

Volunteer Assistance to SAPSPA

Planning and architectural design services

Location : Barangay Magsaysay, Tondo, Manila
Date : 2003; 2006; 2012
Client : Samahan para sa Angkop na Pabahay sa San Pablo Apostol (SAPSPA)

Project partners

- Samahan para sa Angkop na Pabahay sa San Pablo Apostol (SAPSPA)
- University of the Philippines Task Force Arki (UP-TFA)

Project brief



Student volunteers from UP TFA consults with Batch 14 Pabahay beneficiaries on house design details at the SAPSPA office in Tondo, Manila

SAPSPA (Samahan para sa Angkop na Pabahay sa San Pablo Apostol) is community-based organization of residents of Magsaysay Village in Tondo, Manila and a recipient of a housing grant from Misereor in 1987. The SAPSPA Pabahay or Appropriate Housing Program provided loans for new house construction or renovation to poor but deserving families. The loan covers the cost of materials and labor for the construction of housing core units with structural parts, roofing, flooring and exterior walls. Housing beneficiaries contribute unskilled labor and shoulder the completion of the core house thru self-help. The first batches of housing units were built with the Misereor grant and succeeding batches were then financed from repayments of the initial beneficiaries. Since then Pabahay has built more than 100 housing units.

SAPSPA has had a long-standing partnership with UP Task Force Arki (UP-TFA), an organization of architecture students from the University of the Philippines Diliman that takes on a voluntary basis the design and drafting of architectural plans of the housing units under the supervision of a volunteer licensed architect. Almost all architects from TAO-Pilipinas are UP TFA alumni and a number have been volunteer architects for SAPSPA even prior to the establishment of TAO-Pilipinas.

In 2003, Pabahay loans (amounting to PHP 50,000 per family) were made available to its members and SAPSPA asked TAO-Pilipinas for assistance in drafting the architectural plans for the construction of four new housing units (Batch 12 Pabahay beneficiaries). Working with UP-TFA as student-volunteers, TAO-Pilipinas provided technical support in house design and preparation of plans and drawings for building permit application. The students visited the project site, took measurements to produce as-built drawings, and consulted the household-beneficiaries to learn about their house design needs and preferences. TAO architects orient the students on Batas Pambansa 220 minimum design standards and guide them in completing the architectural and engineering plans and during house construction monitoring.

In 2006, the same technical support was extended when SAPSPA received additional funding from Selavip to build five more houses (Batch 13 Pabahay beneficiaries). The latest TAO assistance to SAPSPA was given in 2012 for the construction of Batch 14 houses comprising another five new housing units. UP-TFA has also sustained its volunteer service for these new batches of Pabahay projects.

Project outputs

- Architectural and engineering plans for building permit