

# Michael Tan, 74 years

Location: Illigan, the Philippines

Mission: Mission Friendship – transitional house-building, Nov 2012

Duration: Approximately 1 week

## Takeaways

### **On being a mission trip newbie:**

I had been on several pilgrimage tours with Auntie May (Goh May Lan) – maybe 10 over the last 14 years – but not on a mission trip. This one with CHARIS was my first. I didn't quite know what to expect or how to plan for this. I think that, as volunteers, we tend to want to do as many things as possible; to contribute as much as possible. And I think we always wish that we could have done more. This trip showed me that the only thing I have to keep in mind is to give of myself freely. When you get to your mission trip destination, keep an open mind as to how you can contribute to the mission. And then give.

### **On what makes a memorable experience:**

Being out in the countryside, planting trees, speaking and sharing with the local beneficiaries – these were what made the trip memorable for me.

