

Preface

Investing in Ourselves: Giving and Fund Raising in the Philippines was born out of the minds of a group of people, some of whom do not know each other but have one thing in common—an interest in making people’s lives better. It is part of a vision that believes that many people will contribute their time, their money, and their hearts to help others. We hope that this book will not just sit in shelves but become a useful tool in getting more Filipinos to invest more of themselves in solving the problems of our community.

To realize this dream, the team at Venture for Fund Raising played a critical role. Melinda Bonga and Ramon Fernan, the principal researchers, did the heavy lifting on this project. Their energy and stamina in undertaking this pioneering effort is a testament to their faith in the process. Gina Pattugalan drafted the framework for case research. Frankie Roman taught us how to write cases and, more importantly, to keep our sense of humor. Jannette Rodrigo coordinated interviews. Mercy Garcia helped analyze financial figures. Celine Santillan opened doors, while Mayan Quebral and Mark Lopez kept things on track!

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As with many NGO projects, this is part of other projects. The first is a Philippine-focused project administered by TAF with funds from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The other components are the creation of the *Database on Local and International Grantmakers* by the Association of Foundations and *Training Workshops on Resource Mobilization* conducted by Venture for Fund Raising. Specific friends who helped are Steve Rood, current Representative of TAF, who humored us and supported this project even prior to joining TAF last year; Gavin Tritt, the Assistant Representative, who was the epitome of a “partner-donor”; and Patti Buckles and Cris Pineda of USAID, pioneers in the donor community, who supported this project.

The second project this book is related to is a more ambitious effort, *Investing in Ourselves: Giving and Fund Raising in Asia*. This seven-country research project mirrors the case study and survey approach



of this book. It is hoped that each country team will develop training materials, conduct courses on fund raising, and further assist getting Asians to invest in their communities. ■

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