

THE DREAMKEEPER PROJECT

Getting Scholars Closer to their Dreams

What is the Dreamkeeper Project?

In order to ensure unhampered learning opportunities amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Silliman University has shifted to an Online Distance Learning (ODL) approach to teaching-learning. This brings classrooms to the homes of students by administering synchronous and asynchronous activities virtually for at least the first semester of SY 2020-2021.

ODL significantly benefits students but it also poses some financial challenges to some, particularly to students who, without the support of scholarships, would not have been able to study in Silliman. One of the primary requirements of ODL is internet connectivity. With majority of the scholars coming from humble backgrounds, this requirement puts additional pressure on their families around this time when household incomes have been affected due to loss of jobs and livelihood.

It is for the purpose of providing internet connectivity to scholars that the Dreamkeeper Project was developed – an initiative to help keep dreams together.

The Project is handled by the Scholarships and Aid Division of the Office of Student Services. For more information, e-mail sac@su.edu.ph.

How many need-based scholars does Silliman have?

Around 30% or some 400 of first-year students enrolled in the University come from households falling below the poverty line. Of this number, 58 are scholars and aid grantees; majority or 30 of them are on full scholarships. These scholarships cover full or are applied against tuition fees. They also provide arrangements that enable scholars to earn as student assistants towards their allowance or school fees.

The pandemic has, however, put additional pressure on scholars who hold onto their dreams with sheer optimism. Their scholarship facilitates access to a wide range of learning platforms, but securing internet connectivity, especially for those in hinterland areas, for online learning creates a gap that this project seeks out *Dreamkeepers* like you to help fill.

How will Silliman address the need for internet connectivity of its scholars?

As Silliman reassess the need to implement ODL in the next term, the most cost-efficient option for internet connectivity is mobile internet. Subscription is monthly and bandwidth provision is tested to be sufficient for ODL. Earlier in August, Smart Communications, a corporate partner, has given away free pocket WiFi's to qualified scholars.

With our scholars coming from different areas around the country with varying internet connectivity strengths depending on mobile signal provider, the Dreamkeeper Project is guided by the following:

Monthly Allocation

Each scholar is provided with either a mobile internet load (Globe or Smart) or a mobile internet allowance of Php999.00 every month. A [Monthly Allocation Agreement](#) between the OSS Scholarship Office and the scholar outlines these details and ascertains that the amount allocated is used for its intended purpose only.

Accountability

OSS will oversee the project. It will transfer the mobile internet load or mobile internet allowance to each scholar via their registered mobile numbers or accounts, as indicated in the Monthly Allocation Agreement. Official receipts are required from scholars who opt for mobile internet allowance.

How can I help?

We would be happy to connect with you on your preferred arrangement for your support towards this Project. Kindly fill out this [Dreamkeeper Online Pledge Form](#) with your contact information and arrangement that best works for you.

Alternatively, you may consider the following steps for one-off or recurring donations:

Bank Transfer	Bank of Philippine Islands San Jose Branch Acct. #9215-8032-25 Swift Code: BOPIPHMM Account name: Silliman University (Indicate in the particulars: "Student Services Dream Keeper Project")
	(a) E-mail a screenshot of the validated deposit slip to sac@su.edu.ph for proper acknowledgement. (b) Please also indicate in the same e-mail if you are interested to do a monthly donation and would wish to receive courtesy reminders.
Check	Issue a check in the name of "Silliman University"
	Please include a note containing the following: (a) Purpose: Dreamkeeper Project (b) Full Name (c) Mailing address (where can we can send the official receipt) (d) If you are interested to do a monthly donation and would wish to receive courtesy reminders.

How will I know if this project is working?

As a *Dreamkeeper* supporter, we will include you in our regular communications so you can be updated on the progress of donations.