

## 158 Elementary Students can see clearly now DSM sponsored the Eyeglass Project at Kalayaan Elementary School

This was our first Eyeglass Project this year in partnership with A Better Chance Foundation. We returned once again to Kalayaan Elementary School in Paranaque City to check the eyes of the remaining students we missed during our first project in November 2010 where we donated 200 prescription eyeglasses to children with poor vision.

Because there are over 4,400 students at Kalayaan Elementary School, we felt the need to conduct another Eyeglass Project with them to make sure that no children were left behind.

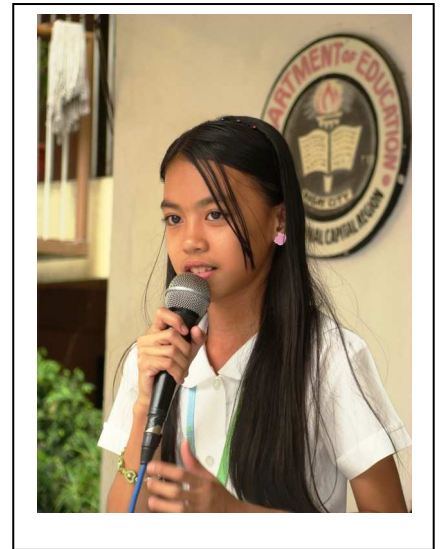


During our second Eyeglass Project at Kalayaan Elementary School, ABC Foundation partner optometrist, Dr. Jeson Viñas was once again on site to conduct eye check-ups for the students last January 26 and 27.



On February 4, we returned to Kalayaan Elementary School with A Better Chance Foundation and Dr. Jeson Viñas to distribute the prescription eyeglasses to the remaining 158 students who were not able to avail of eyeglasses during the first Eyeglass Project.

Mrs. Avelita Mercado, Principal of Kalayaan Elementary school and her staff once again prepared a wonderful program for the eyeglass distribution. Mrs. Mercado opened the program, thanking Springboard Foundation, A Better Chance Foundation, Dr. Jeson and Ms. Ann Viñas, for conducting the Eyeglass Project, and of course, DSM Nutritional Products, for sponsoring the project through Springboard Foundation.



After 5<sup>th</sup> grader Jaira sang a beautiful song as an intermission number, Ms. Annette Helbig, President of Springboard Foundation gave an inspirational message to the students about the importance for a clear vision in all aspects of life. She admonished them to study hard to show their appreciation for the help they have received.

When it was time to distribute the eyeglasses, the 158 recipients were called on stage one by one, accompanied by a parent/guardian to receive their eyeglasses. While on stage, their glasses were handed over to them by Mr. Arnel Rigor and Ms. Marilyn Tating of DSM Nutritional Products, Ms. Annette Helbig of Springboard Foundation and Mr. Lewis Edwards, Chairman of A Better Chance Foundation. Ms. Ann Viñas and Dr. Jeson Viñas were also at hand to assist and make small adjustments to the frames of the students' eyeglasses.





Annette Helbig commented on how special she feels when she puts the eyeglasses on the faces of the young students. When she asks if they can see clearly; the children respond with the greatest of smiles: “Yes, I can!” And the smiles that reflected in their eyes go straight into the heart. It feels just great.

Another intermission number was presented after the distribution of eyeglasses; this time by 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, followed shortly by Mrs. Nicolasa Baccay’s closing remarks, officially ending the program.

Springboard Foundation would like to thank Mrs. Avelita Mercado, Principal, and all the teachers and staff of Kalayaan Elementary School for their warm hospitality and cooperation; Mr. Lew Edwards, Chairman of A Better Chance Foundation, Dr. Jeson and Ms. Ann Viñas for conducting the Eyeglass Project; and most importantly, Mr. Arnel Rigor , Manager of ANH, Ms. Marilyn Tating, and everyone at DSM Nutritional Products for generously sponsoring the Eyeglass Project.



One student, Ah-Jay De Castro, was diagnosed with 1000 in one eye and 800 in the other. His teachers says that when he read in front of the class, he scrolls his eyes just an inch away from the blackboard, in order to see the lesson. What a difference the glasses make in his life!