LINK Center for the Deaf

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Teacher Enhancement Program

Project Evaluation

On January 29, we presented the Project Evaluation on "Enhancing Access to Secondary Education for Children with Hearing Impairment in Visayas and Mindanao" in a round-table discussion attended by various stakeholders from teachers, LGU social workers, the Department of Education, and implementing partners.

The project, which consists of a two-phase training program for SPED teachers in Visayas and Mindanao, left significant changes to indirect and direct beneficiaries—26 new SPED Programs for children who are deaf opened; an increase of deaf students' enrolment; and *133* teachers received training in sign language and SPED practice and theory.

Cyber –SEE Network and SPED Workshops

The first of its kind in the country, Cyber-SEE Network or Cyber Signing Exact English Network is an assistive tool developed by a group of deaf people which allows for learning of SEE through the internet. Supported by the Boeing Corporate Global Citizenship and in partnership with the Department of Education, Cyber-SEE is just one of the wide array of workshops given to teachers during the National Teacher Training held last April 30 to May 3 at the DepEd RELC in Marikina.

To know more about Cyber-SEE and how one can get access to it, you may contact LINK Center.

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Letter from a Teacher

Dear LINK,

I already have an access on Cyber-SL SEE. We, at Kalayaan National High School will be starting the Sign Language Class with the regular teachers. Our teachers are very excited to sign because they know that this will help them a lot in teaching our 15 Deaf students. We have 11 Grade 7 students from Bagong Silang Elementary School. They are complaining that only 1 teacher knows how to sign. I told them that they should be patient and considerate with their regular teachers. I know that it is hard both for the Deaf students and teachers. Now that KNHS has the access on Cyber-SL SEE, I know it will never be difficult for them.

Thank you very much and I hope more cyber SL SEE programs will be designed for us in the future.
GOD BLESS AND MORE POWER TO LINK.

Ma. Cristina Arevalo
Kalayaan National High School

LINK Center is beneficiary of ICAP's Charity Day

LINK was chosen as beneficiary of ICAP Philippines' Charity Day. On March 12, ICAP Philippines represented by its Managing Director Trish Briones and Charity Day Chairperson Rose Anzures, turned over the Charity Day proceeds to LINK Center's President Carolyn Ui and Managing Director Marical Ui. ICAP is a leading market operator and provider of post trade risk mitigation and information services. Since 1993, ICAP has been holding the Charity Day on the 1st Wednesday of December where it gives all its revenues and commissions for the day to chosen beneficiaries.

Update from the Board of Directors

In the annual Board Meeting held on April 14, Lourdes Barbero-Ramos was elected the new Vice-Chair of LINK's Board of Directors. She takes over from Carolyn Ui who is the incumbent President. Other members of the Board are Dr. Robert Mobley, Chair; Marical Ui, Corporate Secretary/Treasurer; and Board Members Rafael Reloza and Eric Ebron. We also welcome newly elected Board Members, Dr. Yolanda T. Capulong, Principal of the Philippine School for the Deaf, Mrs. Bernadette Gallego, a very involved parent to a deaf son; and Ms. Nancy Sia, long time patron and friend of LINK Center.

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Academic Scholars' Corner

51 students in varying educational levels completed their annual scholarship contract for School Year 2012-2013. We congratulate the second batch of 10 Technical Vocational students who passed the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority exam last March. The students finished their course from Miriam College Adult Education.

In June, we see old scholars re-new their annual scholarship contract. Some high school graduates move on to take certificate courses in Miriam College Adult Education, Manila Christian Computer Institute for the Deaf, and National Rehabilitation Vocational Center, while 4 scholars continue their diploma courses at the College of St. Benilde.

We thank our old and new benefactors for supporting the program. Your support provides scholars transportation and interpreting fees, school supplies, school fieldtrips, groceries, and payment for recreational activities like camps.

Our new benefactors include the Asian Development Bank-Staff Community Fund, who supported scholars for SY 2012-2013; and Ambassador Bienvenido Tan of O.T. Kang Foundation and Ms. Rosky De Guzman.

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Fully Abled Nation

Excerpts from case studies done during the May 13 elections

In the months and days leading up to the elections, LINK Center and its partners, implemented several activities that aim to increase the participation of Persons With Disability in the May 13 elections. Activities include voter's education seminar for people who are deaf and their parents, deaf sensitivity and sign language orientation, recruitment of volunteers who were assigned in several PPCRV PWD help desk on elections day. Volunteers were trained to communicate to deaf voters in various ways not limited to sign language. Flyers and videos illustrating the steps and other guidelines to voting were distributed and shown to target beneficiaries. Final briefing and instructions on what to do and what to expect on elections day were also given to deaf voters to augment for the expected absence or lack of interpreters in many polling places. It is our aim that we continue to empower deaf people and other PWD's like Annilyn Asenero and Mary Ann Piralta to exercise their right and take part in democratic processes.

Mary Ann Piralta has wanted to vote since she was 18 years old. Though she is unable to explain why, she is very empathic in this desire to take part in the electoral process. She observed what her parents did as adults and taught herself the same. She knew that her parents voted during elections and wanted to be able to do so as well.— ***by Diane Catibog***

"I am an important person. I want to observe how elections are conducted. I want to observe the scenario." These were the reasons of Annilyn Asenero for voting on May 13, 2013. Annilyn is a deaf staff in the Handicapped Center of Caritas Manila. At 35 years old, the May 13 elections was her second time to vote.—***by RJ Manalo***

A Decade and One

The month of April marks our 11th year! There is so much to look back and to look forward to as we begin another decade. This year we also see new developments in our Board and Staff and begin new projects on our Art Program, Advocacy activities, and Teacher Program. Cheers to the beginning of another decade for LINK!