

PRESS RELEASE

NEW FUNDRAISER RAISES \$10K FOR TACLOBAN: GOALS MET AND EXCEEDED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 27, 2014



Volunteers, performers and participants after the Jan. 25 fundraiser fair

CHICAGO, Jan. 27 — The new **Illinois Philippine Recovery Operations**, a joint project between the 501(c)3 Philippine American Cultural Foundation, Samasama Project, Girlie Pascual and James Delacruz, has raised more than \$10,000 for survivors of Typhoon Haiyan in a single-night fundraiser held at the Copernicus Center Annex in Chicago's north side Jefferson Park neighborhood.

The exact amount of \$10,175 comes from online donations collected prior to the Jan. 25 **Haiyan Fundraiser Music + Arts Fair**, and donations collected during the event in the form of cash, checks, event ticket sales, raffle sales, auction prizes, and activity booth ticket sales.

The venue, operational costs, artist talent and volunteer time and skills have all been donated – allowing ILPRO to give a full 100% of proceeds from the fundraiser to finance two medical missions, one to Tacloban on Feb. 25 and another to Paluan, Mindoro Occidental on Mar. 2, and rebuilding either a classroom or hospital wing in Tacloban.

With such plans, ILPRO would like to thank the **many groups and individuals** that had made the Jan. 25 fundraiser such a success, and allowed ILPRO to exceed its \$10,000 goal:

The Copernicus Foundation and the Copernicus Center, especially Greg Kobelinski, Dominika Przybyl and Marleen Kasbee for their generosity in lending us a space in their venue and on their **Web site**.

Ed and Lolit Rancho for being our **Silver Sponsor** and for bidding and winning a lot of the **auction items**. Gil and Alice Sarmiento, Jan Paul and Michelle Ferrer, Ruben and Merle Salazar, Rudy and Carmen Garcia, Samasama Project, Brotherhood Golf Foundation, CJ Travel, The Filipino American Association of Mundelein, Asian Noodle, Fairmont Care Center, Vonage, Market America, Auto Showcase of Carol Stream, AAGI c/o Clive Merrill, LMR Home Health; John Sadler, Robert Rog and Angela Richardson with The Home Depot; Chris Goudsmith with Bloomingdale's; Blaine, Almira and Isabel Gilles; Cindy Lopez with Signature Events & Design, Adeline Fajardo and Ginger Leopoldo for cooking food for the volunteers, Clear Impact Sounds, Asian American Golfers of Illinois, Girley Espino with Joley's Gems, Allure, Lotus Explorer and Nell & Lain Frias of Creative Impressions Plus.

Donors of the prized **auction items**, such as a Chicago Bulls basketball signed by the entire team, and an autographed photo of Bulls center Joakim Noah. Auction prizes from Broken Arrow Golf Club in suburban Lockport, Klein Creek Golf Club in suburban Winfield, a variety of home goods such as two grills from Home Depot, a SaladMaster machine, a beauty basket from Bloomingdale's, gift certificate lessons from Top Note Academy, a featured interview in Via Times magazine and CPRTV, and rare, one-of-a-kind artwork from Agustina Diez Sierra, Maggie Rife, Bernardo Marigmen, and Irene Cualoping rounded out the list of gifts up for bid.

Donors of prized **raffle items**, such as two copies of Rexcrisanto Delson's "Igorotdo: The Enlightened Warrior Within," the first book written by a tribesman from the Igorot people of northern Luzon; custom jewelry from Joley's Gems, gift certificates from A1 Trophies in suburban Streamwood, Uncle Mike's Place, Not Just Hair Cut Salon, Defensor Method Kali Eskrima Academy of Chicago, various items from The Home Depot, t-shirts from Maharlika Basketball, a chance for a SaladMaster chef to cook dinner for you in your home, tickets and season passes to CIRCA-Pintig's 20-14-2015 season, rare artwork from **Bernardo Marigmen** and **Isabel Gilles**, and three bottles of wine from Blaine Gilles.

What makes Haiyan Fundraiser Music + Arts Fair unique are the many **service booths** open for visitors to learn a craft or receive a service. Visitors "buy" the service and the vendor donates all the proceeds to ILPRO. There were kali eskrima lessons by the **Defensor Method Kali Eskrima**

Academy of Chicago, woodworking workshops by The Home Depot, photography by **Beata Benavides** and **Big Hugs Photobooth**, temporary tattoos by **Party Fun Entertainment** and **sleight-of-hand magic** by **Jay Kinder**.

Another unique activity ILPRO came up with was **Postcards to Tacloban**: Two artists, Isabel Gilles and Baron Cabalona, came up with artwork printed on postcards for fair attendees to write notes of encouragement to survivors of Typhoon Haiyan. Medical mission volunteers will then hand deliver these notes to survivors as a way to encourage them.

On the main stage are performers beloved by the community for their talent and generosity: Filipino folk fusion band **Samasama Project**, **Bless Castro Peterson**, **Prianne Gunabe**, spoken word by **Jennifer Ligaya**, **Mahal Laude**, and **TJ Medel**, **April Garcia**, **Carolina Davis**, **Saayidah**, **Carlos Cousiño** aka “Smooth”, **Filipino Cultural Dance Troupe of Iowa**, **Defensor Method Kali Eskrima Academy of Chicago**, **CIRCA-Pintig’s Lovien “Joey” Flores** starring in a vignette called “Caregiver”, youth bands **Jst Bcz** and **L.E.D.**, the **Junior Luvabulls**, dancers with the **Philippine American Cultural Foundation Performing Arts**, alternative rock band **Faceless Soul**, the formidable duo **When Ned Left**, **The Magic Guy Jay Kinder**, **TFKidz**, the **Tevaga Family Hawaiian Dancers**, classic rock bands **Pacific Band** and **New Friends Band**, and **Christian Punzalan**. Tacloban missionary **Parish Javier** recounted how he and his family survived Typhoon Haiyan, and **CGCMD Stars** closed the evening with the hopeful “We Are For You.”

Four talents played host to the evening: **CIRCA-Pintig’s Ginger Leopoldo**, incumbent Mrs. Illinois **Jessica Tevaga**, the dashing **AJ Molina**, and **Stir Friday Night’s Gilbert Galon**. **Food** was provided by Costco Wholesale, a pancit plate from Ysabel’s Grill, palabok and lumpia combo boxes from Ruby’s Fast Food, and 40tude Bistro & Bar. 40tude also provided for the catering license for the evening.

Table sponsorship was provided by Health and Happy Living Inc., an authorized Saladmaster dealer, The Home Depot, Top Note Music Academy, Fairmont Care Center, Vonage, Market America.

Organizers also extend heartfelt thanks to the following for helping out on the day of the event: Blaine Gilles, Karla Maglantay, Aizza Marcelo, Jory Novicki, Yolanda Jacobs, Chris Goudsmith, Cat Marie, Telly Yumping, Michelle Delson, Carla Soria, Rowena Esquivel, Lani Chan, Brenda Vins, Kristoffer Wildoer, Jose, Victor Ricolcol, and Rowell Ramirez for helping out in the different aspects of last Saturday’s event. Joe Mauricio and Veronica Leighton of *Via Times News Magazine* and CPRTV as well as Hayat Norimine of Medill Reports for covering the event.

As mentioned earlier, a full 100% of proceeds from the fundraiser will finance two medical missions and rebuilding either a classroom or hospital wing in Tacloban. A goal of \$2,000 was hoped for for medicine and supplies for the medical missions, and \$8,000 toward infrastructure rebuilding. Organizers would like to thank the following core group of volunteers for their untiring support of ILPRO's plans:

Baron and Louella Cabalona, for hatching yet another invaluable, inventive plan that kills two birds with one stone: Bring the Filipino American community together for a positive, uplifting event, and making it into a fundraiser, benefitting kababayans worst affected by the storm that, sadly, put the homeland back on the maps of many countries. What started as a single fundraiser to benefit survivors of one storm in 2012 is now slowly becoming a familiar activity that challenges and benefits us all. Mabuhay, the Mahals!

Dr. Ariel Tolentino of Fairmont Care Center, for putting in place the medical missions, which for 30 years he had already set into place and kept the ball rolling, including the previous year.

Lou Cabalona would like to extend her thanks as well. She writes:

- Thank you, **core group of organizers**: The true backbone of this endeavor. They have been on two-hour phone conferences (or sometimes even more) every Thursday for three weeks to make sure we have everything covered.
- **Baron Cabalona** – for taking care of the technical specs of the performances and for leading the Medical Mission Logistics with Dr. Ariel Tolentino.
- **Ruben Benru Salazar and Merle Salazar** – for taking the lead in the extremely hectic registration table with accepting and tallying donations, booth currencies, raffle tickets – whew! – and for bringing on a very able bodied support team!
- **Adeline Fajardo** – for sharing your not-for-profit know-how and for you and the whole PACF Board in helping us set up the donation infrastructure. And for also feeding all volunteers with your delicious spaghetti!
- **Maria Girlie Pascual and James Delacruz** for taking the lead in sponsor and donor solicitations; for ensuring that event security and guest assistance was taken care of – staying out in the cold for over an hour; and for getting the maxing out the donation potential our awesome **SILENT AUCTION PRIZES!** Girlie, you are truly one of the most charming sales super woman I know.
- **Yvonne T. Hortillo** for ensuring every development we have is updated on our Web site. Yvonne, we cannot express how invaluable your work was in tying all the activities of the event up.

- **Rohan Zhou–Lee** for assisting Yvonne in social media updates and for posting the pictures as they happened! We love you for being so open to help out and for always being the cheerer of the group!
- **Almira Astudillo Gilles** for taking on the lead on food for guests and volunteers and putting our ideas to life with the “**Postcards to Tacloban**“ activity. We will definitely get more and more of that going until we leave for Tacloban!
- **Cindy Lopez** for taking the initiative on leading communications with Copernicus for the venue setup and for monitoring the raffles and auction. Those bidding sheets and the pricing for them were the bomb!
- **Anna Valeros–Rodriguez Millan** for creating the wonderful program booklet! And for stepping up as stage manager for the night. Ang galing mo talaga!

ILPRO organizers are also hosting a similar fundraiser in suburban **Naperville on Saturday, Feb. 1**. You are all invited to St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 1500 Brookdale Road, Naperville, IL, for “**Tacloban Rise: Haiyan Naperville Fundraiser.**” Entrance is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids. Raffle tickets are \$1 each, or 6 for \$5.

It will be exactly as the Jan. 25 fundraiser fair, with the addition of **merchandise booths**: Mary Kay Cosmetics, Origami Owl Custom Jewelry, Tastefully Simple, It Works! and Scentsy Wickless Candles are confirmed to attend. New performers include Christian rock band Twist of Faith, dancer Rohan Zhou–Lee, and classically–trained pianist Orlando Cabalona. **Samasama Project, Bless Castro Peterson, Prianne Gunabe, Carlos (“Smooth”) Cousino, AJ Molina,** the **Tevaga Family Hawaiian Dancers** and the **PACF Performing Arts** are returning to lend their talent to the cause.

There will be prizes from the following donors: the Chicago Bulls, SaladMaster, Walmart, Biaggi’s Restaurant, Rick Panlilio’s Elements Therapeutic Massage, Top Note Music Academy, artwork from **Bernardo Marigmen, Agustina Diez Sierra,** and Jose. There will be wine bottles, a National Geographic set of walkie talkies and gift certificates from Uncle Mike’s Place and Chuck’s Southern Comforts Cafe.

Visit **our Web site** for details about our upcoming events! Maraming salamat for your support!

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