



THE UCMPFI NEWSLETTER

VOL. 11 ISSUE NO. 1 | JANUARY 2023

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE UCM PHILIPPINES FOUNDATION, INC.

As this new year begins, let us keep in mind what the Lord requires of us:

*To act justly and to love mercy and
to walk humbly with our God*

Micah 6:8

Back to Christmas parties

After two long years of not seeing each other, the CENEP children finally got to celebrate with their classmates and teachers for the best reason—the birthday of Jesus Christ. Christmas parties were held at the three CENEP sites on December 16, 2022. The children played, ate, performed, and received gifts.



CENEP MANDALUYONG



CENEP CAINTA



CENEP PROJECT 8

Among the gifts they received with gladness and gratitude were donations of the Cornerstone Learning and Playcare Center.



Exercising their fiduciary role

The Foundation's Board of Trustees met on December 18, 2022 to discuss updates on the Foundation's activities and follow-up on concerns presented in previous meetings. We are pleased to note that the organization is financially sound and concerns are being capably addressed.



Learning in fellowship

Twenty-seven of our scholars attended the Youth Fellowship held at the Union Church of Manila on January 7, 2023. Trustee Lily Torrente presented discussion topics among the scholars about their experiences during the pandemic and the life lessons they learned. She reviewed and explained the 4 Spiritual Laws in greater depth.



Know Your Scholar: Alexandra Faith Lasola

TRACE scholar Alexandra, is on her first year at the University of Makati taking up B.S. Pharmacy. Here is the beginning of her journey in this new phase of her life.

The University of Makati is known for its academic excellence, especially in the field of pharmacy. Through the years, the school's passing rate in the pharmacy board exam has been 90% and above. As a heron pharmacist, I can attest to the school's genuine efforts to nurture its students to become competent future pharmacists.

When I was applying at the school, I was both surprised and nervous when I learned that there would be an entrance exam, especially since we were still in the midst of a pandemic. Fortunately, I passed the exam, and was offered my second-choice course, which is pharmacy. At first, I was hesitant since I really wanted to pursue my first choice, and all the more when I learned that we would have to take another exam and be interviewed by the professors. But I gave it a try.

To be honest, I did not expect that I would enjoy this course as I learned more about it. Although this course is, as they describe, a little more difficult than the other medical allied courses in the University, I enjoy learning despite the rigor that I am experiencing. It tests my capability to manage my time and review effectively, improve my skills, think under pressure, and more. Having been a freshman in the university for just about 5 months, I have experienced many things. I experienced enrolling by myself, feeling a little proud of myself as I had not done it before. Moreover, I became part of the student council as a member of the finance committee.

It has been challenging. I have gone through three quizzes in a week, with no time to review for them; doing task after task; meeting with the student council; conducting events; and experiencing many sleepless nights. In those five months, there are times when I have doubted and asked myself if I can really go through with this.

However, I realize that these are all part of my growth and are necessary to hone my skills and prepare me for the future. It gives me strength and courage to keep moving forward, no matter what happens. And, being part of the UCMPhi Foundation, I can say that I am blessed. I am grateful that I can still attend the bible study every Saturday as I consider this my time to unwind. In addition, the bible study serves as my reminder that God is always there for us. And I am grateful that God is using the Foundation to be a blessing to me, as well as to my co-scholars, not only by supporting us financially, but also in helping us have a deeper relationship with God. And knowing that God is here to guide me through my entire college journey through people like those in the Foundation, I believe and trust that I can make it.



Do visit our website www.ucmphifoundation.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 info@ucmphifoundation.org.