

By Team Geornie (Group 1)




Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program

“
Nagdesisyon na kami, kaya na namin. Dahil naging Parent Leader rin naman ako, nakita ko na mas marami pa ang nangangailangan.”

GERALDINE REYES
Former 4Ps Beneficiary
Barangay Addition Hills
Mandaluyong City

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Department of Social Welfare and Development

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“Huwag mo nang ipamana kung ano ‘yung nakagisnan mo” –4Ps waiver



For Geraldine Reyes, she would like to see the less privileged in her community not to pass on to their children what they have gone through even as she got emotional narrating her exit from the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

Geraldine, a 57-year old homemaker of Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City and a grantee of the government’s 4Ps voluntarily who waived her membership of the program, told a team of journalists and government information officers, that partner beneficiaries should exert their best efforts to have their children break free from the shackles of poverty.

“Ang pinakamahalagang natutunan ko ay ‘wag mo nang ipamana kung ano ‘yung nakagisnan mo. Pilitin mong maiba naman sila,” Geraldine said.

She said that while the program was a big help to her family from the cash grants for her two children’s education, she and her family talked over the decision to leave the program.

“Dahil tatlo na sa aking mga anak ang nakapagtapos at mayroon nang kani- kanilang mga trabaho, napag-isipan namin na boluntaryong umalis sa programa. Kaya na naming pagtulong-tulongang mapag-aral ang bunso namin,” Geraldine said, adding that there are other people who need the grant for their children.

She said that it was time to share that cash grant to others.

“Yun po yung naging purpose ko,” she said with a sense of pride in choosing to leave the program.

Geraldine recounts how the program has helped her overcome her timidity through her attendance to the monthly Family Development Sessions. Being around co-beneficiaries and having the chance to share experiences and lessons further boosted her confidence.

Over the years, the parent group has been her constant source of support and encouragement to continue to improve the well-being of her family and when the time came that she had the chance to do more for her co-beneficiaries, she did not hesitate to become a parent leader for their cluster-group.

The 4Ps provided her an inspiration. The family day experience alone allowed her, her children and her husband to be together, relishing those moments they participated in that were organized by 4Ps.

She experienced to see that a father and a mother joined a sports activity and grew vegetables in a garden.

The Sanctuary Pantawid Urban Garden inside the DSWD Sanctuary Center served as a therapy and a source of income for members, she said

Members are given a plot to grow vegetables, fruits and flowers where they can harvest for the family’s consumption, shared with others and sometimes sell the extra yield.



From being a homemaker, she learned to interact with people in informal discussions, however, she can’t be a speaker before a crowd because she would cop out, she said.

“Since I had been a parent leader, I experienced to speak before an informal group but not without stammering”, she shared.

For one who has left the program, she has been encouraged to partner with the Social Welfare Department as model to other Pantawid beneficiaries but she can't be a speaker, she insisted saying she can only share her experiences to other beneficiaries and inspire them.

She trained another member to stand as parent leader before she left the program.

“That's my way of helping promote the 4Ps,” she said.

Geraldine is a high school graduate. She has four children by her husband Jeorney - Irish, Camille, Archie and Geornie.

To make ends meet, Jeorney worked as a “matador” for a family friend during the day and as a driver of tricycle borrowed from his parents during the night.

On the other hand, Geraldine kept a small store while also receiving laundry services from neighbours. Yet despite their hard work, the couple still depended on Jeorney's mother in order to send the children to school.

Their involvement in the program began in September 2012 when their household was assessed by the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR).

The assessment was soon followed with an invitation to attend the Community Assembly and ultimately, their acceptance to comply with the program's conditionalities and becoming part of the program.

Now that she has left the program, she wish other beneficiaries will learn the value of independence when they shall have finished the grant or opt to waive to give way to other beneficiaries.