



## MINDANAO WEEK OF PEACE REPORT SY 2013-2014

On behalf of the Center for Peace Education we would like to thank the Miriam College community for successfully celebrating the Mindanao Week of Peace (MWP). The community was able to participate in the nation-wide awareness raising campaign re the ongoing Peace Process and developments re Peacebuilding in Mindanao through various initiatives organized by the different units.

The Miriam College Adult Education sponsored a forum entitled “Levanta Zamboanga” with guest speaker, Brian Joseph Bango, Faculty from the School of Liberal Arts and Program Officer at the Social Awareness and Community Service Involvement Office of the Ateneo de Zamboanga



University. The forum focused on the efforts of the academic institution especially young people in promoting peace and volunteering to aid those in need during the 2013 Zamboanga Crisis. In addition, the forum discussed ways forward to help advance peace advocacy in the country.



Aside from the forum conducted, the community organized various fundraising activities to raise funds for the Twinning Project with Rajah Muda High School in Pikit Cotabato and other Mindanao-related projects. This year the committee of the Mindanao Week of Peace with no hesitation agreed to add a new beneficiary to the MWP fundraising. The Notre Dame Academy of Jaro, Leyte, was chosen by Miriam College as the mission school whose reconstruction it will support. The high school is run by the Oblates of Notre Dame, a Filipino women’s religious congregation founded in 1956 in Cotabato City, Mindanao. It has served many poor high school students in the area. When typhoon Yolanda hit, the school was heavily damaged, leaving hundreds of young people without a school to pursue their education and dreams.



The Southeast Asian Institute for the Deaf last November 27, organized a one day Peace Café sharing sweets and coffee to celebrate Mindanao. Family and friends of SAID donated the goodies and coffee. The celebration also welcomed SAID graduates and their families to meet and greet the younger batch of students and their parents. With every bite and sip of the delicious goodies the unit was able to raise PHP 9,105.00 net.



On the same day of the SAID Peace Café, the Middle School (MS) organized their fund raising activity by selling hot and comforting lugaw. Lugaw symbolizes simplicity and is one of the most common comfort food of many Filipinos. Lugaw, being one of the easiest and fastest food to prepare, is the typical food given to those who

have been displaced by natural and human-made disasters. The students not only purchased and ate lugaw, but also volunteered their time to assist their teachers during the selling period. According to some students, they enjoyed the activity not only because they were able to eat the sumptuous lugaw but more importantly because they were able to help. Through the activity, the MS raised Php 21,400.00 net.



On the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, the Higher Education Unit (HEU) organized the Lugawan Para sa Mindanao. Aside from Lugaw, the students also sold boiled eggs and sago at gulaman. The activity was a hit and was well attended by students, faculty, staff and friends of the community from Ateneo de Manila University, the University of the Philippines and CPE partner organizations.



Pax Christi-Miriam College also sponsored an exhibit that showcased the Lugawan Project beneficiaries, and the on-the-spot art making for peace where students celebrated their creativity and passion for peace advocacy. The HEU



initiative would not have been possible without the help and commitment of our students from the Sangunian ng mga Mag-aaral ng Miriam, Pax Christi-Miriam College, CDE Circle, the year council and faculty members of the CPE Associates. Because of their commitment to peace in Mindanao the HEU was able to raise Php 67,234.05 net.

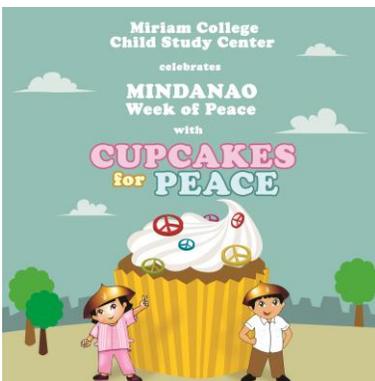
In addition, the Lower School (LS) celebrated MWP with an activity entitled Ice Cream for Peace. The teachers of the LS shared with the students the Mindanao Peace issues and how young students can help the peacebuilding efforts. The students not only learned about the issues and concerns of Mindanao but also the culture and people, highlighting that there can be peace in diversity because we belong to one human family.



Through the Ice Cream for Peace project the LS raised Php 67,884.75 net.



The High School (HS) like the MS and the HEU also conducted a lugawan activity. During the celebration some teachers discussed in their classes the importance of being in the know with regards to the developments in the peace process between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, to be able to effectively take part in the discussion and advocacy towards just and lasting peace in Mindanao and the whole nation. Many of the students expressed their excitement and commitment to the cause and have planned ways to continue the advocacy even after the weeklong celebration. The HS through this initiative raised Php 38,009.25 net.



Last, but not the least, the Child Study Center also joined the celebration through its Muffins for Peace activity which was held last February 5, 2014. Although the unit's celebration happened belatedly the activity created a big impact. Teachers discussed and highlighted in their class the importance of respect and tolerance, and the beauty of one human family which are important values of peace. Through the Muffins for

Peace activity, we were not only able to raise the awareness of our CSC students but also that of their parents and guardians. Through this project, the CSC was able to gather Php 23,903.10 net.

Through the collective efforts of the Miriam College community, we were able to raise a total of Php 227,536.19. We thank you all for your willingness to help and support the cause!



As mentioned above the amount raised will continuously be used in the abovementioned project that aims to help change lives of our brothers and sisters, and support the peacebuilding initiatives in Mindanao. In connection with this, 10 students and 2 faculty members from Rajah Muda High School together with some of our students from the Middle School and High School participated in

a Workshop on Interfaith Understanding for Christian and Muslim Youth last Feb. 3-7. It was funded by the Mindanao Week of Peace Lugawan Project. In addition, Php 100,000.00 of the net income will be donated for the rebuilding of Notre Dame of Jaro, Leyte.

The MWP celebration and fund raising activity was indeed a great success as we not only raised awareness but also encouraged active and meaningful participation of the whole community. We thank each and every one of you who volunteered and shared with us your time. We would most especially like to thank our MWP committee members from the different units, the CPE Associates, the Sangunian ng mga Mag-aaral ng Miriam and Pax Christi-Miriam College for their active participation and commitment to peace.

KALINAW!  
SHUKRAN!  
THANK YOU!  
MARAMING SALAMAT PO!