

People and Events

Invitation to the GK 2024 Global Summit

Boston, Massachusetts, June 12-14

GAWAD Kalinga invites you to the first Gawad Kalinga 2024 Global Summit, a historic initiative that will take place in Boston, Massachusetts on June 12-14, 2009 dedicated to the eradication of poverty in the Philippines and other developing countries.

Since its launching as a patriotic Filipino movement for nation building in 2003, Gawad Kalinga has successfully brokered private and public partnerships, bridged friendships between Muslims and Christians, and fostered collaboration among Catholic lay organizations. Due to its transformative impact, both on the poor and the rich alike, it has a growing global base of over 1 million volunteers.

We want to share the GK way with like-minded global citizens to help expand our work. Through the GK 2024 Global Summit, we hope to achieve the following goals:

To proclaim the resolve of Filipinos to end poverty of the five million poorest families in the country by 2024, following the twenty one year timeline and template of Gawad Kalinga. This is the coming out party in the most credible academic setting in the world of Filipinos who share

the dream of a prosperous nation that they can build together.

To launch Gawad Kalinga as a global template of social development consistent with the UN Millennium Development Goals. We will showcase the best practices of Gawad Kalinga in the Philippines and abroad and recognize partners from government, business, and civil society. Outstanding governors and mayors will present their development plans to build trust, attract grants and investments, and encourage tourism in their respective areas.

To honor outstanding GK partners starting with the GK village builders of North America, who have made heroic sacrifices to grow the Gawad Kalinga movement and to attract more patriots and partners to our cause of nation-building and building a better world.

We would like to invite you to this gathering of GK patriots and friends. To register and for more information, please visit www.gawadkalinga.org/globalsummit or call (714) 906-1488 and look for Che Mari

We look forward to the sharing and shaping of our collective dream of a Philippines that every Filipino can be proud of. ■

Pasadena Fire Chief commends Filipino nurse

REGISTERED Nurse Vida Arevalo of Golden Cross Healthcare received a commendation from Pasadena Fire Chief Dennis J. Downs for her "outstanding work in providing an extraordinary level of care to her patients" and acting as an "advocate for the many patients who have no one to speak for them."

Firefighter/paramedics who respond to calls from the facility find their job made more efficient and less time-consuming through the sterling teamwork of Ms. Arevalo, her Certified Nursing Assistants, Licensed Vocational Nurses, Registered Nurses, and other employees. Responding paramedics discover that the healthcare workers have already triaged the patients, initiated appropriate therapeutic intervention, stabilized their medical condition and made them transport-ready as well as transport-worthy. And, the patient's medical chart and paperwork has been completed for the receiving institution.

The time-tested leadership of Ms. Arevalo inspires these exemplary and professional services delivered at Golden Cross - a 99-bed skilled nursing facility located at 1450 N. Fair Oaks Avenue, Pasadena.

This is not the first time that this institution and its personal



Golden Cross Healthcare Officials from L to R: Golden Cross Administrator Jose F. Arevalo, President/CEO Marlene Z. Robertson, Medical Records Department Head Tess Villamil, Dietary Department Head Ms. Flor Limas, Vida and Fire Chief Dennis J. Downs.

were given recognition by the government. In 2002, the State of California Department of Health Services selected Golden Cross Healthcare to receive a Monetary Quality Award. Each direct care employee received \$1,500.00 cash bonus.

The Quality Award is based on criteria established by DHS at the direction of Legislation (Assembly Bill 1731) that added Health and Safety Code § 1417.4. Among others, the criteria met by the facility included substantial compliance with Federal

certification standards with no federal deficiencies with a scope and severity 4 notches lower than perfect and no administrative penalties that called for fines of \$1,000.00 or more.

During a recent visit, DHS Health Facilities Inspectors saw for themselves an awe-inspiring Elderly Abuse In-Service Program - an erudite yet practical

teaching series created and applied in the Golden Cross facility.

Ms. Vida Arevalo was the only nurse and the only Filipino among the awardees of the Pasadena Fire Department in a formal luncheon held last April 28, 2009 at Pasadena's landmark - The Langham, Huntington Hotel & Spa. ■

Filipino Caucus launches concert and 'Walk' for Philippine Mission

by REVS. PADDY PADILLA AND NEIL PLATON

THE Filipino Caucus of the California Pacific Annual Conference (CAL-PAC) launches two fund raising projects to help raise money for the Manaog church building mission in Pangasinan, Philippines set on February 15-28, 2010. The executive committee of the Filipino Caucus headed by Rev. Mike de Guzman approved the concert featuring the famous Filipino folk rock group "Asin" and the "Ang Grupong Pendong" to be held at the Wilshire United Methodist Church in October, and the "Walk for the Manaog Mission" which is scheduled on August 8 at the Encanto Park in Duarte, California.

A team of volunteers, composed of both clergy and laity, headed by Bishop Mary Ann Swenson is leaving for the Philippines on February 15, 2010 to reconstruct a run down Methodist church in the century-old town of Manaog in the province of Pangasinan. This town is considered by the Filipino Catholics as the "pilgrimage shrine" of the northern Philippines because of the revered patroness bearing the same name. The province name is derived from the word, *asin* (salt). The town is about 106 miles north of Manila.

The Filipino folk and rock group called "Asin" and "Ang Grupong Pendong" are known for their use of indigenous musical instruments popularly used in the southern Philippines. Their

unique musical styles are aimed at promoting and raising social awareness of the needs of various ethnic groups in that part of the country. Recently, the group briefly performed for free at the United Methodist Church of the San Gabriel Valley in Hacienda Heights, Ca to introduce themselves to local people.

Meanwhile, a five-mile "Walk for the 2010 Manaog Mission" is simultaneously set for August 8, 2009, 7am at the sprawling and panoramic Encanto Park in the city of Duarte, CA. About 50 walkers or marathoners are expected to participate in the whole day event featuring a potluck picnic, games and fellowship designed for the entire family. Each walker will have a "sponsor" who would donate \$20 per mile. The proceeds are also earmarked for the Manaog mission in 2010.

To date, the Filipino Caucus has sent five missions to the Philippines in the last several years that include reconstruction and medical missions in the remote barrios in Nueva Viscaya, Isabela, Bulacan, Aurora, and Mindanao. This will be the sixth mission work team sponsored by CALPAC-Filipino Caucus jointly.

For more information on tickets and these two events, please contact Reverends Dante Simon (209-450-3031) Jeremiah Castorillo (909-267-0204) Neil Platon (310-613-4273), for the "walk", Paddy Padilla (310-895-5830). For the 2010 trip, contact Rev. Emy Hernandez at (909-886-2242) or Rev. de Guzman (626-534-5272). ■

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