

## **1. BACKGROUND**

Since my graduation from college in 1997, the opportunities I have accepted have been in the fields of academe, information technology, and fiduciary financial institutions. These twenty years of work have taught me the value of integrity, excellence, continuous learning, adaptability, resilience, and networking.

My avocation to voluntary services began around 2002 in a church-based youth empowerment activity. Then I was handed over to a new opportunity for young professional's development activities. Being referred to seminar workshops and leadership training became a norm for me as more and more opportunities of voluntary services come my way.

Awareness to societal problems lead me to be part of a community-based Drug surrenderer program in 2017. It was my first municipal-wide advocacy program where learned collaboration, partnership, program effectiveness, volunteer management, problem solving, and sustainability.

To team-lead a short-term project in a government agency (DSWD) in 2018 strengthen the program we started in the community. Having attended the National Peace Conference in 2018 gave a valuable insight on what I do as part of an effective peace building. My exposure to real life stories and challenges of marginalized group in conflict-affected, geographically isolated and displaced areas was a life-changing moment.

In 2019 a colleague sought me for help to create a School-based youth empowerment project for 800 students. My focus was a workable theme for the youth and a committed team of life coaches. The project ran for 2 years and won regional and national level award.

In 2021, our team was invited to launch a leadership camp for public high schools in the City during the pandemic. We were able to train 200 young leaders. At present, our team is encouraged to expand in volunteer and in project coverage because the Local Government Unit has recognized our team in innovative youth development advocacies.

In 2022 to May 2024 my help was sought to establish an organization whose focal point is restorative justice. To bring hope to the prisoners through behavioral management courses in 105 jails nationwide.

Over the past seven years, my volunteer work has evolved significantly, encompassing a period of active involvement and discovery. As I look ahead to the next seven years, I am committed to training the next generation of leaders. I dedicate my remaining years to serving my country through impactful and meaningful advocacy efforts

## 2. FINANCIAL

Most of my voluntary services was rendered pro-bono because of *kusang-loob* and *malasakit*. These two Filipino values has no exact corresponding English translation to describe why I am willing to continue to do what I do. My chosen avocation was more on giving not receiving.

I live independently with my bed-bound mother as my dependent. I do part-time consultancy work to support myself, my mother and my ministry/voluntary services.

The dual course Master of Public Administration and Master of Non-Profit Management that I plan to pursue is beyond my current financial capacity. The curriculum is perfect fit to the knowledge and skills I need. There are no available schools locally that has the same complete package curriculum.

A scholarship would alleviate the financial pressure, allowing me part-time job, filial duties to my mother, unburdened focus on my studies and maximize my learning experience by manifesting new learnings to the current projects that I am involved at present.

To qualify to a grant would not only be a financial lifeline but also a testament to my commitment to public service, family values and ministry calling.

### 3. PROPOSED COURSE OF STUDY

The opportunity ahead of me lead me to consider pursuing the following courses:

Plan A: Dual Online *Master of Public Administration (MPA) and Master of Nonprofit Management (MNM)* degree offered by the University of Central Florida, Orlando Florida. The curriculum offered by the university meets precisely all my study needs.

Plan B: Master of Community Development offered by the Benguet State University, La Trinidad, Benguet. The curriculum partially addresses my study needs.

Plan A is the most suitable choice as it fulfills all my criteria. I intend to explore all possible financial assistance options to pursue this program. If ever that despite my best efforts yet I am unable to secure the necessary qualifications, I have Plan B as an alternative to continue my pursuit of this field.

The landscape of youth development, peace building and restorative justice as an advocacy is a rare and very specialized field of avocation. Community-based implementation to the grassroots is a huge challenge but a strategic opportunity.

Pursuing the Master's Program will help me build my confidence and capacity. This study will equip me with the knowledge and skills to effectively be a champion, a pioneer, a trainer of trainers, equipper of leader of leaders in NGOs and CSOs who are into the same league of advocacies. Be a positive voice in government agencies in policy review and policy development.

One step at a time, I am driven by a vision to go back to the villages I used to implement programs and equip and empower the CSO leaders with skills. Help each leader vision their cause into sustainable advocacy and be anchored to synergistic alliances to stakeholders. Champion each small CSOs as a contributor in nation-building.

I am encouraged to navigate a study framework on Volunteer Retention by building sustainable engagement in relation to NGO essential elements of governance, finance and program impact.

Through continued voluntary services, I am seeing the need to create an awareness on Philippine Volunteer Act in the local level and possibly enhance these policies to address contemporary challenges.

**IV. BUDGET**

Plan A: The latest tuition rates posted by the University of Central Florida in their website are as follows:

**Current Rates 2024-2025**

**Nonprofit Management (MNM) – Nonprofit Management Cohort**

Fee Name	In State Rate	Out of State Rate
Tuition	401.46	401.46
Non-Resident Fee	0.00	0.00
Capital Improvement Fee	6.76	6.76
Financial Aid Fee	14.40	14.40
Non-Resident Financial Aid Fee	0.00	0.00
Activity & Service Fee	0.00	0.00
Transportation Access Fee	0.00	0.00
Health Fee	0.00	0.00
Athletic Fee	0.00	0.00
Technology Fee	0.00	0.00
Distance Learning Course Fee (Per Hour)	18.00	18.00
<b>Tuition and Fees Total for 1 Credit Hour</b>	<b>440.62</b>	<b>440.62</b>


**Calculator**

Enter number of credit hours to calculate rates:

Credit Hours	In State Rate	Out of State Rate
42	18,506.04	18,506.04

Course Completion is 42 Credit Hours for the Timeline of 2 to 3 years  
 Estimated Tuition Fee per semester (9 credit hours per sem) is USD3,100.00  
 Estimated Tuition Fee for the entire course (42 credit hours) is USD18,600.00

Plan B: The latest tuition rates listed by the Benguet State University in their brochure are as follows:

 <b>FEES</b>	
<b>PARTICULARS</b>	<b>AMOUNT (PHP)</b>
Admission Fee (new student):	
Local	100
Foreign	1,500
Tuition Fee Per Unit	450
Developmental Fee	100
Online Fee:	
OFW / Foreign	5,000
Internet Fee	300
Medical Fee	100
Library Fee	350
ID Fee	186
Miscellaneous Fee	100

Course Completion is 36 Units for 2-3 years.

Estimated Tuition Fee and books per semester is USD160.00

Estimated Tuition Fee and books for the entire course is USD640.00

*\*Forex used in the calculation is 1 USD = 50 PHP*