

Mid-Year Newsletter 2014

**LINK Center for the Deaf: A Decade & 2
Isang Pasasalamat**



DEAFining Art

The Art Program of LINK Center for the Deaf, in partnership with the Salesian Sisters of the Sacred Heart, entitled "DEAFining Art" started October last year. The program was supported by ICAP Philippines, Inc. where 16 youth who are deaf from Antipolo SPED Center together with some of their parents participated in livelihood training on creating handcrafted bags, purses and wallets made out of empty sachets of coffee, chips, juices, etc. They also had sessions on crocheting and rosary making. The training sessions were held every Friday at the house of the Salesian Sisters. Some of the finished products were later featured at the celebration of the 12th anniversary of LINK Center.



Spiritual Development Program

Not everyone is given the chance to grow holistically, spiritually, mentally and physically. The same goes for persons who are deaf. This is why LINK Center revived the Spiritual Development Program for students who are deaf. The Salesian Sisters of Sacred Heart under a grant from the Raskob Foundation partnered with LINK Center for the Deaf for the implementation of the aforementioned program. The Raskob Foundation has as its purpose to engage in such exclusively religious, charitable, literary and educational activities as will aid the Roman Catholic Church and institutions and organizations identified with it (<http://www.rfca.org/>). The project was launched in November 2013 with the objective of giving selected youth who are deaf a chance to experience spiritual development through formations given by different facilitators from the Verbum Dei congregation. This project paved way for the youth who are deaf to interact with hearing youth and learn more about themselves spiritually and personally. Formations were held every Saturday at the Verbum Dei Apostolate House in Pansol, Quezon City. Through the weekly activities the youth who are deaf learned more about their personal relationship with God and themselves. Sign language training was also offered for the hearing youth participants and facilitators.

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With the release of the much awaited Decade & 1 Report came the celebration of the 12th anniversary of LINK Center for the Deaf last April 26, 2014. The half day program mainly featured dance presentations from the LCD Performing Arts group and QCPAD dancers. The event was held at the Little Theater of Miriam College in Quezon City. Artworks created by youth who are deaf and the finished products of participants of the Art Program of LINK Center were displayed outside the venue, as well.



The program began with a prayer by Dianne Salazar, an administrative staff of LINK Center, followed by the opening remarks of Ms. Carolyn C. Ui, the president of LINK Center. The LCD Performing Arts group and QCPAD dancers, guided by their Artistic Director, Luther Perez, graced the audience

with wonderful performances featuring different dance styles. From pop to hip-hop to ballet to contemporary, both dance groups surely wowed the crowd with their impressive talents. Emcee Lynda Garcia also gave recognition to the Educational Support Program (ESP) scholars and their parents in between dance performances. The day ended with an inspirational closing remarks from the Vice President of LINK Center, Mrs. Lourdes B. Ramos and a short gathering afterwards wherein cocktails were served to everyone. Truly it was an event to remember and this would not have been possible without the constant support of Boeing Global Corporate Citizenship.

Congratulations MAE Scholars! (SY2013-2014)

The LINK Center for the Deaf congratulates its Miriam College Adult Education (MAE) scholars as they ended their school year with flying colors. They graduated with Certificates on Bread & Pastry Production and Food Processing last March 2014. All 10 of the scholars passed their TESDA certification, as well. They were truly noteworthy as LINK scholars.

MAE was able to obtain a 100% passing rate in the TESDA National Assessment as well as last year. Learn more about the programs of MAE at <http://www.mc.edu.ph/AcademicPrograms/BasicEducation/MiriamCollegeAdultEducation.aspx>



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Deaf Youth Camp and Youth Sportsfest

The Deaf Youth Camp which was held last April 2-4, 2014 was a memorable experience for the participants of the Spiritual Development Program. About 45 youth who are deaf and hearing youth were joined by facilitators from the Verbum Dei Congregation, representatives from the Salesian Sisters, interpreters and staff members of LINK Center.

The camp had a good mixture of fun, laughter, tears, excitement and reflection. With spiritual development formation and challenging survival activities, the youth definitely cherished every moment they spent at the Forest Club Eco Resort in Laguna.

As the School Year 2014-2015 is about to start, participants of the Spiritual Development Formation got together for a little "kumustahan". The Youth Sportsfest last May 24, 2014 was a day filled with fun activities at ALPADL in Antipolo. The hearing youth and students who are deaf were able to catch up after their break since the Deaf Youth Camp. This activity kick started the next phase of the Spiritual Development Formation which will continue this June 2014.

LINK's R&R last June

After a hectic first quarter of the year, the LINK staff was rewarded with a mouth-watering buffet lunch at Buffet 101 in Eastwood City. After stuffing ourselves with delectable food, we proceeded to Ortigas for an overnight stay at the ACE Water Hotel & Suites. Everyone enjoyed an entire afternoon of spa and relaxation at ACE Water Spa.



ESP General Assembly and MAE Screening for SY 2014-2015

Parents of the Educational Support Program (ESP) scholars went to LINK Center's office last May for the annual contract signing for School Year 2014-2015. The Coordinator of ESP, Jackelyn Velasco oriented all attendees for this year's ESP General Assembly. There was also an evaluation of the sign languages classes attended by the parents. For other parents who do not have sign language classes in their children's school, LINK Center evaluated them. The assembly ended with the giving of school supplies.

As the scholars–students from different public elementary and high schools–embark on this new school year, LINK Center has high hopes for them to excel in their studies. LINK Center would also like to extend its deepest gratitude to the unfailing support of its loyal benefactors and new ones, as well.

Following the ESP General Assembly was the MAE screening and interview for the 4th batch of MAE scholars. This was held last June 3, 2014. Among the applicants, 9 were chosen by LINK Center. 5 scholars will be taking up a certificate course on Bread & Pastry Production and 4 will study Food Processing.

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LINK Center under the Spotlight!

“PWeDe Nating Gawin: Enriching Education for Persons with Disability.”

Last February 22, Miriam College, through the International Programs and Partnerships Office (IPPO); the US Embassy; and in cooperation with the National Council for Disability Affairs (NCDA) gathered about a thousand participants from different sectors majority of which are Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). The event focused on topics concerning the rights of PWDs, Proclamation 688 declaring 2013-2022 the Philippine Decade of Make the Right Real for Persons with Disabilities; best practices in early intervention and education of children with disabilities; a global perspective of PWDs; education’s role in helping PWDs become productive citizens and creating a positive Environment for PWDs.

The one-day event was graced in the morning by no less than the U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Philip Goldberg. Among the speakers were Miriam College - Southeast Asian Institute for the Deaf Principal and President of LINK Center, Ms. Carolyn Ui and LINK staff Dianne Salazar—as a representative of the deaf community—who talked about her life experiences and how education helped her growing up.

LINK Center Featured in APRUB

LINK Center for the Deaf Managing Director Ms. Marical Ui along with LINK staff Dianne Salazar and Jackelyn Velasco were interviewed in a public affairs talk show on Net 25. APRUB featured LINK Center for the Deaf and commended its work in reaching out to persons who are deaf. Host Ellaine Fuentes asked about the different projects and programs that LINK Center offers to persons who are deaf. Ms. Marical Ui further discussed about the advocacies of the organization. This episode aired last May 27, 2014 Tuesday. A part of the video, posted by APRUB, can be found in this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rAIZSeqBD-0>. APRUB airs every Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30 in the afternoon.



WATCH OUT FOR TEP 2014!

Look out this coming September-October for the much awaited 2014 Teacher Enhancement Program of LINK Center for the Deaf with the theme "Responding to the K to 12 Challenge". This year's training workshops will address the challenges of the Philippine education system transition to the K to 12 system. This year's TEP is made possible because of the support of Boeing Global Corporate Citizenship and Misereor.

