

**For Immediate Release
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124 Filipino families celebrate Christmas in new homes at the Manulife Muntinlupa Gawad Kalinga Village

Muntinlupa, Philippines – This Christmas, 124 Filipino families will enjoy a more joyful celebration in the comfort of homes they can finally call their own, following the turnover of houses at the Manulife Muntinlupa Gawad Kalinga Village, which was completed in September.

The village is a project of Manulife, the city government of Muntinlupa, and non-government and non-profit organization Gawad Kalinga (GK). Started in 2010, it aims to build comfortable homes in a safe community for some of the city's underprivileged residents, many of whom work as janitors, drivers, or street cleaners. According to a 2015 study by the Philippine Statistics Authority, around 12 million Filipinos are living in extreme poverty, many of whom reside in unsafe living conditions.

Many beneficiaries of the Manulife Muntinlupa GK Village used to live in shanties located in danger zones, such as creeks that rise and destroy homes and property during storms. "Ngayon, maginhawa na kami at panatag ang kalooban dahil naninirahan na kami sa isang ligtas na lugar, malayo sa peligro, tahimik at mapayapa. (Now, we are more comfortable and have peace of mind, because we live in a safe community, away from danger)," said Edna Balista who lives with her pedicab driver and construction worker husband, as well as their 26-year-old son and grandchild.

Part of the new community is the two-floor Child and Youth Development (CYD) Center. It serves as a daycare and a social hall for various youth and community programs. It gives the community's youth a place to learn outside of school and when their parents are at work. It also keeps them away from the dangers of the streets.

"Many Filipinos dream of having a home and giving their children a safe space where they can learn and grow as good citizens," said Ryan Charland, Manulife Philippines President and Chief Executive Officer. "As we mark the completion of Manulife's 110th year in the Philippines, we feel fulfillment in having helped 124 families achieve their dreams and aspirations. We hope that this milestone will inspire them to dream even bigger."

"Manulife is a proud partner of the Muntinlupa City government and GK as they share in our vision of empowering people to fulfill their dreams," added Amelia Villamor, Manulife Business Processing Services (MBPS) Vice President and Manila Site Head.

The Manulife Muntinlupa GK Village is located at Soldiers' Hills, Brgy. Putatan. It is a result of the collaboration among Manulife, GK, and the local government. Manulife, consisting of Manulife Philippines and MBPS, provided the funds to construct the buildings. Gawad Kalinga managed the project and facilitated the construction, while the local government provided the land and identified the beneficiaries.

End



COMMUNITY COMPLETE! Ryan Charland, President and CEO of Manulife Philippines (5th from left); Amelia Villamor, VP and Manila Site Head of Manulife Business Processing Services (9th from left); and Melissa Henson, SVP and Chief Marketing Officer of Manulife Philippines (10th from left) joined Hon. Atty. Jaime Fresnedi, Mayor of Muntinlupa City (8th from left); Hon. Ruffy Biazon, Congressman of Muntinlupa City (6th from left); Engr. Francis Balagtas (4th from left), Gawad Kalinga Head of Parañaque and Muntinlupa; and special guest Hon. John Holmes (7th from left), Ambassador of Canada to the Philippines in awarding unit titles to 124 beneficiaries of the Manulife Muntinlupa Gawad Kalinga Village. The final turnover ceremony was held on September 15, 2017.

About Manulife Philippines

The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company opened its doors for business in the Philippines in 1907. Since then, Manulife's Philippine Branch and later The Manufacturers Life Insurance Co. (Phils.), Inc. (Manulife Philippines) has grown to become one of the leading life insurance companies in the country. Manulife Philippines is a wholly-owned domestic subsidiary of Manulife Financial Corporation, among the world's largest life insurance companies by market capitalization. Learn more about Manulife Philippines by visiting their website www.manulife.com.ph and following them on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ManulifePH), Twitter (@ManulifePH), and Instagram (@manulifePH).

About Manulife Business Processing Services (MBPS)

MBPS is the global shared service center of Manulife which provides administrative, finance, investments, marketing, underwriting, actuarial, and information technology services to Manulife and John Hancock operations in Canada, the United States, and Asia. It was established in the Philippines in April 2006 and operates 24x7 in its main site at the UP North Science and Technology Park in Quezon City, its secondary site in Chengdu, China and its newest site in Mactan Newtown, Cebu.

About Manulife

Manulife Financial Corporation is a leading international financial services group that helps people achieve their dreams and aspirations by putting customers' needs first and providing the right advice and solutions. We operate primarily as John Hancock in the United States and Manulife elsewhere. We provide financial advice, insurance, as well as wealth and asset management solutions for individuals, groups and institutions. At the end of 2016, we had approximately 35,000 employees, 70,000 agents, and thousands of distribution partners, serving more than 22 million customers. As of September 30, 2017, we had over \$1 trillion (US\$806 billion) in assets under management and administration, and in the previous 12 months we made \$27.1 billion in payments to our customers. Our principal operations are in Asia, Canada and the United States where we have served customers for more than 100 years. With our global headquarters in Toronto, Canada, we trade as 'MFC' on the Toronto, New York, and the Philippine stock exchanges and under '945' in Hong Kong.

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