



### MA. FATIMA "GIRLIE" GARCIA, MA CCLS

Fatima "Girlye" Garcia is a co-founder of Kythe and is presently the Foundation's Executive Director. Ms. Garcia is a Certified Child Life Specialist, upon passing the professional regulatory exams administered by the Child Life Council in the United States of America in 2001. She holds an MA in Child and Family Psychology from the Ateneo de Manila University and went through a Child Life Internship at the University of California San Francisco Hospital in the year 2000.

As a professional psychologist and Child Life expert, Ms. Garcia engages in counseling for chronically- ill children and family therapy. She also trains and acts as a consultant in the implementation of the Child Life Program in various local hospitals, namely; AFP Medical Center, National Children's Hospitals, Philippine Orthopedic Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Quirino Memorial Medical Center, University of Santo Tomas Hospital, Tarlac Provincial Hospital and Davao Medical Center and Perpetual Succour Hospital Cebu Cancer Institute. Her work also requires her to conduct seminars and cancer advocacy, and as Executive Director, she handles Kythe's operations and programs. Ms. Garcia's past professional experience in the field of Human Resources and Organizational Diagnosis Counseling has seen her conducting various training seminars and research studies on Team Building, Leadership Training and Strategic Planning.

As a member of the U.S. based Child Life Council, Ms. Garcia has had the privilege of attending various conferences in New Zealand and in North America.

She has guested as a resource person in various television shows and her story has been featured in various print media like the Inquirer Sunday Lifestyle article entitled "Suffer the little children" written by Cathy Babao Guballa in 2002 and "Kythe is in the business of self-abandonment" written by Ms. Josefina Lichauco for Philippine Star in September 2003. Her project, "Hospital Based Elementary Education for Chronically-Ill Children," was a finalist in the "Panibagong Paraan" Award sponsored by the World Bank in 2003. Ms. Garcia received the Outstanding Alumni Award in January 2004 from St. Paul College Manila. In August 2004, she was a Finalist for the Heroes for Health Award sponsored by the Department of Health and Pfizer Philippines.

Kythe (a Scottish word which means healing through simple sharing and loving) continues to be Fatima "Girlye" Garcia's battlecry, as she champions the cause of children with cancer and the spread of the Child Life Program throughout the Philippines.