

AGFI TRUSTEES UPDATE
MARCH 2017

Dear AGFI Trustees,

See how busy March has been!

Last March 7, AGFI was featured on a DWDD 1134 kHz KaTropa radio broadcast for our community work and programs in early literacy. The program, Tropa, was hosted by Airwoman 2nd Class Maricel Batara of the Philippine Air Force. During the interview, Con and I discussed the importance of early literacy, the pivotal role of the health care delivery system in promoting literacy awareness as well as AGFI's Unang Aklat, BELP, Read sa RHU, and Unang Aklatan programs.



Con and I with Airwoman 2nd Class Maricel Batara at the DWDD 1134 kHz KaTropa station in Camp Aguinaldo.

Also early this month was our MOA meeting with Teachers Ani Almario and Ria de la Cruz of The Raya School. They agreed to further Raya's partnership with AGFI by providing teacher trainers for our Unang Aklat and BELP learning sessions and continuing to be involved in program development. Raya also committed to integrate AGFI programs in more student activities such as the community and outreach work of their Grade 6 *Bayanihan*.

AGFI with The Raya School Glee Club donated a set of books to Tahan-Tahanan, a halfway home for children with non-communicable diseases and their family/caregivers who come from the provinces and seek treatment in Metro Manila hospitals. The turnover activity was held on March 14 at East Avenue Medical Center. Present at the event were Teachers Marielle Pangalangan and Kate Jomalig of The Raya School together with the beneficiaries of the center.



Left: Raya School Glee Club with their donation. Right: Con with the beneficiaries at Tahan-Tahanan.



On March 24 a learning session was held for Adarna House employees to encourage more people to volunteer. During the session, I discussed the relevance of the work that we do in the foundation and presented studies that support our claim about the importance of early literacy. We plan to hold a similar session for new Raya School teachers during their summer in-service training.

This month, ESA, Con and I returned to Hermosa, Bataan to have another meeting with IGFI's Ronnie Tapnio and Deo Esmabe, and Mayor Inton's representatives Atty. Joseph Sabado and Councilor Luz Samaniego, to finalize plans for the roll out of Unang Aklat. All three parties agreed to initially implement Unang Aklat in three baranggays: Palihan, Pandatung and Baco, with the possibility of launching Unang Aklat Municipality when the program has been proven to work and the municipality is ready to provide counterpart resources. Once the Sangguniang Bayan resolution allowing Mayor Inton to enter into an MOA with AGFI and IGFI is passed, a date for the MOA signing will be set with a roll out scheduled for late June or early July.

But of course, the highlight of this month's activities was the start of our monitoring and evaluation (M&E) efforts during the first learning session for Unang Aklat Municipality Anao on March 22. In the morning, 12 mothers and 4 BHWs were assessed through interviews and a focus group discussion facilitated by Fiona Fajardo, Ciara Borja and Len Licopit of Adarna House. In the afternoon, a total of 33 mothers with babies 0 to 6 months old from all 18 baranggays of the municipality came to attend Unang Aklat Session 1: Importance of Early Literacy facilitated by Teacher Louay Fabros. A very good turnout. We look forward to an even more successful Unang Aklat run this time around complete with M&E.



Session 1 of Unang Aklat Municipality: Anao

Quite a fruitful month for AGFI! Please don't forget to keep us in mind if you meet or remember people or institutions who can help us make our advocacy more sustainable. ☺ Also, do let us know if you wish to join us in our future activities.

Para sa batang Filipino,

Ruth Martin-De Guzman

