



PAGA TODAY

The Official Newsletter of the
Philippine American Guardian Association, Inc.

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Introducing—our new NEWSLETTER



Mr. Franklin Holz
President

Welcome to PAGA's newly-launched newsletter. Those of us involved with PAGA are proud of the organization's achievements. The whole-hearted dedication of our social workers has paid dividends for our 200+ beneficiaries. Our

active Board members have contributed a great deal to the ongoing success of our efforts to improve the lives of Filipino-Amerasians in the country. At the same time, we are well aware that we have"... promises to keepand miles to go before we sleep." PAGA needs

support from the larger community and we hope that our newsletter will attract you and provide you with living proof of our activities and future direction.

We would love to receive feedback from you. Please do contact us.***

THE ANNUAL MEMBER'S MEETING



Board of Trustees: Top row (L-R)

Michael Bond, Tim Strong, Greg Kittelson,
(Harold Friedland, SWs Mhel and Janette
who are non-board members)

Seated (L-R): Thomas Hoese, Frank Holz,
Atty. Alonzo Ancheta, Deanna Bajar & Ben Tan

The Annual Meeting of PAGA was held on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at the Manila Elks Club. Welcomed were three new members of the Board for year, namely: Mr. Mike Bond, Mr. Terry Haas and the come back of Mr. Timothy Strong. Mr. Frank Holz shared the efforts done by all those concerned to support the educational needs and welfare of the beneficiaries. He then thanked all those present who continue to support PAGA. ***

GRATITUDE AND HEARTFELT THANKS to Manila Lodge No. 761

PAGA expresses its gratitude and heartfelt thanks to the officers and members of Manila Lodge No. 761 for their kind contribution to PAGA during their Membership Cocktail on Jan. 22, 2015. Their continued support to PAGA's efforts to provide assistance to indigent Filipino-Amerasians is very important. We continue our endeavors with your support. ***



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



Makati Christmas Party

PAGA held two Christmas celebrations in 2014, one for the new beneficiaries in Angeles City and the other held in Makati.

Christmas affair at KFC, Makati Cinema Square, Makati City was held on December 13, 2014 with 120 PAGA beneficiaries, their family members, staff, the BOT and guests attended. During the activity, participants enjoyed games, presentations, raffle draws and gifts distributed for all beneficiaries. Josh McCarver, a college beneficiary once again served as the emcee. Christmas baskets were distributed after the party at the PAGA offices.



Angeles Christmas Party

The Angeles City Christmas celebration was held at Jollibee, Balibago branch on December 17, 2014 with 24 in attendance (beneficiaries and one parent). The kids participated in the games prepared and also waited for their names to be called for the raffle. Distribution of Christmas baskets was the final part of the activity followed by picture taking of the group. Mrs. Deanna Bajar also played Santa to the little kids. The parents were very happy expressing their thanks for the blessings received. They look forward to another PAGA activity for the coming year. ***

PLANNED CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2015

Month	Particulars
February	Couples Enrichment Seminar: Celebration of Love
March	Educational Tour in Angeles
March	Life Skills Training Module 1 and 2
April-May	Summer Enrichment Program: Art workshop
April	Summer Activities for Kids
May	Summer Camp
May	Summer Enrichment Program: English Communication
June	Balik-Eskwela Program
June	Medical/Dental Check-up
July	Parenting the Adolescent Module 1-3
August	Life Skills Training Module 3 and 4
October	Livelihood Seminars
November	Parenting the Adolescent Module 4-6
December	Christmas Celebration

BENEFICIARY CORNER

A GIFT TO TREASURE

By: Patricia Borromeo



Nowadays, students who graduated high school are struggling on how will they continue their studies.

Getting a college degree is an Everest to climb with no guarantee of success; your choice if you want to succeed or fail.

Summer after high school, my family and I were discussing about my college studies. They wanted me to pursue engineering, instead of the course that I want because it is cheaper. I just agreed because I really wanted to have a degree. May of 2014 when we finally decided that Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP) is the school where I will study. It is a private school and the combined income of my parents is just enough for our necessary needs, they're worrying if they can provide my tuition fee and school needs.

After I got enrolled, PAGA called us because of their scholarship program, school supplies distribution, medical and dental check-up, etc. I was surprised because after I finished my part in the program, our beloved social worker talked to me that PAGA is granting me a scholarship throughout my college. She discussed everything about it and it feels really overwhelming and inspiring.

Now, I'm still fulfilling my job as a PAGA scholar. I'm very thankful because PAGA is with me, every benefit and help, in bad times, and in good times. I'm studying as hard as I can in return, even though there's a lot of struggles in every aspects. But if you really want to do something, you have to set your mind that you'll get it done with flying colors. It is also scary, because one mistake, everything can be taken away from you. PAGA scholarship has maintaining grade, and I'm scared that one day, I will not be able to make it. After all, mechanical engineering is one of the hardest college course.

It is a challenge to be a scholar. But every good thing has its rewards and frustrations. One must treasure a gift until the end. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for PAGA's help, they are one of the reason why I am still studying. Their scholarship is truly a gift to treasure. ***



CHRISTMAS PURPOSE

By: Josh Christian McCarver

Filipinos are fond of celebrations, and with it comes parties which needs hosting. Being a host is never easy, the reason why many refuse and are afraid or nervous to be one. It takes practice and time to be a good host. Mastery of hosting is tricky but a fulfilling one.

Being active at almost all things made me adept to hosting, a plus to my list of skills and capabilities. I have hosted a lot of events, most of which are in school, and parties of different themes. Of the events I have hosted, my time with PAGA is a memorable one. For four years in a row, I was chosen and requested to be the host of the recent PAGA Christmas parties. It was an achievement since I am always the host (my fellow PAGA members might had enough of my hosting), but the 4 parties were worth my effort and time.

Many consider me as a good host, yet I still experience butterflies in my stomach whenever I start hosting. Confidence is a virtue when I start to grab the microphone and start the program. It has always been Tita Divine's, Tita Mhel's and Tita Janette's signal and smile that makes my nervousness disappear, keep me on track, and make me determined to finish the Christmas program.

PAGA Christmas party made me realize what I have consistently observe in the past 4 years. I have seen smiles worth more than any measurement prevalent, an assurance that happiness is for everyone. I am fortunate to have a family of my own, and yet I am blessed to be part of a family as big as PAGA, that can expand beyond filial connections. Lastly, every heart touched by the care and concern by PAGA during the party returns a delightful thank you.

I have always marked PAGA Christmas party every December as a day to prepare and look forward to, which I still do now. Because I receive a program every first week of December, I never miss a PAGA Christmas party, and I will miss being the host. Thanks to PAGA my December is of purpose; turning my ordinary December day into an interesting PAGA Christmas party worth remembering. ***

HOW YOU CAN HELP.

...With your support, a P3,200 per month can help these 3 Filipino-Amerasian children undergo physical therapy sessions for their special medical needs.



...By being a sponsor of P600/month (Elementary), P900/month (High School), and P1,200/month (College), you can provide a ray of hope that means much more than money – it's a blessing and an inspiration for the child to aim high and have a better future.



..By being a member, for P2,000/year, you can join our diverse virtual team, stay abreast of the latest news and events, and make a difference.

PAGA welcomes your financial contributions of any amount. These donations can be used to purchase special activity packages for our programs: Balik Eskwela, Summer Tutorial Learning Activities for the kids and youth and Summer Youth Camp.

EDITORIAL

Greetings from PAGA to all its valued regular donors and members. The PAGA Today, official newsletter is a campaign innovation to increase our presence on the social media and reach out to more people who have the compassion in helping the poor. The PAGA newsletter will further give its readers an update on the programs and services implemented for underprivileged Filipino-Amerasians towards

...Building a Brighter Future for Filipino-Amerasians

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