

Gawad Kalinga uses hope as the reason to go out on October 24

An NY cruise event hosted by NYC-GK volunteers promises hope and good times

NEW YORK CITY—Gawad Kalinga (GK) volunteers from New York City are rousing everybody to eat, drink, and be merry. On their NY Cruise on Friday, October 24, that is.

This group of young professionals in New York, who caught the infectious strand of volunteerism sweeping the country, is urging everyone to party NYC style, except this time make it count by partying for a good cause. Proceeds from the NY Cruise will benefit Gawad Kalinga's Livelihood Programs. After all, it is not everyday one gets invited to

a party whose end result brings hope to countless previously poverty-stricken Filipinos who now have a home and livelihood through GK's poverty alleviation program.

Gawad Kalinga, which means "to give care" in English, is an organization with the mission to restore the dignity of the poor and transform the lives of poverty-stricken Filipinos through a seven-point program which includes shelter, education, livelihood, environment, health, values formation, and community empowerment. Gawad Kalinga's mission is executed by thousands

of dedicated volunteers, such as the group hosting NY Cruise.

Make no mistake, however, that good times and a generous check for Gawad Kalinga are NY Cruise's only objectives. "We know by getting people to the cruise we have the guests' minds and pockets, but what we really want is their heart for the poor," says Jonah De Luman, one of the event's organizers. Guests will be greeted by Gawad Kalinga volunteers willing to share not only information about the cause and ways to help, but also the reason for volunteering—whether it be love for the poor, or hope for the Philippines, or any other reasons.

The NY Cruise is on Friday, October 24, on board the Paddlewheel Queen docking off East 23rd and FDR at 7 pm. The NYC Cruise will showcase decor made by GK's Livelihood Programs. There will be a silent auction, cocktails, and complimentary appetizers. One of NYC's finest Disc Jockeys, JP Solis, is spinning for the event.

So come on New York City, do what you do best: have fun. Because this time, you are making your presence count.

For information on purchasing tickets, please contact: Maan Cruz at maancruz@yahoo.com or (646) 510-0398.



L-R (boys): Reynor Santiago, Peter Pernia, Anton Dayrit, Steve Moya, John Ella, Pat Ella, Steve Baltao. L-R (girls): Maan Cruz, Cathy Abella, Gretchen Corcuera, Jonah De Luman (project head).

Western Union, Gawad Kalinga welcome new homeowners to Naic housing community



NAIC, Cavite—The Western Union Company turned over last Sept. 10 the first ten homes to selected families in Brgy. Bucana Sasahan, Naic, Cavite. The ceremony, led by Western Union executive vice president for Asia Pacific Ian Marsh, completed the first phase of the company's housing project in collaboration with non-government organization Gawad Kalinga.

The ten selected families were also given a "moving-in kit" which included a roll-up bed, basic home tools and furnishings such as a coal stove for cooking and heating (given the lack of electricity supply in the area).

Cavite currently accounts for the highest number of organized overseas Filipino worker (OFW) families among the Philippine provinces. The province has 6,021 OFW family organizations. Nationwide, there are now more than 154,000 organized OFW families. According to the National Statistics Office (NSO), there are nearly one million households in the Philippines with at least one family member working abroad.

"Western Union recognizes the contributions made by the OFW communities in Cavite. By



working abroad, they are able to provide not only financial support to their families but also to their respective *barangays*," said Marsh. "We at Western Union are optimistic that these homes we have built with Gawad Kalinga will serve as the first step towards realizing the dreams of the families of Brgy. Bucana Sasahan," he added.

Western Union offices in Israel and 16 European countries started working with Gawad Kalinga last year to build a total of 30 houses in Cavite, a small fishing village where most residents have loved ones working overseas. Gawad Kalinga hopes to reduce poverty in the country by providing land,

homes and food to Filipinos living below the poverty line to effect positive social transformation in the country. Its projects are supported by over 100,000 volunteers ranging from private individuals to corporations, while Gawad Kalinga beneficiaries also help with construction.

To date, Gawad Kalinga has built more than 1,700 villages and aims to complete a further 300 villages by end of this year.

The housing project in Brgy. Bucana Sasahan is part of Western Union's Our World, Our Family program which helps families stay connected, overcome barriers and achieve their dreams.

(Advertising Supplement)

For caregivers: Overcoming depression

From PAGE 13

Desiderata is a poem that might help you get through hard times., that is if you forgot or have not heard of it. Search for it online. It is a great food for the soul.

• **Accept the things you can't change and change the things you can.** Don't feel trapped. Never feel trapped. There's always a way out of any difficult situation.

• **Lastly, remember to pray.** He listens. Have a great conversation with God. He speaks to us in

a lot of different ways.

I hope the above list could help and please always remember to keep smiling. Life is good. Also, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have written to me and read my column for information. Two weeks from now, my column will be published monthly. Hence, this will allow me more time to go through your article or request and be able to write about it.

Next week's article is about tak-

ing care of your senior relatives. For those interested on a topic, please email me at lizlegaspi@yahoo.com. I'll be waiting.

Liza Legaspi is an experienced marketer both in the Philippines and the US. She has been focusing on diversity groups for over 20 years. Liza is currently employed by a well-known Asian advertising agency. She has a wide range of experience in marketing consumer products and services.

The items listed are mere suggestions and no guarantees that it will work for you. The tips provided worked for me and I am not making any promises nor will I be liable for any outcome.

WowGK is coming to your area!

- Atlanta, GA
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- Hampton Roads, VA
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- Paramus, NJ
- Las Vegas, NV
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- Orlando, FL
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- West Palm Beach, FL

WowGK Presents

"Celebrating Christmas Everyday in GK!"

GK PASKUHAN

NOVEMBER 2008

'Tis the Season of Giving

Gawad Kalinga has come to mean Christmas for many. Through GK, we spread the Christmas spirit everyday by sharing of ourselves and giving love.

Evening Festivities

- Concert
- Soup Dinner
- Bazaar/ Tiangge
- Silent Auction
- Exhibit
- Activities for All
- and many more...

When & Where

Paramus Catholic High School,
425 Paramus Road,
Paramus, NJ 07652

Sunday, November 9, 2008; 3pm-7pm

Special guests:

RYAN CAYABYAB (Maestro)
Ryan Cayabyab Singers
Stephanie Reese

General Admission: \$35

If you want information about WowGK in your area,
email elmermpacia@msn.com
contact numbers: 201.306.2524/ 201.370.6328/ 201.832.7682

"Everyone is invited!"

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