

CHAT FORES'
DESIGN DIARY

FASHION SPOTLIGHT
On Anna Angara

GUTSY TUASON
AT THE SUMMIT

TOWN & COUNTRY

LIFE AT ITS BEST

The Quiet Strength
of JOANNA
ONGPIN
DUARTE

BEST
BEAUTY
BETS

THE BEST &
THE BRIGHTEST
Off to College

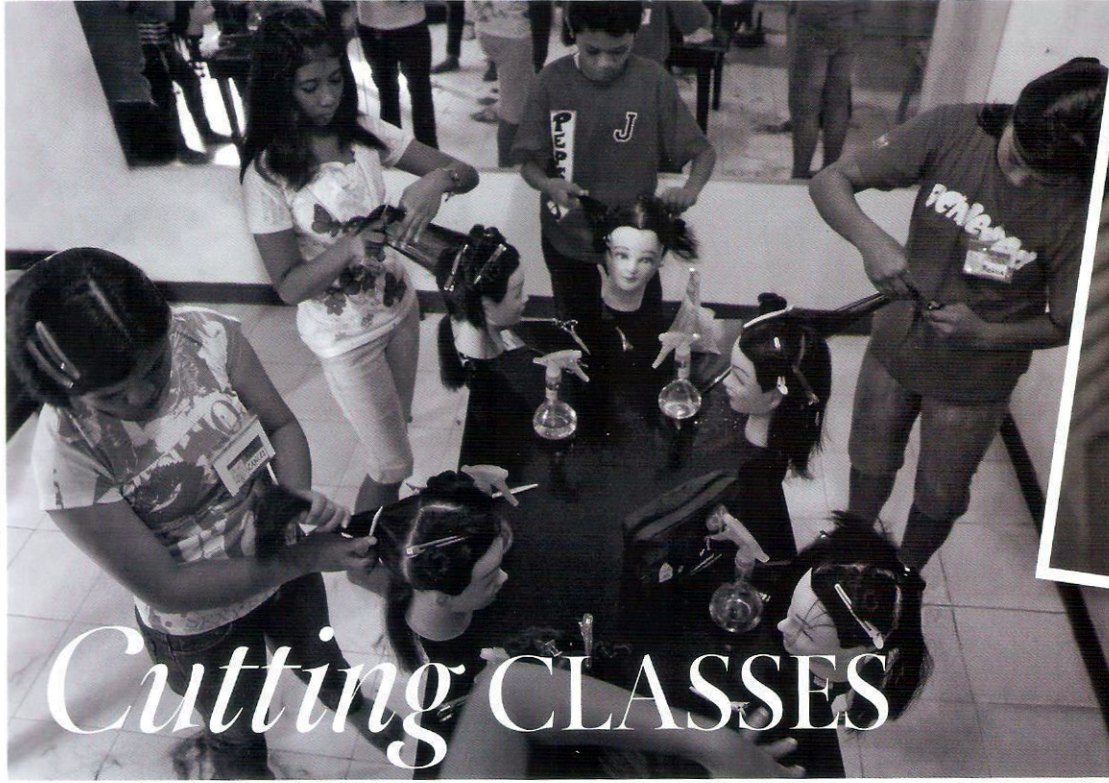


A DAY WITH
Laura Verallo
DE BERTOTTO

Joanna Ongpin Duarte
in Alberta Ferretti

101 People
You Must Meet
Right Now





HOW TO HELP
ACTION Inc.
 welcomes donations
 to the program.
 Unit No.9-A 4th
 Floor, Rizal Avenue,
 corner Magsaysay
 Drive, East Tapinac,
 Olongapo; info@
 actionman.jp.

Cutting CLASSES

This training program styles a future for teenage orphans.

WHILE WORKING WITH MANY JAPANESE hairstylists at different charity events four years ago, ACTION (A Child's Trust is Ours to Nurture) founding president Hajime Yokota thought of another way to enrich the future of the Filipino orphans and underprivileged children that his foundation served. He came up with Hasami No Chikara ("the power of scissors"), a long-term training program that would arm its participants with skills that can be turned into a profession.

He then partnered with Juro Salon's Jude Hipolito and Rose Velasco to act as trainers to the participants. Applicants were carefully screened, and Hipolito and Velasco conducted the first session last May with 14 participants in Olongapo. Since then, they have held regular satellite workshops in three other areas as

well as joint training seminars. Each batch will train for three years, with a new batch being taken in annually starting in 2015.

Since that first session, Yokota has observed a change in the participants. Former troublesome cases such as perennial runaways now stay put in the center and focus on honing the skills being taught to them. "They have also improved in the way they dress up, the way they take care of themselves," he says. "Their communication skills continuously improve alongside their technical cutting skills. They now cut their own hair as well as that of their friends'. They exude more confidence every time we see them."

ACTION plans to open a salon in Olongapo in three years to provide a workplace for graduates and on-the-job trainees of the program. Hipolito and Velasco may also provide employment through their own salon or within their network. In the future, they would like to extend their program not only to children's institutions, but to other communities and different regions. "We are empowering them to develop skills that can jumpstart a lifetime career," Yokota says. "We feel a wonderful sense of fulfillment in sharing our skills with these kids, and hope that someday, they too will pass them on. That will be our legacy."



FAST FACTS

- ◆ The first batch needed P500,000 for its first year. Most of the funding comes from Japanese hair salon owners as donations. The rest comes from ACTION's general funds from Japan.
- ◆ Participants in the first batch are orphaned teenage girls, between 13 to 16 years old, and are from different cities and provinces such as Bulacan, Olongapo, Bataan, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Nueva Ecija.
- ◆ ACTION also runs other training programs for underprivileged kids such as the the Power of Dance and the Power of Karate.