

New Year Newsletter 2013



Happy New Year! Kung Hei Fat Choi! As we welcome the year of the Water Snake and begin the year 2013, we would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to those who shared their time and effort in helping us reach our goals for the past year. The year 2012 has been a great year indeed. We were blessed with many projects, activities, and events that contributed to promote our advocacy for the welfare of deaf people. Thank you for your wholehearted support in accompanying us in this journey.

In the Spirit of Christmas

We officially closed the year at LINK Center and celebrated the season of Advent with an outreach activity last December 15. Over 200 children from Barangay Pansol, Barangay Loyola in Quezon City, scholars of LINK Center, and scholars of Quezon City Performing Arts Development Foundation enjoyed a fun-filled morning of games, gift-giving, raffle, and food. We thank the Verbum Dei Missionaries of Quezon City, MICRO Club of Miriam College, volunteers, and friends, for sharing their time and resources.



NCEAV Exhibit

We took part in the National Conference on the Engagement of the Academe in Volunteering (NCEAV) exhibit last December 6-9 at Miriam College. Delegates and students who visited our booth enjoyed a free one-minute sign language lesson from our fellow staff members. Christmas cards and post cards designed by our deaf art scholars were also showcased and sold in the exhibit.

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A look at Deaf Awareness Week

November was a busy month, as we spearheaded the celebration of the Deaf Awareness Week (DAW) 2012. Over two-thousand deaf students from public and private schools throughout Metro Manila with their families and friends participated in the DAW opening program and week-long activities.

Run for FAN. One of the major events for DAW 2012 is a fun run dubbed as "Run for FAN (Fully Abled Nation)", an advocacy run to enhance and promote public awareness of deaf people. It was held on November 11 at the UP academic oval with race distances of 2.2K, 6.6K, and 11K. A total of 877 deaf and hearing runners participated in the event. The event was held in collaboration with Miriam College-Southeast Asian Institute for the Deaf and is also part of the Fully Abled Nation or FAN Project supported by the Australian Agency for International Development and The Asia Foundation.

Sayaw, Hataw, Galaw! A dance concert that promotes inclusive arts and recognizes everyone's capability regardless of race and background can contribute to nation building. The show features deaf scholars of LINK Center for the Deaf and hearing scholars of the Quezon City Performing Arts Development Foundation. Sayaw, Hataw, Galaw! held last November 24 at the Amoranto Theater officially concluded the celebration of Deaf Awareness Week 2012.



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FULLY ABLED NATION ACTIVITIES

What does it take to build a nation?

"It takes many people, many minds to build a nation. Each one of us has a role, a privilege, and a responsibility in building a nation. Let us pitch in and do what we can." To promote the right to suffrage of Persons with Disability (PWD), LINK Center, in partnership with Miriam College-Communication Arts Department, produced an audio-visual presentation entitled Deaf and Able. The video aims to inform PWDs of their right to vote, encourage them to exercise this right, and be part of a fully-abled nation.

Pinoy Big Voter Trainers' Training

As we approach the mid-term elections, LINK Center, with its partner, the Institutional Network for Social Action of Miriam College, held its Pinoy Big Voter Trainers' Training last January 26. Participants of the training will be facilitators of Voters Education Seminar to be given to different areas starting February 9. We encourage deaf individuals who are 18 years old above to join the seminar together with their parents. Pinoy Big Voter is a voter's education module produced by the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) and Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan (SLB).

Schedule of Voters Education Seminar

- February 2 - Deaf Sensitivity Orientation for facilitators
- February 9 - Miriam College, Quezon City
- February 16 - CAP College, Makati
- February 22 - Carmona and General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite
- February 23 - Archdiocese of Manila Ministry for Persons with Disability, Manila
- March 2 - Philippine School for the Deaf, Pasay
- March 9 - Quezon City Hall and Caloocan

Fully-Abled Nation or FAN is an initiative implemented by The Asia Foundation in partnership with different agencies and organizations with support from the Australian Agency for International Development.

COMING TO YOU THIS SUMMER!

Be ready for another exciting summer activities as we bring our teacher training back to Manila on April 29 to May 3! For more information on the National Teacher Training Program on Cyber-Sign Language (SL) Signing Exact English (SEE) Network Program, check out DepEd Memorandum 29 s. 2013 at www.deped.gov.ph.