

AGFI TRUSTEES UPDATE
APRIL-MAY 2017

Dear AGFI Trustees,

April and May were exciting months for us.

In April, together with the ICCP Group Foundation (IGFI), we held a Barangay Early Literacy Program (BELP) in barangay Del Carmen, San Fernando, Pampanga. ICCP is developing townships and residential projects in San Fernando, Pampanga under the Pueblo de Oro Development Corporation. Thirty two parents and babies attended the activity facilitated by Teacher Jeanne Co and Adarna House volunteers.



Teacher Jeanne and Adarna House volunteers together with Deo Esmabe, IGFI's Community Relation Officer

The month also saw us seriously addressing our need to become sustainable, as recommended by the Philippine Council for NGO Certification. We developed the Nanay & Me Summer Activity Series which we hope will not only help us earn money for our projects but will also create an AGFI community - a pool of people who can be early literacy advocates through volunteer work, promotion of AGFI, and spreading awareness about the importance of early literacy.

With the help of Vanessa Estares of Adarna House, we held two successful workshops in May that brought in some income. The first was "Making Books for Your Toddler," facilitated by Eli Camacho, art director of Adarna House and illustrator of *Kulay!* And *Haluhalo* board books. Fourteen participants attended the workshop. The second was "Storytelling Basics," facilitated by Teacher Dyali Justo, one of Adarna House's veteran storytellers. The workshop had six participants. We will be holding more workshops in the future.





Ms. Eli together with the participants doing some brainstorming activity



Some of the participants choosing a story for their show and tell portion

We also started to look for partners who can help us in our sustainability efforts; in this connection, we had a series of meetings with the Latter-Day Saints Charities (LDS) and San Miguel Foundation, Inc. (SMF).

We are in the process of drafting a proposal for LDS together with Dr. Carmen Bonoan, our Reach Out and Read partner, for our BERP and Read sa RHU projects in Sorsogon's fourth and fifth income municipalities.

We are very happy to announce that SMF which is implementing the First 1,000 Days Program of the Department of Health and UNICEF, with the theme "Happy si Mommy, Malusog si Baby" in selected communities in Pampanga, Bacolod, and Davao, has asked AGFI to be part of it! ☺

We would like to share with you some articles on the First 1,000 Days Program: <http://www.doh.gov.ph/node/4292>, http://www.senate.gov.ph/press_release/2017/0513_poe1.asp, <http://www.nnc.gov.ph/39-featured-articles/1477-2016-nutrition-month-theme-focuses-on-the-first-1000-days> Happy reading!

Finally, we would like to introduce the newest and youngest member of our early literacy community, Baby Ellie born to our executive director Ruth de Guzman on May 2, 2017! ☺

Para sa batang Filipino,

Con Estrella

