

**TRUSTEES UPDATE
FEBRUARY 2017**

Dear AGFI Trustees,

Cheers! February is our birth month! We celebrated our fourth birthday by inviting our Adarna House and Raya School volunteers to a simple lunch last February 14.

We thanked our volunteers for helping us reach, in our four years of service, 1,933 families, 185 health care workers, and 29 communities. We also encouraged them to participate again in our future activities so we can surpass the 5,267 books and manuals we have given out so far.

Also on February 3, we held our first Barangay Early Literacy Program (BELP) in Hermosa. Done in partnership with ICCP Group Foundation (IGFI), 39 mothers and babies from three barangays (Baco, Pandatung, Palihan) attended the learning session on the importance of early literacy and received age and culturally appropriate books. With the activity's success, IGFI Executive Director Ronnie Tapnio expressed their interest to partner again with AGFI in bringing BELP to their communities in Pampanga and Batangas.



Apart from the learning session on the importance of early literacy, the participants also enjoyed the music and movement activity facilitated by volunteers from Adarna House' Business Development Group.

February 6 was Unang Aklat Municipality: Samal day ☺ Ms. Lyn Almario, Mayor Gene Dela Fuente and Dr. Teng Espino of Samal signed the memorandum of agreement for its implementation with Dr. Carmen Bonoan of PAPA-ROR as witness. After the MOA signing some 45 barangay health workers who represent Samal's 14 barangays attended the planning session facilitated by Con, Ms. Fiona from Adarna House, and myself. Somehow AGFI and Samal's partnership came full circle that day as it is in Samal where Unang Aklat was first launched in 2013.



From left to right: Dr. Carmen, Lyn Almario, Mayor Gene, Dr. Teng

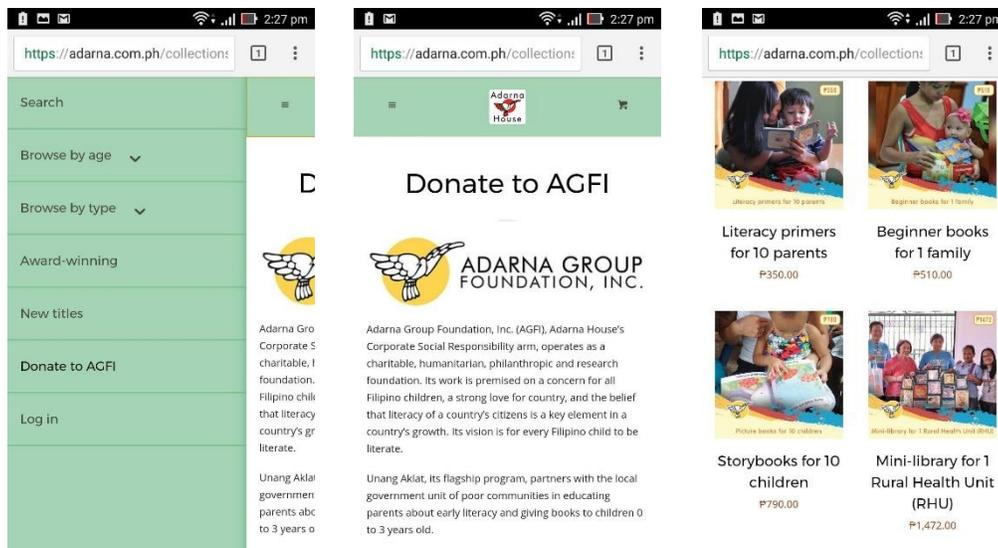
Another activity was the Early Literacy Training for Unang Aklat Municipality: Anao last February 11. Resource speakers from The Raya School (Teachers Andrea Buenafe, and Jeanne Co with Louay Fabros) and PAPA-ROR (Dr. Celine De Ocampo from Tarlac City) held multiple learning sessions for Anao's 25 barangay health workers (BHWs) who are part of the Unang Aklat Team. Dr. Amie Bulseco, Anao's municipal health officer, was present at the event and Ms. Evelyn, a

midwife from Anao RHU, was appointed Unang Aklat point person. The BHWs actively took part and were delighted when they received their AGFI shirts ☺



BHWs: Hooray for our new shirts!

Above all, the highlight of February was setting our sustainability efforts in motion. We actively worked with the Adarna House marketing group and Adarna Digital to activate our donation button in Adarna House’s online bookshop. We hope that Adarna House webpage visitors will find our donation packages reasonable. Donations range from Php 350 to Php 8000 and can support book-giving, barangay health station mini-libraries, and workshop facilitators of various AGFI programs. You can check out our donation page at <https://adarna.com.ph/collections/agfi>.



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We have also started sending partnership letters to other foundations and institutions. If you know of any group who might be interested, please let us know who they are so that we can write to them. We are looking for partners who share the same vision and passion as ours: those who wish to change lives, one book at a time.

Para sa batang Filipino,

Ruth Martin-De Guzman
Ruth Martin-De Guzman

