



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PAGA's 2020 Annual Update to Members, Donors, and Friends

What a difference a year makes ... the year 2020 will long be remembered for its infamous highlights. An excellent video review of 2020 by Inquirer.net is entitled "A Year of Unimaginable Misery" . Unfortunately that headline is quite descriptive.

The Taal volcano, earthquakes, typhoons & flooding, and above all else, a global pandemic to negatively impact our lives in almost every aspect - work, education, entertainment, socializing, leisure, travel, and personal freedoms.

Indeed, only 10 days after publishing last year's PAGA update letter last January, a Chinese couple from Wuhan became the 1st confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Philippines. On February 1 one of them was posthumously tested positive, and became the 1st COVID-19 fatality outside of China. We won't revisit everything that followed other than to say the severe economic lockdown swept through PAGA's beneficiary families causing widespread and severe poverty. Government assistance was quite limited, not available to all of our families, and was painfully slow to arrive for those who qualified.

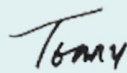
In the short term our focus turned to providing emergency cash assistance to our needy families. Supporting our beneficiaries' education temporarily took a backseat to this as hunger trumps other needs, and besides, the schools were closed.

With the beginning of the much delayed "distance learning" school year last October 5, after almost 6 months of life under lockdown or a "community quarantine", we shifted the focus of PAGA's programs and services back to supporting the educational plans of our beneficiaries. However, our new educational program for the current school year includes a monthly financial stipend for the families that can be earned by students in good standing. This is our way of providing an incentive for families to support the education of the beneficiaries instead of putting them to work prematurely.

What about donations? Cruelly, as the Covid-19 crisis has driven up the need for services from charities such as PAGA, it has depressed the amounts in donations they are likely to receive. More than ever we need your support via donations at <https://www.paga.ph/donations/>

Despite everything, PAGA's mission for its beneficiaries in 2021 is still "to build the intellectual ability, personality, and productive skills of underprivileged Filipino Amerasian children and accompany them on their journey to becoming meaningful, respected, and actively participating members of Filipino society." We will proceed down this path regardless of the obstacles we may face, adapting our services as circumstances warrant.

Thank you in advance for your continuing support of PAGA's deserving children.

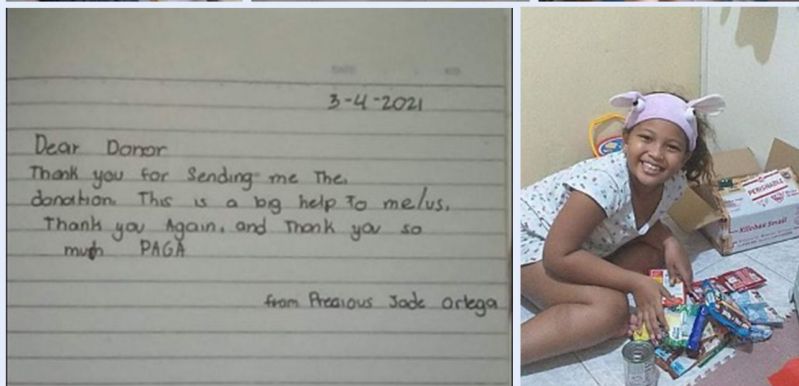
  
Terry Haas, President

# ELKS MANILA LODGE SPOTLIGHT GRANT DONATION

The Manila Elks Lodge approved a Spotlight Grant Donation of USD\$1000 worth of food and essentials for PAGA's 61 families. The food and essentials were delivered to the PAGA office and were repacked and distributed to the families.

Beneficiaries living nearby came to the PAGA office to pick up their share of the assorted food and essentials. Designated drop off points were arranged to deliver the goods for the Angeles and Bulacan based beneficiaries. Social workers had the opportunity to meet them and received updates on their status during this pandemic. Other beneficiaries in remote parts of Region 3 and 4-A received their donations through delivery and courier services. The food and essentials donation were timely and greatly appreciated by beneficiaries and their families.

The Manila Elks' support in delivering services strengthens their partnership with PAGA and further establishes the Elks as a positive and caring benefactor.



Please help PAGA - [paga.ph/donations](https://paga.ph/donations)

**THE PHILIPPINE AMERICAN GUARDIAN ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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# VEGETABLE GARDENING: AN ALTERNATIVE FOOD SOURCE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Some of PAGA's families engaged in vegetable gardening to address the food scarcity caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. They are:



**Ana Melissa Johnson – General Trias, Cavite** - is a solo parent with three minor children, two are direct PAGA beneficiaries. She used to work as a realty agent and earned on a commission basis. Due to the pandemic and IATF protocols she was unable to do house tripping to prospective renters or buyers resulting in financial limitations to support her family. To survive during the community quarantine she was thankful for the help and support from PAGA, the LGU, and neighbors, for trusting her to do odd jobs and household chores for them.

She has now developed a more positive outlook in addressing the food and other needs for her children during the pandemic. She started doing vegetable gardening in the vacant space of her rented house. She exchanges some of her harvest as well as seedlings for other foods like noodles, eggs and canned goods.

Melissa is now making a name for herself in the neighborhood for her vegetable gardening. Selling vegetables and seedlings in the neighborhood added much needed income for the family.

**Janet Harris, a resident of Bgry. 905 District VI, Punta, Sta. Ana, Manila**

A street sweeper in her barangay, Janet was given the privilege to use a vacant lot in the barangay for vegetable planting.



Despite the considerable distance, she uses a bike to bring water and do planting. Harvested crops are a delight to the family and led to some savings on food expenses.

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