

Scholarship Recommendation Form

Recommender Information:

Name: Rev. Stephen Adrian M. Villaester

Relationship to applicant: Program Participant

Organization/School: Pakigdait Inc.

Email address: adivillaester13@gmail.com

Applicant Information:

Name: Raihanie A. Said

Current School: Mindanao State University – Main Campus

Recommendation:

As a Pastor and a Peacebuilders (Organization)., I am pleased to recommend Ms. Raihanie Said for the PCAFPD scholarship. Raihanie has been a dedicated participant in our peace-building activities, demonstrating not only her skills and potential but also her commitment to fostering understanding and unity among youth.

Raihanie has joined our initiatives on multiple occasions, and I have witnessed firsthand her determination and adaptability. Though naturally reserved, she always shows effort to engage with others and to ensure her actions and words uplift rather than demotivate. Her humility and generosity are apparent, especially during brainstorming sessions where she listens attentively to her team, allowing others to share ideas and making everyone feel that their contributions are valued and respected. In this way, Raihanie embodies the spirit of peace and motivation we strive to promote.

One memorable example of her participation was during our peace talk, where youth participants explored the intentions and advocacies of the MNLF and MILF, as well as the goals of the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), while being educated and encouraged to contribute to peacebuilding in Mindanao in their own unique ways. Raihanie, along with the other participants, was fully engaged in learning and encouraging others to find ways to contribute to peace in Mindanao.

Another significant example of her dedication was her involvement in our three-day “Culture and Faith Journey: Youth Leaders Immersion” event, a collaborative effort with The Asia Foundation under Project PeaceConnect. This program brought together youth from various religious and cultural backgrounds with the aim of promoting mutual understanding and respect. Throughout the event, Raihanie demonstrated a genuine respect for her Higaonon and Christian co-participants. Despite her shyness, she actively socialized, valuing everyone’s efforts and maintaining an openness that fostered an inclusive and positive atmosphere. Her sincere smile and friendly demeanor helped create a space where everyone felt accepted and understood.

Through her involvement, Raihanie contributed greatly to our goal of bridging misunderstandings between different cultures and religions. She forged lasting friendships with participants of diverse backgrounds, and even overcame her natural reservations to speak in our video documentary, advocating that despite our differences, we all deserve respect and equality. Her actions reflect the richness of diversity and its role in building a peaceful society.

In summary, Raihanie's active engagement has made a lasting impact on our community's peace-building efforts. I am confident that her dedication to service, her leadership skills, and her financial need make her an excellent candidate for the PCAFPD scholarship.

Recommender Name & Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "SVILLAESTER". The signature is written in a cursive, stylized font with a large, sweeping initial 'S'.

REV. STEPHEN ADRIAN M. VILLAESTER
Director, Pakigdait Inc.

Date: 10/30/24