



THE UCMPFI NEWSLETTER

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An October to Remember

Department of Education recognizes UCMPFI

On October 1, 2025, the Department of Education–National Capital Region (DepEd NCR) celebrated its 50th anniversary through a Regional Partnership Appreciation Program at Luxent Hotel, Timog, Quezon City. The theme of the celebration was **‘Stronger Together’**. During the program, DepEd-NCR *“recognized its partners in advancing its key priorities: keeping school-age children in school, improving foundational skills, capacitating school heads and teachers, ensuring a learner-centered environment, and strengthening governance.”*



Among the recipients of a Certificate of Appreciation from DepEd NCR was the Union Church of Manila Philippine Foundation, Inc., in recognition of the Foundation’s flagship program Grace Enough to Ensure Secondary Education (GEESE). GEESE is on its 22nd year of continuous implementation, in partnership with DepEd-Makati City Schools Division.



UCMPFI celebrates CENEP teachers

This year’s National Teachers’ Day was celebrated on October 5 with the theme “Together 4 Teachers.” The entire month leading up to it, from September 5 to October 5, is designated as National Teachers’ Month. This month-long celebration culminates in the special recognition of teachers on the final day.

Adjunct with Presidential Proclamation No. 242, the National Teacher’s Day aims to express honor and gratitude for the positive influence of teachers on Filipino learners and to revitalize the image of and respect for teaching as a vocation and increase public awareness of the influence and significance of teachers in Philippine Society. (PRC, October 5, 2025.)

UCMPFI recognizes the essential role of teachers in the implementation of CENEP. They are responsible for daily classroom activities that include supervising 3½ to 4½ -year-old children, teaching lessons according to the structured curriculum, and feeding the children nutritious food. We thank the CENEP team (teachers, cook, and facilitator) for keeping the CENEP going all these years.



Foundation scholars maintain their bond

Thirty GEESE and TRACE scholars attended the monthly fellowship meeting on October 6, 2025. What keeps the scholars' interest in this monthly fellowship is not only the Bible lessons but the sharing that happens. The meetings start with group singing, followed by an opening prayer, then a group breakout in which each one gets to share a personal experience, an answered prayer, a lesson learned, or a concern with their fellow scholars within the group, ending with a prayer.

During the meeting proper, facilitator Mrs. Lily Torrente reviews the previous discussions and proceeds with the lesson. In October, the topic was Jesus The Man from The Bethel Bible Series – New Testament. Through these meetings, scholars obtain added learning from the Bible, a personal copy of which the Foundation has provided each of them, and, it is hoped, are able to apply them in their daily lives.



Volunteers oriented on upcoming medical missions

The volunteers' orientation in preparation for the November 2025 medical missions was held on October 18, 2025. Some 25 volunteers, previous and new, attended, along with CENEP partners. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Nadine Sarreal, UCMPFI trustee.

Volunteers were apprised of the schedule of the missions: November 7, 14, 21, and 28, for Mandaluyong City, Marikina City, Pakil, Laguna, and Cainta, Rizal, respectively. Tasks to be performed by volunteers were discussed and a summary was prepared containing the names of volunteers and their respective assignments for each site.



CENEP schools celebrate United Nations Day

The four CENEP sites held programs to celebrate United Nations Day: October 17 – Mandaluyong City; October 20 – Marikina City and Cainta, Rizal; and October 24 – Pakil, Laguna.

This celebration, observed by schools throughout the country, gives children an occasion to wear the national costume of any country of their choice, and provides their parents an opportunity to be

creative in using inexpensive or recycled materials. Preparation for the UN program is an exciting time for the CENEP team and parents as well. UCMPFI staff and volunteers attend and take part in the programs in each CENEP site. The colorful costumes make pictures come alive to the delight of the parents. The children's presentations highlight the celebration that culminates in a feast.



Mandaluyong



Marikina



Cainta



Pakil



Do visit our website www.ucmpphilfoundation.org to know more about the Foundation's activities and to participate in continuing to provide a better life to these children and young people. For your inquiries, please call (63 2) 8812-6062 or 8812-5609 or email us at ucmpfi@gmail.com.