



Yes, we are!

Finally! Last May 21, PAGA has achieved *accredited* status with the DSWD, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, which is significantly more rigorous and reflects the quality of PAGA's services, processes, and team.

Our accreditation now covers the National Capital Region, and Regions III and IV-A. DSWD officials from their provincial offices did verification visits with PAGA social workers Eufemia de Leon in Angeles and Bulacan, and with Rory Ilumin in Cavite.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW GRADUATES!



KATE WENSLHETH A. ROQUE, 20, from Binangonan, Rizal, recently received her Bachelor in Elementary Education degree from the Binangonan Catholic College. The new grade school teacher is a 3rd generation Filipino Amerasian and has been with PAGA since 2005.



ASHLEY LOPEZ, 21, of Infanta, Quezon, earned his Bachelor of Secondary Education from the Northern Quezon College Inc. Ashley is also a 3rd generation Filipino Amerasian and has been supported by PAGA since 2008.

Our congratulations also go out to our beneficiaries who graduated from Senior Highschool - **JEMERIE DUENOG, THEA GOROSPE, JAMES RICHARD MARTIN, JASMINE SALINGAY, GARY TONIZA, CARLINE MARIAH ENTERINA and AARON YABUT.**



Happy Faces. PAGA campers arriving for this year's Summer Youth Camp.

Summer means Camp

ACHIEVE, this year's summer youth camp theme, the last of our three-year summer camp topic on **Self Enhancement: Towards Building Your Future**, was held last May 22 - 24 at the Tagaytay Mission Camp and Conference Center in Tagaytay City, Cavite. Twenty five of our beneficiaries attended this year's camp.

This year's camp theme focused on understanding and appreciating one's purpose in life, on developing resiliency as one hurdle through life's many, often quite unexpected, challenges.

On hand as camp facilitators were PAGA social workers Eufemia de Leon and Rory Ilumin. Psychologist and registered psychometrician and this year's resource's speaker Rheo M. Paguibitan discussed how people can adapt or bounce back from unforeseen predicaments like trauma, tragedy, threats or any significant source of stress.

A good variety of unique, well thought out games and activities, including the showing of the 2017 movie 'A Dog's Purpose' kept the campers entertained, active and out of trouble during the 3-day camp.

Aside from attendance certificates and special group and individual prizes that were given out on the last day, our campers brought home with them a note they wrote for themselves - My Life Purpose.

Remembering Heroes

PAGA, once again, participated in the Memorial Day Ceremony held last May 28 at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in Taguig City. The annual event, organized by the American embassy and the American Association of the Philippines



(AAP), is in remembrance of all those people who died in the service of the United States of America, including Filipinos, who died during the second World War.

In attendance were U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Michael Klecheski, who represented US Ambassador Sung Kim, Brigadier Gen. Christopher McPhillips, USMC Commanding General, USMC, and Philippines Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.



Together with other groups and organizations, PAGA offered a wreath and was represented by PAGA president Terry Haas, Board of Trustee member Lisa Kircher Pagkalinawan, and PAGA Executive Director Deanna Bajar. Five PAGA beneficiaries, some with their parents, also attended.

In Honor of 'Old Glory'

As in previous years, beneficiaries from PAGA were tapped to be flag bearers for the annual US Flag Day Celebration last June 16 at the Manila Elks Club Lodge No.761 BPOE, Inc.

The mid-morning event traced the design evolution of the American flag and to highlight its importance in the rich history of the United States.



Our flag bearers enjoyed the special brunch that was served after the parade of flags. They were even more delighted when school bags and school supplies prepared by the Lodge members were given to them by Bro. Brian Skinner and PER Douglas Masuda. The six PAGA beneficiaries who served as flag bearers were James Martin, Jericho Ignacio, Trisha Sullano, Jennifer Love Lopez, Jesha Banson and Kenneth Salingay.



It was a busy day at the PAGA office last June 2 when the **Medical & Dental Check-up for PAGA Beneficiaries** was held during our **Balik Eskwela** activity.

Done in coordination with the Bureau of Fire and Protection National Headquarters in Quezon City, a doctor, two dentists and two nurses from their Medical Services Division came and provided their services.

The medical/dental checkup was a tremendous help to the beneficiaries as it happened right before school opening. The parents get to know their children's



health status, enabling them to have follow-up consultations with their community hospitals and health centers.

The medical/dental team were able to attend to a total of 44 of our beneficiaries. 29 of them were students and the rest were immediate family members.

The BFP team, headed by SINSIP Nhel-Ann A Baradi, was given a Certificate of Appreciation for their selfless effort.

