Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development — Building Futures Since 1983

Scholarship Recommendation Form

Instructions: Thank you for being a recommender for the PCAFPD scholarship. Recommendations are used as part of the selection process. Please type your information below and provide a digital copy to the applicant for submission. Hand written responses will not be accepted.

Recommender Information

Name: **Sydney Rose Field** Relationship to applicant: **Peace Corps Volunteer**

Organization/School: **Peace Corps** Email address: sydrosef@gmail.com

Applicant Information:

Name: John Alfred G. Morallos Current School: Pavia National High School Graduate

Recommendation

To whom it may concern:

I am Sydney Field, a Peace Corps Volunteer serving in the Philippines, and I am writing to enthusiastically endorse John Alfred G. Morallos for the PCAFPD Scholarship. I first met John in his barangay last year while hosting a Youth Development Session (YDS), and since then, I have had the utmost pleasure and joy of working for one year alongside John as he has served as President of the Pavia Power of Youth Association (PPYA), a youth-created and youth-led organization that facilitates YDS focusing on bullying, discrimination, and mental health. Throughout my service, I have worked with many remarkable young people, but John stands out among them.

There are three (3) main reasons for my constant admiration of John as a human and a leader: (1) he has incredible initiative and passion combined with extensive organizational capacities, (2) he seeks discomfort and challenges, and (3) he has a curiosity that sparks change.

John has the capacity to start initiatives from the ground up with very few resources. Alongside me, John helped create PPYA to support 4Ps youth and, most importantly, any youth in Pavia who needed support. Even with little to no budget for food or supplies, he worked alongside me to organize Youth Leaders, coordinate with barangays to conduct YDS, and create his own curriculum about Spiritual Growth.

John's faith is at the center of his life, and through community mapping and conversations with youth in his community, he assessed that the youth of Pavia could be better supported through a YDS that provided structure for their spiritual growth. His passion and relentlessness in pushing forward his idea resulted in a curriculum entirely designed by him, which we have now implemented in all eighteen (18) barangays in Pavia. He ensured other Youth Leaders were trained on his session, planning extra sessions for the youth to practice their skills. John does not simply identify problems in his community and hope someone else will solve them. He is dedicated to serving the people of Pavia and recognizes the meaningful role that faith and spirituality play in the lives of many people in his community. As a former 4Ps youth himself, he sees a need, asks questions, brings people together, and turns an idea into something tangible.

When I first met John, he told me he lacked confidence. He did not talk much or feel inclined to speak in front of other youth. In Hiligaynon, we say *amat-amat*, which means "little by little." Little by little, John built his confidence and ability to lead, not because it came naturally to him, but because he intentionally pursued activities that were uncomfortable and challenged him. He still gets nervous and communicates those feelings to me. At a recent YDS in a barangay he had never been to before, he felt shaky and overwhelmed by all the new youth. He told me he was scared, took a breath, and allowed other Youth Leaders to step up when he needed support. What makes John extraordinary is not that leadership comes easily to him. It is that he chooses to lead anyway.

In my opinion, true leadership and commitment to growth sit in one's ability to admit when one is struggling, be vulnerable, and open oneself up to the opportunity of failure. John seeks all of these things. He accompanies me to meetings with government officials, practicing his ability to advocate and communicate with local leaders. When he shares his struggles in group debriefs, I watch other youth follow in his footsteps, opening up about their family problems and financial burdens. His vulnerability creates space for the young people around him to be vulnerable as well, and other Youth Leaders go to John with questions, concerns, and problems, seeking his support.

John is a question asker. John is a thinker. John is a feeler. Every day spent with John is a day filled with questions. *Ma'am, what is the process for project development to follow? Ma'am, do you want to get married one day? Ma'am, could you ask us questions about ourselves?* Every question forces me to stop and think. Development work is intertwined with our ability to ask questions and listen to other people, and that skill is at the forefront of John's capabilities. He always says that he can never judge another person because he does not know their situation.

John puts this curiosity forward as he leads thirty (30) Youth Leaders across eighteen (18) barangays to create proposals for grants based on a community development framework. He sits with his peers, asking questions before giving answers, ultimately helping them develop a project for a community safe space focused on bullying, discrimination, and mental health. At two Training of Trainers sessions with Youth Leaders from the Municipalities of Pavia, Pototan, and Mina, I watched John intentionally sit with quieter youth and ask them questions. He listens to their ideas, helps them work through disagreements, and supports them as they turn their vision into something that can become reality. As someone who struggled with his own confidence, he is an even stronger, more thoughtful leader for all youth who have similar struggles. I know that the challenges he faces will only serve to make him a better leader for all Filipinos in the future.

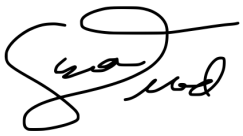
John's ability to communicate has also made me a better Peace Corps Volunteer. When I have struggled due to cultural and language barriers, John has ensured communication among the youth, barangays, and me is clear and accurate. When we face cultural differences, he faces them with me, communicating with grace, understanding, and a willingness to teach me how to be a better Volunteer for Pavia's youth. His motivation, perseverance, and excitement have repeatedly reminded me why I chose to do this work. John has reminded me that community development is not something I, as a Peace Corps Volunteer, bring into a community; it already exists within people like him.

Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development — Building Futures Since 1983

John is a community developer in Pavia. He is doing this work while simultaneously balancing financial struggles, family problems, and his own personal growth. At the same time, he continues to show up for the people around him. He has already shown what he is capable of accomplishing with limited resources, and I can only imagine what he will accomplish with greater access to the educational opportunities and resources this scholarship would provide.

It is my firm belief that John is an outstanding candidate for the PCAFPD Scholarship. He does not wait until he feels ready, until circumstances are perfect, or until someone else takes the lead. He starts, he learns, he asks questions, and he brings his peers, other Filipino youth, with him. He has the motivation, potential, work ethic, and love in his heart to create meaningful change among his peers, within his family and community, throughout Pavia, and across the Philippines. It has been one of the greatest privileges of my Peace Corps service to watch him become the leader he is today, and I give him my strongest possible recommendation. John will use this opportunity to strengthen, fuel, and expand his commitment as a community developer in Pavia and contribute to the growth and development of the Filipino people.

Recommender Name & Signature: **Date:**



Sydney R. Field — September 22, 2026
Peace Corps Volunteer Philippines