



PAGA TODAY

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

Volume 2 Issue 5

January 2017

Stronger together... building brighter future for Filipino Amerasian children



PAGA family with former US Ambassador Philip Goldberg and AAP Chairman James Calero, during the 2016 4th of July celebration at International School

Philippine American Guardian Association, Inc. (PAGA) had a dynamic and productive year in 2016, guiding the underprivileged Filipino Amerasian children and their families to journey of hope, optimism and joy, developing their abilities, enhancing personality and inspiring them in making their dreams come true.

In 2016, PAGA took an extra mile to enhance its operations and make significant improvements to attain its goals.

1. It has strengthened partnership and collaboration among stakeholders—members, officers, staffs, alumni, parents and beneficiaries.
2. It reached out to more Filipino Amerasians and created substantial impact to their lives through its programs—education, health, psychosocial development and other support services such as reconnecting with their American fathers and roots.
3. It has aggressively explored opportunities to be visible, encouraging support and contributions from various groups for its worthy cause.

For PAGA, there are many things to be thankful for in 2016...

- * The sponsors, supporters and contributors for their generous support making all activities possible and successful.
- * The parents and the PAGA kids and youth for their commitment in this partnership and entrusting us their lives.
- * The alumni for their inspiring messages bringing joy and motivations to continue with their work.

In this edition, PAGA wish to share the salient accomplishments and what its partners have to say about its 2016 journey...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Terry Haas

Greetings to friends, supporters, and beneficiaries of PAGA, and welcome to our latest newsletter. It's an honor to be selected as the President of PAGA, and a challenge to fill the spot formerly held by Frank Holz, who has been a great leader for 8 years. Frank will continue to contribute in his new role as Chairman of PAGA's Board of Trustees.

We are very proud of the quality of PAGA programs and services that are provided for the development of our Filipino Amerasian beneficiaries. These programs have evolved over the years, guided by our talented and tireless social workers, and our Executive Director.

My hope is to see these programs and services delivered to many hundreds of Filipino Amerasian children and their families, throughout the Philippines. This requires a major focus on finding additional corporate sponsors and broadening our base of donors to dramatically increase the resources available for supporting new beneficiaries.

Please join us in helping PAGA grow its ability to reach more Filipino Amerasian children.

PAGA receives PCNC Accreditation

PAGA is now an accredited Donee institution of the Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC) as granted by the Bureau of Internal Revenue with Certificate of Registration No. 027-2017 offering full tax deductibility for cash or in kind donations made to PAGA.

PAGA and AAP goes into partnership

PAGA's partnership with the American Association of the Philippines (AAP) this January 2017 opens another opportunity to serve more Amerasian children and their families.

Ten AAP beneficiaries under the Educational Assistance and Medical programs were endorsed to PAGA for case management and monitoring after a Memorandum of Agreement was signed on Dec. 28, 2016.

We welcome the ten beneficiaries to the PAGA family!

Philippine American Guardian Association, Inc.

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Workshops Completed in 2016



Summer Youth Camp for Self-Enhancement

May 11-13, 2016

"Self Enhancement: Towards Building Your Future: Dream" was this year's camp theme with 38 youth participants (11 were new campers). This was held at the His Land Christian and Retreat Courtyard in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

Personality Development Workshop—Part 2

August 13, 2016

17 PAGA youth ages 12-14 attended the 2nd edition of the workshop. The activity focused on self-concept and self-worth aimed to develop the youth's personality and skills to become independent, productive and responsible members of society.



Parenting the Adolescents

August 20, 2016

Started in 2015, this year's edition, focused in deepening the understanding of human development cycle, the changes the adolescent children undergo, and other related matters. Resource speaker was Ms. Alicia G. Molina, a social worker/family consultant.



FGD for PAGA Youth

Conduct of a monthly **Focus Group Discussions (FGD)** started in July 2016 and currently ongoing. It's goal is to provide a venue for sharing the youth's experiences, present concerns, express thoughts and opinions on certain issues and learnings together as a group with the guidance of PAGA's social workers.



Summer is Time for Fun and Learning

April 25 - May 6, 2016

The Summer Enrichment Program focused on English Communications and Basic Computer Operations that was held in two venues: the PAGA office and San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.



Getting Ready for Senior High!

February 27, 2016

The implementation of Senior High School started on SY 2016-2017. To prepare both parents and students for these changes in the educational curriculum, a program, 'Getting Ready for Senior Hi!' was held at the PAGA Office. Nine PAGA beneficiaries were enrolled in Senior HS this school year.

Participation in American Community Activities

PAGA's participation in the annual activities of the American Community exposes its beneficiaries to their roots, American history, and its celebrations. 39 PAGA kids and parents participated in these three annual activities.



4th of July

July 2, 2016, International School Manila, Taguig City



Memorial Day

May 29, 2016, American Cemetery and Memorial, Taguig City



US Flag Day

June 11, 2016, Manila Elks Club, Makati City

A Celebration of Unity, Sharing and Thanksgiving 2016 PAGA Christmas Activities

December 2016

The annual celebration of the PAGA family was a time for unity, sharing and thanksgiving. 181 attended the Christmas celebrations including 67 PAGA families, staff, friends, supporters, donors, members and the Board of Trustees. The activities were filled with interactive games, presentations from the PAGA kids, raffle draws and gift giving held at Makati and Angeles City.



Makati City Christmas Activity

December 10, 2016



Angeles City Christmas Activity

December 14, 2016

Balik-Eskwela 2016

May - June 2016

Before the class opening, PAGA made sure that the 101 enrolled beneficiaries were ready with their new set of school supplies, shoes and uniform through its Balik Eskwela program conducted in two venues: PAGA office and Vista Verde Resort in Angeles City. All student beneficiaries were provided with basic school supplies, white t-shirt, socks and bags. Those in Elementary and High school received reimbursements for school uniforms and shoes while those in college, their tuition fee assistance.



Makati City
(May 28, 2016)



Angeles City
(June 3, 2016)

Computer Donations

Three Computer sets were received from **The Minacs Group Inc.** headed by their Mr. Tony Raza and Jerry Echter, PM. Additional three Laptops and three Desktop sets were also received from the **Kittelson & Carpo Consulting**. These computers are made available for use by our beneficiaries for their school requirements and also during the conduct of summer computer classes. Thank you Minacs and K&C.



Health Care Services

Health is very important for the physical and social welfare of an individual. PAGA, through its health care assistance program attends to the medical needs of its beneficiaries to ensure their good health and speedy recovery once inflicted with sickness.



Jerrico, a grade 9 student who was diagnosed with viral hepatitis, was provided with medicines and referred to the medical social service



Alexis during his eye consultation at the Tzu Chi Foundation



PAGA Social Workers
at the
1st Social Work Summit

March 15-16 2016

Social Workers **Ms. Janette Corollo** and **Ms. Rory Ilumin**, attended the First Social Work Summit with the theme, "**Promoting the Dignity and Worth of People**". This activity was sponsored by the Philippine Association of Social Workers, Inc. (PASWI) – NCR held in March 15-16, 2016 at Miriam College, Quezon City.



BENEFICIARY CORNER

A Family to Treasure

By: Ashley Lopez
3rd Yr College, BSEd major in English

Life moves pretty fast. From a kid who gets too excited with little surprises, enjoying the company of our family to adolescents/young adults we are now.

Looking back, this reminds me of my own journey with PAGA. Aside from my own family, I had my friends, new people I met who make my journey more meaningful.

With PAGA, it is brotherhood you build, a new life, a new journey and A FAMILY. A family not by blood, but bonded by heart. This is where you started knowing not only each other's name but each other's story. Then, spend time to have fun, walk around and share stories with them - at most even those too personal. And when time comes that you have to depart for a while, there was a little sadness but there is also hope of seeing them again; because that is not the end of all, but just a beginning of your journey. In that moment, you will feel lucky that you have that kind of family. You will give gratitude to the builder of that fellowship because of what they have add in your life. They put colors in it, they add meaning to it and they assemble all the pieces of your life.

... And they just simply put legacy in your life.

...That is what I love about PAGA, they are building a so-called FAMILY, who makes us LET GO of the PAST, LIVE in the PRESENT and LOOK FORWARD to the FUTURE. ***

PAGA, MY GREATEST BLESSING

By Jerrico Harris Lopez
Grade 10 student



MARCH 27, 2016

Challenges in our lives make us stronger. In my case, I can say that I just kept my faith to God, with my family's support, and of course, with PAGA's unwavering assistance to us.

January 2016, I was diagnosed with Viral Hepatitis after having fever on and off for almost 3 months. Actually, at first, we just really thought it was just a simple fever and just took paracetamol. But twice a month fever for 3 days seems unusual already. That is why I was brought to San Lazaro Hospital.

I underwent repeated laboratory examinations and ultrasound to determine my condition because I became yellowish (jaundice). I was given vitamins to keep my immune system strong. Through PAGA's support, I was able to complete my medication while in the hospital. Ms. Rory, our social worker also visited me and maintained communication to monitor my condition. She also guided us in our coordination with the medical social services for any other assistance possible. After 2 weeks, I finally regain my strength and was discharged from the hospital.

Now, I continue with my weekly check-up and laboratory examinations. Though my hepatitis has been ruled out because of a non-reactive result of my hepatitis profile, I was diagnosed with Diffused Liver Parenchymal Disease. I still need to consult with a Gastro Enterologist while maintaining home medication, still through PAGA's support.

For all these stages, PAGA has been there to support me and my family. I am thankful for such an amazing support. Your association is a blessing for my life. You have helped me not only with my studies, but also with my medical needs.

I can say that there has been an overwhelming love and care, from my family and of course, from PAGA. PAGA is my family, a blessing; in fact, my greatest blessing in a lifetime. ***

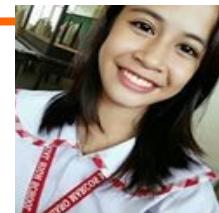
A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE AT THE AMERICAN CEMETERY

By Janna Faith Uy, Grade 9 student

We had a great and enjoyable experience during the Memorial Day at American Cemetery in Taguig City last May 29, 2016. There were many Filipino and American Girls Scouts and Boys Scouts in the celebration. The speakers in the program told everyone about what happened during the World War II and about the militaries that dedicated their lives to serve the people to have their freedom.

We met the US Ambassador to the Philippines, Hon. Philip S. Goldberg and former President Fidel V. Ramos and had the opportunity to have photos with them.

I enjoyed very much going around appreciating the beauty of the place, the graves, the pillars and the chapel. I also admired the bravery of those people who died in the service. For me this was a great and wonderful experience I will treasure that I can tell to others. I would be delighted if I can go back to



MY SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE

By: Aaron Yabut, Grade 11 student



The last summer youth camp of PAGA in His Land Bulacan was my third camp. This time we need to be matured because most of our campmates are younger than us. So, that time we are the one who lead the groups. Being a leader on my group is not so easy and not so hard. I need to be matured and be nice to everyone, even some of them are shy and so stubborn. I need to understand because I experienced that age. I never expected that I became a Best Camper because I never experienced how it feels but now I feel so happy and I realized that by being matured and being nice to everyone, I gained their respect.

These youth camps improve our personality. I'm very thankful because I experienced this kind of youth camp.

*Para sa akin, hindi lang ako ang best camper. Ang best campers ay mga kapwa ko campers na may natutunan, nag-improve at nabago ng camp na ito sa mabuti at matiwasya na paraan. SILA ANG TUNAY NA BEST CAMPERS. ****



MESSAGE OF THANKS

From Bautista Family

We, Bautista family were so thankful from all the blessings that we received from Philippine American Guardian Association most especially from your medical assistance given to our dearest Alexis.

God has given us a lot of problems but with his power and will everything will be fine. He used you as his greatest instrument to change and help one's life. And with that, now Alexis can see a better future with his vision's and mission in life. Again we're really thankful from your help, and wish to continue helping FilAm's which really in need. May do God Bless you always, and more years of excellency.

EDITORIAL

Greetings from PAGA to all its valued regular donors, members and friends.

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

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*...Building a Brighter Future for
Filipino-Amerasians*