

## MANAGEMENT OF A LOW-COST HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN QUEZON CITY FOR SPONSORED FAMILIES OF CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL

October 2003 – January 2006

Providing project management from planning, construction, and documentation to distribution of subdivided titles to 85 low-income families. The development includes a community center and small commercial areas for family-run or cooperative-run businesses.

Paz Montemor, her husband, and their two children were living in an informal settlement in Letre, Malabon in a small one-room shelter. Their home had no water, toilet, or drainage system and was "very dirty and unsafe," so much so such that Mrs. Montemor constantly worried for her children's safety. The family had no housing tenure security as they were on private land, and her family was constantly at risk of being removed or relocated. However, what little they did have was still their home and they were devastated when in April of 2001 fire swept through and destroyed much of their neighborhood leaving thousands, including Paz Montemor and her family, homeless.



The destruction of their home and the sponsorship of their eldest child by Children International, a nonprofit humanitarian organization helping needy children around the world, immediately placed them in the selection process for an emergency housing project created in response to the Malabon fire. Because this housing project is the first of its kind initiated by Children International in the Philippines, ALTERPLAN was enlisted to manage the construction of the site.

Mrs. Montemor and her family are now making payments to own their new home, Unit 11 of the 'Children International Housing Project' in Novaliches, Quezon City. Their new home is a noticeable improvement from the previous. It is a permanent single-family townhouse constructed of concrete, with full septic service, connection to potable water, electricity, and drainage, and with a separate bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen. "This place is quiet and safe, the area is clean, unlike before, and we are happy now," says Mrs. Montemor. neighborhood

has a feeling of community where "the children are happier and there is a big difference in living for them. School is within walking distance, unlike before when they had to pay for travel."

The monthly payments on their new home are reasonable and Mrs. Montemor says, "Our salary is just enough to make our payments and living expenses," due in part to the additional income she now makes. Mrs. Montemor now has the space and time to make rugs she sells in the community. She says she is very happy now, and the costs of living at the site are well worth the peace of mind and security of owning their own home and living in a safe and happy community.

Children International, with help from Alterplan, has completed 62 units at the Novaliches site for the benefit not only of Malabon fire victims but of beneficiaries from throughout Metro Manila. Although ALTERPLAN's official involvement in the site came to an end in December 2005, Children International now has the experience and expertise needed to continue construction, and has several more housing units planned for the site. With ALTERPLAN's help, this site represents the beginning of a new housing program instituted by Children International in the Philippines called the "Children International-Philippine Housing Foundation, Inc.", which will, through time, provide permanent housing for many more people like Mrs. Montemor and her family.

#### **About Children International:**

Established in 1936, Children International is a nonprofit organization with its headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri, USA. Children International's programs benefit more than 300,000 sponsored children and their families in 11 countries around the world, including Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Mexico, Zambia, the Philippines, and the United States. For more information about children international, visit [www.children.org](http://www.children.org).