

JULY 2026 [VOL. 1 ISSUE NO. 3]

The Good Life

THE OFFICIAL E-NEWSLETTER OF **SMDC**

LEADING MEN: MASTERING STRATEGY

Discover how our leaders pursue their passions outside the office to master work-life balance

THE REAL ESTATE RESET: WHAT BUYERS WANT

Property seekers are choosing practicality, flexibility, and ready communities over real estate promises

BEYOND GOOD JOB: THE 5 APPRECIATION LANGUAGES

Great SMDC communities start from within. Learn how to uniquely recognize your colleagues and boost morale

What's *Inside*?

Discover five ways to ►
make teammates feel
valued and strengthen
workplace connections.



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For SMDC Nature, this approach is called The Greenprint: a design framework that brings together open space, resource efficiency, and sustainability.



► Meet Mr. Ali Espina and discover how intentional morning routines, family time, fitness, and personal rituals help him stay focused and productive.



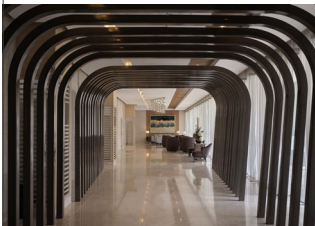
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Mr. Christoffer Perfiñan shares how faith and discipline shape purposeful leadership.



ABOUT THE COVER

This month's cover showcases the elegant interiors of Shore 3 Residences through the lens of renowned architectural photographer Tom Epperson. This image showcases the comfort of everyday living.



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Letter from the *Editor*

Every month, as we put this newsletter together, one question keeps coming up: What does the good life look like today? The answer is changing.

It's no longer just about owning more, earning more, or living in bigger spaces. More and more, it's about choosing what truly matters. A home that makes everyday life easier. A community that helps people thrive. Work that has purpose. Time spent doing the things and with the people you care about most.

You'll see that idea throughout this issue.

From the way homebuyers are redefining value, to the passions our own people pursue beyond the office, to communities designed with the future in mind, every story reminds us that the good life isn't built overnight. It's shaped by the choices we make every day.

We hope these pages leave you with fresh ideas, meaningful conversations, and maybe even a new way of looking at what the good life means to you.

Enjoy the issue.

JP Lim
Editor-in-Chief

Our Editorial Philosophy

THE GOOD LIFE, ACCORDING TO US

The good life means something different to everyone.

For some, it's a first home.

For others, it's a peaceful retirement.

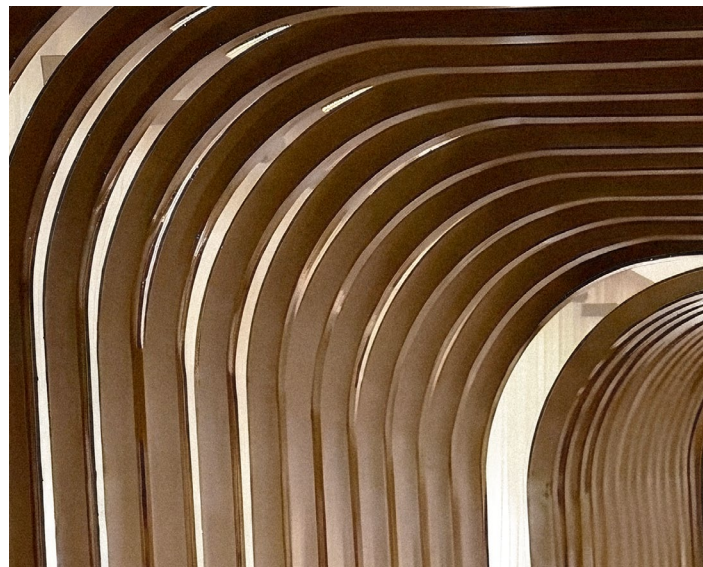
For many, it's simply having more time for family, purpose, and the things that matter most.

That's why this publication exists.

Every issue explores the ideas, people, communities, and conversations shaping the way Filipinos live today. Sometimes we'll talk about homes. Sometimes about design, leadership, sustainability, culture, or everyday moments that deserve to be celebrated.

Because at the end of the day, the good life isn't just where you live.

It's how you live.



Living What Matters

Finding fulfillment through life's most meaningful moments

Four inspiring stories that show how the good life is defined not by possessions, but by the moments, dreams, and people that make a house feel like home.

The meaning of the good life is different for everyone. For some, it's the comfort of raising children in a safe community. For others, it's finally coming home after years of sacrifice, embracing a peaceful retirement, or building a legacy that will benefit generations to come. Across SMDC communities, these aspirations take shape through the lives of homeowners whose journeys remind us that a home is more than a place. It's where life's most meaningful chapters unfold.

Finding Space to Grow

For Jester and Diana Cruz, proud owners of three units at Shine Residences, the good life begins with family. With Jester working overseas in Singapore, their home provides stability and peace of mind, allowing their four children to grow up in a secure environment close to school and surrounded by a caring community. Their story reflects how a thoughtfully planned home can strengthen family bonds, even across distances.

Coming Home to a Dream

After more than three decades of working in Hong Kong, Evelyn Castelo fulfilled a lifelong dream she carried since childhood: owning a home of her own. At Charm Residences, she found not only convenience through its proximity to transport and commercial centers but also the pride and dignity that come with achieving a goal built through years of perseverance. Her journey is a powerful reminder that homeownership represents more than property it symbolizes resilience, accomplishment, and hope.

"I get the achievement not only of the toilet na pangarap ko since I was a child, but the comfort I didn't have growing up. Malapit sa LRT, malapit sa mga shopping malls, maganda yung place, at malapit sa kinalakihan kong Antipolo. Dati patingin-tingin lang ako, ngayon meron na rin pala ako."

Evelyn Castelo

Homeowner at Charm Residences for 3 years



"Hearing our kids' laughter echo through the halls, seeing them walk safely to school, and knowing they're growing up in a community that cares for them... Shine Residences isn't just a home for us but also a space where our family feels whole, grounded, and truly at home."

Jester & Diana Cruz
Homeowner at Shine
Residences for 8 years



Embracing a Gentler Chapter

For retirees Lito and Dex Peña, life's greatest luxury is simplicity. Their move to Trees Residences allowed them to enjoy quiet mornings, familiar routines, and easy access to everyday essentials. Rather than seeking extravagance, they found fulfillment in a community that offers comfort, security, and the freedom to enjoy retirement at their own pace. Their experience shows that the good life often lies in life's simplest moments.

"At this stage in our lives, we no longer look for anything grand. What makes life good is the peace of mind that we are living in a safe, quiet place that fits our family's needs. Each day here (Trees Residences) feels like a gift."

Lito and Dex Peña
Homeowner at Trees Residences for 6 years



Building a Lasting Legacy

Investor Jennifer Chuason views homeownership through a different lens. What began as a single investment at Shell Residences has grown into a portfolio of 26 units, each representing a thoughtful step toward creating long-term security for her family. While financial growth remains important, Jennifer believes the greatest return comes from building a legacy that future generations can inherit. Her story demonstrates how strategic investments can become a foundation for lasting opportunity and peace of mind.

Together, these four journeys reveal that there is no single definition of the good life. Whether it is found in family, fulfilled dreams, peaceful retirement, or lasting legacy, each story is shaped by the same desire to create a home where people can feel secure, connected, and free to live the life that matters most.



"I invest in long-term value something solid with room to grow. True value goes beyond financial returns; it's about choices that bring comfort and security. This property isn't just an investment, it's a legacy for my children's future, one key at a time."

Jennifer Chuason
Homeowner at Shell Residences for 9 years

Retirement's New Address

Why the Philippines is attracting global retirees

As the Philippines earns global recognition as the world's top retirement destination, the country's real estate landscape is entering a new era. One where homes are designed not only for today, but for a lifetime of comfort, connection, and opportunity.

The Philippines has been recognized as the world's leading retirement destination in the Retirement Abroad Index 2026, celebrated for its affordability, quality healthcare, welcoming communities, and exceptional quality of life. Beyond this milestone, the recognition underscores the country's growing appeal as a place where people can build a fulfilling future.

This shift is reshaping the real estate market. Homebuyers from retirees and Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) to balikbayans and young families are prioritizing homes that offer long-term value, convenience, and flexibility.



Ready-for-occupancy developments and thoughtfully planned communities have become increasingly desirable, providing immediate access to essential services and a lifestyle designed for every stage of life. Location also plays a defining role. Communities close to business districts, healthcare facilities, shopping centers, transportation hubs, and leisure destinations make everyday living more convenient while supporting wellness, connection, and peace of mind. These qualities are becoming key considerations for buyers seeking both a comfortable home and a sound investment.

As the Philippines continues to gain global recognition, its real estate sector is well-positioned to meet evolving lifestyle needs. More than places to live, today's communities are designed to create lasting value offering comfort, accessibility, and opportunities for individuals and families to thrive for years to come.



Building a Lasting Legacy

How one OFW turned years of sacrifice into financial security

For a decade, Engr. Michael Emata has called Singapore his home away from home, a sacrifice made to ensure his family back in the Philippines has a secure place of their own. Like many of our modern-day heroes, Michael's journey is paved with hard work, resilience, and a clear vision for the future. Today, that vision is taking shape through his strategic investments in SMDC's **Jazz Residence** and **Shore Residences**, turning his hard-earned savings into reliable income.

Smart Moves: The Power of Location

At the heart of Michael's investment strategy is peace of mind. He is steadily transforming his years of overseas work into a lasting foundation for himself and his family. By choosing **Jazz Residences**, he tapped into the bustling energy and high demand of the Makati Central Business District. "Because it's very close to the CBD Makati area. If we are going to rent this property out, we can easily find some renters around the area," Michael explains, pointing out the clear advantage of prime locations.



"Gusto ko sana when I retire, I don't have to worry kung saan manggagaling yung panggastos ko, right? And I see the investment in SMDC as one of the instruments to make that come true."

- Michael Emata, **SMDC** Investor

Engr. Michael Emata's story is a testament to the power of foresight and the enduring spirit of the global Filipino. SMDC continues to honor every OFW's sacrifice by providing properties that don't just offer a premium lifestyle, but help build a legacy that lasts a lifetime.

From Manila to Singapore and back home again spanning years of overseas sacrifice, financial growth, and the ultimate return to the Philippines to enjoy a well-deserved retirement and lasting legacy.



Live The Greenprint

Bringing open spaces and efficiency into your life

As hotter days and less predictable weather shape everyday routines, Filipino homebuyers are placing greater value on shade, open space, and communities designed for everyday ease. Hotter days are changing small everyday decisions. Errands are done earlier, air-conditioners run longer, and families are becoming more conscious about water use. For many Filipinos, changing weather is no longer an abstract concern. It is showing up in daily routines, and gradually influencing how people think about home. For many years, a good address was defined mainly by location: proximity to work, schools, transport, and everyday conveniences. Those things still matter. But as weather patterns become less predictable, homebuyers are beginning to ask another question:

What does it actually feel like to come home?

In many urban communities, open space has often been treated as a luxury. But as hotter days become harder to ignore, greenery, shade, and breathing room are becoming everyday essentials.

For **SMDC Nature**, this approach is called The Greenprint: a design framework that brings together open space, resource efficiency, and sustainability in ways residents can experience. Across SMDC Nature developments, at least 60 percent of the property is dedicated to open space. Shaded linear parks, landscaped areas, and walkable green spaces are integrated into the community to create more comfortable, breathable environments for everyday living. The landscaping also incorporates native plant species selected to withstand local weather conditions, including prolonged dry periods and heavy rainfall.

At **SMDC Nature** communities, high-efficiency plumbing fixtures help reduce unnecessary water use through better design. Several developments also incorporate large-scale water management systems. **Cheer Residences** features a 1,316-cubic-meter detention tank, while **Joy Residences** includes a 1,656-cubic-meter detention tank designed to help manage rainfall and support more responsible water use as weather conditions continue to change.

“The weather may be changing, but the goal remains the same. People simply want a home that makes everyday life feel a little easier. The Greenprint is our way of designing communities around that idea.”

Jessica Bianca Sy,
VP and Head of Design, Innovation, and Strategy
SMDC

wind
RESIDENCES
TAGAYTAY CITY

Designing The Life You Love

6 Ways to Style Your SMDC Condo Around the Life You Want

1 Start with purpose

Every well-designed home begins with understanding how you live. Before choosing furniture or décor, consider your daily routine and create a layout that balances comfort, functionality, and style. Whether you're drawn to minimalist simplicity or maximalist expression, thoughtful planning ensures your space works for you.

At **SMDC**, every home is designed to be more than just a place to live. It's a canvas for self-expression one that empowers homeowners to create spaces that reflect their personality, support their lifestyle, and inspire them every day.



2 Let color define the mood

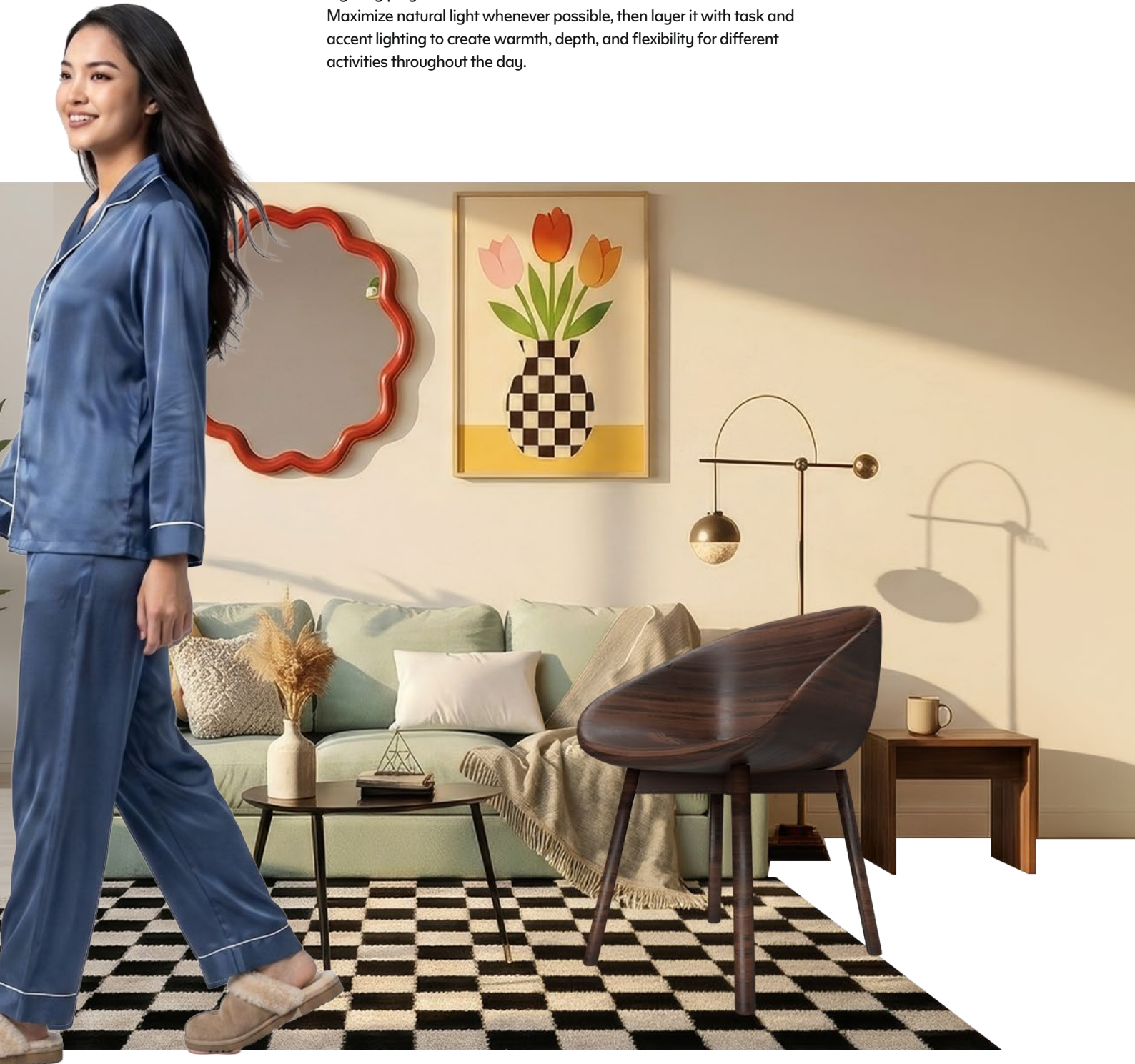
Color has the power to transform a room. Soft, neutral palettes create a sense of calm and openness, while bold hues and layered textures add personality and energy. Choosing a color scheme that reflects your lifestyle helps create a home that feels both inviting and uniquely yours.

3 Showcase your personality

The most memorable interiors tell a story. Display meaningful artwork, travel keepsakes, family photos, or treasured collections to make your condo a true reflection of who you are. These personal touches turn a beautiful space into a home with character.

4 Create the right atmosphere

Lighting plays an essential role in both function and ambiance. Maximize natural light whenever possible, then layer it with task and accent lighting to create warmth, depth, and flexibility for different activities throughout the day.



5 Keep it stylish and organized

A clutter-free home doesn't mean sacrificing style. Multifunctional furniture and smart storage solutions help maximize every square meter while maintaining a clean, polished look. Organized spaces make everyday living more efficient and enjoyable.

6 Design for the future

Your home should evolve with your lifestyle. Choose versatile furniture, flexible layouts, and timeless design elements that can easily adapt as your needs change. Whether you're starting a new chapter or simply refreshing your space, thoughtful design ensures your home continues to support the life you want to live.

South's *Rising* Promise

Where growth and nature thrive together

For years, the ideal home was often defined by its proximity to Metro Manila. Today, that perspective is changing. As business districts, infrastructure, and employment opportunities continue to expand across Southern Luzon, cities like Santa Rosa, Laguna are emerging as dynamic residential destinations where people can live, work, and thrive without compromising quality of life. This shift reflects a new chapter in regional growth one where opportunity is no longer confined to the capital.

Santa Rosa's growth goes beyond economic progress. With thriving business hubs and expanding infrastructure, the city offers seamless connectivity while preserving the balanced lifestyle that defines the South.

Recognizing this evolution, SMDC Nature introduces Calm Residences, a nature-inspired community designed for professionals, growing families, returning OFWs, retirees, and investors seeking long-term value. Thoughtfully planned with landscaped open spaces, parks, wellness amenities, and recreational areas, the development combines peaceful surroundings with seamless access to schools, healthcare institutions, commercial centers, and employment hubs. It reflects a growing preference for homes that support both career aspirations and personal well-being.

As Santa Rosa continues to grow, it is redefining what makes a community truly desirable. Homeownership is no longer simply about owning property in an emerging market—it is about becoming part of a city where progress, accessibility, and quality of life exist in harmony. Through developments like Calm Residences, SMDC Nature is helping shape communities where homeowners can enjoy the opportunities of tomorrow while embracing the comfort and balance they seek today.



CALM

RESIDENCES
SANTA ROSA CITY, LAGUNA

► 43

KODAK PORTA 400

► 42

► 11

The Good Life Is Better *Shared*

An evening of timeless music and meaningful connections

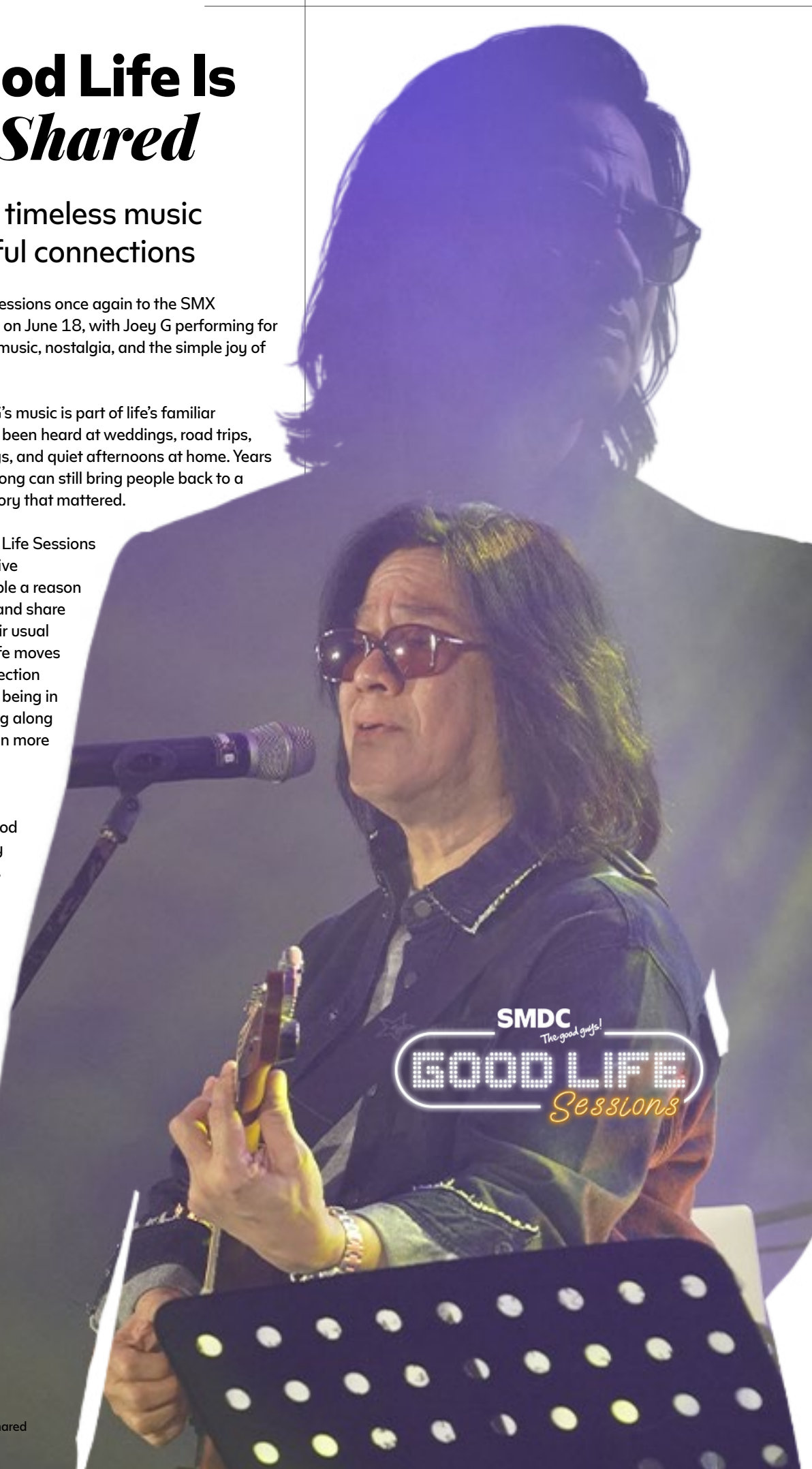
SMDC brings Good Life Sessions once again to the SMX Convention Center Manila on June 18, with Joey G performing for an audience gathered by music, nostalgia, and the simple joy of being together.

For many Filipinos, Joey G's music is part of life's familiar moments. His songs have been heard at weddings, road trips, reunions, family gatherings, and quiet afternoons at home. Years may pass, but a familiar song can still bring people back to a place, a person, or a memory that mattered.

That is what makes Good Life Sessions meaningful. More than a live performance, it gives people a reason to slow down, reconnect, and share an experience beyond their usual routines. In a time when life moves quickly and much of connection happens through screens, being in the same room and singing along to familiar songs feels even more special.

For SMDC, this reflects a simple belief about the good life. It is shaped not just by the homes people choose, but by the moments they get to share with family, friends, and community.

With Joey G taking the stage, Good Life Sessions becomes a reminder that the good life is not always about having more. It is about having people to share it with.



SMDC
The good guys!
GOOD LIFE
Sessions



SMDC
The good guys!

Partnership Signing Event



Rewards Beyond Home

SMDC Makes Homeownership More Rewarding from Day One

SMDC's partnership with SMAC transforms homeownership into a more rewarding journey, offering homeowners everyday benefits from the moment they invest.

Buying a home has always been one of life's most meaningful milestones. While location, design, and long-term value remain top priorities, today's homebuyers are also looking for immediate benefits that enhance their ownership experience. Recognizing this shift, SMDC has partnered with SMAC, the SM Group's membership and rewards program, to give eligible homebuyers added value from day one.

Through the partnership, qualified buyers of participating developments under SMDC Heights, SMDC Nature, and SMDC Symphony Homes can earn up to 50,000 SMAC Points on eligible spot cash or spot downpayment transactions. Since each SMAC Point is equivalent to one peso, homeowners can redeem their rewards across participating SM retail establishments turning a long-term investment into everyday savings and convenience.

The collaboration also reinforces one of SMDC's greatest strengths: its connection to the larger SM ecosystem. Many SMDC communities are strategically located near shopping malls, workplaces, schools, healthcare facilities, transport hubs, and leisure destinations, making everyday living more convenient. By integrating SMAC rewards into the homebuying journey, SMDC extends that convenience beyond the home itself, creating an ownership experience that delivers value both now and in the years ahead.

As the needs of modern homebuyers continue to evolve, homeownership is no longer defined solely by the property itself. It is shaped by the experiences that come with it. Through its partnership with SMAC, SMDC is redefining what it means to invest in a home, making every milestone more rewarding from the very first day while helping homeowners enjoy the benefits of being part of the trusted SM ecosystem.



Designing Solutions, Delivering *Style*

The "IT" Leader's Guide to Tech, Teamwork, and Timeless Fashion

Leading SMDC's Digital Innovations with style and substance, **Ms. Jean Marguerite Ong** slays her tech career. Discover how she empowers her team and catch her top tips on the perfect work bag!

What does a typical workday look like for you? *My team focuses on Digital Innovation, so we're involved in the entire process from identifying the business problems, and conceptualizing the solution to designing, developing, and implementing them. A typical day includes a lot of discussions, brainstorming sessions, requirements gathering and working closely with different teams to ensure that we are building the right solution. One thing I always keep in mind is the customer experience. You can have a great idea and even launch a bug-free software, portal, or app, but if it's not easy and enjoyable to use, then people won't adopt it. That's why creating a seamless user experience is always a key priority for me.*

What defines a truly successful workday for you? *For me, a successful workday is one where my team grows and learns. I believe in empowering my team by giving*

them opportunities to lead projects while I provide guidance and support. It's a much more sustainable way to scale and build a strong team. I also consider it a successful day knowing that they are picking up something and gaining new skillsets throughout the journey. And whenever we launch projects that solve a problem or address a need, then that's a successful workday for the entire department.

From your collection, what is your ultimate favorite work bag? *My ultimate work bag is this black leather bag. I love how versatile it is – it can be used for work and for afterwork dinners. I've had it for a few years now and it's still in great condition, which makes it one of my favorite wardrobe staples.*

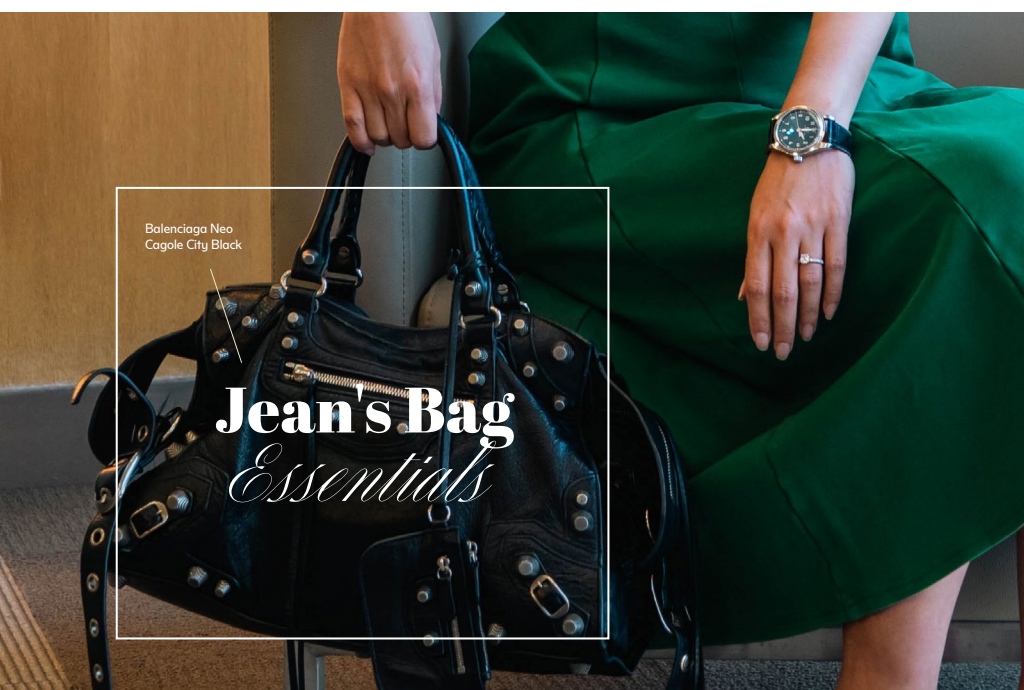
What work bag investment would you recommend for young professionals? *I'd recommend investing in a bag with a classic, timeless design that is made from good materials. A classic style won't go out of fashion right away- preferably in neutral colors such as black, beige, tan, white, or nude so you can match it easily with different outfits. If it is well made, it can last for years making it a worthwhile investment.*



What is one piece of career advice you'd share with aspiring female leaders?

Don't be afraid to speak up, share your ideas, and take a seat at the table. Your perspective matters. When you're young and starting out, don't be afraid to make mistakes – early in your career is the best time to take on challenges, try new things, and learn from the experience. Every experience and mistake is an opportunity to grow – Be a sponge and always learn. The more you learn and embrace those experiences, the more capable you'll become as a leader.

What are 3 absolute essentials you always keep in your bag? *My cellphone. My wallet. And a lip tint. The first 2 are essentials, the lip tint is an essential so I won't look too pale.*



Jean's Bag
Essentials

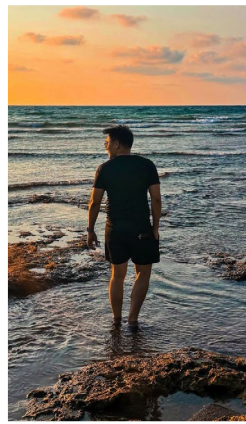
Shift + Refresh: *Unplugged*

Disconnecting to reconnect with what keeps us moving

This section shines a light on our collective life outside of work. From your favorite weekend unwinding spots to the hidden hobbies and talents you're passionate about, welcome to the official look at how we rest, play, and inspired each other every day.



Melchor Elleo Llovit
Marketing



After work, I channel the Sagittarius in me. I love discovering and exploring new things. I make time to work out, enjoy going to parties almost every week, and whenever I get the chance, I go on spontaneous beach trips. I'm also a huge movie and series enthusiast. I can easily watch five movies in a day or binge an entire series over the weekend. Over the years, I've tried swimming lessons, wall climbing, and Muay Thai, and now I'm already looking forward to learning something new again. I simply love experiencing life one adventure at a time.

Juan Carlo Cabreza

Talent Acquisition and Development Services



Outside of SMDC, I am a passionate advocate for Filipino culture and the arts. I currently serve as a Cultural Performing Artist of La Manila Dance Ambassadors and Rondalla, where I help preserve and promote traditional Filipino dance and music through performances, cultural exchanges, and educational initiatives both locally and internationally. Being a cultural dancer is more than just a hobby, it is my passion and a way of honoring our heritage while inspiring others to appreciate the richness of Filipino culture. Despite having a full-time career, I remain deeply committed to this calling because it gives me purpose, keeps me grounded, and allows me to represent the Philippines with pride.



William Joyce Sabucohan
Treasury



AN OCEAN beyond the office walls: sometimes calm and reflective, sometimes wild and stormy, but always teaching us something about ourselves. A MOUNTAIN RANGE: filled with steep climbs, difficult descents, and rewarding views that make every step worthwhile. A BOOK WRITTEN IN CONTRASTS: chapters of celebration, chapters of struggle, and lessons woven through every page. I've learned to explore life and heal through climbing, swimming, writing, and spending time in nature. These simple things help me slow down, clear my mind, and keep going through life's ups and downs.



Charlene Boholano

SMDC Property Management

Outside of SMDC, I dedicate my time to pageantry, youth leadership, and community service. As a beauty queen and youth empowerment advocate, I enjoy volunteering, mentoring young people, and participating in initiatives that promote confidence, leadership, and personal growth. These passions allow me to use my voice and platform for a greater purpose, reminding me that true success is measured not only by personal achievements but by leading by example, so I strive to use my voice and platform to encourage others, give back to the community, and leave a positive impact wherever I go.



Leading Men: Mastering Strategy

How Faith and Focus Build a Purpose-Driven Workday

Great leadership starts with intentional habits. Through routines centered on focus, discipline, family, fitness, and faith, Mr. Ali Espina and Mr. Christoffer Perfinan show that success begins long before the workday starts.



Ali Espina
AVP & Head of Sales Activation,
Corporate Marketing

How do you start your day, and do you have a specific morning routine that you absolutely cannot miss before leaving the house?

I am immediately in the bathroom after I get off the bed. I am an early riser. Being in the bathroom early in the morning with absolutely no disturbance whatsoever helps me organize my day & ideas come in fast. The people I work with often have heard me say at least once, "I got this idea when I was in the shower..." I also don't want to miss talking to my 12-year old before I leave. I make it a point to say, "good morning, good luck & enjoy school" before I leave. When I'm not rushing I take him to school so our conversation can be longer than just "good morning" & "good bye."

Going back to your routine, what are your top 3 non-negotiables that you need to accomplish before you are ready?

Before I enter the office, I eat. I eat my breakfast in the car while listening to a podcast or watching a YouTube equivalent. After the podcast or while watching - weird as it may seem - I talk to myself what things are pending from the previous day(s) or what needs to be done for the day. I write these down on a piece of paper or in my phone if there are quite a number. Sometimes I like to put in timeframes to put structure to my day or just simply test how fast I can finish the task. I read somewhere that the act of crossing out or completing tasks secretes dopamine which makes us feel good; it helps in the day's productivity. It works for me!... Then I'm out of the car.



How do you wrap up your workday? What are your personal rituals to separate your work from your personal life?

I leave my laptop in the office from Monday to Thursday to prevent me from doing work at home. I only bring it home on Fridays. Not bringing my laptop is my signal that work for the day is done. BUT I maintain connected through my phone. If ever I absolutely need to do work on weekdays after office hours & at home, I do it via my personal laptop. After stepping out of the office & before going home, I only spend time in these places: Mondays & Fridays, my Jiu Jitsu class; Tuesdays & Wednesdays, dinner in a restaurant near my house; & Thursdays (my coding day), in Toy Kingdom, Cyberzone, Ace Hardware & a restaurant in SM MOA.



Strategic Focus

Faithful Discipline



Christoffer King Perfiñan
AVP - Resident Relations and Support Services, Property Management



During weekdays, I like to start my day a little earlier than everyone else because I enjoy having a few quiet moments before the day gets busy. The very first thing I do is take a bath. After that, I'll grab a cup of brewed coffee and check what's ahead the schedules in my calendar, important messages, and any updates that may need immediate attention.

I also make sure to have breakfast and spend a little chat with my mom before heading out. Those small moments help me start the day on a positive note and remind me of the importance of maintaining balance between work and home.

Staying healthy is something I take seriously, which is why going to the gym is a non-negotiable part of my daily routine. I always make time for my workout and make sure it's done before 9:00 AM. It not only keeps me physically fit but also gives me the energy, discipline, and clear mindset that I need to perform at my best throughout the day.

Another thing that's important to my routine is staying informed about what's happening both in our country and around the world. Before I start my workday, I usually spend a few minutes reading the news, browsing what is trending, or catching up on current events.



For me, it's more than just keeping up with headlines. Being aware of economic trends, government policies, business developments, and even global events helps me better understand the environment in which we operate. Many of these factors can eventually impact our residents, our buyers, and the property management industry.

I also enjoy learning about new ideas, innovations, and best practices from different parts of the world. It gives me fresh perspectives and helps me think ahead rather than simply react to what's happening around me.

Staying informed has become a daily habit that keeps me engaged, broadens my understanding, and helps me make more thoughtful decisions both professionally and personally. It's my way of making sure I start each day with awareness, curiosity, and a wider perspective of the world around me.

And finally, one of the most important parts of my morning routine is taking a few moments to seek God's guidance before starting the day. Whether it's through a short prayer, quiet reflection, or reading an inspirational verse, it helps me begin the day with the right mindset and perspective.

In my role, every day comes with different responsibilities, decisions, and challenges. There are times when situations require not only professional judgment but also patience, wisdom, and compassion. Taking time to pray reminds me that while I can prepare and do my best, there are things beyond my control, and it's important to approach them with faith and humility.

It's also a moment of gratitude. Before the meetings, emails, and busy schedule begin, I pause to thank God for the opportunities, the people I work with, and the chance to make a positive impact on others. This simple practice helps me stay grounded and focused on what truly matters.



The Language of *Appreciation*

Five ways to make every teammate feel valued

At SMDC, we do not just build happy communities for our residents, we also nurture a vibrant, supportive community within our own teams. We spend a dedicated chunk of our week collaborating, brainstorming, and chasing targets together. But outside of alignments and project deliverables, have we ever paused to think about how our teammates feel appreciated?

Just like Gary Chapman's famous 5 Love Languages, Dr. Paul White adapted this concept for the workplace through "The 5 Languages of Appreciation." Understanding these languages does not just build a more harmonious workspace; it boosts team morale, drives synergy, and brings out the best in everyone!

Let's find out how your team speaks appreciation.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

For some, a simple "thank you" or a specific shoutout goes a long way. People with this love language value verbal or written recognition that highlights their hard work.

How to say it: Don't just say "Good job". Make it specific! "Ang laking tulong ng deck/layout mo kahapon. Mas naging malinaw sa presentation natin." Send a quick, sincere thank you via MS Teams, leave a sticky note, or give a well-deserved shoutout during huddles.



In a professional setting, this translates to appropriate, spontaneous expressions of camaraderie and shared victory.

PHYSICAL TOUCH

How to make them feel it: A cheerful high-five after sealing a deal, a friendly fist bump before a big presentation, or a reassuring pat on the back during tough days. Even a fun team handshake can keep the energy high.



Actions speak louder than words for this group. They feel most valued when someone proactively pitches in to help, especially when deadlines are tight.

ACTS OF SERVICE

How to act it: Help review a tedious report, set up an emergency alignment, or volunteer to handle food coordination when the team is working late. These small gestures show we truly have each other's backs.

Advantages of Understanding Your Team's Languages of Appreciation

When we take the time to learn and speak our colleagues' language of appreciation, we build a workspace that mirrors the world-class communities we create. It breaks communication barriers, builds deeper trust, and makes our everyday life at SMDC a much more rewarding experience.



TANGIBLE GIFTS

How to present it: Surprise a stressed teammate with their favorite coffee or bring pasalubong after a provincial site launch. These thoughtful gestures will make them feel appreciated even more.



It's not about the price tag. It's the thought that counts. A physical token is a tangible reminder that they are remembered and valued.

QUALITY TIME

How to dedicate time for it: Maximize 1-on-1 check ins to ask how they really are or set aside a quick coffee break. Casual team lunches, birthday celebrations, or having a quick conversation during site visits all strengthen bonds.

This language is all about undivided attention and meaningful connections. Teammates who speak this value genuine interaction beyond task-talk.



together.



Growing Hope, Together



Building greener spaces, cleaner air, and stronger communities for our future generations



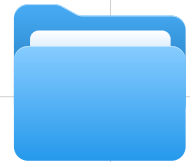
SMDC joined residents, employees, volunteers, and barangay partners at Cheerful Homes in Mabalacat, Pampanga to celebrate Arbor Day 2026 through a tree planting activity. Every tree planted is a small step toward greener communities and a better tomorrow. These saplings will provide shade and cleaner air for generations of homeowners to enjoy. We remain deeply committed to building sustainable, eco-friendly spaces that nurture both people and the planet. Thank you to everyone who spent the day growing hope with us!



Defining

The Good Life

We asked **The Good Guys** to discover what fuels their Good Life beyond the busy workdays



Good Life Files



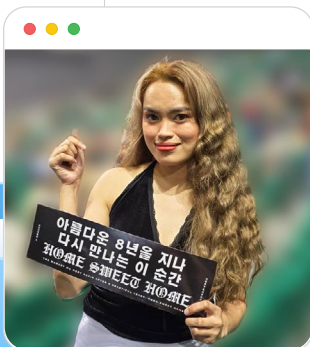
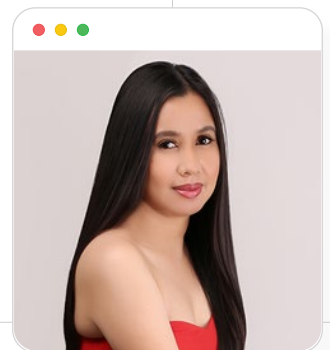
Ashlee Tancuan
Marketing

“Good life for me means growing professionally without losing sight of what brings you joy.”

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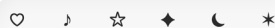
“The “Good Life” is about celebrating small victories and embracing mindful pauses. It’s about finding time to connect with colleagues, sharing laughter even while chasing deadlines, and enjoying meals together as you exchange stories about the day. Work gives us purpose, but the moments of happiness we experience along the way are what truly make the journey meaningful.”

Dawn Denielle Ramos
Office Administration Services



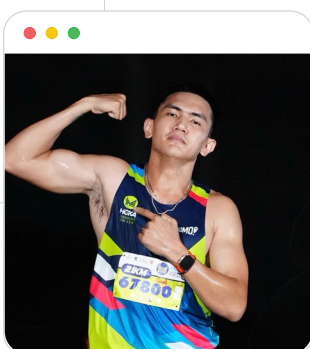
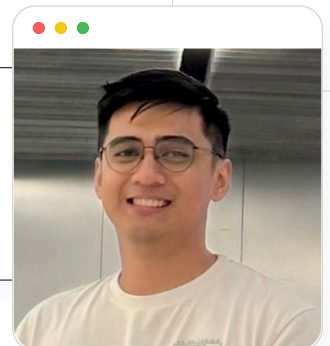
Vhea Manong
TADS

“Outside of work, I enjoy doing things that help me relax and recharge. Watching concerts is one of my favorite things to do because there’s something special about the atmosphere, the live music, and the energy inside the arena. It’s where I feel like the happiest version of myself. I also enjoy exploring new coffee shops, going to the beach, and taking short trips whenever I get the chance. I love capturing moments through photos and videos so I can look back on the memories I’ve made.”



Kerwin Gayo
Service Delivery

“For me, the good life during a busy workday is staying productive without feeling overwhelmed, taking short breaks to enjoy a cup of coffee or think about my next run, and keeping a calm, focused mindset.”



Leonilo Harina Jr
Controllership - Finance

“In essence, the Good Life is living with purpose, staying healthy, and finding joy in the journey one step, one workday, and one kilometer at a time.”



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