

Raul

I am Raul and this was my life before.

Before I came to Bahay Tuluyan I was wandering the streets near our place. We had a house at Parola. My mother was still alive and there were three of us kids. Then my mother found out that my father had another girlfriend and she got really mad at him. They fought. I wanted to stop mama but papa was in the wrong. Papa left and went to his girlfriend. Mama wouldn't eat. Papa came back to our house and gave her food but Mama didn't want to eat it. She was so thin. Mama said to Papa that if she died us kids should go to school. After that when we woke up Mama had died. Her wake was at my grandfather's house. We were adopted by my grandfather Rodel. We ate but there was not always enough food. My Papa's mother come and said she would take us but couldn't take us all at once. First she took my older brother and then after a week she came back for me. I said to my younger brother that we would come back for him. We went back for him but they weren't there anymore. They had moved to somewhere far away and we didn't know where they were. We sold sampaguita flowers to help our grandmother every day. Our grandmother could not afford to send us both to school at the same time so my older brother went first. My brother was in Grade 6 and I was still selling sampaguita flowers. Mommy Donna worked at Philippine Star and she sent me to school for grade 2. Papa, Grandma and Lolo Roger were so happy. But Lolo Roger was sick. He had diabetes and died. So only grandma and Papa were left to help. Grandma told me to study well. I was still helping grandma sell sampaguita flowers and she started to get weak. So then I was selling on my own and I was able to do it even though I was still little. Grandma told me that I was a hard worker. Father told me that I could do it. Then my Grandma died. I went to stay with my Father and stopped going to school. I started to hang out on the street and scavenge so that I would have money. When I found out my brother was at Bahay Tuluyan I said that I wanted to go there too so I could continue studying.

I went with my friend who said it was happy there. I was happy because I was with my brother. And I was given another chance to go to school. I told myself that I would fulfill my dream to reunite my family when I am grown up and wise. Thanks to Ate Lily because if it wasn't for her I would not be here. My brother is happy because we are together at Bahay Tuluyan. I hope you understand my letter.