



THE UCMPFI NEWSLETTER

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CENEP joins nationwide celebration of Nutrition Month

Nutrition Month is celebrated throughout the Philippines in July each year. This year's official theme was *"Sa PPAN*, Sama-Sama sa Nutrisyong Sapat Para sa Lahat!"* (With PPAN*, we work together for sufficient nutrition for all!).

In support of this program, CENEP classroom lessons in July were devoted to learning the different food groups and the main health categories: fruits, vegetables, grains, protein foods, and dairy. Children were taught the importance of good nutrition in keeping a healthy body that is able to provide needed energy and defend itself from common illnesses.

Activities focused on identifying food groups, letting children draw different foodstuff, showing them images of meals to identify in the categories of fruits, grains, proteins, etc. Each CENEP site held a nutrition program in which children performed special numbers. The teachers prepared the children for their nutrition-themed group presentations, and the parents created food-looking costumes for their children to add fun and excitement to the program.

In the month of July, dialogues with parents focused on health-giving food that should be given to children at a certain age to help them grow strong and healthy.



Cainta



*Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition



CENEP joins nationwide celebration of Nutrition Month



Mandaluyong



Marikina



Pakil

Surprise!

Foundation staff make random visits to CENEP sites to make sure that policies and guidelines are faithfully followed. The reports of such visits are submitted to the Working Committee for recording, evaluation, and adjustment, if needed.



Cainta



Mandaluyong



Scholars hold first fellowship for SY2026-2027

The Grace Enough to Ensure Secondary Education (GEESE) and Teodoro Regala Assistance for Continuing Education (TRACE) scholars (SY 2026-2027) held their first fellowship on July 4, 2026.



Thirty-two (32) continuing and new scholars attended the gathering which started with the usual lively group singing. Being the first fellowship of the school year, participants were requested to introduce themselves with the goal of encouraging them to talk and interact with each other, share a thought, and feel that it is a group in which they can be comfortable and protected.

Scholars hold first fellowship for SY2026-2027



Mrs. Lily Torrente, UCMPI Board of Trustees and Working Committee member, facilitated the fellowship, with the assistance of Foundation staff and TRACE scholars Sunshine Quillao (graduated in 2025, Bachelor of Science in Accountancy, and now a Certified Public Accountant) and Anjaneth Nazareno (who will graduate in August 2026, Bachelor of Science in Psychology).



LACE learners on the increase

The Literacy and Accreditation for Continuing Education (LACE) program continues to support Alternative Learning System (ALS) implementation in San Antonio National High School, Makati City, and F.Serrano Sr. Elementary School, Parañaque City. Total enrolled learners for SY 2026-2027 in the two schools is 35 with more expected as enrolment continues.



Makati



Parañaque

Testimony

A TRACE scholar, Yanel Lago, finished her Bachelor of Science in Nursing course at Far Eastern University in July 2026. She was a GEESE scholar from 2018 to 2022 and a TRACE scholar from 2022 to 2026. She sent the Foundation a testimonial expressing her appreciation of the role UCMFPI played in her pursuit to complete her college education. This is her statement.



It has been 8 years since I joined UCMFPI and, looking back, I can truly say that becoming a UCMFPI scholar was one of the biggest blessings God has given me.

I started my journey with the Union Church of Manila Philippines Foundation, Inc. (UCMFPI) when I was in Grade 8 as a GEESE scholar, and from then on, UCMFPI became a huge part of my educational journey.

When I entered college, I was blessed to continue my scholarship as a TRACE scholar. Now that I have finally graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Far Eastern University, I can proudly say that this achievement would not have been possible without UCMFPI and the people behind it.

Naging malaking tulong sa akin ang monthly allowance na natatanggap ko [The monthly allowance that I received became a big help to me] because it helped lessen the financial burden of my family. But more than that, UCMFPI also invested in who I am as a person. Through our monthly Bible studies, I learned to trust God's plans, keep my faith strong, and always remember that success is more meaningful when it is used to serve others. As I continued my nursing journey then attending bible studies, mas naging malinaw sa akin na ang [it became clearer to me that] nursing is one way I can extend God's love by caring for people, especially those who are vulnerable and in need. The Foundation helped shape not only my education but also my purpose.

To my generous sponsors, thank you so much for believing in me and investing in my future. Kahit hindi ko man po kayo laging nakikita, [even if I don't see you often], your kindness has changed my life in ways words cannot fully express. Because of your generosity, I was able to continue pursuing my nursing school without giving up despite the challenges. I hope that one day, I can also be a blessing to others the same way you have been a blessing to me. I also want to thank the amazing

people of UCMFPI who became more than mentors—they became my second family throughout this journey.

To Ma'am Rangel, thank you for always being one-call away whenever I needed guidance. Thank you for patiently listening and reminding me that I can always ask for help whenever things become overwhelming. To Ma'am Lolit, thank you for continuously reminding me of my responsibilities as a scholar. Your guidance helped me stay grounded and disciplined, and strive to always do my best. To Ma'am Nadine, thank you for your constant encouragement, comforting words, and valuable advice. You always made me feel supported, whenever I attended scholar gatherings. To Ma'am Lily, thank you for leading the Bible studies and helping me grow closer to God. Through you, I learned that faith should always be at the center of everything we do. And to our beloved Ma'am Cora, thank you for your prayers, guidance, and wisdom. Although you are no longer with us, your love and care remain in my heart. I will always be grateful for the encouragement you shared with me, and I know that a part of who I am today was shaped by your kindness.

As I begin a new chapter, I carry with me everything that UCMFPI has taught me—not just academically, but personally and spiritually. This diploma is not only a reflection of my hard work, but also of the love, support, prayers, and generosity of everyone who believed in me.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you UCMFPI, my sponsors, and everyone who became part of my journey. This achievement is as much yours as it is mine. I pray that as I enter the nursing profession, I will be able to give back by serving others with compassion and I hope to become the kind of person that your generosity has inspired me to be. Maraming salamat po for believing in me, praying for me, and helping me become the person I am today. I will forever be grateful and proud to be a UCMFPI scholar.

Do visit our website www.ucmphilfoundation.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.