



**PHILIPPINE
CENTER**
of Ventura County
(A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION)

Newsletter

October 2013

Piggy Bank Savings Program

By Ped Bucio

Our new "Piggy Bank" Savings Program was launched on September 9, 2013 during the PhilCenter 5th Anniversary Dance. This program is created for children and youth who will be the future owners of the PhilCenter. The idea is to give children a chance to save on their own so they can ultimately own a brick or bricks in their names. The parents, grandparents, godparents, guardians, uncles, aunts, and their older siblings can help and guide them to attain their goal

The inspiration behind this program

Paloma Valerio is a 7 year old girl from Ventura. When she heard about the PhilCenter building project from her dad, Mike George, who is currently working at the Pleasant Valley School District in Camarillo, she started saving her extra coins from her left over lunch money. She came forward to donate her piggy bank savings of \$35 at the PhilCenter dance held early this year to raise fund to build a Philippine Center. The audience was so touched by her generous gesture and her \$35 in coins was quickly matched by two other donors with \$35 each which brought her total donation to \$105. Paloma became the first child to be a "BRICK" donor towards the PhilCenter building project.

How to get a piggy

Simply ask for starter "piggy bank" from Ms. Deling Carino (805) 443-1181. The starter kit is the size of large crayon capable of holding about \$25 worth of coins. Once the starter kit is filled up, owner should return the starter kit to Ms. Carino for recording of the initial donation and issuance of a new and larger "Piggy Bank" with the owner's name written on it. All piggy bank containers can be submitted in any of the PhilCenter 2014 events to be held at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center such as:

- ❖ February 1 Valentine Dance
- ❖ May 17 Santacruzian Celebration and
- ❖ Sep-20 Anniversary Ball.

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HOME for Piggy

Continuation ...

All owners of completed "piggies" and those who had attained a "BRICK" level (\$100+) will be featured on screen throughout the evening on any of the mentioned events.

Status Updates

We had issued 24 starter kits since the program was launched last September and three of these starter kits came back filled up! **Congratulations to these early starters:**

- ❖ **Timothy fish**
- ❖ **Aden Fish**
- ❖ **Paloma Valerio**

They will be receiving the larger piggy container in exchange for the starter kits. The piggy replacement will also be available during the dance events of all Fil-Am organizations.

Now, if you think that this is just for the kids ... think again. This savings program is applicable to everyone. Get your "piggy" now and show our youngster that we can do it as well. After all, the PhilCenter project is a project of all. **BRICK by BRICK, WE CAN BUILT OUR CENTER TOGETHER!!!**

**Ready ... get set ...
GOLF!**



By Sid Cabran

On a breezy Saturday morning last August 17, the PhilCenter supporter lead by Fil-Am Golf Association (FAGA) marched out to the Seabee Golf Course of Port Hueneme to be part of the Invitational Golf Tournament put together by our Tournament Director, Nolie Martinez and assisted by June Enriquez and yours truly.

The PhilCenter Invitational is an annual event designed to help raise funds for the development of the first Filipino Community building here in Ventura County for which a non-profit PhilCenter Corporation was formed. Our purpose is to support our youth, provide much needed services for our seniors, help preserve the Filipino culture and heritage and to foster solidarity and growth among Filipinos.

Golf is a fun game to play, it develops character out of playing the best you can on your own but it is far more gratifying to play your absolute best for a good cause, a goal solely accomplished by John Eckhart -- this year's tournament champion. I am certain he will be back next year to defend his title.

The entire event was a success, it was a day of fun games, great foods, gathering of old friends and meeting new friends who love playing golf.

PhilCenter 2013 Golf Tournament Sponsors We could not have made it without you!

The entire event was a success, thanks to the volunteers, who were too many to mention by names but you know who you are. The PhilCenter is endlessly grateful because putting together this event is not a task for just a few. Furthermore, we are grateful to all our Hole Sponsors namely:

- * AP Financial Services by Art Plata
- * AV Tire Service of Oxnard
- * All State Insurance Co. by J. Enriquez
- * Dr. Cecilio Cabansag, MD, Camarillo
- * DCH Lexus of Oxnard
- * FNAVC of Oxnard by Elda Pichay
- * ICAC of Oxnard by Ped Bucao
- * Dr. Jessica Nicholas, DDS of Oxnard
- * Lito's Auto Repair of Oxnard
- * Pangasinan Assoc. of Oxnard by J. Cano
- * The Driven Ins. Group by June Enriquez
- * The PINOY Team, EXWC by N. Martinez
- * Mt. & Mrs. Willie Calove & Family
- * Mr. & Mrs. Armando Baustista an family
- * Dr. Anthony Cabebe, DMD of Oxnard
- * Mr. & Mrs. Bert Gan and Family
- * Mr. & Mrs. Doming Tolentino and Family
- * Dr. Gil Colmenar, DMD of Oxnard
- * Custom Web Site and Designs – Ventura Co.
- * Pacific Island Super Market of Oxnard
- * La Union Assoc. of Oxnard by Myrna Viloria
- * Nercos Fine Jewelry of Ventura
- * TASSARE/Nuskin – Ventura Co. by N. Stearns
- * The Good Guys by Nolie Martinez
- * VAVCI of Oxnard by Rene Bullicer
- * Zambales Assoc of Oxnard by Nita Vera

Meeting Maria Helen Barber - Dela Vega Philippine Consul General



Photo from left to right:
Tony Grey, Bill Little, June Enriquez, Luz Juachon, Ma. Helen Barber-Dela Vega, Ped Bucao, Sid Cabran, & Gregory Goodman

The Camarillo Chamber of Commerce hosted a private reception in honor of our new Philippine Consul General, Maria Helen Barber-Dela Vega. The reception was held at the beautiful Adolfo Camarillo Ranch on September 26 at 5:30 pm. The event was attended by several Filipino community groups, representatives from Ventura County Board of Supervisor – Kathy Long, Camarillo City Councilmember Bill Little and his wife Mary, Camarillo Outlet General Manager, and Port Hueneme Naval Officers to name a few.

The event was an opportunity for us to share our goals and vision for PhilCenter. It also gave us a chance to talk and asked our Consul General to hold a one-day community outreach here in our community so our fellow Filipinos who needs Philippine Consular Services doesn't need to travel all the way to Los Angeles to conduct their business. The details are being work out and we will let you know when we have the confirm date so stay tune.

Our special thanks to **Sean Paroski** of Camarillo Chamber of Commerce for organizing this event.

Hail to Queen Merly!

By Ped Bucao

It was not until our 5th anniversary on September 7, 2013 that the PhilCenter of Ventura County hold its first Miss PhilCenter Pageant.

The pageant was patterned after the annual Miss PhilCenter Valentine held every February. The intent of the pageant is to continue raising funds for the PhilCenter project aimed to build the first Filipino-American community building in Ventura County by 2017.

To enter the pageant, the participant has to make a "brick" donation (\$100) to the PhilCenter project. The participant can also solicit additional "brick" donation from others in her favor. Each brick donation is equivalent to ONE ENTRY into the pageant raffle. The more bricks bought or solicited allows a participant more entries into the raffle thus, increasing her chances to win. Anyone can nominate a participant of their choice by making a brick donation to the project. In this particular event, some husbands even surprised their wives by secretly nominating them to the pageant.

At 9:15 pm, nominations to the pageant were officially closed. A volunteer from the audience was asked to verify all entries into the raffle box. There are 9 nominees but two of them have two entries each thus making the total entries of 12 inside the raffle box. Dr. Jessica Nicholas was requested to draw the winning entry from the box and the lucky winner was ... Ms. Merly Stanley. Ms. Stanley was nominated by Mr. & Mrs. Armando & Mila Bautista.



Ms. Merly Stanley, the first Ms. PhilCenter of Ventura County

Ms. Merly Stanley was definitely amazed and cannot believe that she became an instant queen that evening. A beautiful coronation and presentation was held for the first ever Miss PhilCenter of Ventura County after the announcement.

The staff of PhilCenter extends our sincere appreciation to the donors, pageant participants, guests, and the working crews who helped in making the 5th Anniversary celebration a resounding success. **THANK YOU!!!!**



The Miss PhilCenter nominees from left to right : Delia Cabran, Tessie Wenetschlaeger, Beth Limbauan, Josephine Vianson, Violet Dimalanta, Merly Stanley, Sally Bissonette, Delia Bucac, Cecilia Grey



The 2013 Winners for ...

- ❖ The most trash collected – **Juan Madrigal**
- ❖ Removing the “most unsafe items” from the beach, i.e. broken glasses, rusty metals, and various sharp objects – **Jerica Cano**
- ❖ The “most unusual/funny items” (for removing a dead seal and a dead bird from the beach) – **Ray Pichay**
- ❖ Largest delegation of volunteers – **US Naval Clinic Port Hueneme.**

This year cash prizes are all donated by Mr. Tony Grey, Executive Director of the FACVC.



Fil-Am Undertake Beach Clean Up

By *Ped Bucao*

“Unity, Camaraderie and Fun for a good cause” was the guiding theme for over 100 volunteers ranging from 12 years old to over 80 years old in performing the clean-up of Port Hueneme Beach in the early morning of September 21, 2013. The beach clean-up is done annually in conjunction with the statewide California Coastal Clean-up on the third Saturday of September.

This is the 5th year that the Filipino-American Community of Ventura County in coordination with the City of Port Hueneme held a joint service activity in cleaning the Port Hueneme Beach. **The goal is to keep our beach clean and safe for its users and visitors.** The PhilCenter is coordinating this effort and on this second year of doing this event. We solicited the help of other Fil-Am Organizations including the military and students of various schools.

Members from International Cultural Association of California (ICAC), La Union Association of Ventura County(LUAVC), Pangasinan Association of Ventura County (PAVC), Visayan Association of Ventura County(VAVC), Ilocano Association of Ventura County(IAVC), Zambales Association of Ventura County(ZAVC), Filipino Nurses Association(FNA), Fil-Am Council of Ventura County(FACVC), Fil-Am Unified & Seniors, Quintinians Association of USA(QAUSA) and private volunteer participated on this year the clean-up. In addition to rallying volunteers, these associations have also donated food, drinks and logistics to support the occasion.

The event kicked off at 8:30am with participants armed with trash bags, gloves and long sleeves shirt and hats, parting out on separate directions toward their assigned sectors of the beach. The mile-long Port Hueneme Beach which stretched from Ormond Beach in the East to the Port Hueneme Light House in the West was subdivided into three sectors in order to spread out the clean-up effort.

At around 11:00am, the tired volunteers converged back to the assembly area at Parking Lot B and enjoyed the lively music of ICAC Sound Machine while waiting for others to return. Upon completion of the clean-up, the real FUN began since all volunteers with their collected trash suddenly got entered into several contests categories. Following the contests, the volunteers immediately put away all trash in the large bins provided by the City of Port Hueneme. The FREE Picnic then got underway for all the volunteers serving the delicacies brought by each participating association.

It was indeed another GOOD DAY for Mother Nature and all volunteers. Everybody went home proud knowing they have done something WORTHY that day.

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **October 5**
Oxnard
Multicultural
Festival
- ❖ **October 21**
PhilCenter General
Assembly Meeting
- ❖ **November 18**
PhilCenter General
Assembly Meeting
- ❖ **December 21**
Simbang Gabi at
Mary Star Catholic
Church

PhilCenter Current Business Sponsors where Members may avail 5% to 15% or more Discount on Products and Services:

Nerces Fine Jewelry

4255-18 E. Main St., Ventura CA 93003

Tel: 805-650-0444

Elena's Kitchen

2731 S. Rose Ave., Oxnard CA 93033

Tel: 805-483-3822

Island Pacific Market

Pleasant Valley/Rose Ave, Oxnard 93033

Tel: 805-874-4980

Oscar's Photography and Video

1936 Saviers Road, Oxnard, CA

Tel: 805-487-5154

Arthur Plata Insurance Agency

3645 Savier Road, Suite 6, Oxnard, CA 93033

Tel: (805) 483-1366

Note:

We are continuously soliciting more Business sponsors. You will be updated as they become available for your benefits.

If you have any questions regarding sponsorship please call PhilCenter® Membership/Sponsorship committee at (805) 486-7788. The PhilCenter®, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. All donations and sponsorship fees are tax deductible (Federal Tax ID #26-4687895).

Please direct all correspondence to: fidelisac@philcenter.org, cc: isidroc@philcenter.org.

Please visit our website at www.philcenter.org

Thank you for your support!!!