



### **Meet Antonieta Castillon**

Antonieta Castillon's loans helped her to afford both of her parents' sudden hospitalizations. After their recoveries, she used her next two loans to grow her convenience store business, which she was rebuilding after a devastating fire.

### **Antonieta's Story**

For Antonieta Castillon, her sari-sari store in the Calape Public Market was the backbone of her family's livelihood. In 2004, that foundation was nearly lost when a devastating electrical fire swept through the market, reducing her shop and her entire inventory to ashes. The timing was particularly difficult; her father had recently been hospitalized and required urgent, ongoing dialysis treatments.

Faced with these competing pressures, Antonieta leaned into her role as the family's provider. She used her initial loans to secure her father's medical care and, shortly after, provided the necessary funds for her mother's recovery following a stroke. By directing this capital toward her parents' health, she ensured they received the treatment they needed during their most vulnerable moments.

Once her family's situation stabilized, Antonieta turned her focus back to the market. Using subsequent loan cycles, she began the steady process of rebuilding from the ground up. Today, her store is once again a fixture in the community. This support allowed her to restock her shelves and diversify her products, and she is now working toward a new goal: expanding into wholesale rice distribution. As the primary provider for her household, Antonieta is successfully fueling her son's education and securing a stable future for her family. Her journey is a powerful example of how resilience and the right financial tools can turn a period of crisis into a story of lasting growth.

