

ABS-CBN Foundation USA's Sagip Kapamilya sa Amerika offers CNA scholarships

Philippine Nurses Association of California partners in scholarship campaign

REDWOOD CITY, CA—In response to the hard economic times and the financial difficulties many are experiencing, ABS-CBN Foundation USA launches on May 15 a new campaign under its Sagip Kapamilya (Family Rescue) program.

Called Sagip Kapamilya sa Amerika (SKSA), the campaign aims to help those who have recently lost their jobs by offering 30 free scholarships towards a Certified Nursing Assistant's (CNA) license. A CNA license, which can be obtained following a two-month training period, can help open doors for immediate employment in the health and convalescent care industries. It is also a stepping stone towards higher educational opportunities leading to degrees as Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) and Registered Nurses (RNs).

Partnering with SKSA is the Philippine Nurses Association of Northern California (PNANC), which will provide the certified instructors for the practical institution. The venue for the pilot program is made available by the American College of Nursing in Concord, California.

The pilot program begins on May 15, 2009 and classes run for

eight weekends (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays) through July 18, 2009. Graduates of the program should be able to seek immediate employment in the healthcare industry which continues to grow amid the current economic downturn.

The 30 free CNA scholarships are grants for the participating schools' tuition fees only. No other grants corollary to or required by the campaign shall be provided by SKSA, ABS-CBN Foundation USA, PNANC or any of the participating schools. Successful candidates shall be responsible for other requirements, which may include but are not limited to books, uniforms and nursing equipment.

A second batch of scholarships shall also be offered in Northern California in September 2009. The plan is to replicate the program in other parts of the US by early 2010.

"Our Sagip Kapamilya program has helped solicit aid for victims of the 2004 typhoons and 2006 mudslide in the Philippines, and the 2007 Southern California wildfires, among others," said ABS-CBN Foundation USA President Mito Santisteban. "Sagip Kapamilya is an emergency humanitarian assistance program and our current economic crisis calls for such a response. We hope that our SKSA campaign will help generate jobs in the healthcare field and more importantly, send a message of hope to the community. We want them to know that we understand what they are going through and that we care."

For more information on how to qualify for a scholarship for SKSA, please visit www.abscbnfoundation.org or call toll free 800.527.2820. Applications are now being received and will end on May 6, 2009.

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Divas4Divas in Stockton on May 24

AS the news quickly spread about the hugely successful Divas4Divas concert that thrilled the jam-packed crowd at the Big Dome in Manila last Dec. 6, it raised hopes and expectations of the four performers' individual loving fans here in US that they too could experience this wonderful show first-hand.

The 4 Divas' American fans got their wish, as this most impressive and groundbreaking production that took nearly 5 years to plan is finally happening!

The return trip to the Bay Area of the four divas is on May 24, 2009. Divas4Divas will be held at the Bob Hope Theater in Stockton starting at 7pm.

Four of the Philippines' top divas—Pop Diva Kuh Ledesma, Divine Diva Zsa Zsa Padilla, Concert Queen Pops Fernandez, and Asia's Songbird Regine Velasquez will temporarily shed their individual titles and simply present themselves as the "4 Divas" with common goals: Unity, and celebrate friendship, music, and everything beautiful. Together on the same stage for Divas4Divas, all four of the Philippines' greatest performers will share one stage for

one incredible performance. Divas4Divas is bound to make history on the concert stage with the finest talents in the music industry. Caselin Productions and Filipinas Productions are putting together this big event in Stockton. What was initially deemed impossible, has now become a reality.

According to Bennie Lagos of Caselin Productions, this biggest and most ambitious dream concert ever put together on one stage can only be described as "four times bigger, four times grander and four times everything!"

These four talented singers along with the fabulous costumes, mood-enhancing lights and incredible production numbers makes Divas4Divas a concert you shouldn't miss! Indeed, it will be a long time before an event of this magnitude comes along again!

Good seats still available but going fast. Tickets are priced at \$108, \$78, \$68, \$58 and \$48; VIP tickets are also available. For information, please call Filipinas (209) 832-0027, Cecille Azarcon (707) 645-1098, Bernie Miranda (650) 278-2326 and Pia Peña (510) 499-5340.

See you there!

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IT'S MUSIC HISTORY... BE THERE WHEN IT HAPPENS!!!

Caselin Productions & Filipinas Productions

presents

DIVAS 4 DIVAS



KUH ZSA ZSA POPS & REGINE

Bob Hope Theatre

Sunday, May 24, 2009 7:00 PM

Stockton, Filipinas 209-832-0027

Vallejo - Cecille Azarcon, 707-645-1098 • Daly City - Bernie Miranda, 650-278-2326

Union City - Pia Pena, 510-499-5340

Ticket prices: VIP, \$108, \$78, \$68, \$58, \$48



TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT THIS AMAZING EVENT!
VISIT US ONLINE AT www.divas4divas.com

Mother's Day

By VICKY P. GARCHITORENA

SOME say it smacks of commercialism. A way to rev up sales for gifts, for special dinners out at high-end restaurants, for bouquets of lovely flowers in spring.

Others are happy that one special day is set aside every year to honor the one person who means the most to almost all of us. A way to express our gratitude for all the years, weeks, days, and hours that mothers lavish on their children.

Nothing in the world—not a diamond necklace, not a handwritten letter lovingly composed, not a vacation from household chores—can adequately express our appreciation for the lives of dedication of mothers everywhere.

They kissed away the pain of childhood scratches; cheered us on when we tried our hand at sports or drama, or various contests; empathized with our broken hearts; gave us advice and recipes when we in turn became mothers.

Whether our mother is quiet, boisterous, funny, overbearing, aloof or in our face, we love her because we know that whatever she does – even if it irritates us—is done from the depth of her love for us.

How then can we really show her how much we love her?

Today, there is a growing trend of giving gifts that make a difference in the lives of others. Many birthday celebrations, wedding anniversaries, and corporate events are now used as occasions to raise funds for a cause that resonates with the celebrants.

The program GILAS (for Gearing up Internet Literacy and Access for Students) seems to have attracted its fair share of donations in this genre. GILAS is a very strategic nationwide program being implemented by a multisectoral social consortium in the Philippines. It aims to put a computer laboratory with internet access in all 6,300 or so public high schools in the country. Already, more than 2,100 schools have connected, giving more than one million underprivileged kids access to the information available on the world wide web.

When Raymond Mendez heard about it, he immediately emailed AF USA, saying he had been looking for ten years for a way to honor his mother, who was a public school teacher in Cavite. The trouble was, he didn't know exactly where she had taught, as she had passed away some years ago.

There were six such schools in Cavite and it seemed an impossible task to find out which one was his mother's school. Fortunately, he told us that his mother had studied there in many years back and we found out that at that time, there was only one public high school there. Today, the Emiliano Tirona National High School in Cavite has a computer lab with internet access named after his mother.

Marilyn Abalos, a second generation Fil-Am, saw in GILAS a way of honoring her mother, now 94 years old. A retired Citibanker based in New York, Marilyn decided to identify a public high school in her mother's hometown—Oton, Iloilo—and to undertake a campaign to raise the \$6,500 needed to put ten PCs, a Local Area Network, and internet access in the school.

She did it by sending an email to all her relatives and friends with a photo of her mother asking them to join her in this wonderful way of giving back—to her Mom, to her *kababayans*, and to her country. In about six months, she had reached her goal. Today, Marilyn has decided to also get more involved in the school, keeping in touch with the teachers and mentoring a number of students.

She has also decided to sponsor a second school, still in Oton.

She is a perfect model for those who may ask themselves "What can one person do to change the lives of our brothers and sisters in the home country?" Marilyn identified her goal and rallied her natural circles—first her family members (Even her nephew asked his aunts and uncles to donate to GILAS instead of giving him graduation gifts.) and then her circles of friends and former colleagues in Citibank.

She is that One Voice. She has spoken up in the name of the kids in Oton, who, with their computer and internet literacy skills, will be better prepared for the workforce because one person cared. And inspired others to do the same.

Do you want to honor your mother? Find out what city or province she is from. Then email us (garchitorena.vp@ayala.com.ph) or give us a call (650) 598-3126. We will help you give her a Mother's Day gift that will live in the hearts and minds of at least 500 Filipino youth.

Happy Mother's Day!

Vicky Garchitorea is the President of Ayala Foundation-USA.