



## PanTRY: A Must TRY in The Community

• *Kyrene Angel M. FolloSCO*

Food and other essentials for free,  
This is what we call a community Pantry.  
Variety of produce and goods,  
Is what we have for the neighborhood.

Poor and jobless people can dine at their table,  
Thanking those who wholeheartedly gave these staples.  
Rekindling the spirit of giving in times of difficulty,  
Humanity shall live on 'til eternity.

You can get based on your need,  
Enough for your family to eat.  
Don't abuse by getting everything,  
More families are wandering around,  
Searching for a place where blessings abound.

Like a beacon helping the lost,  
Humanity's alive, helping those in need the most.  
While the world is like a sail off-track,  
Glad to see the light guiding them in the ways they temporarily lack.

We need to gather and help ourselves  
In our society, to support lives sufficiently, healthily.  
This is what we call a community Pantry.



**CATEGORY: ELEMENTARY**

Photos by Cowabunga Tapuac Community Pantry

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2020-2021**

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## In a Child's Eyes

• Yuan Victor A. Cordero



It has been a year, and we are still in quarantine.  
It's difficult to smile, even just a simple grin.  
It seems like all doors are locked,  
All views are blocked.

Modules here and there,  
And the four corners of our house became my everywhere.  
It seems like sickness and sadness were all the pandemic has brought,  
But that was what I thought.

I have seen people work hand in hand,  
Like they were brothers in a band.  
They offer what they can give,  
So that some of us can continue to live.

Barangays and cities became a closely-knit community,  
With all the goods people share in the pantry.  
Mang Isko got the eggs brought by Aling Nena,  
As Lolo Goryo got a papaya for his Tinola.

Looking at the positive side,  
It made us realize how life is a ride.  
It made us feel joyous and down,  
But we can always smile again after a frown.

This pandemic has brought us down on our knees,  
But it made us kneel and pray and face the crisis.  
As we believe, with our stronger hearts and a will that's so mighty  
That we will again be happy, healthy, and free.

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## From Behind That Mask

• *Rey Carlo Caburnay*

Oh, how life has changed, my friend;  
A tragedy difficult to mend.  
And as the way things are going,  
I can't seem to see this terror's end

Yet I see something completely different,  
For between these thin threads lies something effervescent.  
As if something emerging as a small bright glimpse of hope,  
I begin to fathom the human bond's essence.

A reason to help,  
A reason to care.  
A time to unite,  
to leave your hearts bare.

Oh, tell me, when is a better time to realize,  
That to help is to harmonize?  
And with the Lord as the conductor,  
Love can never meet its demise.

Indeed, I see something completely different.  
Something profound, something uncanny--  
A medley of helpful gestures  
Pointed towards a healthy community.

Oh, how life has changed, my comrade.  
I'm sure you need not ask in such a curious style,  
For from behind that mask,  
I already behold a reassuring hint of your joyous smile.



**CATEGORY: JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL** Photos by Cowabunga Tapuac Community Pantry

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## Rhythm in Each Kindness

• *Mariel Quinantoto*

A road where storms  
Already weathered on;  
A rhythm suddenly forms  
Didn't expect it to be a ton.  
A little share of empathy  
Can voice solidarity.  
A little hope in our humanity  
Makes a subtle touch  
In the hearts of many.  
In every help  
That reigns a blazing compassion  
Hushes the yelp  
That was uttered  
By the whole nation.  
Those rhythms of kindness  
Ignite even the slightest  
Torch or love.  
Love for countrymen that we have,  
Someone may suffer,  
Someone may offer,  
Many will not bother,  
Being a Filipino means, we have each other.  
We heal the hurt.  
We heal the heart.  
We heal together;  
We heal as one.



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## For The Hearts That See

• *Alaina Yumira Estimada*

As the sun rises  
to shower its brightness upon the earth,  
an old man reaches  
to fill his aching belly first.

Fish and eggs here,  
some meat and greens there.  
Just enough for him to bear  
another day being a non-millionaire.

But before he could get  
some rice to eat,  
a crowd had gathered  
and filled the street.

People were snatching food as if  
the world would fade today.  
While the old man barely mustered  
enough strength to say,

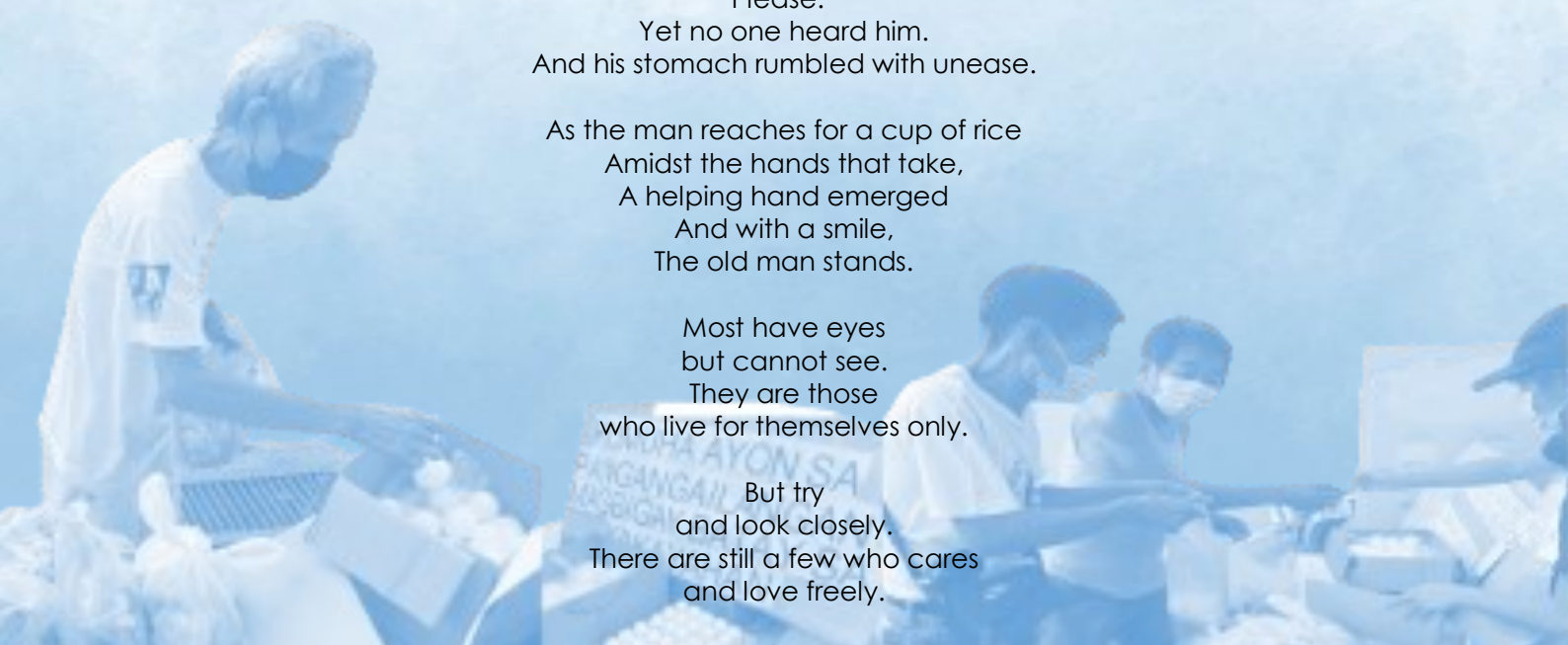
"I'd like to get a bit of rice,  
Please."

Yet no one heard him.  
And his stomach rumbled with unease.

As the man reaches for a cup of rice  
Amidst the hands that take,  
A helping hand emerged  
And with a smile,  
The old man stands.

Most have eyes  
but cannot see.  
They are those  
who live for themselves only.

But try  
and look closely.  
There are still a few who cares  
and love freely.



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# Desire

• *Ching Love J. Gemino*

Giving is loving,  
Growing and believing,  
Showing and caring,  
Hoping and succeeding.

The journey starts with a single step.  
What we give is what we accept.  
A pure heart that we always hide,  
Shown in the midst of high tide.

A huge storm in a calm sea,  
The massive wall that blocks us from being free.  
Sorrow and pain are evident in the eye.  
No one can do anything, stay home, kneel, pray and cry.

The tears escaped from the eye when our plates become empty.  
Anxiety attacks, depression is killing us slowly.  
Reminiscing the world that used to do things freely.  
Now locked up and closed the door of opportunity.

In the middle of the crisis, a light sparked  
An idea of giving, purely from the heart.  
Reminding the essence of loving and support,  
Giving a source of food for those who can't afford.

It took one Filipino to stand and show what was the meaning of unity.  
Our government never stops serving until we can walk freely.  
They rendered service, volunteered without any exchange of money.  
People moved mountains to build the so-called 'community pantry.'

Nowadays, we can rarely see the essence of unity.  
Giving without expecting anything to return abundantly.  
Serving the people wholeheartedly.  
Indeed! The Philippines heals as one completely.



**CATEGORY: SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

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## Genesis

• *Mile Ruth Kobe D. Cabalde*



In Junoesque rays of thy Sun,  
Behold a tremendous spot of yours,  
Nascence the day with thy ecstasy,  
Bestow thy gleam in my perplexity.

Until your iridescence covered by clouds,  
Hulling thy resplendence of yours.  
Oh! Cloudburst is coming!  
Stumbling on silken isthmus.

Après thy rain, vivid colors appear.  
Arc-like chromatic phenomena, relish me!  
The aesthetic spectrum of arrays of yours,  
It seems to be a new genesis.

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