



# PAGA TODAY

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

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## CHEERS FOR A FRUITFUL 2016

*...Looking forward to a great year ahead!*

**F**or more than 90 years, PAGA has been dedicated to serve and reach out to more Filipino-Amerasian children and their families. We invest in the children's education while equipping them with the necessary skills to become independent, productive and responsible members of society. Their families are empowered through seminars and trainings.

In 2015, PAGA received its license and registration as a social welfare agency under the DSWD. More than 250 beneficiaries, their family members were served from various communities through PAGA's education, health-care and psycho-social development programs and other support services.

### EDUCATION

There were 111 enrolled elementary to college beneficiaries provided with basic school supplies, shoes and uniform assistance as well as tuition fee assistance. 18 students were recipients of PAGA Scholarships, Sponsorship and educational support were also provided with monthly allowances for transportation and food. All the students were monitored regarding their school activities and academic performances..

### HEALTH CARE

More than 150 of our beneficiaries received free medical and dental check-ups. Some have availed of free dental services (extraction, filling and cleaning) through partnership with Charity First Foundation. There were 10 medical cases assisted through referral, networking with other agencies and provision of financial assistance for consultation, medicines, and laboratory tests. A First Aid Training conducted in Balibago, Angeles City in coordination with the local barangay was attended not only by Amerasian parents but also local health workers and purok leaders. The training facilitated by the Philippine Red Cross - Angeles Chapter truly became beneficial to the 40 attendees as they also received free first aid kits.

### PSYCHOSOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

3 workshops for the youth's personality development, values enhancement and capacity-building were conducted. These accordingly helped them know and express themselves better, understand others, and enrich their potential as individuals. The last seminar of the Couples' Enrichment Program that started in 2013 was a meaningful experience for the 14 couples who attended this year. They learned and looked forward to 'growing together in love and commitment in their marriages' and in becoming responsible parents to their children.

PAGA families also attended various activities of partner organizations and the American community which let them learn and know more about their American roots and customs.

**It was indeed a successful and fruitful 2015!**

**In 2016**, we intend to spread our wings and widen our horizons to make more impact and difference. Join us as we aim to:

- \* reach out to more Filipino-Amerasian children both in Metro Manila and Angeles City
- \* strengthen PAGA's programs and services
- \* increase community involvement, membership, support and funding

**Looking forward to another great year ahead! \*\*\***



"Thumbs Up for PAGA" PAGA youth during the May 2015 Youth Camp

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



"A hearty greeting to all for the New Year. In 2015, PAGA had another successful year in serving the needs of underprivileged Fil-Ams. We conducted a number of programs that addressed the psycho-social needs of our beneficiaries, including both parents and children. We also continued with our home visits, as well as health care and educational support. We are proud of our 4 students who graduated high school and have gone on to college.

PAGA's new branch in Angeles City also received considerable attention. We held a Christmas party for the beneficiaries and their parents, as well as making periodic visits to assess and support the families.

We look forward to another successful year in 2016, and would like to welcome Rory Ilumin as our new social worker. Rory brings deep social work experience and she and Janette give us the confidence that our beneficiaries' needs are being well-met.

A final word about PAGA. We are constantly looking for financial assistance to support our efforts, and we would welcome your contribution."

### Welcome - Fourth Issue of Newsletter

**T**he fourth issue of our Newsletter highlights PAGA's 2015 accomplishments and our vision for another great year ahead.

This issue features activities during the months of October to December 2015 where the Christmas celebrations for our Filipino-Amerasian beneficiaries and their families made it a truly Merry Christmas for all. PAGA also started its training program for the parents and their adolescent children addressing current issues and problems with its first workshop 'Parenting the Adolescents'.

'Read through this newsletter to know more about our growing PAGA family and our activities. Happy reading! \*\*\*

# A Season of Love and Sharing



*"The spirit of Christmas is the spirit of love, of generosity, and of goodness. It illuminates the picture window of the soul, and we look out upon the world's busy life and become more interest in people than in things."*  
- Thomas S. Monson



December 12, 2015 Christmas Celebration  
Metro Manila beneficiaries

More than 160 Filipino-Amerasians experienced an early **Merry Christmas** in the recently held Christmas celebrations of the Philippine American Guardian Association (PAGA), Inc. on December 12 and 17 in Makati and Angeles City.

Four (4) families – Lopez, Ward, Llorca and Santos showcased their talents in line with the year's theme, "PAGA families: Celebrating Christmas together". While Ward and Santos families had a dance presentation, the Llorca twins prepared a creative song number. The winner, Lopez family shared a message of gratitude to PAGA as they sung their own composition.

The Christmas event is the time for these families to get together and feel the spirit of the season. Through the support of its benevolent donors, PAGA once again brought joy and delight to these Amerasian children and their families with the cash, toys and gift packs for each beneficiary and the Christmas baskets with Noche Buena goodies for all the families. Most participated in the parlor games prepared for all ages. The families got to know each other more as they share fond stories during meal time.

This year's PAGA Christmas celebration was truly a picture of love and sharing among the Filipino-Amerasian community.

We thank Mr. Bill Pfluger, PAGA Trustee, guest Mr. Latte and Mrs. Deanna Bajar for playing Santa during the activities; the Board of Trustees for their usual support, and the donors for their contributions in making this activity a success. \*\*\*



December 17, 2015 Christmas Celebration  
Angeles-based beneficiaries



## Parenting the Adolescents



**B**e calm and make some adjustment". ANGER is D-anger these were some of the statement/words the parents had been pondering when they attended the Training Workshop on "Parenting the Adolescent" held at the PAGA office on November 7, 2015.

The training aimed to develop in the parent's specific life skills that are critical to their personal growth and to performing their roles as parents. It seeks to strengthen the parent as an individual who is aware of and takes the responsibility for their actions and to guide them on the process of accompanying their children through the latter's development as adolescents.

Facilitated by Mrs. Floderlyn Paglinawan, a college instructor and Industrial/ Organizational psychologist, 20 parents attended. 3 of them were fathers and 17 mothers.

The training was divided into four sessions, the first two focused on self awareness with stress management exercises and their identity as man or as a woman. The other two focused on the Filipino family and responsibilities, and the opportunity to check the self as a parent.

Parents were active and participative in the workshop. For them, the the activity to improve as parents. They have realized their shortcomings as parents and most importantly they were provided with the right approach to deal with their adolescent children. They were also very thankful and looking forward for the next training.

The training-workshop conducted is the first of a 4-part training workshop designed for PAGA parents and their adolescent children. An even more productive and interactive training program will be done in 2016. \*\*\*

## Reaching out to more Amerasian children



Jan Margaret, Grade 1 PAGA beneficiary during School Visit at Gueco Balibago Elementary School in Angeles City

Before 2015 ended, PAGA's initiatives to reach out to more Amerasian children continued in Angeles City. Aside from coordination with the local barangays, it was intensified through building partnership with the public schools.

Potential 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Filipino Amerasian children beneficiaries will submit requirements and goes through the admission process including interview with the social workers and home visitation.

PAGA looks forward to extending assistance to the needy Amerasian children while bringing forth the value of education, hard work and responsibility to have better futures ahead. \*\*\*

## BENEFICIARY CORNER



By: Ma.Cristina G. Combs (mother of PAGA scholar)

*I've attended three seminars sponsored by PAGA. At first, I thought it was a waste of time because I thought of tons of things to do at home on a Saturday and worried about my children. I've come to realize these seminars were worth it. Sometimes being panicky could bring more danger to a*

*situation but these seminars are very helpful and useful as they made me aware of things that I should be prepared of in case of accidents or calamity. The last seminar I attended was very timely because it was about bringing up adolescents and it taught me how to be diplomatic with my daughter.*

*I'm very thankful to PAGA and its board for never ceasing to come up with activities and seminars for their beneficiaries. They not only support our children financially but help them develop to be good individuals and make us, parents, well-informed as well. \*\*\**

### "What I Love About PAGA"

By: Adelaide Miller (Grade 7)



Throughout generation,  
From our fore fathers,  
Guided by its Board of Directors  
This Institution remains strong.

From small streets of Manila,  
Up to the busy Makati City,  
It continue to pour blessing and  
Support study of Amerasian children.

No matter what colors of skin,  
Even if your Black or White,  
Racial discrimination is not  
a talk here.

And last as you enter the office,  
You are welcome with wonderful  
smile of their staff.  
That is why I LOVE PAGA!

### Christmas Message from the LOPEZ Family

(Jerrico, Jolina & Jennifer Love)  
(excerpt from their Dec. 12, 2015 Christmas presentation)



"As the deer pants for water, so my soul pants for you."

- Psalm 42:1

"First of all, thanks PAGA for all your support in our education, in life and also for the better future. You are the greatest blessing to us.

As you once taught us, 'Don't look at your mistakes, look at the present, on what you can do and we will together make your future better.

PAGA taught us how to build a dream like a tree, not only a simple one, but the strongest tree... PAGA makes our dreams possible.

PAGA lets us experience the arts of life, teach us how to be the best artist. We learn that every color has meaning. We choose the bright colors because this is the light that builds a brighter future for us". \*\*\*

## TRUSTEE'S NOTES

*What they have to say about PAGA...*



**WILLIAM PFLUGER**  
Finance Analyst/  
Consultant  
Member since 2010

*"What motivates me to become part of PAGA?"*

**Three factors come to mind.**

*First, there is a need among the PAGA beneficiaries for help in areas such as education and health.*

*Second, I have witnessed the accomplishments of the PAGA programs such as medical and dental missions, parenting skill workshops, leadership programs for the teenagers, and educational assistance such as school supplies. Of particular note, is the scholars program where students receive financial assistance.*

*Third, as an American living in the Philippines, I feel an obligation to help those in need particularly Filipino Amerasian children."*

*"I was intrigued when I learned that PAGA was first organized in 1921 and has stayed true to its purpose of helping Filipino Amerasians for 95 years.*

*Being associated with the dedicated staff at PAGA, as well as with the beneficiaries themselves, inspires me to try my best to contribute to PAGA's growth and success."*



**TERRY HAAS**  
Pan-Asian Ventures LLC  
Member since 2014

### 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 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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## You Can Make A Difference

PAGA operates with a lean organization in the implementation of its programs and services. The active Board of Trustees inspires and guides the organization together with its members who continuously support and commits with the organization's mission.

Funds coming from local sources such as membership dues, donations, grants and interests are what keep the Association moving. Thus, to carry out our mission, we constantly seek support from the community.

**Every contribution counts...**

**... JOIN US, experience gratifying feeling to help and inspire others**

**... HELP OTHERS make their dreams come true and  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

### How to Contribute?

- ⇒ Be a **MEMBER** and contribute for PAGA's cause
- ⇒ Be a **DONOR** and support various programs and activities for PAGA beneficiaries
- ⇒ Be a **SPONSOR** and help a Fil-Am child go to school

### Our Programs and Services:

#### Education and Training

We believe in the power of education and training to provide opportunities for our beneficiaries.

- Provision of basic school supplies, assistance for shoes, uniform, books and school projects
- Tuition fee assistance for those in college and vocational courses
- Scholarships and sponsorships
- Conduct of tutorial classes and computer lessons

#### Health-Care

We ensure that our beneficiaries are in good health condition.

- Free Annual Medical and Dental Check-Up
- Preventive health care seminar and campaign
- Financial assistance for special medical cases
- Referral

#### Psychosocial Development Program

Capacity and capability-building activities are organized aimed at enhancing the social and psychological development of its beneficiaries and their parents such as:

- Annual Summer Youth Camp
- Relevant seminars and training for personality development and values formation of children/youth
- Effective Parenting seminars
- Couples' Enrichment trainings

#### Other Support Services

- Livelihood training and opportunities
- Emergency Assistance
- Reconnecting Families
- Counseling Services

**The years ahead hold wonderful opportunities  
providing assistance to Filipino-Amerasian children as  
they become productive members of society ...**

**For your support, kindly contact us thru the listed telephone numbers below and/or email addresses.**

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