

## **2012 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 2012 the Foundation chose to support eleven new scholars from across the Philippines to pursue degrees in: Education; Political Science; Molecular Biology; Engineering; Biology; Social Work; Mechanical Engineering; Information Technology; Accountancy (2) and Veterinary Medicine. One of the scholars will be supported by BIMAK, a Filipino-American fraternal and service organization, whose members are from the Cordillera region of the Philippines.

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 seven scholars who have earned degrees in: Agriculture (2); Broadcast Communications; Civil Engineering; Journalism; Sociology; and Accountancy. Later in the year, another scholar earned his degree in Hotel & Restaurant Management.

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 2012 newsletters included material reporting the thoughts of current students and news about recently graduated students. PCAFPD also has 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 raised additional funds by mailing a special appeal to its current supporters.

A highlight of the year for supporters living in the DC area was the chance to meet a successful graduate of the foundation's scholarship program. In August of 2012, the Bulletin was used to announce that one of the scholars PCAFPD had supported for both under-graduate and graduate studies, was now a professor at the University of the Philippines and had been offered an opportunity to present a research paper at an academic conference in New York City. In order to accept the invitation, he needed funds to pay for his airfare. In response to a special appeal made in the online Bulletin, within a few weeks PCAFPD supporters funded the scholar's airfare to the US and raised enough money to bring him to Washington, DC for sight-seeing and visits with local supporters and recently returned RPCVs.

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. PSAA has continued to develop and thrive with the help of social media and its dedicated leaders, whose education was supported by the foundation. PSAA members have been active in some of the initiatives of the recently-elected Philippine government to improve the schools throughout the country.