

2015 Basic Activities Report

Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development (PCAFPD)

Established in 1983, the primary purpose of PCAFPD is to continue to contribute to human resource development in the Philippines. The foundation also provides former Philippines Volunteers and staff a means to continue their commitment to the Philippines. Joined by family, friends, and Filipino-American organizations, the Peace Corps alumni contribute to a scholarship fund to support 40 to 50 college students a year. Thus, during the course of a given year, there is a routine and rhythm to PCAFPD activities, all designed to recruit, select and support the scholars.

In mid-January of each year, the Board of Directors convenes for a full day to select new scholars. In 2015, the Foundation chose to support eight new scholars from across the Philippines to pursue degrees in: Psychology; Technical Teacher Education; Education; Secondary Education; Electrical Engineering; Advertising; Business Administration and Accountancy.

March marked the graduation of ten scholars who had earned degrees in: Secondary Education (2); Social Sciences; Hotel and Restaurant Management; Information Technology; Electro-Mechanics Technician; Accountancy; and Social Work (3). In addition, a PCAFPD alumni scholar earned her Master's Degree in Information Systems with PCAFPD support.

Semi-annual newsletters, published in May and November, are the major means of communication between PCAFPD and its supporters. In addition to scholar essays, the newsletter, *Balitaan* (which means "news" in Pilipino), includes stories from or about the Philippines; about former Volunteers and staff; and about NPCA activities. It also serves as a major fundraising tool. The 2015 newsletters included material reporting the experiences of current students; a report from PCAFPD Scholars and Alumni Association (PSAA), our scholar alumni organization, profiles of the NGOs that several PCAFPD supporters have established in the Philippines and stories about the activities of recently graduated students.

In March and September, the foundation raised additional funds by mailing special appeals to its current supporters. One appeal featured an interview with a scholar who grew up in a subsistence farming village and is now a teacher of Information and Communications Technology and has been selected the Microsoft Ambassador to teach IT to rural school teacher. The other appeal profiled six graduates whose degrees made a significant difference in their lives and broke the cycle of poverty for their families. PCAFPD also has an online Bulletin (on the Constant Contact platform), which is sent out periodically to announce events, to recruit additional supporters and to supplement its fundraising efforts.

Philippines-based Board members, and those who visit the country, continue to nurture PSAA, which is developing into a network of graduates and current scholars committed to mutual support and leadership in development activities. The foundation has also recently entered into a partnership with Hinrich Foundation and established the *PCAFPD-Hinrich Global Trade Leaders Scholarship* that will provide on-the-job training and the promise of employment to several scholars each year.

PCAFPD's Board is exploring ways to expand its outreach and fund-raising so that the foundation and its scholarship program can be sustained in the years to come when it can no longer depend on the volunteer support structure in the Philippines that it has relied on since 1983. With a supporter base that is heavily represented by RPCVs who served in the 1960s, PCAFPD must find younger board members who are both, willing to take on the day-to-day operations of fund-raising, scholar support and recordkeeping, and are adept in the use of social media to build a younger supporter base and/or to accomplish some of the day-to-day tasks in new ways.