

LINK Center for the Deaf



NEWSLINK





NEWSLINK

ONLINE TEACHER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM 2023

ONLINE TEACHERS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (OTEP) ON ITS ROAD TO DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCE MATERIALS FOR TEACHERS OF STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAF

LINK Center for the Deaf Inc. has been at the forefront of providing valuable training and support to educators of students who are deaf through the *Teachers Enhancement Program (TEP)* since 2002. During the seminars and webinars conducted in the last three (3) years, participants consistently expressed their desire to create inclusive educational environments for students who are deaf, but felt ill-equipped to do so.

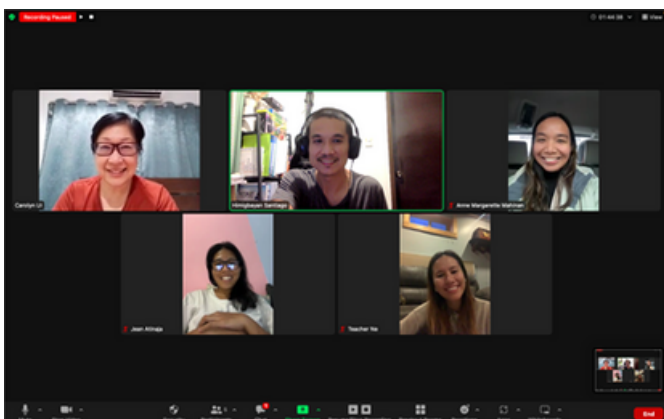
Recognizing the pressing need for resources and guidance in this area, *LINK Center*, driven by their commitment to the cause and guided by their faith, embarked on an ambitious journey to develop comprehensive resource materials. To ensure the highest quality and relevance, *LINK Center* partnered with seasoned SPED teachers who possess extensive experience in working with deaf students. This collaboration forms the core of the Online Teachers Enhancement Program- Development of Resource Materials(OTEP-DRM), a groundbreaking initiative aimed at equipping teachers with the tools they need to accommodate students who are deaf in inclusive educational settings.

The primary objective of OTEP is to develop resource materials that will serve as a guiding light for teachers seeking to provide an inclusive education to students who are deaf. Resource materials being developed will be accessible through LINK Center’s website once it has been published.

For the time being, join the team in this journey by praying for them with wisdom and help through people of significant influence in education. Dr. Yolanda Quijano graced the first consultation.

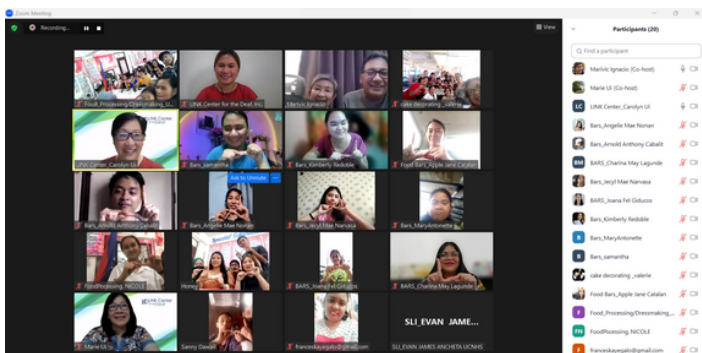
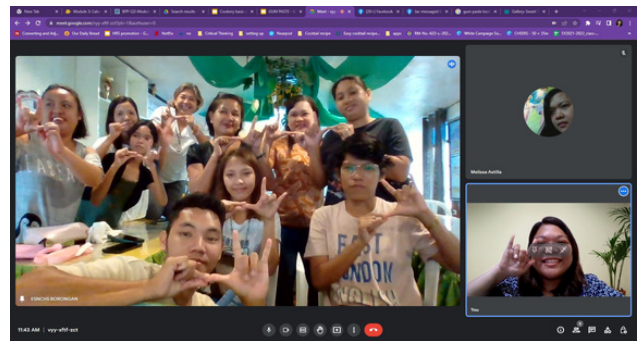
Ephesians 2:10

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."



WORK CENTER FOR THE YOUTH AND UNDER-SKILLED ADULTS WHO ARE DEAF

Project under Boeing Global Engagement



LINK Center for the Deaf Inc. in partnership with **BOEING**, initiated a project to support and empower the deaf community, particularly young individuals and under-skilled adults who are deaf. The project's primary focus was to offer skills and entrepreneurship training, enabling individuals who are deaf to become self-sufficient and successful in their careers.

In January 2023, online training programs commenced for five groups of participants who are deaf from different regions, covering diverse areas such as food bars, home cuisine, cake decoration, food processing, and dressmaking.

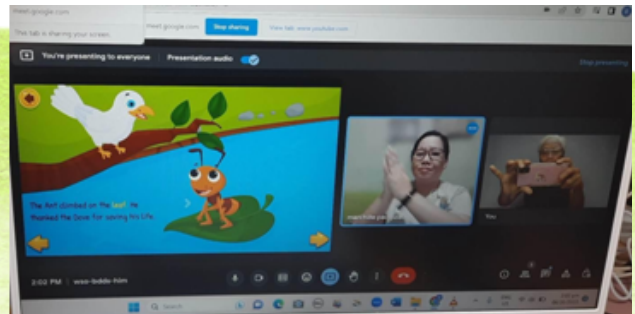
Despite facing challenges in coordinating training for diverse groups, LINK Center's determination and BOEING's unwavering support helped overcome these obstacles.

The project has already shown positive outcomes, and there are plans to expand it further to reach more young individuals and under-skilled adults who are deaf and provide continuous support and growth opportunities for deaf entrepreneurs.

The successful collaboration between the LINK Center and BOEING has unlocked untapped potential and opportunities for the deaf community, contributing to a more inclusive and prosperous future. Preparations for new businesses started late June.

2023 SIGN LANGUAGE TRAINING

KEEP THE HEART'S DESIRE LEARNING SIGN LANGUAGE, BURNING!



LINK Center for the Deaf Inc. has been offering free Sign Language Training to Regular/Receiving teachers who work with deaf students. The primary aim of this program is to empower these teachers with the essential skills needed to effectively communicate and connect with their deaf students as these students are mainstreamed in regular classes.

Over the years, the program has seen remarkable success, with six (6) batches comprising 85 teachers each graduating from the *Intermediate Sign Language Level (BSL)*. These teachers have demonstrated exceptional dedication and commitment by taking on the challenge of pursuing the *Advance Sign Language Level (ISL)*, despite their demanding schedules at school and their responsibilities in their respective homes.

LINK Center recognizes the significant impact these teachers have in the lives of deaf students. By equipping them with advanced sign language skills, the center aims to enhance the educational experience of deaf students in a mainstream society and enable them to reach their full potential. The commitment and dedication shown by these teachers serve as a beacon of inspiration for the entire education community.

A grateful heart to the Almighty for putting this desire into the hearts of these teachers.

ART PROGRAM

THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF JOHN PAUL SAMPIANO IN ART

John Paul Sampiano, his friends often call him Paul, is a talented and determined student who is deaf. He has proven that ***unspoken communication through art*** is viable.

At present, Paul is pursuing a 2-year Associate in Digital Technologies Program (ADT) at Miriam College, Quezon City. He actively participates in various art competitions, both locally and regionally in the Philippines.

Just recently, the US Embassy implemented an art competition during their "Ending Silence through Education" event in 2022. Through his former school, Commonwealth High School, Paul's remarkable 2 entries have been chosen for the US Embassy Art Competition. His 2 entries expressed on sexual abuse prevention and the story of his life, dreams, and future.

Paul's deafness did not become an obstacle for him to take the challenges and impressed judges with his exceptional talent and unique perspectives. His distinctive artistic style combined with his commitment to tackling significant societal issues has earned him recognition and admiration within the artistic community.

The United States Embassy, both in the US and in the Philippines, acknowledges the exceptional talent and unique perspective of John Paul together with artists who also qualified to the competition through an exhibit in July 2023.

John Paul Sampiano's journey as a deaf artist is a true inspiration. His extraordinary ability to transcend communication barriers through art has earned him recognition and respect within the artistic community.

"May the Lord establish the works of your hands."



DISABILITY AWARENESS AND SENSITIVITY ORIENTATION/WORK ETHICS

A. LINK Center conducts DASO in partnership with the Municipality Government of Carmona- Person with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) and Public Employment Service Office (PESO)



LINK Center for the Deaf Inc. recently had the privilege of being invited by the Municipality Government of Carmona, Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (PDAO) and Public Employment Service Office (PESO) to conduct a highly informative Deaf Awareness and Sensitivity Orientation (DASO) on February 23, 2023 during its **1st HR FORUM PWDe I CAN Work: Persons with Disabilities Employment Inclusion advocacy and Networks in the Workplace**. This event was organized with the aim of promoting a better understanding and inclusivity towards the deaf community in the workplace.

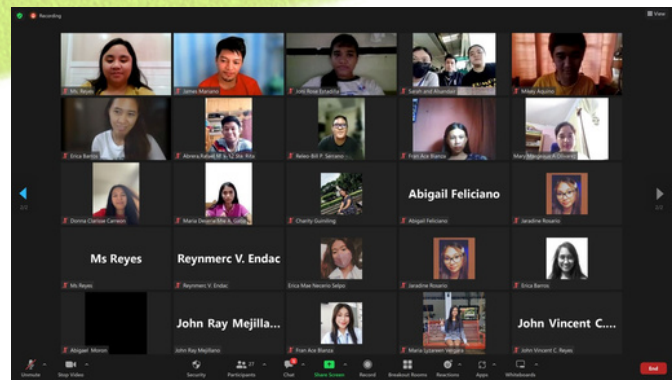
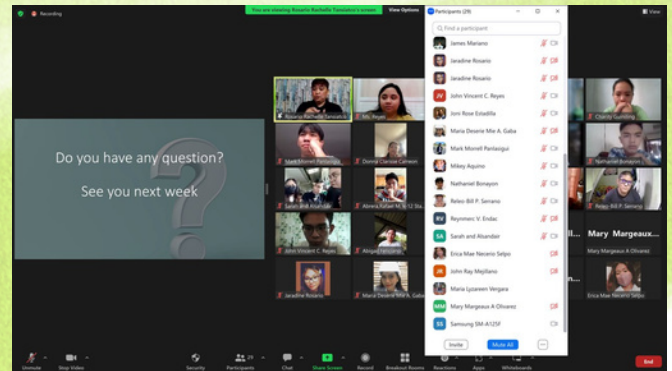
With the vast knowledge and experience of the resource speaker, *Ms. Carolyn C. Uj, President of LINK Center*, the supervisors and managers from participating private companies in Carmona, Cavite were provided with insights should they employ individuals who are deaf and practical guidance for companies with existing employees who are deaf. It was heartening to witness their commitment to create an inclusive environment within their respective workplaces. Her talk became more engaging when *Dianne Salazar*, an admin staff of LINK Center who is deaf herself shared her inspiring life testimony as a daughter, a wife to her husband who is also deaf, a mother to 2 children who are hearing, an employee and an entrepreneur as well. By attending this orientation, these companies demonstrated their willingness to learn and adapt, ensuring that they could effectively communicate and accommodate the needs of deaf individuals.

May the Creator of Life help us create a society where everyone can thrive, regardless of their abilities or differences. To God be the glory!

DISABILITY AWARENESS AND SENSITIVITY ORIENTATION/WORK ETHICS

B. WORK READINESS WEBINAR

April 15, 2023



The participants of the Work Readiness (WR) webinar consist of graduating students who are deaf and come from various schools. Specifically, there are 3 students from Oriental Mindoro National High School, 15 students from Skills Development and Technical Education Center (SDTEC), and 8 students from Miriam College.

This year's WR webinar is being conducted by *Ms. Rachelle Tansiatco*, who is not only a teacher but also the guidance counselor at SDTEC. During the webinar, Ms. Tansiatco focuses on equipping the graduating students and preparing them for life beyond their academic journey. Some of the students expressed uncertainty about their plans after graduation, but they are grateful for the opportunity to attend this webinar, as it provides them with a comprehensive understanding of what awaits them once they complete their education.

DISABILITY AWARENESS AND SENSITIVITY ORIENTATION/WORK ETHICS

C. WORK ETHICS WEBINAR

April 22, 2023

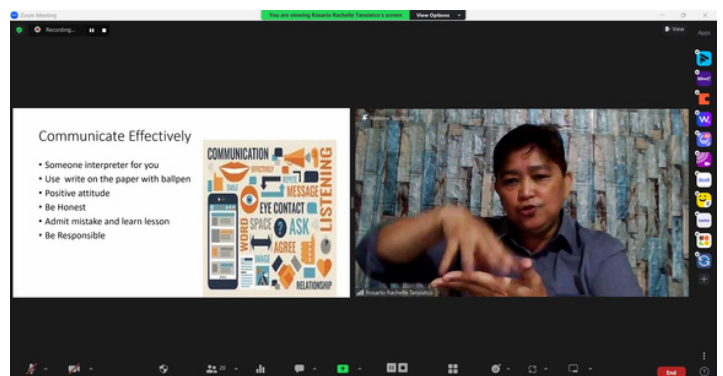
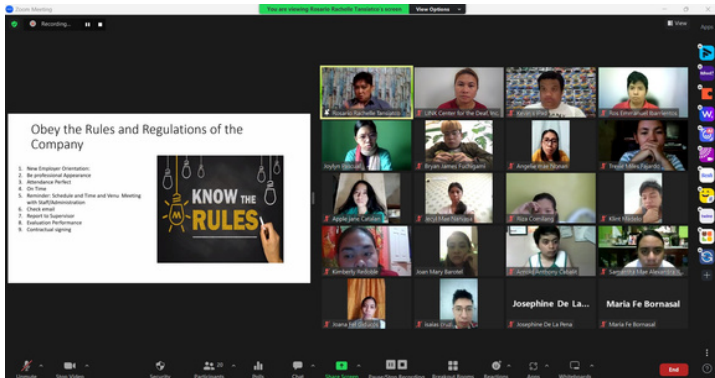
A highly anticipated Work Ethics webinar was held online, featuring *Ms. Rachelle Tansiatco*, a professional who is deaf and has extensive experience in various companies. The webinar, attended by 19 participants, focused on effective communication between colleagues and the importance of adhering to company rules and regulations.

Ms. Rachelle Tansiatco shared her personal experiences and insights, providing a unique perspective on the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities in the workplace. Her journey exemplified the significance of work ethics in overcoming obstacles and achieving success, making her an inspiring role model for all participants.

The webinar highlighted the importance of clear and concise communication for fostering collaboration, teamwork, and a positive work environment. Participants learned practical strategies such as active listening, non-verbal cues, and leveraging technology to facilitate inclusive communication. By improving their communication skills, participants gained valuable tools for building stronger professional relationships and increasing productivity.

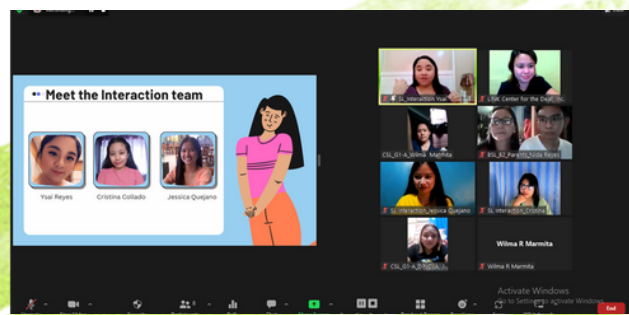
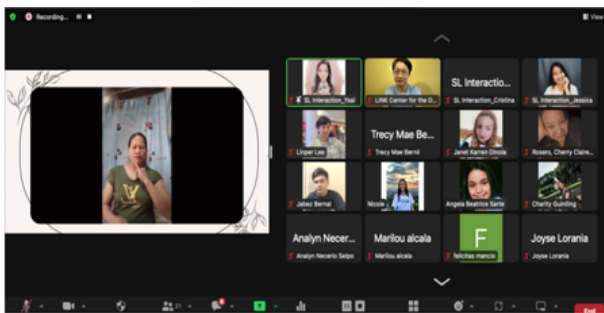
Another key focus of the webinar was the importance of adhering to company rules and regulations. *Ms. Tansiatco* emphasized the significance of a strong work ethic, which involves respecting and abiding by organizational policies and guidelines. Participants were reminded to prioritize punctuality, meet deadlines, and follow ethical practices in their daily work. Maintaining professionalism and ethical conduct contributes to a harmonious and productive work environment.

The webinar served as a reminder that work ethics are crucial for every individual's journey towards excellence in the workplace.



PARENTS PROGRAM

Empowering Parents: Culminating Event for Conversational Sign Language for Parents of Students who are Deaf



Effective communication plays a crucial role in nurturing strong relationships and fostering a supportive environment within families. For parents of deaf students, understanding and effectively communicating with their children can present unique challenges.

To address this issue, a culminating event was organized to celebrate the achievements of parents who completed *Basic Sign Language (BSL)* training and advanced to *Conversational Sign Language (CSL)*. This event aimed to equip parents with the skills and knowledge necessary to engage in meaningful conversations with their deaf children, specifically focusing on various real-life scenarios, such as adulting, relationships, school performance, self-understanding, and family situations.

The culminating event conducted on June 3, 2023 marked the successful completion of CSL course, which empowered parents to engage in more complex and nuanced conversations with their deaf children. The focus shifted towards exploring scenarios that are crucial during the process of growing up and adulting. Parents were guided through various practical situations, including navigating boy-girl relationships, understanding school performance, and discussing personal and family situations.

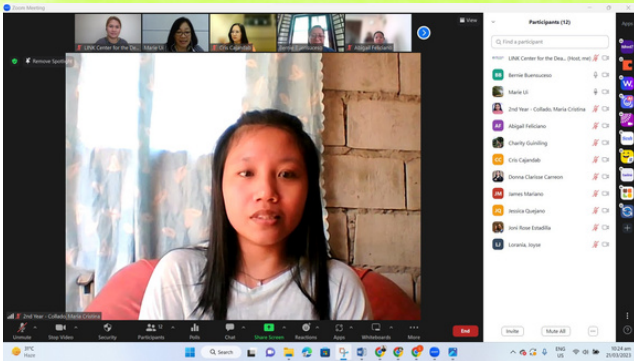
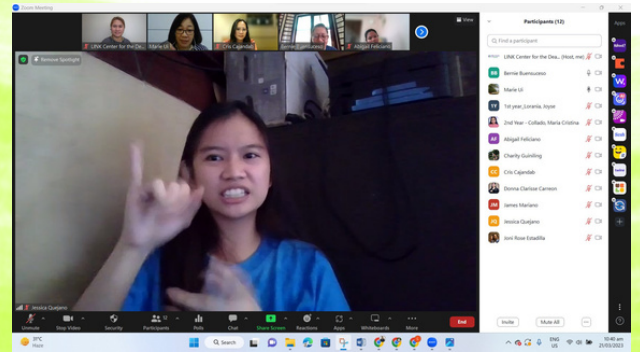
Big thanks to the Sign Language Interaction team, *Ysai*, *Cristina* and *Jessica* for the eagerness to guide these parents.

KUDOS to these parents! Despite the stiffness and numbness of their fingers they took time for the training and successfully achieved the goal.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM (ESP)

A. ADB-SCF Online Kamustahan

March 21, 2023



The beneficiaries of the *Educational Support Program (ESP)* participate in an online kamustahan session. These virtual gatherings are organized once or twice a year to assess the welfare of each student. An inspiring event took place on March 21, during which nearly all scholars eagerly shared their school and personal experiences while also sending messages to the ADB-SFC Community. They expressed their deep appreciation for the continuous support received and made a commitment to diligently pursue their studies, ensuring that the provided funds are maximized effectively.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM (ESP)

B. Exciting Business Fair entitled “Sari-Saring Negosyo” at the Miriam College Skills Development and Technical Education Center (SDTEC)!

February 7 - 8, 2023

The eagerly awaited event that the students have been anticipating since the pandemic is almost over. This Business Fair provides a platform for each year level and section to showcase their products, baking/cooking skills, and entrepreneurial abilities.

Students immersed themselves in marketing their products, delegating tasks among their classmates, and earning money as a group.

Even our scholars who are deaf actively participated in this event, shouldering significant responsibilities that are on par with their hearing peers. They are fully involved in this activity and have fearlessly embraced the challenge.



VISITOR GUIDELINES

- **BRING YOUR VACCINATION CARD.**
VACCINATION CARDS SHOULD BE PRESENTED UPON ENTRANCE AT THE GATE 1. ONLY THOSE WITH VACCINATION CARD WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER.
- **FILL OUT DAILY HEALTH CHECKLIST**
DAILY HEALTH CHECKLIST CAN BE FILLED OUT MANUALLY UPON ENTRANCE OR ONLINE THRU [HTTPS://DIC.AC.EDU.PH/DIC](https://dic.ac.edu.ph/dic).
- **CASUAL WEAR**
FOLLOW THE DRESS CODE STIPULATED IN THE MIRIAM COLLEGE STUDENT HANDBOOK

ENJOY!!



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS GALLERY

A. Staff Community Fund Annual General Assembly

On April 26, 2023, the *Staff Community Fund - Asian Development Bank (SCF-ADB)* hosted the Annual General Assembly of Beneficiaries. The primary objectives of the assembly were to facilitate networking opportunities among attendees, provide updates on the financial report, and hold an open forum for discussions. The event took place at ADB's headquarters located in Ortigas.



B. Philippine Council For Non Government Certification (PCNC) Annual General Assembly

The 24th annual general assembly, held on June 1, 2023, at Crowne Plaza Hotel in Ortigas Center, saw the attendance of the **LINK Center for the Deaf Inc.** This year's theme, "Adaptation, Resilience, Sustainability," brought together participants from all over the Philippines, filling the venue. The program commenced with a prayer, followed by the singing of the National Anthem and the acknowledgement of attendees.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS GALLERY



The program was structured into two parts. The first segment consisted of a report from the board of PCNC, while the second segment involved a forum focused on promoting NGO participation in development and nation-building. The afternoon sessions featured resource individuals from various organizations, including the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR)

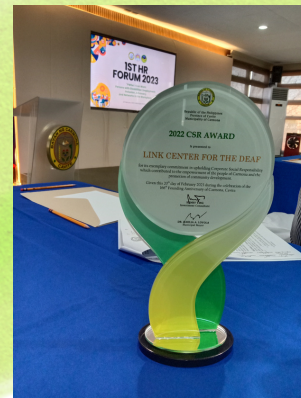
ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS GALLERY

C. Awards for Outstanding Civil Society Organization (CSO) Partnership and Corporate Social Responsibility

LINK Center for the Deaf Inc. received two prestigious awards in recognition of its exceptional contributions and partnerships. On February 20, 2023, during the Municipal Government's Flag Raising Ceremony in Carmona, Cavite, LINK Center was honored with an award for **Outstanding Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**. Additionally, on February 27, 2023, at the Manila Jockey Club, the Municipality of Carmona celebrated World NGO Day and presented LINK Center with an award of appreciation for its *exemplary role as a Civil Society Organization partner*.

The Mayor of Carmona, Cavite, *Dr. Dahlia A. Loyola*, in both events, expressed the municipality's profound gratitude for LINK Center and other partners for their exceptional work. The awards received by LINK Center symbolized the municipality's trust and confidence in the ability of LINK Center to make a positive and sustainable impact both in the deaf community and society. These awards, aside from honoring the achievements, also highlighted the imperative role of strong partnerships and collaborative efforts between NGOs, CSOs, and local government entities in driving positive change.

May the Creator and the Source of Hope continue to bless LINK and establish its vision-to be a leader in providing an integrated support program for people who are deaf.



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS GALLERY

D. LINK Recollection at Verbum Dei Retreat House



A recollection is a spiritual retreat, or a day of reflection commonly practiced in religious and spiritual communities. It involves taking time away from daily activities to focus on one's faith to God. Recollection often includes prayer, meditation, spiritual talks or reflections, and opportunities for self-examination and renewal.

LINK Center for the Deaf Inc., the administration and staff organized a one-day recollection on April 16, 2023 facilitated by Rev. Fr. Jojo David from Verbum Dei.

Fr. Jojo focused on the theme, *"In Silence and Trust Lies Your Strength"*. That when rest in silence, it provides an opportunity to listen, reflect and search for answers within. Trust allows us to remain steady in the process of difficulties and empowers us to continue a journey even amidst loss or confusion.

The purpose of this recollection was to remind everyone about the importance of being connected and to deepen their faith and relationship with God. It provided an opportunity for the participants to step back from their regular routines and engage in spiritual activities that could rejuvenate their spiritual lives and strengthen their bonds with God.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS GALLERY

E. Attendance to ABSNET Event



The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in the Philippines conducted a webinar last March 23, 2023, focusing a various topic. The participants included Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) such as the **LINK Center for the Deaf Inc.** and Social Welfare Development Agencies (SWDAs).

The Purpose of the webinar was to discuss specific topics including:

1. DSWD Memorandum Circular No. series 12, series of 2022: this circular is a specific directive or guideline issued by the DSWD that addresses certain policies, procedures, or regulations relevant to social welfare and development programs.
2. DSWD Memorandum Circular No. 21 Series of 2022: Amendment of Memorandum Circular no. 17 Series of 2018 entitled "Revised Guidelines and Governing the Registration, Licensing of Social Welfare and Development (SWD) Agencies and Accreditation of SWD Programs and Services".
3. SEC Policies: The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in the Philippines regulates non-profit organizations and may have specific policies or guidelines in place for NGOs or SWDAs. The webinar may have addressed these SEC policies, focusing on compliance on requirements or other relevant information.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS GALLERY

F. MC-SDTEC invites LINK Interpreters to a year-end get together party

MC SDTEC organized a joyous year-end-get together party. The event held last May 9, 2023, brought together the faculty and staff, volunteers, and LINK Interpreters in an evening of fun-filled activities and delightful moments. The gathering commenced with a captivating game of Bingo for a cause. Participants enthusiastically marked their cards, hoping to secure victory while contributing to a noble cause. The atmosphere was vibrant as cheers filled the room whenever someone shouted, "Bingo!"

Following the exhilarating games, everyone was treated to a delectable dinner. An exciting night swimming session followed.

This year-end get-together party serves as a way for MC SDTEC community to come together and celebrate accomplishments for the hard work and dedication of faculty, staff, volunteers, and LINK Interpreters.

The event not only offered a well-deserved break for the attendees but also provided an opportunity to express gratitude for the collective efforts of everyone involved in MC SDTEC's mission.



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS GALLERY

G. R & R 2023



The *LINK Center Admin and Staff* had a memorable and rejuvenating experience at Casa Baltazar in Lian Batangas. In addition to swimming, island hopping, and boating, there were several other enjoyable activities that made the trip even more special. The staff members indulged in relaxing body massages. An opportunity for everyone to pamper themselves and rejuvenate their bodies and minds.

One of the highlights of the trip was witnessing the breathtaking sunset from the villa. The staff gathered on the beach or the terrace, capturing the colors of the sky as the sun dipped. It was really a time for everyone to pause and appreciate the beauty of nature.

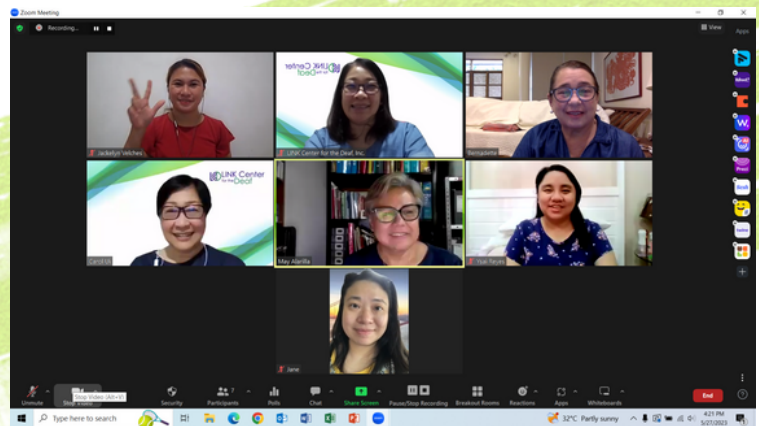
The *R&R 2023* was a well-deserved break for the LINK Center Admin and Staff, providing them with a chance to relax, bond, and create lasting memories. It was a time of joy, laughter, and appreciation for the blessings of good weather and the opportunity to bond with each other.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS GALLERY

H. Annual Board Meeting

The LINK Center for the Deaf Inc held its annual board meeting on May 28, 2023 via zoom. Ms. Carolyn Ui presented the accomplishment report for 2022, highlighting the organization's milestones, projects, and initiatives particularly on the approved Project Proposal on Work Center for Youth and Under-Skilled Adults who are Deaf by Boeing Global Corporate Citizenship as well as the new Project Proposal to be submitted to BDO Foundation.

The Board was provided with detailed updates on the various programs and services offered by the organization. The meeting also served as a venue for suggestions by the Board.



Furthermore, the annual board meeting also marked the Board election. The election went smoothly. The annual board meeting was a significant occasion to acknowledge the achievements of the previous year and communicate updates that will shape the future direction of LINK. With the commitment and dedication of its board members, LINK remains steadfast in its mission to empower individuals who are deaf by providing them integrated support services.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS GALLERY

I. Disability Awareness and Sensitivity Orientations at Omnipay, Bastion and Cabalen



Ms. Marical C. Ui conducted **Disability Awareness and Sensitivity Orientations (DASO)** for the supervisors and employees of Omnipay, Bastion and Cabalen on April 11 and 28, 2023. The DASO aims to promote a more inclusive and understanding work environment in the workplace. Participants were provided with valuable insights to ensure an inclusive and supportive work environment during the student's Practicum. By investing in these orientations, Omnipay, Bastion and Cabalen showed their commitment to diversity and inclusivity, fostering an environment where individuals of all abilities are respected, valued and given equal opportunities to thrive.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS GALLERY

J. PCNC Evaluators' Learning Workshop

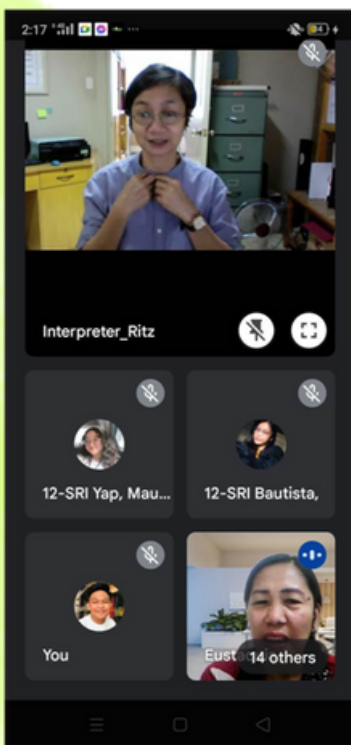


Ms. Marical C. Ui attended the 3-day Face to Face Learning Workshop organized by the **Philippine Council for NGO Certification** on March 8-10, 2023 at the Gerry Roxas Foundation Training Center.

The Learning Workshop aimed at retooling the Volunteer Peer Evaluators on the Revised Guidelines and the Self-Assessment and Peer-Appraisal Tool or SAPAT.

SERVICES

LINK Center for the Deaf, Inc. offers several valuable programs and services to support the deaf community.



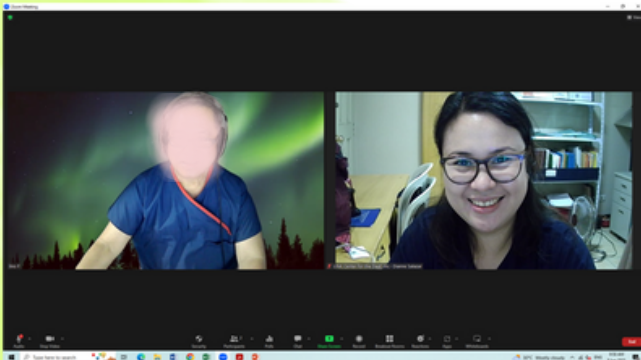
SERVICES

1. Interpreting Services:

LINK Center ensures effective communication for deaf students at Miriam College and the Skills Development and Technical Education Center (SDTEC) by offering interpreting services. These services extend beyond educational settings, as LINK Center also provides mass interpreting and interpreting in other various events, both onsite and online, enabling deaf individuals to actively participate in social and public gatherings.



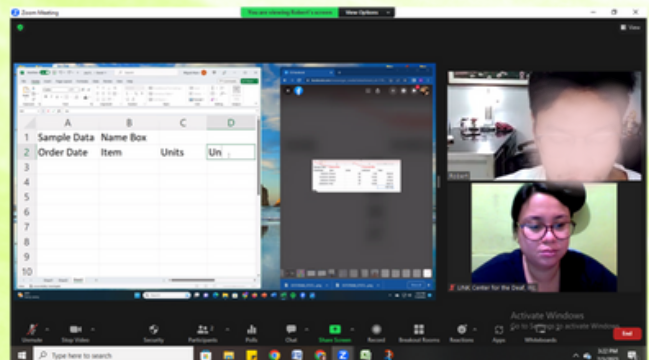
2. Sign Language Class:



Currently, LINK Center offers an online sign language class that follows a one-on-one tutorial format. This personalized approach allows students to receive individual attention and guidance, facilitating their progress and proficiency in sign language communication. Despite being conducted online, students appreciate the interactive nature of the class. ***What are you waiting for? Unlock the Power of Communication with Sign Language at LINK Center for the Deaf, Inc!***

3. Tutorial Services:

In addition to sign language classes, LINK Center provides online tutorials in subjects such as Computer, Math, and English Language. Students who are deaf can take advantage of these tutorials to receive extra academic support and improve their skills in these specific areas.



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