

2011 Basic Activities Report Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development (PCAFPD)

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 2011 the Foundation chose to support ten new scholars from across the Philippines to pursue degrees in: Secondary Education (2); Education; Accountancy; Hotel Restaurant Management; Social Work (2); Civil Engineering (2) and Information Technology.

In March the Board held its Annual Meeting, at which the Foundation elects officers and chooses program priorities for the year. March also marked the graduation of twelve scholars who have earned degrees in: Agricultural Business; Elementary Education (2); Business Economics; Computer Science; Business Administration; Education; Civil Engineering (2); Environmental Management (MS Degree); Information Technology; and Electronics & Communication Engineering. In October another scholar earned her degree in Criminology.

Semi-annual newsletters, published in May/June and November, are the major means of communication between PCAFPD and its supporters. The newsletter reports on Foundation scholars and activities. It includes news from or about the Philippines and about former Volunteers and staff; and also serves as the major fundraising tool. Each of the 2011 newsletters included material reflecting on the 50 years of Peace Corps service in the Philippines. In 2011, PCAFPD added an online Bulletin (on the Constant Contact platform), which is sent out periodically to announce events, to recruit additional supporters and to supplement its fund-raising efforts. In September, the foundation created and sent to each of its supporters a certificate of appreciation with their name and the dates of their Peace Corps service, together with a letter asking for a special 50th anniversary gift.

For the September 23/24 weekend, the PCAFPD Board convened a Planning Committee chaired by its President Maureen Carroll, which planned and executed two events to celebrate the Peace Corps' 50th anniversary. One was a Friday evening reception with a "barrio fiesta" theme. The other was a Saturday morning program with: (1) a panel of recently returned PCVs and a Country Director; (2) a showing of the newly-created DVD video discussed below; and (3) a presentation concerning contemporary issues in the Philippines by American University Professor Dr. Robin Broad.

Philippines-based Board members, and those who visit the country, continue to nurture the PCAFPD Scholars and Alumni Association (PSAA), a network of graduates and current scholars committed to mutual support and leadership in development activities. The PSAA and Philippines-based Board Members created a DVD illustrating the impact of PCAFPD on the lives of scholars it has supported. Several PSAA members also participated in an Embassy-sponsored joint celebration in Manila of Peace Corps' and USAID's 50 years in the Philippines, which was attended by Peace Corps Director Aaron Williams.