? How does one integrate young adults just barely out of childhood into professional life, when they are ignorant of all aspects of companies and organizations? PTE is a program that addresses this challenge in 3 simultaneous dimensions (work + studies + life skills) and 4 phases:

Autonomy / 6 months > understand today's world, know how to situate oneself, learn how to communicate, gain self confidence, avoid conflict, work as a team, use adequate communication tools (English, IT skills), plan, prioritize.

Responsibility / 4 months > know how to make a decision, make a commitment and stand by it, learn to self-assess and correct oneself, learn to program, to anticipate.

Leadership / 4 months > develop one’s expertise, know how and life skills, develop the will to take up challenges

Entrepreneurship / 6 months > work as a team.

The Professional Training for Entrepreneurs selects young adults from among the most needy, shortlisted by the partner NGOs, the main criteria being motivation. Following a 2 month evaluation period only the most motivated are chosen.

Throughout the PTE the young adults receive an allowance which allows them to become independent by providing for their own needs. The high point is the wonderful feeling of achieving an active existence!

L’OREAL PHILIPPINES TAKES ON THE TEAM

When, Luc-Olivier Marquet, the Managing Director of L’Oreal Philippines confirmed that he would take on the Green Program team for a month’s work experience, we were overwhelmed by pride, joy and finally dismay. The team had only a few weeks in which to get ready to become part of a company they knew nothing about. They spent a crazy month of June reading the news, researching on the internet, taking lessons in economics and organization, working on presentation skills, social skills, openness, etc. On July 5 2010 the team crossed the threshold of the 25th floor of a skyscraper in one of the most prestigious neighborhoods in Manila and began their internship with the worldwide leader in cosmetics! Young people have amazing resilience, whatever their background, as long as someone, somewhere, gives them a hand.
In 2000, after 10 years training ASL (American Sign Language) and teaching methods, Chay and her husband set up the first school for hearing impaired children in Iligan on the northwestern coast of Mindanao island with the aim of offering free schooling. Hearing disabilities at birth are often due to prenatal undernourishment. In 2007, whilst on a long distance trip, Chay's husband suddenly passed away. She decided to continue her mission but in 2009 the school was twice destroyed by typhoons. With the help of Father Henri and the LaSalle school and in response to the emergency, Chay managed to set the 30 students up in a borrowed class room. However, lack of funds soon meant that the school would have to close. Alerted by Elena di Masso, Enfants du Mekong, we decided to meet the teaching staff to propose a challenging solution: Enfants du Mekong would sponsor the schooling of children up to 17, whilst LP4Y would develop the Professional Training for Entrepreneurs for young hearing impaired adults aged 17 or more. The challenge was taken up. To accompany the students from grade 1 to 6, Chay has established a team of 4 teachers who teach English, Tagalog, Math, Science, Social Sciences, computer science, and sign language (a total of 3000 signs!). However some children have been abandoned by their parents. Chay, who is immensely generous, is lodging 15 children in her house today... the next step will surely be the establishment of a place for these young people to live.

THE FIRST LIFE PROJECT CENTER IN CEBU

When you’ve lived all your life in the street, are disabled, when you don’t know your parents, when you’ve been mistreated or spent long periods behind locked doors, only day to day survival holds any meaning. You can’t think of tomorrow, the only preoccupation that obsesses you from dawn to dusk is where to find food, a little spot to sleep for a couple of hours... When you’re 16 school is often a far off childhood memory. The probable outcome: unemployment. To survive, the young adult will go from building site to building site but will rarely earn a decent wage. To survive in the urban jungle, he may take drugs, be sucked into gangs, often the only real family he’s proud of, or may sink into prostitution. The LPCs, located close to neighborhoods where these young adults live, will respond to emergencies in 3 stages: welcome and the provision of certain services (address, photos, general assistance), provide basic training (English, communication and organization) assist in the creation of an MEI (Micro-Economic Initiative). The first LPC will open in October. The NGO Enfants d’Asie will participate in identifying young adults excluded from schooling to be the first candidates.

HEAR US ! A SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH

At the beginning of October 2010, LP4Y launched the evaluation and computer training of the young hearing impaired adults who have shown motivation in the Hear Us program.

The eight new interns who joined the team in August and received 3 week field training, will contribute to the program’s launch. The impassioned debate which followed the presentation of the program, interpreted by Chay in sign language, will remain forever in our minds. Unanimously, the group decided to embark on this adventure, driven by the will to take up the wonderful challenge!

In January 2011 the Professional Training for Entrepreneurs will be launched to process computer data. The four year program is to reach its financial break-even point in 2012. The following year it will begin to gain its independence.

The long term ambition is that the Hear Us program, managed by the young adults, will in turn participate in the development of the Hearing Impaired School in Iligan. Too many children and young adults with hearing disabilities are still forgotten, with no communication with those around them, with no schooling, no future, no friends…
How to get involved in LP4Y?

For all contacts: info@lp4y.org

Get involved together!

Member: you receive the latest news, are invited to the two general assemblies and to events.

Sponsor: by making regular or one-off donations you contribute to the consolidation of the funds of the association, helping to finance and equip the centers. You may give donations in kind.

Partner: you contribute to the financing of programs and if you wish you are involved in the decisions related to the program of your choice. You may give donations in kind.

Correspondent: you pass on information about LP4Y to your network. You help organize conferences and events.

Life Project 4 Youth France

By cheque payable to LP4Y at Acad. LP4Y - 34 rue Desaix - 75015 Paris

By automatic transfer to the LP4Y account at Societe Generale Bank: 30003 Guichet 03010 Account: 0003726058 slé 16

By international transfer to the LP4Y account BIC: SOGEFRPP

Euro ac. number: 061-018685-131

Life Project 4 Youth Belgium

Asth LP4Y - 49 Cervantès - 1190 Brussels

By transfer to LP4Y account Bank ING Ac. number: 363 097132 40

Or by international transfer IBAN: BE35 3630 59713240

BIC: BRUEBB

Life Project 4 Youth Foundation Inc.

By check, donation or cash to LP4Y P.O. Box 1019, New York - 10011 USA

BIC: SOGEFRPP

US $ ac. number: 060-075678-040

LET'S ACT TOGETHER!

Many thanks to everyone who attended our General Assemblies, and the administrators who meet fruitfully every trimester. Thank you for all your emails. Thank you to all those who have organized charity events for the benefit of LP4Y (the concert in Brussels May 27), to the choir (here below the concert by La Voix est Libre in Paris June 28), to the dancers (the Talent Show in Brussels March 24). Many thanks to those who have written reports, given precious contacts, set up meetings. Thank you each and everyone for having faith in the project even before it became reality. Thank you for your belief in LP4Y, an essential element to taking up the challenge of helping those most in need.

COMMITTED VOLUNTEERS

If you look at the picture on the right you might think it shows a group of friends on holiday. You’d be right and at the same time wrong. Right because these volunteers who did not know each other on arrival in the Philippines are now close friends, bound by the mission to which they have contributed their skills. And wrong because here they are not really on holiday here… the programs are followed 24/24.

There is no age limit or status requirement; volunteers can be located in Europe or the Philippines. Before your assignment you will follow a thorough training program in France lead by one of the partner associations (p.2) then a two week training with LP4Y. Let us share our expertise and experiences!

To become a volunteer just email: info@lp4y.org

1 YEAR AND 303 MEMBERS: Together We Can!

At the statutory general meeting we gave ourselves the goal of signing up 100 members in France and Belgium… A year later we are passed the 300 member mark! What is behind this amazing achievement?

Simple generosity, a wish to take part, to climb aboard, to be part of a local outreach program...? Probably all the above. We sensed this enthusiasm throughout the year, everywhere. Help would be on its way before we’d even had time to request it. Long live generosity and entrepreneurship! LP4Y believes that when all seems lost, there is still something to do... not because we enjoy trying to achieve the impossible but because we want to go beyond the limits we have set for ourselves - each to his own degree.

The young people at LP4Y experience it every day: accepting the traumas, the suffering and the failures as opportunities; reviewing them without rejecting them; every day developing our skills. Nonetheless our mission together has only just begun. Young people everywhere need a helping hand.

www.lp4y.org