

PROJECT COMPASSION

FOR ALL FUTURE
GENERATIONS 

RONITA'S STORY

PHILIPPINES

PRIMARY (F TO 2)

PHOTO STORYBOOK

Photos: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia



Do you like going to school? Going to school can make a big difference to someone's life, but in the Philippines not everyone gets the chance to finish school.



This is Ronita's story.



Ronita is 22 years old and lives with her husband and two children in Quezon City in the Philippines.



Quezon City is a very large city, home to over 3 million people!



Ronita and her family live in a very small home that has only one room.



“When you come to our house, when you open the door, that's it. When you open it, the kitchen, the living room, the room, it's already in one place.”

Ronita





Ronita uses this one small room for many things such as playing with her children,



cooking,



washing and ironing clothes,



and sleeping.



Ronita left school early to start her family. But without finishing high school, it would be hard for Ronita to earn money to have a better life.



Thankfully, Ronita heard about a program run by Caritas Australia's partner, the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).



The program is called the Alternative Learning System (ALS). Ronita was able to bring her children with her to classes and keep learning in a safe space.



It wasn't easy. Ronita wouldn't get enough sleep after caring for her children and then studying late at night.



With a lot of hard work, Ronita completed her ALS classes!



She was then able to go back to school to earn her Senior High School Diploma and get a job.



Now she can help her mum and buy the things she needs for her two children.




Ronita hopes to continue her studies to become a teacher.



“I have now graduated senior school and I am so proud of myself. I feel hopeful for the future. Thank you.”

Ronita





FCJ runs lots of other activities to help families like Ronita's.



There is a group for young mothers helping them to support each other while also learning how to stay healthy and manage their money.



There is also a weekly health clinic where a doctor and nurse provide medical care to the community.



FCJ also teaches reading and writing, cooking, how to grow food in the city and other activities that can help people earn money.



Money raised through Project Compassion helps Caritas Australia to support families all around the world.

QUESTIONS

1. What challenges did Ronita face?
2. How did Caritas Australia help?
3. What is special about the Alternative Learning System program that helped Ronita continue her education?
4. What are three other activities that FCJ run for the community?
5. What is Ronita's hope for the future?