

BALITANG BAYANIHAN NGAYON

JANUARY 2025 - MAIDEN ISSUE



Celebrating Excellence in Volunteerism: PNVSCA Hosts the Search for Outstanding Volunteers and Bayanihan Media Awards Awarding Ceremony *by Anthony K. Bagano Jr.*

The Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) honored the remarkable contributions of individuals, organizations, and media practitioners at the 2024 Search for Outstanding Volunteers (SOV) and Bayanihan Media Awards (BMA) ceremony, held on December 12, 2024, at the Metropolitan Theater in Manila. [\[continue reading on page 3\]](#)

National Volunteer Month Kicks Off in Cagayan de Oro, the City of Golden Friendship *by Pia P. Castillo*

In recognition of the dedicated service of Filipino volunteers, the month of December was declared as the National Volunteer Month (NVM) under Presidential Proclamation No. 55, series of 1998. [\[continue reading on page 5\]](#)



IVD Celebrations held Nationwide *by Alyssa Marie Villa*

International Volunteer Day (IVD), established by the United Nations in 1985, is celebrated worldwide every December 5 to honor the transformative contributions of volunteers in promoting peace, development, and community resilience.

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EDITORIAL

For this issue, we are publishing the Message to Partners of PNVSCA's Executive Director, Mr. Donald James D. Gawe.



Dear Partners in Development,

Greetings!

As we proudly unveil the maiden issue of the PNVSCA Newsletter ***Balitang Bayanihan Ngayon***, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to our invaluable partners in development across all sectors—national government agencies, local government units, higher education institutions, civil society organizations, private sector allies, media practitioners, and international development organizations.

This milestone would not have been possible without your unwavering support, tireless efforts, and steadfast belief in the transformative power of volunteerism. Your contributions—whether through resources, expertise, time, or advocacy—continue to inspire countless Filipinos to embrace the spirit of bayanihan and create meaningful change in their communities.

Volunteerism is a cornerstone of our nation's progress, a force that transcends boundaries and unites us in our shared vision for a better future. Through your partnership, we have not only empowered individuals and communities but also strengthened the foundation for a more inclusive and resilient society. Your dedication has shown that even amidst challenges, we can achieve extraordinary things when we come together with purpose and compassion.

This newsletter is more than just a publication—it is a celebration of your hard work and a testament to the collective achievements we have realized through cooperation and solidarity. It will serve as a platform to highlight success stories, share best practices, and inspire new initiatives that further the cause of volunteerism as a driver of sustainable development.

As we look to the future, PNVSCA remains deeply committed to nurturing and expanding these partnerships. Together, we will continue to amplify the reach and impact of volunteer-driven initiatives, addressing social challenges, fostering innovation, and building a stronger, more united Philippines.

Thank you for walking this path with us. Let us continue to work hand in hand to nurture a culture of volunteerism that truly exemplifies the essence of bayanihan and uplifts the Filipino spirit.

Mabuhay ang boluntarismo! Mabuhay ang bayanihan tungo sa maunlad na Bagong Pilipinas!

Donald James D. Gawe, CESO III
Executive Director, PNVSCA

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Celebrating Excellence in Volunteerism:

Established in 2001, the SOV is the centerpiece activity of the National Volunteer Month (NVM), to recognize and honor volunteers who have made significant impacts across various development sectors, promoting volunteerism as a vital tool for sustainable development.

Additionally, the BMA continues to honor media practitioners and organizations for promoting volunteerism and its role in national development, inspiring the public to embrace volunteerism as a way of life.

The event brought together a diverse range of stakeholders, including national government agencies, regional line agencies, local government units, international volunteer service organizations, civil society organizations, development partners, and media practitioners.

Program Highlights

The ceremony began with the Entrance of Colors performed by the Philippine Public Safety Academy, followed by the Philippine National Anthem and a heartfelt prayer rendered by the National Teachers College Himig Tanglaw, setting a tone of unity and service. Mr. Bernan Joseph R. Corpuz, Deputy Executive Director for Operations, representing Chairman Victorino Mapa Manalo of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), delivered a warm welcome and highlighted the awardees' contributions in embodying the true essence of being a Filipino through compassion and respect.



Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan, in his Inspirational Message, recognized the vital role of volunteers in building resilient communities and fostering inclusive growth. He highlighted

how volunteer efforts align seamlessly with the country's broader development goals. Furthermore, he emphasized that volunteers are the lifeblood of progress, with their selfless acts creating ripples of change that uplift entire communities far beyond personal gain.

The Congratulatory Message from NEDA Undersecretary Carlos Bernardo O. Abad Santos highlighted the invaluable contributions of volunteers and reiterated the government's steadfast commitment to promoting volunteerism as a crucial tool for nation-building. He emphasized that each individual has a vital role to play in fostering lasting peace and sustainable development.



"Volunteerism operates much like the concept of compound interest in economics. A single act of kindness, much like a small initial investment, can grow exponentially over time, generating a chain reaction of positive change that touches countless lives."

He further explained that through small actions, sustained efforts, and the collective participation of others, the impact becomes transformative—shaping communities and building a better society.



Lanao del Norte Governor Imelda "Angging" Quibranza-Dimaporo, Chair of the Regional Development Council 10, delivered a compelling keynote address, highlighting the vital role of volunteers in promoting peace, sustainable development, and inclusivity. She also expressed pride in the Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte's

recognition for successfully integrating volunteerism into local governance, underscoring the critical role of local leadership in advancing volunteer initiatives.

[continue reading on page 4]

PNVSCA and Academe-Based Organizations Conduct Training in CDO

by Maribel F. Larracochea

In collaboration with three prominent academe-based organizations, the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) successfully conducted training sessions to strengthen volunteerism as a cornerstone of development. These organizations—the Philippine Association of Extension Program Implementers, Inc. (PAEPI), the Philippine Society of National Service Training Program (NSTP) Educators and Implementers, Inc. (PSNEI), and the Philippine Association of Practitioners of Student Affairs and Services, Inc. (PAPSAS)—partnered with the City Government of Cagayan de Oro to host the events from December 1 to 3. The training sessions were integral to celebrating National Volunteer Month (NVM) 2024 and drew participants from various provinces nationwide.

[continue reading on page 10]

Celebrating...

Honoring the 2024 SOV and BMA Awardees

The ceremony honored exemplary volunteers and trailblazers from various sectors:

Individual Awardees:

Adult Category

- Mr. Isidro C. Tulisana (Region VII)

Youth Category

- Mr. Sheen Milger A. Ochavo (Region XIII)
- Mr. Jorjani S. Sinsuat (BARM)

Organizational Awardees:

Not-for-Profit Category:

- Coastal Underwater Resource Management Actions (CURMA, Region I)
- I-SAVED Organization (Region II)
- Yellow Boat of Hope Foundation (Region IX)

Corporate Category:

- FDN Integrated Farm (Region II)

Volunteer Lifetime Achievement Awardee:

- Mr. Fernando A. Fajardo (Region II), whose lifelong dedication to volunteerism has left a lasting legacy in his community.

Local Government Units (LGUs):

Recognized for integrating volunteerism into their development plans:

- Quezon City
- Cagayan de Oro
- Bacnotan (La Union)
- Sablayan (Occidental Mindoro)
- Pampanga
- Lanao del Norte.



National Outstanding Volunteer Awardees



Special Awards for LGUs



Bayanihan Media Awards Awardees

The Bayanihan Media Awards highlighted the power of storytelling in driving positive change and were celebrated for their contributions to media advocacy.

Individual Winners:

Print Media: Ms. Rojean Grace Patumbon (Region XI)

Radio: Ms. Lynd-C Joy Bade (Region VI)

Online Media: Mr. Berchan Louie A. Angchay (Region XI)

Media Organizations:

TV Program: PTV News Mindanao (Region XI)

Online Media Organization: Pampanga News Now (Region III)

Philippine Information Agency Director-General Katherine Chloe S. de Castro delivered her message of congratulations to the 2024 BMA Awardees. In her message, she mentioned that volunteers do not necessarily have all the time in the world but because they have big hearts. DG de Castro believes that besides from Overseas Filipino Workers, volunteers are the unsung heroes of the nation. Moreover, she encouraged all media practitioners and colleagues to share the courageous acts of the Filipino volunteers.



The event concluded with a closing message from PNVSCA Executive Director Donald James D. Gawe, who expressed his gratitude to all the awardees, partners, and volunteers for their unwavering dedication and service. He reaffirmed PNVSCA's commitment to supporting volunteer-driven initiatives nationwide and pledged

continued collaboration with all stakeholders to further institutionalize volunteerism as a key component of national development.

Swearing-In of the National Volunteerism Resource Pool (NVRP)

Another significant moment of the ceremony was the swearing-in of the National Volunteerism Resource Pool (NVRP) members. The NVRP consists of individuals from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and the Private Sector, all of whom will play a critical role in supporting the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA). These dedicated volunteers will contribute their expertise and resources to strengthen volunteer programs nationwide and ensure the success of future volunteer initiatives.



Swearing-In of the National Volunteerism Resource Pool (NVRP)

A Call to Action

As we celebrated National Volunteer Month this December, the ceremony highlighted the enduring need for volunteerism in addressing the social challenges we continue to face. PNVSCA, with the support of local governments, media, civil society organizations, and international partners, remains steadfast in its commitment to cultivating a culture of volunteerism and ensuring the necessary support and opportunities to expand its influence and impact nationwide.

Mabuhay ang boluntarismo! Mabuhay ang bayanihan tungo sa maunlad na Bagong Pilipinas!

NVM Kicks Off...



In this photo, from L-R: CDO City Councilor Ian Mark Nacaya, Forum ZFD Executive Director Dirgha Sigdel and PNVSCE Executive Director Donald James D. Gawe

To mark the start of a nationwide celebration under the theme "Igniting Volunteer-Led Innovation for Future Growth and Social Transformation: Bolunterismo Tungo sa Bagong Pilipinas," Cagayan de Oro City,

known as the "City of Golden Friendship," hosted the 2024 National Volunteer Month (NVM) Kick Off on December 1st with an inspiring and vibrant event. Led by the City Government Officials and coordinated by the City Volunteerism and Active Citizenship Program Office, the celebration recognized the importance of volunteerism and emphasized how volunteer-led innovation can drive future growth and social transformation.

December 1st was a day brimming with energy and purpose, truly bringing the spirit of volunteerism to life. The day kicked off with a heartfelt mass at St. Augustine Cathedral, honoring National Volunteer Month and setting a reflective tone for the exciting activities to come.



As the afternoon unfolded, over 1,000 volunteers and participants from all walks of life and from all over the country gathered for the eagerly awaited "BayaniRun: Volunteer Fun Run". The excitement was evident as the event kicked off with a high-energy 30-minute Zumba session at Plaza Divisoria, energizing the runners before they lined up for the race.

The BayaniRun was more than just a race—it was a powerful reminder that volunteerism has no boundaries, transcending age, gender, background, or ability. It was a call to action, inspiring participants to take that first step toward creating positive change—whether through volunteering, supporting social causes, or simple acts of kindness. Every stride taken and every smile shared reflected the true spirit of volunteerism—igniting change, fostering connections, and paving the way for a more inclusive, hopeful future.

The run beautifully symbolized the impact of volunteerism in action, uniting people in a movement fueled by service, peace, and a shared vision of a brighter tomorrow.

After gearing up for the Bayani Run and hitting the streets with purpose, the excitement seamlessly shifted to the Community Amphitheatre, where the day reached its peak with a vibrant Kick-Off Ceremony launching National Volunteer Month 2024. The ceremony was a whirlwind of inspiring speeches, interactive activities, and energetic performances that reinforced the crucial role of volunteerism in building stronger, more resilient communities.

Cagayan de Oro City Councilor Ian Mark Nacaya emphasized the importance of institutionalizing volunteerism. He highlighted that Mayor Uy had issued an Executive Order for the creation of a sustainable platform for volunteerism, one that engages not just the local government but the entire community. "This platform will empower our citizens to drive meaningful change, turning volunteerism into a force that propels the city's development," Nacaya explained.

Regional Director Mylah Faye Aurora B. Cariño of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Region X congratulated the Cagayan de Oro City government for its outstanding leadership in volunteerism, praising the volunteers with the words, "Volunteers are not just performing noble acts; they are the driving force behind community development."

Meanwhile, Forum ZFD Executive Director Dirgha Sigdel expressed unwavering support for the national volunteer service program, sharing, "This movement of volunteerism is not just about giving; it's about celebrating the power of connection and empowering individuals to become catalysts for change."

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NVM Volunteerism Expos Unveil Volunteering Opportunities

by Claire S. Pantoja

Throughout December 2024, as part of National Volunteer Month celebrations, volunteerism expos took place nationwide, offering a platform to explore opportunities and encourage meaningful contributions to communities. Open to the public, these events welcomed over a thousand attendees across the country, including locals, students, and passionate volunteers eager to make a difference. 80 exhibitors participated, including volunteer organizations, academic institutions, national and regional government line agencies, local government units, international volunteer service organizations, non-governmental organizations, and corporations. These exhibitors represented various sectors, such as disaster risk reduction and management, energy, environmental sustainability, social welfare, and youth development.

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NVM Kicks Off...



PNVSCA Executive Director Donald James D. Gawe also commended the Cagayan de Oro City Government for its swift and effective actions to institutionalize volunteerism, making the city a model for Mindanao and setting a national benchmark.

Other key activities that contributed to the success of the NVM kickoff included three national trainings co-organized with the Philippine Association of Extension Program Implementers, Inc. (PAEPI), the Philippine Association of Practitioners of Student Affairs and Services, Inc. (PAPSAS), and the Philippine Society of NSTP Educators and Implementers (PSNEI). These trainings focused on the following themes: Igniting Change: Volunteerism and Gender Equity in Extension Services, Strengthening Volunteerism: Empowering the Youth of Today, and Training the Trainers on Volunteer Management for Effective NSTP/NSRC Implementation in Developing the Youth for Nation Building. Additional highlights included a bamboo planting initiative along the riverbank in Barangay Balulang, a guesting segment on CDO City radio featuring PNVSCA Executive Director Donald James D. Gawe and Tarlac State University Extension Director Engr. Emir S.F. Sicangco, as well as the Volunteerism Expo and the Public Sector Volunteerism and Volunteer Engagement Forum held at Centrio Mall.



Photos credits to Cagayan De Oro City Government

The National Volunteer Month kick-off was a powerful reminder that volunteerism is not just a catalyst for positive change, but a force that unites us all in the shared mission of creating a brighter, more inclusive future. This is a call to every Filipino: rise, take action, and be the change you want to see. Together, we hold the power to transform our communities, shape a better tomorrow, and leave a lasting legacy of kindness and service for generations to come.

IVD Celebrations...

This global observance highlights the collective power of voluntary action in addressing pressing challenges and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In the Philippines, the significance of IVD was underscored by President Corazon C. Aquino through Proclamation No. 194, issued on December 7, 1987, officially declaring December 5 as "IVD for Economic and Social Development."

By celebrating IVD, the nation reaffirms its commitment to fostering the spirit of volunteerism, both locally and globally, as a vital force for achieving sustainable progress and uplifting communities.

The 2024 national International Volunteer Day (IVD) celebration event took place at the Ayala Museum, with Ayala Foundation, Inc. (AFI) as a key partner in organizing the event. PNVSCA, in collaboration with AFI, provided an inspiring avenue for the celebration, bringing together volunteers, community leaders, and organizations from across the country to recognize and honor the selfless contributions of volunteers in creating positive change.



PNVSCA Executive Director Donald James D. Gawe delivered a thoughtful message and shared a video that highlighted the rich history of international volunteering in the Philippines. He recognized how both local and international volunteers have contributed their skills and knowledge over the years to address key challenges, support development, and build lasting connections across borders.

Executive Director Gawe emphasized the important role that international volunteers and Filipinos abroad play in global development, underscoring the Philippines' commitment to development cooperation and the growth of human capital. This exchange of expertise and compassion strengthens local communities and fosters a global sense of solidarity.



Messages of inspiration and support were given by distinguished leaders, including Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan, PhD, of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA); Secretary Enrique A. Manalo of the Department of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Virgilio B. Tabbu, Vice President for Student Services and Community Development at the University of Makati; and a recorded message from UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner.

IVD Celebrations...

Additionally, testimonies on the benefits of international volunteerism were shared by key partners, including Hon. Gilberto F. Magallon, Mayor of Alegria, Cebu; Engr. Constantino Panes, Jr., Center Administrator at the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) – RTCKPVT, Davao City; Ms. Amelia Tuquero, Executive Director of Rehoboth's Children's Home; and Secretary Leo Tereso A. Magno of the Mindanao Development Authority (MINDA). These messages highlighted the transformative power of volunteerism and its impact on local and international communities.

The celebration also featured compelling testimonies from international volunteers, local partner institutions, and returned Filipino volunteers, who shared firsthand experiences of how volunteerism has transformed lives and communities.

Further calls for collaboration came from Hon. Rozzano Rufino "Ruffy" B. Biazon, Mayor of Muntinlupa City, and Ms. Victoria V. Wieneke, President of Kabisig ng Kalahi, Inc. and Civil Society Organization Representative in the PNVSCA Multisectoral Advisory Body (MSAB). Their messages highlighted the importance of partnerships in volunteer-driven initiatives, emphasizing that volunteers are key to driving meaningful social change and that continued support for their efforts is vital.

The event was also honored by the presence of distinguished guests and valued partners, including the Ambassador of Switzerland to the Philippines; the German Embassy Manila, and the Australian Embassy. It was also graced by heads and representatives from International Volunteer Service Organizations (IVSOs), such as Australian Volunteers Program (AVP), France Volontaires (FV), Global Initiative for Exchange and Development, Inc. (GIED), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), United States Peace Corps (USPC), and Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO).



Additional support came from a wide range of partner agencies, including the Department of Foreign Affairs – United Nations and International Organizations (DFA-UNIO), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) – Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Participation, Bureau of Immigration, Commission on Higher Education – Office of Student Development and Services (CHED-OSDS), Philippine Information Agency (PIA), Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL), National Council for Children's Television (NCCT), Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF), and the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC). Also in attendance were the City Governments of Muntinlupa and Quezon, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), FEU Institute of Technology, National University (NU)–Manila, Bulacan State University, De La Salle–College of Saint Benilde, National Teachers College, and corporate institutions such as SMART Communications, Inc., PLDT, TELUS, and Coral Bay Nickel Corporation. Other notable organizations included the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCI), iVolunteer, National Youth Volunteers' Coalition (NYVC), World Wide Fund (WWF), Phinma Foundation, and Jesuit Volunteers Philippines Foundation.



A key highlight of the national IVD event was the awards ceremony of outstanding international volunteers and local partners organized by PNVSCA in collaboration with partner international volunteer service organizations to recognize good practices in international volunteer engagement.

The **Outstanding International Volunteers** awards were presented to: ForumZFD, Ms. Zineb Naini; FV, Mr. Michel Besse; KOICA-KOV, Ms. You Hyun Mi; and GIED, Mr. Nicolas Alexander Horn. [\[continue reading on page 8\]](#)

NVM Thematic Webinars Generate Thousands of Participants

by Raymart V. Maruquez

To celebrate National Volunteer Month 2024, PNVSCA hosted a Webinar Series on Volunteerism in December, aiming to raise awareness, foster voluntary action, and recognize volunteers as partners in development. In partnership with academic institutions, these engaging sessions attracted thousands of viewers on social media and nearly a thousand active participants, creating a platform for education, inspiration, and connection. By promoting the spirit of volunteerism, the webinars encouraged ongoing commitment to community service and meaningful engagement. [\[continue reading on page 15\]](#)

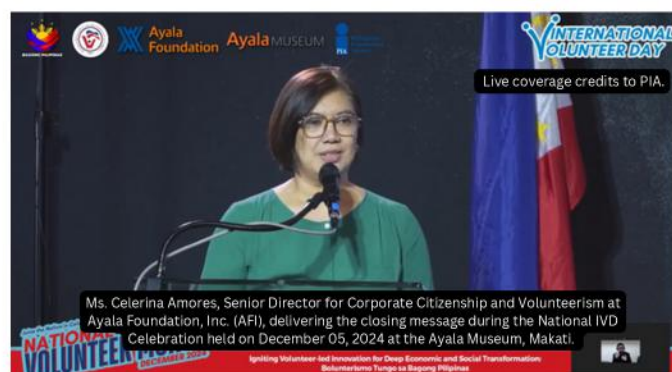


Awarded in the **Outstanding Local Partner Institutions (LPI)** category were: from FV – E & V Water and Life Philippines, Inc.; from GIED – Local Government of Alegria, Cebu; and from KOICA-KOV – Mag-aba National High School.



The **Outstanding International Volunteer and LPI Supervisor Tandem** award was given to: KOICA – KOV Mr. Kim In Sun and his supervisor Mr. Noriel Ramos from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority – Cordillera State Institute of Technical Education (TESDA-CSITE) Main Campus.

To wrap up the event, Ms. Celerina Amores, Senior Director for Corporate Citizenship and Volunteerism at Ayala Foundation, Inc. (AFI), delivered a heartfelt closing message on behalf of Mr. Antonio Joselito G. Lambino II, President of AFI. She expressed deep gratitude to PNVSICA for the successful collaboration, noting that while AFI has long been a leader in volunteerism, this partnership has helped elevate and institutionalize their efforts.



With a goal of 190,000 volunteering hours within the Ayala Group in 2024, AFI exceeded expectations by logging nearly 350,000 hours. Ms. Amores shared their excitement to expand their reach even further, looking forward to more impactful partnerships and initiatives ahead.

The national event, coupled with IVD celebrations across the country, was an unforgettable showcase of passion, purpose, and progress. Led by PNVSICA partner higher education institutions, these vibrant celebrations united communities to ignite the spirit of volunteerism, underscoring the powerful role volunteers play in driving social change and building meaningful connections.

In the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Saint Louis University hosted the event, focusing on the challenges and rewards of international volunteering. The celebration emphasized the importance of cultural exchange, global cooperation, and the lasting positive changes that volunteer efforts can bring. In the National Capital Region (NCR), the University of Makati led the celebration, sharing innovative volunteer initiatives and best practices that set the standard for social good.

Saint Louis College in Region I highlighted the pivotal role of volunteers in strengthening local societies, while Tarlac State University in Region III emphasized the importance of cross-border collaboration to drive community empowerment.

Laguna State Polytechnic University in Region IV-A exemplified how volunteerism fosters social responsibility, resilience, and global engagement.

In MIMAROPA, Mindoro State University celebrated the value of volunteerism, while Central Bicol State University of Agriculture in Region V reaffirmed its mission of community empowerment through volunteer-driven leadership. Over in Region VI, West Visayas State University (WVSU) showed how volunteerism can address societal challenges and build global connections; and in Region VII, the University of San Carlos showcased how volunteerism promotes inclusivity and a sense of belonging.



IVD Celebration at Saint Louis University on December 06, 2024.

Photo credits to University of Makati



IVD Celebration at University of Makati on December 05, 2024.

Photo credits to Tarlac State University - OUES



IVD Celebration at Tarlac State University on December 05, 2024.

Photo credits to Mindoro State University - The Tumbler



IVD Celebration at Mindoro State University on December 10, 2024.

Photo credits to Saint Louis College - Teatrang Louisano



IVD Celebration at Saint Louis College on December 05, 2024.

Photo credits to Laguna State Polytechnic University - IO



IVD Celebration at Laguna State Polytechnic University on December 05, 2024.



IVD Celebration at Central Bicol State University of Agriculture on December 05, 2024.



IVD Celebration at West Visayas State University on December 5, 2024.



Photo credits to West Visayas State University - ILLO



IVD Celebration at University of San Carlos on December 05, 2024.

The celebrations were made even more impactful by the participation of foreign volunteers from organizations such as the Australian Volunteer Program (AVP), France Volontaires (FV), Global Initiative for Exchange and Development (GIED), Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), KOICA Overseas Volunteers (KOV), and United States Peace Corps (USPC), along with returned Filipino international volunteers of the Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) and GIED. These volunteers shared their personal journeys, giving us a deeper understanding of the powerful influence of volunteerism in creating a more connected, compassionate, and resilient world.

PNVSCA, through its Executive Director, reminds everyone that through the 2024 IVD celebration, we honor the unwavering dedication of volunteers who continue to shape a more compassionate world. He further encouraged everyone to stay committed to amplifying the spirit of volunteerism—expanding our reach, deepening our impact, and fostering understanding across borders. Lastly, he expressed that everyone has the power to inspire meaningful, lasting change and to honor the selfless contributions that create a better, more compassionate world for everyone.

Online Partnership Ceremony Closes National Volunteer Month Celebration

by Arianne P. Jardio

On December 27, 2024, the National Volunteer Month (NVM) celebration ended with a meaningful Online Partnership Appreciation Ceremony. The event brought together hundreds of participants who joined via Zoom and Facebook Live to recognize and honor the vital partnerships that have driven the success of various volunteer-led initiatives throughout the year.

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PNVSCA and Academe...

The first training, themed "Igniting Change: Volunteerism and Gender Equity in Extension Services," co-organized with PAEPI X in partnership with Ayala Foundation and BPI Foundation, explored how volunteerism can serve as a sustainable strategy for extension programs. Participants delved into topics such as gender-sensitive volunteerism, sustainable program design, and financial literacy. More than 140 attendees, including extension directors, faculty, student leaders, and volunteers, gained hands-on experience through an open book reading program in partnership with Ayala Foundation primary schools. This activity underscored the importance of integrating gender equity into volunteer-driven initiatives.



The second training, co-organized with PSNEI in coordination with Liceo De Cagayan University, was titled as "Training the Trainers on Volunteer Management for Effective NSTP/NSRC Implementation in Developing the Youth for Nation Building." The activity aimed to assess the NSTP as a mechanism to instill the value of volunteerism among the youth and recommend action steps to strengthen it as a channel towards the voluntary sector's vision that volunteerism becomes a way of life of every Filipino.



Photos credits to Cagayan De Oro City Government

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Sessions focused on the basic concepts and paradigms of volunteerism, Philippine Standard on Volunteering for Development, introduction to service learning in the context of volunteerism in NSTP, volunteering in NSTP as an effective service-learning delivery mechanism, innovative strategies for integrating volunteerism in NSTP, volunteerism and NSTP/NSRC implementation, and opportunities for collaboration. A validation workshop was also conducted where an enhanced draft of the existing volunteerism module in NSTP was developed. About 120 NSTP coordinators and implementers from different HEIs throughout the country attended the activity. They shared their enthusiasm as they look forward to a better implementation of the NSTP where volunteerism will be further and strongly integrated into the module.



PAPSAS facilitated the third training, "Strengthening Volunteerism: Empowering the Youth of Today," which centered on equipping student leaders with the skills and motivation to drive societal change. Among the topics discussed include basic concepts and paradigms of volunteerism, principles of volunteerism, volunteer management, and opportunities for collaboration. Several student organizations presented their volunteering initiatives, as well as their challenges encountered and best practices. A workshop was also conducted to enhance the capacity of school-based organizations as seedbeds for volunteerism culture. At the end of the training, several student organizations expressed their interest in working with organizations from other HEIs in the implementation of their volunteering projects and activities. More than 80 participants, mostly student leaders representing various HEIs in the country accompanied by SAS practitioners, attended the training.



In all three activities, the participants shared that the learnings they gathered from the sessions further motivated them to engage in volunteering and make a meaningful impact in their communities.

These initiatives underline the pivotal role of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in fostering a culture of volunteerism. By integrating volunteerism into their curricula and extracurricular activities, HEIs cultivate leadership, civic engagement, and social responsibility among the youth. As mandated by Republic Act 9418 or the Volunteer Act of 2007, integrating volunteerism into the basic and higher education curriculum is essential for raising consciousness and nurturing a nation of engaged citizens.

The training sessions exemplify PNVSCA's commitment to empowering stakeholders to drive meaningful change. The agency recognizes HEIs as key players in embedding volunteerism into the fabric of Philippine society, ensuring that it becomes a way of life for current and future generations.

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NVM Volunteerism Expos...

Each expo brought its own unique charm, but several key elements were consistently present throughout the events. Dialogues and knowledge-sharing sessions offered valuable insights into volunteerism and the various initiatives led by the exhibitors.

Cultural intermission performances added a lively touch to the expos, showcasing local talent and enriching the experience for all attendees. Interactive features, such as freedom walls, booth passports, and raffles, encouraged participants to engage with exhibitors.

The National Volunteer Expo in Cagayan de Oro (CDO) on December 3 at Centrio Mall marked the start of a month-long journey of discovery. The event was made possible through the support of Mayor Rolando 'Klarex' Uy and the Office for Community Affairs, with Department Manager Oliver V. Egypto representing the Mayor during the expo. This initiative was carried out in collaboration with the Ayala Foundation.



Photo credits to Cagayan de Oro City Information Office

Exhibitors included Andam Higala, Ayala Foundation, City College of CDO, City Government of Cagayan de Oro, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) X, Global Initiative for Exchange and Development (GIED), Kagay-anon Youth Network Alliance, Kusgan Volunteers, Life Project 4 Youth, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC), and the CDO Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). These organizations highlighted diverse initiatives and volunteer opportunities.

A volunteer engagement forum, featuring Kusgan Volunteers, Inc. and CDO YMCA, sparked discussions on active citizenship and the collective power of volunteering, underscoring the value of collaboration in driving positive change.

Complementing the expo, activities such as the "Dugong Kagay-anon Year 2" blood donation drive and the Department of Labor and Employment's "Uswag Opportunities" job fair encouraged further community involvement. DSWD X also provided consultations and referrals to social services, addressing various community needs.



Photo credits to Cagayan de Oro City Information Office



The National Volunteer Month Celebration expo in Baguio, held on December 6-7 at Malcolm Square, united a diverse group of individuals passionate about volunteerism. Organized by the City Government of Baguio through the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO), the event offered participants the opportunity to connect with organizations dedicated to education, healthcare, and environmental conservation, reinforcing the message that volunteerism is for everyone, regardless of background or interests.



Photo credits to Baguio City Public Information Office

A diverse group of exhibitors showcased their work, providing attendees with opportunities to connect and contribute. Military and civic organizations, including the 122nd Naval Combat Support Squadron Reserve, 14th CAR Regional Community Defense Group, and 21st Air Force Group Reserve, demonstrated their roles in promoting community resilience. First responders such as 911 On-Call Inc., the Baguio City Fire Station, and Kabalikat Civicom emphasized the importance of safety and preparedness.

The Philippine Army and PRC offered insights into their critical humanitarian efforts, while international organizations like Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) and United States Peace Corps (USPC) brought a global perspective to the event. Local initiatives, such as those led by Deltans Zigzag, showcased the creativity and dedication of grassroots movements.

Central to the celebration were the Organization Showcase and Recruitment Fair, which inspired attendees to find their place in the vibrant ecosystem of volunteerism.

The expo was attended by Mayor Benjamin Magalong and Punong Barangay Levy Lloyd Orcales, who authored the ordinance establishing a volunteer program for the city.

A few days after, on December 9, the TatakBOLUNTIR Fun Run and Volunteerism Exhibit unfolded at Pangasinan State University's (PSU's) Lingayen Campus, blending fitness with a deeper purpose. The event sought to raise awareness about critical issues such as environmental sustainability and the fight against violence toward women and children, using the power of community engagement.

The fun run embodied the event's theme of health and community involvement. Participants, eager to support a meaningful cause, ran not just for fitness, but to raise awareness for the causes that matter most to them. Through the run, they demonstrated the true spirit of TatakBOLUNTIR—volunteerism with purpose.

Exhibitors include the various PSU campuses such as Alaminos, Asingan, Bayambang, Binalbayan, Infanta, Lingayen, San Carlos, Santa Maria, and Urdaneta. Each campus highlighted its contributions to volunteerism, showcasing unique initiatives that demonstrate how students and faculty members are giving back to their communities. In addition, other organizations participated, including the Local Government Unit of Lingayen, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) I, PSU School of Advanced Studies and Open University Systems, and the Gender and Development Office. These groups collectively shared their ongoing efforts and dedication to promoting volunteerism in various forms.



Visitors to the exhibit were inspired by the powerful stories and interactive displays that showcased the many ways volunteerism can manifest—whether through advocacy, hands-on participation, or educational outreach. The event effectively conveyed how every act of service, big or small, contributes to creating positive change in society.

By the end of the day, the event had proven that when communities come together with a shared commitment, real change is possible. The TatakBOLUNTIR Fun Run and Volunteerism Exhibit not only raised awareness about vital issues but also left a lasting impression on everyone involved, reminding all that volunteerism can take many forms and that each effort makes a difference.

Volunteerism has the power to drive meaningful change and strengthen communities, creating a positive impact for the greater good. Volunteerism expos provide a unique platform for individuals and organizations to come together, explore shared causes, and find opportunities for collaboration. These events connect attendees with causes that align with their values, offering insights into how they can contribute to their communities. By bringing together a wide array of organizations and initiatives, volunteerism expos inspire action, foster a sense of purpose, and empower individuals to make a tangible difference.



On December 14, the Volunteerism Expo at SM Telebastagan, San Fernando, Pampanga, became a vibrant hub for community-building efforts. The expo featured a range of exhibitors, including City College of Angeles (CCA), City College of San Fernando Pampanga, Empower Philippines, Pampanga State Agricultural University (PSAU), Subic Clark Alliance for Development (SCAD), Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU), Tarlac State University (TSU), the USPC, and Vessels of Humanity Foundation Inc. Each of these organizations showcased their ongoing projects and efforts aimed at community development, sustainability, and social impact.

The success of the event was amplified by the collaboration between several key institutions. PSAU, TAU, TSU, SCAD, and NEDA III all worked together to organize and promote the expo. The event was further elevated by the presence of distinguished individuals who graced the occasion with their participation. Dir. Carlo D. de Dios of the PSAU Office of Public Affairs and International Linkages; Dr. Marianne P. Villaruel, Director of the TAU Student Placement Office; Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg, TSU Vice President for Academic Affairs; Regional Dir. Nerissa T. Esguerra of NEDA III; Atty. Amee Z. Fabros, SCAD Executive Director; and Dir. Arceli Macasieb of the CCA Community Extension Office, all contributed their time and expertise, adding to the event's prestige.



Meanwhile, the Palawan Provincial Volunteer Expo on December 14 at Robinsons Mall, Puerto Princesa, offered an accessible platform for residents to connect with local organizations. Organized by the Palawan Provincial DRRMO (PDRRMO), the expo was part of the first Provincial DRRM Auxiliary Summit.

Exhibitors included the 42nd National Government Reserve, Action Against Hunger, Alpha Phi Omega, Bantay Bayan Foundation, Junior Chamber International Puerto Princesa Oil, Kiwanis International, Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary, Palawan DRR Auxiliary Group, and Philippine National Police Reaction 166. These organizations presented valuable information on disaster risk reduction volunteerism, as well as education, environmental conservation, and law enforcement initiatives.

Interactive exhibits encouraged attendees to actively engage with the organizations, learn more about their missions, and explore volunteer opportunities. The Palawan Provincial Volunteer Expo not only celebrated National Volunteer Month but also fostered stronger ties between residents and the organizations working to make a positive impact on their lives.

The expo welcomed key officials who contributed to the event's success. Among them were Mr. Jeremias Y. Alili, Head of the Palawan PDRRMO; Mr. Cruzalde B. Abaña, Assistant Department Head of the PDRRMO; Ms. Sharlene Daquer-Vilches, Head of the Provincial Planning and Development Office; and Ms. Abigail D. Ablana, Provincial SWD Officer.

On December 18, the Bayanihang QC: Volunteerism Expo took place at Gateway Mall in Quezon City (QC), celebrating the Filipino spirit of bayanihan—unity and collective action for community strengthening. The event, organized by the QC Government with support from the J. Amado Araneta Foundation, Inc., brought together a diverse array of exhibitors from both the public and private sectors, creating a dynamic platform for collaboration and connection. Among the participants were the Australian Volunteers Program (AVP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), DSWD National Resource and Logistics Management Bureau, France Volontaires (FV), GIED, JOCV, the National Youth Volunteers Coalition (NYVC), PRC, the QC Business Permit and Licensing Department, Human Resource Management Department, Parks Development and Administration Department, Public Library, and other offices.



A highlight of the expo was the panel discussion featuring Quezon City's 2024 Local Outstanding Volunteer Awardees, FV, NYVC, and the QC Government. Their inspiring stories of dedication and community impact not only honored the values of volunteerism but also showcased how individual efforts can lead to meaningful change. Through their narratives, the event reinforced the power of unity and the collective strength of communities working together for a common cause.

The program was graced by Mayor Joy Belmonte, City Administrator Mike Alimurung, QC Department heads, J. Amado Araneta Foundation Executive Director Christine Romero, and Councilor Anton Reyes, author of the ordinance adopting and implementing the Volunteer Act of 2007 in the city.



The final expo, CAPIZBISIG: Volunteers Expo, was held on December 19 as a collaborative effort between the Provincial Government of Capiz and Capiz State University (CAPSU). A diverse group of exhibitors showcased their dedication to volunteerism, each contributing to the theme of service and community engagement. The Borres Youth Leadership Institute, Inc. and Capiz Eco Youth Volunteers were present, inspiring young people to lead with purpose. CAPSU, alongside the CASAC - Laudato Si Warriors, demonstrated the role of education and faith in cultivating a culture of volunteerism.

Organizations like the DSWD VI and Gawad Kalinga Capiz showcased their long-standing commitment to social welfare and community empowerment, while the Provincial Tourism and Cultural Affairs Office highlighted the connection between volunteerism and the preservation of Capiz's cultural heritage. Filamer Christian University also presented its efforts in fostering civic responsibility through education.

Pilmico Foods Corporation demonstrated how businesses can integrate social responsibility into their operations, while the Red Cross Capiz and the United States Peace Corps reinforced the global scope of volunteer work, emphasizing humanitarian aid and international collaboration. Fanfreluche Enterprises Inc. brought a fresh perspective, showing how entrepreneurship can contribute to volunteer-driven initiatives.

The event was honored by the presence of distinguished guests: Mr. Ronald Allan F. Cullon, EnP., Acting Capiz Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office Head; Dr. Efren L. Linan, CAPSU President; and Dr. Leo Andrew B. Biclar, CAPSU Vice President for Research, Development, and Extension. Their participation added further depth and significance to the event, highlighting the importance of volunteerism and community engagement.

Continued from the Provincial Volunteerism Resource Pool (PVPR)

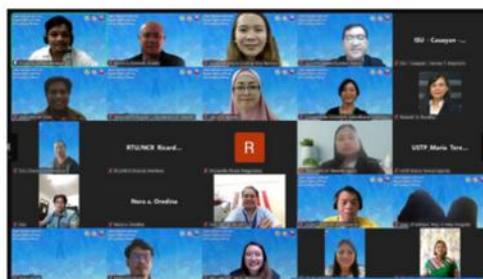
The volunteerism expos of December 2024 highlighted the vital role of volunteerism in strengthening communities and driving positive change. By bringing together organizations and individuals, these events fostered meaningful connections and provided valuable opportunities for collaboration. The expos showcased the diverse ways in which volunteering can support causes such as environmental sustainability, social welfare, and disaster risk reduction, illustrating the collective power of communities working together. These events not only promoted active participation but also helped lay the groundwork for a continued culture of volunteerism, encouraging ongoing engagement and support for initiatives that benefit society.

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Thematic Webinars...

The 2024 webinar series highlighted six key themes that showcase the diverse impact of volunteerism: education, lifelong commitment to volunteering, tourism, child rights, climate change and environmental protection, and wildlife conservation and animal welfare. Each session offered a platform for sharing knowledge, exchanging ideas, and sparking engaging discussions among volunteers, coordinators, and advocates dedicated to making a positive difference.

Webinar Series 1: Higher Education Institution Brigada Pagbasa Initiative para sa Bagong Pilipinas (HEI-BPI)



Group photo of participants in the HEI-Brigada Pagbasa Initiative para sa Bagong Pilipinas Webinar.

PNVSCA host Mr. Kenneth C. Siruelo and Ms. Maria Cristina Baroso of Department of Education - Region V

PNVSCA ED Donald James D. Gawe and Mr. Geomel Jetonzo of World Vision Philippines



The NVM webinar series kicked off on December 11 with the "Higher Education Institution Brigada Pagbasa Initiative para sa Bagong Pilipinas (HEI-BPI)" webinar, in partnership with World Vision Philippines. The webinar focused on the crucial role of volunteerism in promoting literacy and bridging educational gaps.

In its efforts to enhance volunteerism within educational institutions, PNVSCA has formed partnerships with 74 colleges and universities, 66 of which provide courses in education, an entry point for volunteering in enhancing literacy among Filipino learners. To maximize these collaborations, PNVSCA endorses the use of Brigada Pagbasa as the volunteer initiative aimed at addressing literacy challenges.

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Mr. Geomel Jetonzo, esteemed author and Program Director of the Brigada Pagbasa Movement under the World Vision Philippines, delivered an inspiring presentation on the Brigada Pagbasa Program, an initiative designed to promote literacy among Filipino children.

He emphasized the program's mission to unite advocates, educators, parents, and volunteers in enhancing the reading skills of Filipino youth. Mr. Jetonzo highlighted the vital role of education in nation-building and the need for collective action to address literacy challenges. By bridging educational gaps and fostering strong reading abilities, the program aims to empower children and contribute to a brighter, more inclusive future.

His talk inspired the audience to view themselves as crucial contributors to this effort, encouraging collaboration to create a transformative impact on the lives of Filipino children.

Ms. Maria Cristina G. Baroso of the Department of Education Region V, in her presentation of the HEI-BPI Program, emphasized that their afterschool reading program initiative has effectively utilized the dedication of over 80,000 volunteer teachers, facilitators, and tutors to significantly enhance the reading skills of Bicolano children.

On the other hand, PNVSCA Executive Director Donald James D. Gawe highlighted the importance of Brigada Pagbasa as one vital platform for promoting volunteerism within the community. The launch of the HEI-BPI initiative marked a significant step in mobilizing higher education institutions for educational change. The online session was attended by around 140 representatives from partner HEIs nationwide.

Webinar Series 2: Once a Volunteer, Always a Volunteer (OVAV)

Since its inception in 2001, the Search for Outstanding Volunteers (SOV) has celebrated over 200 individuals for their selfless dedication to service. In 2020, recognizing the need for a platform to connect and inspire volunteers, the "Once a Volunteer, Always a Volunteer (OVAV)" webinar was introduced. The inaugural event emphasized the importance of a space for volunteers to share insights into good volunteering practices.

Building on its success, the 2nd OVAV webinar in 2022 became a hybrid talk show, featuring inspiring SOV 2022 awardees who shared their journeys to motivate others to embrace volunteerism.

Continuing the tradition, PNVSCA hosted the 3rd OVAV webinar on December 16, 2024, attracting over 800 online participants, including passionate volunteers and those eager to learn more about the power of volunteering.

The 2024 OVAV webinar featured inspiring stories of SOV awardees including Mr. Rod Charlie Delos Reyes (2023), Ms. Aliah Adam (2019), Mr. Mark Cerezo (2014), and Mr. Carlito Amalla (2008), along with newest 2024 awardees - Mr. Sheen Milger Ochavo and Mr. Fernando Fajardo. These esteemed individuals shared their personal journeys and valuable insights, showcasing the transformative power of volunteerism and inspiring others to embrace a life of service.



Photo credits to Mr. Ochavo

Photos showcasing the impactful volunteer work of SOV 2024 recipient, Mr. Sheen Milger Ochavo.

A true advocate for youth and environmental stewardship, Mr. Ochavo has demonstrated the power of youth engagement in addressing critical societal challenges. His initiatives, such as PadyaKalikasan, Kabataan sa Halalan, GrowGreen, and #SabadoTudlo, have not only inspired youth involvement but also

empowered them to become influential change-makers in education, climate resilience, and civic participation.

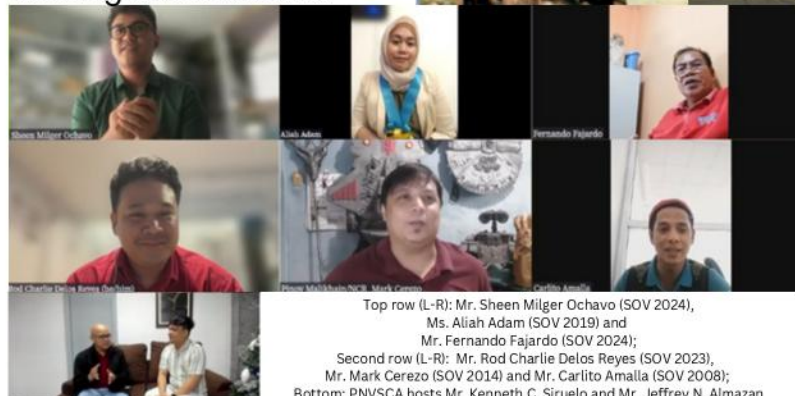
On the other hand, Mr. Fajardo, a recipient of the Volunteer Lifetime Achievement Award 2024, is a testament to the enduring impact of dedicated service. His lifelong commitment to community development is evident in his diverse initiatives that he shared, ranging from disaster relief to sustainable livelihood programs.

Mr. Fajardo's hands-on approach prioritizes community empowerment, and he has successfully facilitated crucial partnerships between public and private sector organizations to ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of community-driven solutions, particularly within farming communities.



Photo credits to Mr. Fajardo

Photos showcasing the impactful volunteer work of SOV 2024 recipient, Mr. Fernando Fajardo.



Top row (L-R): Mr. Sheen Milger Ochavo (SOV 2024),

Ms. Aliah Adam (SOV 2019) and

Mr. Fernando Fajardo (SOV 2024);

Second row (L-R): Mr. Rod Charlie Delos Reyes (SOV 2023),

Mr. Mark Cerezo (SOV 2014) and Mr. Carlito Amalla (SOV 2008);

Bottom: PNVSCA hosts Mr. Kenneth C. Siruelo and Mr. Jeffrey N. Almazan

Webinar Series 3: Volunteering for Child Rights



To extend the celebration of National Children's Month, a webinar on Volunteering for Child Rights was held on December 19th, spotlighting the impactful work of the 2024 Search for Outstanding Volunteer (SOV) Awardees – the Yellow Boat of Hope Foundation, I-SAVED, and Mr. Jorjani Sinsuat. The session emphasized the vital role volunteers play in advocating for child rights and fostering safe, nurturing environments for all children. The webinar garnered significant online traction, achieving nearly 1k views on Facebook.

Having worked with UNICEF's special project on the Third Country Program for Children during his early years at NEDA, PNVSCA Executive Director Donald James D. Gawe provided valuable insights on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. He discussed key aspects such as the definition of a child, the four general principles of the UNCRC, and the importance of Early Childhood Care and Development.

Dr. Anton Mari Lim, founder of the Yellow Boat of Hope Foundation, shared how the organization provides children in remote, poverty-stricken areas across the Philippines access to education. Inspired by the concept of the yellow school bus, they introduced "yellow boats" to safely transport children to and from school, overcoming geographical challenges.

Established in 2016, I-SAVED made remarkable strides in improving the lives of children in indigenous communities. As shared by its Founder, Mr. John Mauro Manuel, I-SAVED provides essential school supplies, runs a sustainable feeding program, and offers literacy sessions, ensuring that children have access to quality education and essential resources.

Mr. Sinsuat's notable work includes Project Saguna, which provides vital psychosocial support to children affected by armed conflict.

Webinar Series 4: Voluntourism

On December 20th, the Voluntourism webinar, hosted in partnership with National University (NU) Dasmariñas, attracted over 100 participants on

Microsoft Teams and nearly 2k views on Facebook, highlighting the growing interest in responsible and sustainable voluntourism. This collaboration showcased NU Dasmariñas' dedication to promoting impactful volunteerism. Distinguished speakers included Dr. Gelena Asis-Dimpas, Assistant Regional Director of the Department of Tourism – Region 7, who provided an insightful overview of the "State of Voluntourism in the Philippines"; Ms. Jolly Joyce Tibay, OIC-Tourism Officer of the Provincial Government of Surigao del Norte, who shared valuable "Case Studies and Best Practices on Voluntourism" implemented in CARAGA region; and Prof. Richard Philip Gonzalo from the UP Asian Institute of Tourism, who discussed "Managing Voluntourism: Towards Enriching and Responsible Voluntourism in the Philippines."



Webinar Series 5: Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Volunteering

Committed to advancing environmental volunteerism in the region and recognizing the Philippines' heightened vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, Caraga State University (CSU) hosted a webinar on Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Volunteering on December 23rd that was attended by over 200 participants and with 33K views on Facebook. Faculty members from the College of Forestry and Environmental Science (CoFES) at CSU specializing in climate adaptation and environmental issues emphasized the crucial role of volunteerism in building climate resilience during discussions on the following key topics:

- "Weathering the Future: Climate Adaptation Essentials": Ms. Lizlit Cabag provided a comprehensive overview of the essential principles and strategies for adapting to the impacts of climate change;



- "Adaptation as a Function of Mitigation, Carbon Sink Enhancement Program and Low Carbon Transportation Initiative": Mr. Vincent N. Cotoron highlighted the interconnectedness of mitigation and adaptation efforts;
- "Research and Extension Efforts of Caraga State University towards Climate Change Adaptation": Dr. Chime M. Garcia, who is also the Extension Coordinator, showcased the university's commitment to addressing pressing issues on climate change; and
- "Environmental Volunteering and Response to Climate-induced Disasters": Ms. Lady Kathleen E. Abecia, a dedicated Student Volunteer with the CSU Caraga Environmental Advocates Society and the CSU NSRC Emergency Response Team, discussed the importance of environmental volunteering in responding to climate-induced disasters.

Webinar Series 6: The Role of Volunteers in Wildlife Conservation and Animal Protection

As the grand finale, on December 26th, Central Mindanao University (CMU) hosted a webinar on the Role of Volunteers in Wildlife Conservation and Animal Protection via Zoom, attracting 1,000 participants and earning an impressive 37.1k views on Facebook.

The webinar's panel of experts highlighted the crucial role volunteers play in preserving wildlife and protecting animals. Dr. Florfe M. Acma, Director of Center for Biodiversity Research and Extension in Mindanao (CEBREM), delivered a presentation on "Wildlife Conservation and Animal Protection: The Urgent Call for Volunteers and Community Involvement" where she emphasized the critical role of public engagement in safeguarding wildlife. On the other hand, Ms. Lea M. Camangeg, Faculty member from the College of Sciences at Palawan State University (PSU), shared valuable insights on "Wildlife Initiatives of PSU: A Collaborative and Volunteer-Based Effort," showcasing successful examples of community-driven conservation programs; Mr. Koushik "Venky" Subramanian, Program and Sustainability Manager at Coastal Underwater Resource

Management Actions (CURMA), presented "CURMA's Initiatives and Call to Action," highlighting the organization's efforts in marine conservation and the importance of volunteer participation; and Ms. Rheanmarie Dauing, Ecosystem Management Specialist at Olango Island Sanctuary, discussed "Olango Island Sanctuary Wildlife Conservation Initiatives and Volunteer Engagement," providing a case study on successful volunteer programs in a protected area.

The webinar is a collaborative effort brought together by PSU, CURMA, and CEBREM of CMU.



This series of webinars became a powerful catalyst for change, offering a platform to share knowledge, ignite action, and highlight the profound impact of volunteerism in tackling some of the most urgent social and environmental challenges.

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Online Partnership Ceremony...

The ceremony highlighted the collaborative efforts of national and local government agencies, volunteer organizations, higher education institutions, and civil society groups. Together, they organized workshops, advocacy activities, training sessions, and conferences, all designed to empower and inspire communities across the Philippines. Snippets of the activities conducted were presented giving the online participants a glimpse of what transpired during the year.

PNVSCA's PARTNERS' APPRECIATION CEREMONY

Pagpupugay at Pasasalamat sa mga Partners:
A Christmas Special



Zoom Access Information (first come, first serve basis)
Registration: bit.ly/partnersappreciation2024
Meeting ID: 872 5427 6128
Passcode: 628074

The Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) proudly announced that it had formalized 100 partnerships, with 64 new organizations joining in 2024. These partnerships contributed to a series of impactful events throughout the year.



In addition to celebrating these collaborations, the ceremony honored the commitment of volunteers nationwide, underscoring PNVSCA's ongoing efforts to promote volunteerism as a cornerstone of national development. The event also recognized the essential support of stakeholders and various local government units.



Conducted every December since 2021, the Online Partnership Appreciation Ceremony concluded the celebration of the National Volunteer Month and served as a reminder of the power of collective action in driving social change. It was a fitting end to a month filled with inspiring volunteer expos across the country, online webinars, and the recognition of outstanding volunteers who have made lasting impacts in their communities.



PNVSCA expressed heartfelt gratitude to all its partners, especially to the Multisectoral Advisory Body (MSAB), led by NEDA Undersecretary Carlos Bernardo O. Abad Santos, who have been an essential factor in ensuring that the agency's actions are always based on a clear vision and goal. The contributions of the MSAB members namely the Bureau of Immigration (BOI), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Presidential Management Staff (PMS), and the private sector representatives, Kabisig ng Kalahi, Inc., the Philippine Society of NSTP Educators and Implementers, Inc. (PSNEI), the Philippine Coalition on Volunteerism, Inc. (PhilCV), and the Iloilo Business Club, Inc., have significantly increased the agency's influence, motivating action and helping to improve volunteering-related initiatives carried out by the agency.



Multi-sectoral Advisory Body Members during 1st meeting

PNVSCA also sincerely thanked the members of the NVM Steering Committee and SOV National Screening Committee, which include CHED, Civil Service Commission (CSC), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), DepEd, DFA, DILG, NEDA, National Youth Commission (NYC), Philippine Information Agency (PIA), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), UP System Ugnayan ng Pahinungod, Filipino United Nations Volunteers Association (FUNVA), IAVE Philippines, Kabisig ng Kalahi, Inc., United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and United States Peace Corps (USPC). The Committee members' collective expertise has shaped important decisions and initiatives, which brought significant changes in the way volunteerism is promoted nationwide.



National Volunteer Month Steering Committee Members

Furthermore, the Bayanihan Media Awards (BMA) National Screening Committee, composed of PIA, Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC), the District Engineers League of the Philippines (DELP), and Ayala Foundation, Inc., has been instrumental in setting a high standard of excellence in using the media as a platform for advocating the importance of volunteerism as a tool for nation-building.



Bayanihan Media Awards (BMA) National Screening Committee

Finally, PNVSCA recognized the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) for their continued collaboration and support in enhancing the success of all its initiatives. NICA's contributions are crucial in ensuring the safety and security of volunteer efforts, reinforcing the strength of collective impact.

PNVSCA extends its heartfelt gratitude to all its partners. As this year's celebration draws to a close, the agency eagerly anticipates continuing its mission to encourage volunteerism and inspire positive change in the years to come.



PHILIPPINE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE COORDINATING AGENCY

VISION

A leading institution coordinating and advocating volunteerism towards a self-reliant, empowered and progressive society.

MISSION

Promote and harness voluntary services and resources through relevant and responsive plans, policies, advocacy, technical assistance and coordination services.

VALUES

To realize our Mission we shall be guided and adhere to the following values:

integrity
dedication
competence
teamwork

innovativeness
responsiveness
respect

PNVSCA invites you to
make a difference today.



**BE AN
INSPIRATION,
VOLUNTEER!**

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