Columbia student goes home to build homes Friday, 06 January 2012 06:00

20

Columbia student goes home to build homes

Alex Eduque leads 2,000 volunteers to build 200 homes in Manila in May 2012



Identia University student Alexandra "Alex". Eduque (far right) with members of the Habitat for Humanity Philippine lands Council.

By CARISSA VILLACORTA

21-year-eld Alexandra "Alex" Eduque, most of her time is spent preparing for her future as a junior political science student at New York's Columbia University. Yet even as Philippine-born Eduque focuses intensely on her studies, she remains concerned about more than just her own future. That's why, at an age when it would be reasonable to be entirely self-on ormed. Alex. daughter of Jose Armando "Mandy" Eduque and Susana "Chuchu" Madrigol, has given most of her spare time to Habitat for Humanity, the international non-profit organization that aims to provide housing to impos crished families all over the world.

"We can't just keep saying we want a better world," said Eduque, who founded and serves as chairperson for Habitat for Humanity Philippines Youth Council. "We can't just keep saying, 'Hoy nako, when I grow up, I don't want to see poor people in the Philippines.' I say, if want to create a better world, then help change it."

Alex, who is changing the world, one brick at a time, was first introduced to Habitat for Hamanity as sion experience when she was in high school. She fell in love with the week's work of service that she chose to spend the following summer months continuing to build not only homes but relationships with the community home ers. 'I chose to help Habitat for Humanity among other causes. because I believe that housing really is a necessity. You can have food, you can have water, they are ities, but to be able to go home to a steady and stordy structure is really important, especially with the latest Typhoon Sendong.

Seeking other youth like Alex who has kind hearts, brilliant minds and undying pussion to help the peor. Habitat will gather schools, youth programs and cor-

partners to for their Youth Build 2012 Launch on Jan. 14, at Greenbelt 5 Fashion Walk in Makati City, to unveil their latest campaign to combat homele ness in the Philippines. With the theme, "Today's Builders, Tomorrow's Leaders," The fund-Builders. raising event will acknowledge who have made their have already sponsored some of the 200 homes for the May 2012 Youth Build. while encouraging other patrons to apport the other homes that are to be built by 2000 youth volunteers in Manila this coming May 12.

At the said event, Habitat will also announce their Alex Eduque Legacy Project which will develop 200 youth leaders like Alex to help elevate socially-conscious volunteerium to a whole new level.

ABS-CEN television stars.
Kinen Davila and Mattee Galdicelli will host the event, with enertainment by the Hayss ng Piliginas Children's Choir and the CCP Bobcats dance. This highly anticipated Youth Boild Launch event follows: Habitat Youth Council's successful Swatch Partnership Launch last month where they unveiled a special Habitat Warch by Swatch whose sales will go towards dones or windows of a Habitat home.

Habitat Youth Build 2012, which kicks off on May 12, aims to attract 2,000 Filipino youth volumteens from all over the world to help build homes in the Philippines. The thrust to involve Pacific region, where students and like China, India, Indonesia and Thailand are also mobilized to give their time, sweat and networks to advance Habitat's mission and vision. The build in the Philippines will take place in Barangay Tanza, Navotas where they hope to build 200 homes in an area that was heavily affected by Typhoon Pedring, where over 1,000

affected families have yet to be relocated. Eduque, who has been assisting

Eduque, who has been assisting Habitat since the age of 16, understands the time and commitment required to be a part of such a project.

The Ivy-League student was in



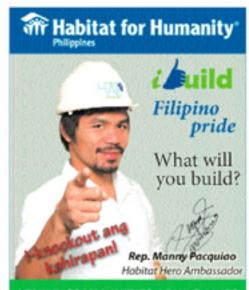
Davila and Arnold Clavio, former beauty queen Margie Mocan-Floirendo, and PBA basketball star Chris Tiu.

When asked how she was able to secruit so many of her friends to help her help, she said, "It's actually so easy to get people to help out," said Alex, whose younger sister Michaela also Joined the in the Youth Council Leadership Martel Francisco are Isabel daughter of Randy Francisco and Irene Martel Francisco; Kay and Kevin Yang, children of Kenneth and Cindy Yang; Engenia Zobel de Ayala, daughter of Jaime and Lizzie Zobel de Ayala; Simon Tantoco, son of Mons Romale Tantoco and Sander Tantoco; and Pedre T. Roxas, son of Gina and Pedro Roxas. These young kids, from age 18 to 21 now make up the Habitat Youth Council who think of fund-raising partnerships and events, and mobilize groups to join to help Habitat for Homanity.

For a terrager who has donated 18 homes for her 18th birthday (therefore building a village, called AlexVille which she still visits regularly), and a young lady who spent Vulcatine's Days not on dates but on builds with her friends, Alex has definitely built a legacy. It has been a lot of sweat and hard work, but the energy of her youth and passion still shows. She assures that the satisfaction of spreading good will to others is rewarding.

"There are a lot of times you just want to leave it all on the side already because you have other things going on with school and work. But if there's a will, there's a way. Even if it means giving up sleep and leisure time. Because as they say, in the end, it's not about what you give, it's about what you're willing to give up. Nothing worthwhile comes easy, and in the cod that's what makes it more fulfilling."

Habitat for Humanity Philippines' 1K for 1Day Youth Build 2011 gathered together over 1,600 young members of society. This year, Filippino youth around the world are encouraged to join the Asia Pacific Youth Build in May 2012. To sign up, go towww.habitat.org.ph.call +632846-2177 or follow on Facebook at waw.facebook.com/habitatsphilippines and Twitter at www.twitter.com.habitatsphilippines.



I BUILD COMMUNITIES. I BUILD LIVES. For ad inquiries, please contact MACEA at 813-2446 or 810-3054.

fact, such a beacen of generosity and passion that the was able to mobilize many of her friends to join the cause. Among the friends that Alex was able to ealist were ABS-CBN soap—star Matteo Guidecelli, and singer and theater actress Cris Villonco. They now join the Habitat Anthussadors such as Queen of All Medis Kris Aquino, boxing legend Manny Pacquiso. TV—celebrity Derek Ramsay, TV host Kim Atlenza, broadcast journalists. Karen

campaign. They've gone on builds and seen my gussion for advocacy. A lot of people really want to help out, they just don't know how or they're looking for ways to do so. So when you approach them, it's so refreshing to see them not really go out of their way but to give what they can, their time to build, to plan, to mobilize. For them, it's not the money, it's their time. I think that the spirit of volunteerium has come out from that also."

Joining Alex volunteer and serve

Columbia student goes home to build homes Friday, 06 January 2012 06:00