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### SNAPSHOTS:

The year 2020 marked the start of a history that shook humanity at its core. News of a new deadly strain of virus caught everyone by surprise. Millions of lives have gone and millions more continue to bear the pain of losing loved ones. As with all other nations, the Philippines is no exemption. It was in March of 2020 when the country joined the rest of the world and started lockdown to limit the spread of the virus. For most, this is the first lockdown ever known and with it came more challenges and questions of an unknown future. The impact was felt far and wide most especially with the younger generations. Schooling was halted and replaced with remote learning without enough resources to support the abrupt change. Teachers did the best they could with the limited resources they have to continue to provide education even in the most trying times. Modules became the only tool for teaching that somehow bridge the loss of learning. Parents are left scrambling between their job and supporting the schooling of their children, particularly the vulnerable ones, the Learners with Special Needs (LSN). There was no clear direction as to where this "new normal" will turn. But lessons learned in the past provided guidance to move forward thoughtfully.

Moving to school year 2020-2021, the Department of Education conducted surveys to understand what types of learning modalities will be useful to implement in a particular schc .. Brilliant minds worked together to support schooling and education despite the fear, anxiety, stress and hardship brought by COVID. Although the result is valuable it did not prove to be effective to LSN students because they do not fit the standard of paper and pencil teaching-learning method. As Loris Malaguzzi once said "the wider the range of possibilities we offer children, the more intense will be their motivations and the richer their experiences" Education is for all but the pandemic brought another level of challenge to the LSN group, their teachers and parents and that is how to continuously provide individualized learning. One method of teaching does not work and will never work to every student. Indeed, innovation comes out of necessity, a unique partnership was further strengthened between teachers, parents and the community to support LSN students.

Tarlac West Central Elementary School has been instrumental in serving the community of LSN learners since it was established in 2003. TWCES is the only school in the Tarlac City School Division that caters to the needs of "LSN". The program looks at each child's physical, cognitive, developmental ability, skills, personality, disabilities, impairments and learning styles. The program continuously served the needs of the LSN students in the midst of the pandemic. As the saying goes "Every child is gifted, they just unwrap their packages at different times" and this has been proven time and again. The joy of each parent while supporting their child outweighed the impacts of the pandemic. A few of the highlighted comments like "*Nawala man ang work ko abroad natutukan ko naman ang anak ko sa pag develop ng kanyang mga skills*";

*"Sino po ang mag-aakala na aabot and mundo sa ganitong sitwasyon, pero tuloy tuloy and buhay at mas lalo ko nakilala and anak ko.*

*Andami ko pala di alam sa kanya*"; and lastly "*Ang hirap pa lang maging teacher, bagama't rewarding*" proves that it takes a village to raise a child" The "*Nay-Tay, mga GURO sa panahon ng Pandemya*" are one of the modern super heroes! Pandemic has changed a lot of things and brought the "new normal" but parents are still the best teacher a child can have! Truly, some of the most wonderful people are the ones who don't fit into boxes!

Even in these difficult time that most of the people have gone to losing hope and sense. We must still pursue to make a difference in believing and not surrendering to the capabilities of the LSN .Parents as "home-partners and collaborators " of the school that champions the life of learners with special needs.

