



FILIPINAZ



ZONTA

CLUB OF
MAKATI & ENVIRONS

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

Celebrating
47 years
with

ZONTA

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ZONTA CLUB OF MAKATI AND ENVIRONS

Zonta International is a leading global organization of close to 30,000 professionals and executives empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. Founded in 1919, Zontians from across the globe volunteer their time, talents and resources to support local and international service projects, aimed at fulfilling Zonta's mission, which consists of the following:

1. To improve the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women at the global and local level through service and advocacy;
2. To work for the advancement of understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of members;
3. To promote justice and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; and
4. To be united internationally to foster high ethical standards, to implement service programs, and to provide mutual support and fellowship for members who serve their communities, their nations and the world

Over 47 years ago, on April 26, 1971, former Zonta International President Leota Pekrul, with the help of Manila I Zontian Annie Ferrazini organized the Zonta Club of Makati and Environs Foundation, Inc. to spread these initiatives to the Philippines. That initial group of 22 members has since grown to over 60, all of whom continue to tirelessly work together to fulfill the original Zonta objectives.

The club was incorporated as a nonstock, nonprofit foundation in June 1983, and received its accreditation as a Donee Institution from the Philippine Council for NGO Certification on October 4, 2004 following its compliance with the latter's stringent requirements. This means that donors can deduct in full their contributions to the club from their taxable income.

At present, Zonta Club of Makati in the biennium 2018-2020, is currently under the leadership of Club President Maritess Pineda.

picture

SOCIAL WORK

The Zonta Club of Makati and Environs had been serving the depressed communities of barrios Carmona, Pitogo, Pinagkaisahan, Guadalupe Nuevo, and East Rembo in Makati through the establishment of community centers, housing projects, scholarship funds, and programs for therapy, training, and feeding.



Community centers

From 1979 to 1998, the club operated a Multi-Purpose Community Center in Pitogo, Makati. The center offered disadvantaged women a variety of services, including free medical and dental services rendered by volunteer doctors and nurses, food vending for livelihood, family-planning, free legal advice, adult literacy programs, and more. Some other highlights from the first center were the pre-school for malnourished children aged four to six, where they were fed nutritious meals. There was also a public laundry facility and a lying-in facility where pregnant mothers could deliver their babies.

The Club's second center in East Rembo, meanwhile, was dedicated to skills training in high-speed sewing and embroidery machines as a livelihood project for the disadvantaged women in the community. Many of the above-mentioned services, particularly the medical-dental program, and the preschool for children, are now being undertaken in the club's "Center for Women Empowerment," a two-story building at the Centennial Village of Fort Bonifacio, Taguig that houses over 700 poor families. The Center has been the venue of breast-cancer awareness seminars with free breast examinations for women by specialists led by well-known breast surgeon Dr. Diana Cua and staff of the East Avenue Medical Center. This service was likewise offered in a medical mission in San Pablo City in Laguna, and in other medical missions outside of Metro Manila.

Housing aid

The club partnered with Gawad Kalinga for the construction of 40 low-cost houses in Taguig. It also partnered with the ABS-CBN Foundation under its BayaniJuan project, to relocate families living under the bridges of Metro Manila by the Pasig River to Calauan, Laguna.

Education aid

Since 2009, the club has partnered with Unilever Corp., the Dept. of Social Welfare & Development (DSWD), Woman Today, and the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) in providing scholarships for young women in various engineering courses under the Empowering Women Scholarship Program (EWSP). All of the program's past scholars subsequently passed the Board examinations and are presently employed.

Feeding programs

Zonta Makati has taken big leaps by using an empowering-women initiative to join the fight against malnutrition. The club's vehicle for such a move is its Health, Nutrition and Hygiene Program (HNH). It is structured and aligned to a nationwide feeding program implemented in marginalized communities in many provinces and in all regions of our country beginning with the Makati and Taguig communities the club serves. As a multi-sectoral partnership of the private sector with government, its center of activity for the distribution of donated resources is the Zonta Center for Women empowerment building in Taguig.



Skills and livelihood training

In 2003, the mothers from the club's preschool formed the Kababaihan Livelihood Program. They were generally high-school graduates with no further schooling, and wives of low-ranking military men, solely dependent on their husband's income. Initially, they simply attended the Cenacle and First-Friday Masses for their spiritual development but have since kept themselves busy with projects both to occupy their time and undertake work that could augment their family income. Together with TESDA, they provide skills development through livelihood training (e.g. Food processing, handicrafts, Massage Therapy, etc.). A livelihood program in the Center also trained women to sew maids' uniforms, pillowcases, kneeler pillows, and tissue holders. Other livelihood-training seminars such as on Reflexology, food preservation and processing, were also conducted to give the disadvantaged women in the community an opportunity to have their own microbusiness. To this end, a micro-credit program was established and is supported by TESDA alumnae.

Therapy for abused girls

To address ZISVAW (Zonta International Strategies Against Violence Against Women), the club has been working with the Department of Social Welfare and Development for the last 18 years. At the club's Marillac Hills Psychological Center for Sexually Abused Girls in Muntinlupa, traumatized girls aged 6 to 17 are housed and given psychotherapy sessions for as long as they need it. The project was started by past president Beng Puyat, but has been headed by Joanne Zapanta Andrada for the last 18 years.

Almost all the girls had been sexually abused, while some had been physically battered. Some Zontians and their friends volunteer their time and talents, giving the Marillac girls art and dance therapy sessions to help heal their trauma. Some of the club's past presidents had been at the forefront pushing for the passage of legislation against the trafficking of persons, resulting in R.A. 9202, as well as the Anti-Violence Against Women & their Children law (R.A. 9262). To date, the Center has helped over 4,500 children.

CLUB ACHIEVEMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

At the beginning of biennium 2012-2014, president Corazon J. Tan revisited the core mission of Zonta—the empowerment of women. During her term, she lined up projects to train women for livelihood skills, to instill awareness of their rights, and to make them a force that will improve the status of women in the community. It is through these efforts that the club has continued to receive recognition.

picture

Club awards

Zonta Club of Makati was named “Most Outstanding Club” at several district conferences in the past few years. For the club’s outstanding performance in achieving the Governor’s biennium goals, which included chartering a new club and two Golden Z clubs, it was named “Most Outstanding Club of District 17” at the District Conference in Aug. 2011. This was in addition to its being named outstanding club for its 20% increase in members from 2010-2011. Then president Carol Llanillo received a harvest of awards. Past club president Angelina “Chona” Lopez, who was Area 5 Director in 2010-2012, was recognized for her leadership of Area 5 by its being named “Most Outstanding Area.” At the District Conference in Hong Kong in Sept. 2013, the club, under the leadership of Cora J. Tan, was also named “Most Outstanding Club” for its service projects and for its website. In addition, the DSWD has awarded the Zonta Club of Makati & Environs national citations for the past 18 years, recognizing its special advocacy as the longest running NGO-based project in the institution.

The Zonta Club of Makati and Environs Foundation, Inc. is justifiably proud of its members who have gone up the leadership ladder of Zonta International: Olivia A. Ferry, International President (2006-2008), and International Nominating Committee Chair (2008-2010), ZI Foundation Director (2004-2008); Erlinda T. Villanueva, Vice-president (1984-86), ZI Foundation Director (1986-88), and Member of the International Nominating Committee (1992-94); Erlinda E. Panlilio, International PR & Communications Chair (2006-2008) and Member, Centennial Anniversary Committee (2018-2020); Georgitta P. Puyat, District 17 Governor (2010-2012).

7-YEAR OLD ESPERANZA WAS RESCUED FROM A CYBER PORN SYNDICATE IN A VISAYAN-PROVINCE. THE SYNDICATE ASKED HER TO PERFORM SEX ACTS IN FRONT OF A CAMERA THAT WAS STREAMING THE LIVE FEED TO THOUSANDS OF PAYING VIEWERS AROUND THE WORLD. ESPERANZA HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO COMPLY. EVEN AT A YOUNG AGE, SHE SENSED THAT WHAT SHE WAS DOING WAS NOT RIGHT. BUT HOW COULD SHE SAY NO? HER AUNT, GRANDMOTHER AND THEIR COMMUNITY LEADER WERE PART OF THE SYNDICATE. HER GRANDMOTHER WAS IN CHARGE OF TAKING THE VIDEOS.*

14-YEAR OLD MELANIE WAS RESCUED FROM A BAR IN CAVITE. SHE HAD BEEN WORKING IN THIS ESTABLISHMENT FOR OVER A YEAR. SHE HAD NO QUALMS ABOUT HER OCCUPATION AS IT BROUGHT MUCH-NEEDED INCOME FOR HER FAMILY. DESPITE BEING A MINOR, SHE WAS COUNTED ON AS THE SOLE BREADWINNER OF THE FAMILY. HER GREATEST WORRY NOW IS THAT WITHOUT HER INCOME, HER FAMILY WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME SURVIVING.*

BREAKING THE



18-YEAR OLD TRICIA WAS RAPED BY HER MOTHER'S LIVE-IN PARTNER FOR SEVERAL YEARS. HER SENSE OF SELF-WORTH HAS ERODED CONSIDERABLY. SHE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY HER MOTHER DID NOT COME TO HER RESCUE WHEN INFORMED ABOUT THE ABUSE. INSTEAD OF HELPING HER, HER MOTHER ACCUSED HER OF BEING MORALLY LOOSE AND HAS NOW DISOWNED HER. TRICIA'S RAPIST HAS SINCE BEEN INCARCERATED PENDING TRIAL. *

ESPERANZA, MELANIE AND TRICIA ARE ALL RECIPIENTS OF THE VARIOUS SERVICES OF ZCME 'S PSYCHOLOGICAL CENTER. ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE GONE THROUGH GREAT SUFFERING AND ABUSE, THEY ARE NOW HOPEFUL OF THEIR FUTURE AND NO LONGER LOOK AT THEMSELVES AS VICTIMS.

CYCLE OF ABUSE



ZCME Psychological Center is Zonta Club of Makati & Environs' longest running project. Established in 1997 (21 years ago), the psychological centre has provided continuous psychological care for raped, sexually abused, trafficked girls as well as children who have been involved in sexual commerce and are in conflict with the law.

The centre's clients are all temporary residents of Marillac Hills, a government institution that has functioned as a haven for sexually-abused/raped/trafficked children in the entire Philippines. At any given time about 200- 300+ children are placed in Marillac Hills as wards of the state while their cases are pending in court. An overwhelming number of these children are depressed and all have experienced trauma.

In recognition of ZCME's services, the Department of Social Welfare and Development has awarded the club with national citations for the past 18 years and has recognized the advocacy as the longest running NGO-based project in the institution.

The psychological center has a staff of 2 full time psychological therapists and a host of volunteers and has through the years, provided the following services:

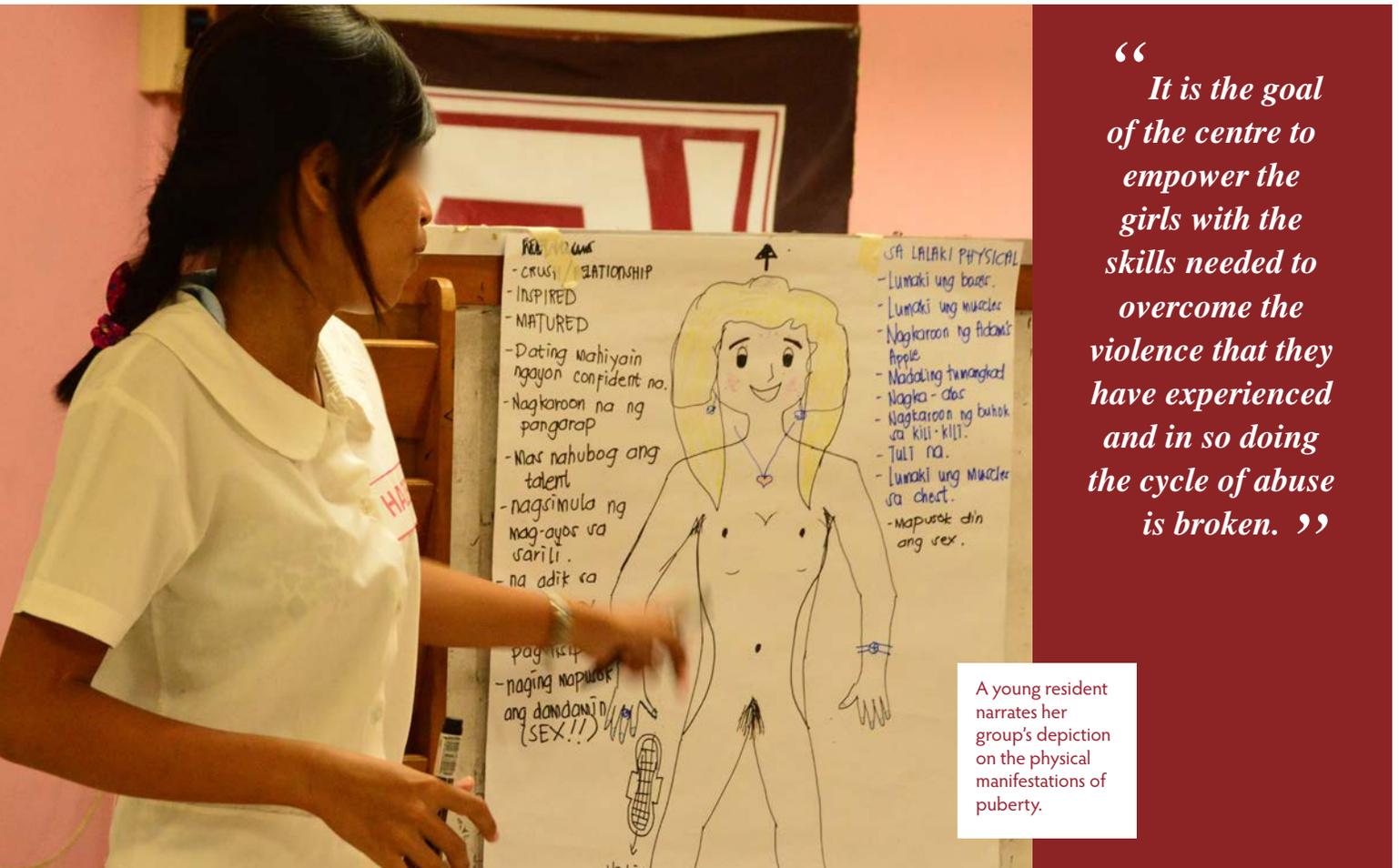
- Group and individual psychological therapy.
- Family counseling for relatives of the children.
- Interview and formation of statements to be used in the legal forum in order to effectively prosecute the perpetrators.
- Coordination and facilitation of Art as Healing sessions
- Coordination and facilitation of Performing Arts Workshops (Dance, Vocals, Theater)
- Coordination and facilitation of Cultural Field Trips (Museums, Theater and Ballet)
- Coordination of English and Math tutoring (group and individual with volunteers as tutors)
- Coordination and partial facilitation of Workshops on Sexual Health, Children and Women's Rights.
- Coordination with psychiatrists for children with serious psychological issues.

In 2018, with the purpose of helping some of the older children establish a means of living independently, the club funded 20 scholars from Marillac Hills to undergo TESDA-accredited training in Good Housekeeping NC-II. The graduates who were eligible for employment were assisted in finding jobs and are presently working in 5-star hotels.

It is the mission of ZCME's Psychological Centre to give the best psychological/emotional care possible in order to address the various traumas and issues that are faced by the children. ZCME believes that it is possible to mitigate the effects of violence against these young women and dares to believe that with proper care and commitment, the children may come out of their circumstances, stronger and more resilient.

It is the goal of the centre to empower the girls with the skills needed to overcome the violence that they have experienced and in so doing the cycle of abuse is broken.

** The stories illustrated are an amalgamation of cases retold to ZCME Psychological Center by some of the girls of Marillac Hills. Names have been changed to protect their identities.*



“ It is the goal of the centre to empower the girls with the skills needed to overcome the violence that they have experienced and in so doing the cycle of abuse is broken. ”

A young resident narrates her group's depiction on the physical manifestations of puberty.



AMONG THE CENTER'S SERVICES IS THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EDUCATION. ZCME'S PSYCHOLOGICAL CENTER PARTNERED WITH S.A.M.P.I. (SOCIETY OF ADOLESCENT MEDICINE OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.) IN CREATING A 3-DAY WORKSHOP THAT DISCUSSED SUCH TOPICS AS REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, HIV AWARENESS, EARLY PREGNANCY AND EARLY MARRIAGE ISSUES.

The Center created a small library for the children of Marillac Hills. The library was made possible by donations from the club and from residents of the nearby villages.



CHAMPIONING WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION:

EWSP

It is common knowledge that education should be a right for all citizens, but the sad reality in a developing country like ours is that many of our countrymen see it as a privilege only attainable if one has the means.

A tertiary science education is an even further-off dream if you don't have the financial stability to back it up. And as a woman, there's also the added layer of society's norms that dictate gendered career paths.

Zonta Club of Makati & Environs established the Empowering Women Scholarship Program (EWSP) in 2009 with those concerns in mind. We've stressed time and time again that one of our thrusts is to improve the educational status of women through service and advocacy, and so each year we commit to sponsor the education of a batch of bright young women from marginalized families. The chosen girls are enrolled in science and engineering courses at our partner institution, the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), where they enjoy financial assistance as well as mentoring and exposure to activities and seminars outside academics.

As a multi-sectoral program, EWSP draws support from Unilever, the Department of Social Welfare & Development (DSWD), the Sta. Elena Construction Company (courtesy of Ms. Alice Eduardo), and donations from private individuals and Zonta members.



THE FIRST TEN (10) EWSP SCHOLARS MET THE SPOUSES OF THE HEADS OF MISSION (SHOM) AND ZONTA MEMBERS DURING THE UNITED NATIONS DAY CELEBRATION ON OCTOBER 25, 2009.

EWSP SCHOLARS WITH VICKY WIENEKE, EWSP CHAIR; CLUB PRESIDENT 2008-2010 OLGA SEVERINO MARTEL AND CRISTINA BELTON.

Unilever Philippines
Zonta Makati and Environs Foundation, Inc.
Polytechnic University of the Philippines
present
**EMPOWERING WOMEN
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (EWSP)**
in partnership with:
DSWD-NCR and Solar Publishing-Woman Today



SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR THE EMPOWERING WOMEN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME (EWSP) BY THE FIVE PARTNERS ON MAY 6, 2009 DURING THE PRESIDENCY OF OLGA SEVERINO MARTEL (2008 - 2010)

SEATED L - R: ANGELICA DALUPAN FOR UNILEVER, OLGA SEVERINO MARTEL FOR THE ZONTA CLUB OF MAKATI & ENVIRONS, THELSA BIOLENA FOR DSWD NCR, MONICA AVEO FOR SOLAR PUBLISHING/WOMAN TODAY AND VICTORIA NAVAL FOR POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES REPRESENTED BY DEAN MUHI OF PUP.



CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH EWSP SCHOLARS AT THE ZCME COMMUNITY CENTER

SCHOLARS WITH ZONTIANS JENNY LEVISTE, OLGA SEVERINO MARTEL, VICKY WIENEKE, CAROL LLANILLO, MELANIE DE LEON AND MITA RUFINO

Here are some of the stories of our current and former scholars.

HIROMI KAMADA

Take it from Hiromi Kamada, a Laguna-based Industrial Engineer from our first batch of scholars for the school year 2009-2010. Hiromi originally dreamt of becoming a doctor but was limited by her family's financial situation. After seeing her mother come home sick from a late evening of working at a garment factory, she made an important decision to switch to engineering. She shares, "I then believed and realized that practically speaking, to help my mom, I need to choose a career path or course that puts food on the table (immediately right after graduating from college) so I would be able to give [her] the life she deserves and the things she never experienced having."

Eventually, Hiromi entered PUP to major in Industrial Engineering. "I remember telling my mom that I was accepted in the course and that it will not be easy because I hate numbers, but she hugged and kissed me and told me that she trusts me, and that I could do all things because God is with me," she recalls. The road to her degree wasn't without challenges, as her mother lost her job in 2008, leaving Hiromi with no choice but to become a working student and depend on a good Samaritan for her daily food allowance. It was her IE Chairperson who introduced her to EWSP, where she got financial support for all school expenses, including tuition, books, and other miscellaneous expenses. Now, Hiromi is busy completing her Master's

Degree in Business Management at the University of the Philippines while working as a Supply Planner at Unilab (where she was awarded as one of the Top Outstanding Performers for the year 2017). And on a personal note, her mom's house is close to completion and Hiromi herself is planning to start a family soon.

"... to improve the educational status of women through service and advocacy..."



RACHEL MACALE

Another outstanding beneficiary is Rachel Macale, who even refers to herself as a “last-minute scholar”. Rachel was a member of the EWSP 2010-2011 batch, which had 17 beneficiaries instead of the usual 10. As the eldest among her siblings, Rachel would help her parents sell seafood at the market from Grade 5 until college. A regular day for her consisted of going to school, helping out at the market, and then going home to do her homework. “There were days which I wished I was born to a different family—so I would be able to join sleepovers or annual field trips, but I realized now, I wouldn’t exchange it for anything in the world. It helped me be the resilient and persevering person I am today.”



MICHELLE ANNE TABIRAO

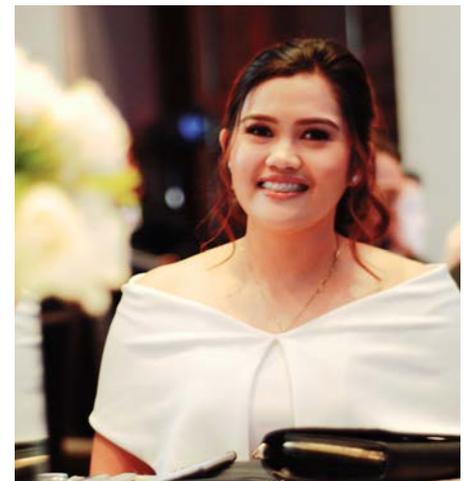
Perhaps the most inspiring story comes from 2014 Computer Engineering graduate Michelle Anne Tabirao. Michelle spent her childhood in an isolated barrio in the island of Catanduanes, where her parents supported their family by running a small store. After receiving the news that she was admitted to PUP, she left her island home for the first time in her life to pursue her degree. From there she was accepted as an EWSP scholar and actively participated in our workshops.

Michelle pursued her advocacy for open source technology and innovation even after graduating by joining 8 Layer Inc., a software design company. “Because of my immersion and responsibilities in my work, I feel inspired to learn more and gain wisdom so I can give and share more with the community,” she shares. As of the moment, she is completing her graduate thesis under the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD)

in Digital Communication Leadership (DCLead), made possible through a scholarship from the European Union. She was selected out of over a hundred applicants, and is now enjoying an all-expenses paid scholarship to the University of Salzburg in Austria, and will be heading to Aalborg University in Copenhagen and Free University of Brussels to finish the rest of the graduate degree program.

Michelle looks back on the past nine years with fondness, as she shares that all of these opportunities wouldn’t have presented themselves if not for EWSP and the mentoring of project head Vicky Wieneke. “With some spice of courage and bravery, a ‘probinsyana girl’ was able to explore the world full of gratitude,” she says. “It all started with my passion to do something with a purpose. Something that is bigger than me that explores topics that can impact the society through the holistic approach of tackling technology, advocacy, and policy. In this way, I was able to value and respect others, and at the same time, look at more sustainable solutions using innovation.”

Rachel entered PUP to study Industrial Engineering, with the goal to work at Unilever one day (“I even remember printing out its logo and posting it in my vision board for 2011”). She is now in her seventh year working for Unilever’s Supply Chain department as Customer Service Modern Trade Assistant Manager. She credits the EWSP program and Unilever for all the opportunities, as she is now helping her youngest brother finish college in a private school and will soon be transferring to a small house from their tiny apartment.



ROCHELLE GICARO

EWSP Batch 2013-2014 scholar Rochelle Gicaro lost her father to cancer at the age of four. The unexpected loss forced her mother to raise a brood of four young children all by herself – a feat that wasn't easy for the Laguna-based family.

Though Rochelle confesses that she was not aware of the hardships her mother was going through at the time, a recent conversation between them was telling of how difficult it really was. “[I found out] that it crossed her mind a few times to just leave and be with dad,” says Rochelle. “But she imagined what me and my siblings would become if she left us, and she couldn't take that.”

Rochelle and her siblings figured that the only way that they could return all the sacrifices their mother made for them was to study hard, graduate, and get a good job. And since Rochelle earned consistent honors and graduated as the salutatorian of her class, she was accepted into the BS Chemistry program at PUP, which she completed with the aid from the EWSP.

After graduation, she became a Quality Assurance analyst at Universal Robina Corporation, and went on to become the Science Laboratory head at St. Paul College of Pasig. She is currently balancing that job as she tries to finish her master's degree at the Ateneo De Manila University.

Rochelle owes it all to her mother and EWSP. “Now, all four of us already have our college degree and we couldn't be more thankful for our mother. We did all of this for her, her happiness seeing us now reaching our dreams is priceless.”

KRISTINE PEREZ

Unlike other graduates, EWSP Batch 2012-2013 scholar Kristine Perez's situation was slightly better, owing to the financial support she got from her OFW aunt. Despite this, Kristine (the second eldest in a family of 11 children), found it difficult to ask for money for project requirements and other miscellaneous school fees, as she knew her parents already had their plates full trying to cover the tuition of her other siblings.

Things eased up when PUP's Mechanical Engineering Department Head, Engr. Edwin C. Esperanza, recommended that she apply to EWSP. Kristine shares that while the scholarship was of great help financially, it also helped her grow as a person, saying that “[it] also afforded me time to bond and share experiences with my fellow scholars from other courses (through Zonta-organized activities); time, I would otherwise have spent trying to find the money I needed.”

At present, Kristine is now an Assistant Technical Manager at a company that she loves, but she is hoping to soon become a recognized Professional Mechanical Engineer “whose signature is sought out for designs, and whose expert opinion is valued.” She continues to work hard to sponsor the education of her younger siblings.

“... reaching our dreams is priceless.”

EWSP TODAY

Hiromi, Rachel, Rochelle, Michelle, and Kristine are just some examples of girls who, given the means, were able to unleash their full potential. Almost a decade after its establishment, approximately 150 students have graduated from our program, passed the Board Licensure exams, and are now employed or pursuing further studies. As a result, many of them have significantly levelled up their family's financial situation. At present, the EWSP program has a total of 17 beneficiaries taking up their fifth and last year of Industrial, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineering. These girls will be included in the 100 scholars committed by the club for the area project to support 100 scholars for the centennial year.



THE BRAVO AWARDS

The Bravo Awards is a search for eight empowered women in different fields of endeavor who, through their outstanding achievements and body of work, have demonstrated unwavering commitment to leadership and service that have empowered not just themselves but others. Launched in 2014, the second search for BRAVO awardees culminated in the awarding of 8 outstanding women in the fields of Education; Business; Science and Technology; Sports; Arts, Culture and Heritage; Social Services; Culinary Arts; and Media and Public Affairs, on August 16, 2017. A special award was also given to an individual whose lifetime of humanitarian work benefited community and society.



The selection of BRAVO awardees for 2017 involved an intense national search that extended from the National Capital Region to the various regions of the Philippines, with the help of provincial units of Security Bank and sister clubs of the Zonta Club of Makati and Environs Foundation, Inc.. The rigorous evaluation, interview and selection process was conducted by five members of the Board of Judges that included Ms. Marife Zamora, Chair of Convergys and President of Management Association of the Philippines as Chairman, and her members: Dr. Esperanza Cabral, cardiologist and former Secretary of the Department of Health; Dr. Jikyeong Kang, President of the Asian Institute of Management; Ms. Emily Abrera, former CEO and President of McCann Erickson Advertising Agency, and director of several companies including BPI and Splash Corporation; and Ms. Elisa Flores, a Judge at the Regional Trial Court in Muntinlupa.

The Awardees for 2017

ELSIE ROMANO

Awardee for Education

Ms. Elsie Maria Romano is Division Head of Early Childhood Care and Development Division Office of LGU-Naga, and is an expert in the Montessori learning approach. She shares the vision of the late DILG Secretary Jesse M. Robredo--that investing and making innovations in education have long-term implications and always yield positive results. The innovative move totally changed the concept of daycare – from a place to leave kids to play and socialize, to a place where they can learn and have fun at the same time. Thus, the term daycare was renamed to “Educare.” Ms. Romano is handling and supervising 76 Educare Centers, six “Teachers on-foot,” and 97 Pre-School Teachers all over Naga City for more than twenty years. She also organizes Marriage Enrichment Seminars for Educare teachers and battered women.

SISTER MARY PLACID ABEJO

Awardee for Arts, Culture and Heritage

Sister Mary Placid received her baccalaureate musical training at St. Scholastica’s College in Manila, and later, took her vows as a Benedictine nun. She took her Master’s and Doctorate degrees at the Michigan University at Ann Arbor. She has assumed the roles of an administrator, music teacher, adjudicator, chairman/president/board member of various organizations, moderator of alumnae association, head of fundraising activities, and committee member of government cultural organizations. She is the Retired Dean Emeritus, and was the Dean of Music at St. Scholastica’s College for the past 32 years. She introduced innovations in music education not only in St. Scholastica’s, but also taught in other schools in the country, such as the UP Conservatory of Music, and De La Salle University Graduate School.



SADHANA BUXANI

Awardee for Media

Sadhana “Nana” Buxani is a documentary photographer, filmmaker and painter whose work sheds light on pressing social issues such as child labor, children and women in difficult situations, children in detention, the

plight of homeless people, communities in war-torn regions, the indigenous peoples and their claim to ancestral domain rights, and people engaged in cooperative building.

Nana is cofounder of Tala Photo Collective, a community of women photographers from diverse social backgrounds residing all over the Philippines. Considered by many to be the most accomplished woman photojournalist in the Philippines, Nana has done work in both film and stills photography for OXFAM-UK, the International Labour Organization, particularly for the Women’s Health and Safe Motherhood Program.



YVETTE "BETSY" MEDALLA

Awardee for Sports

Yvette Medalla is one of the strongest advocates for open-water swimming, and has been the prime mover behind the growth of the sport. She's the first Asian to complete the Robben Island Channel crossing in South Africa. The swim was arranged to commemorate the life of the late Nelson Mandela, to thank the South Africans for their support after typhoon Yolanda, and to raise funds for the survivors of the calamity.

The real game changer in Philippine Open Water Swimming was the SwimJunkie Challenge that Betsy launched in Caramoan in 2015. The 7-km island-to-island swim attracted over 150 registrants, a record number of participants for any open water race. In 2016, Medalla partnered with former Olympic swimmer Akiko Thomson to launch the VIP Swim Challenge in Lobo, Batangas. The swim was created to build awareness for the Verde Island Passage and to help protect what scientists have called "the center of marine biodiversity." It is also clear that open-water swimming has the potential to be a major player in sports tourism, and serves to highlight some of the most beautiful venues around the Philippines.



SUSAN V. OPLE

Awardee for Social Service

Susan Ople is the founder of The Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute, an NGO committed to assist distressed OFWs, to promote their welfare and to fight for their rights. The Center provides assistance through

legal help, coordination with the appropriate government agency for those in need of repatriation, and for returning OFWs, reintegration services. She also sits as a member of the Department of Justice Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking, which helps government agents, private sector actors, NGOs and other civil-society actors to coordinate in order to combat modern slavery.

Susan Ople has helped in the rescue of thousands of OFWs, who were victims of human trafficking or other forms of exploitation of migrants. She also led efforts to provide training and livelihood assistance to returning OFWs for the past two years.



ZARAH JANE JUAN

Awardee for Business

Zarah Juan is an independent bag and shoe maker with an eponymous brand that brings together local artisans, weavers, and suppliers to create pieces that are a testament to the Filipino creative talent and expertise. Her beautifully embroidered bags and espadrilles incorporate the work of communities, such as the master shoemakers of Marikina, leather suppliers from her hometown in Bulacan, abaca vendors from Bicol, and the women of the T'boli and Bagobo tribes, whose embroidery makes her products stand out. 99% of the people who work with Zarah Juan are women.

SUSANA P. GUERRERO
Awardee for Culinary Arts

Apart from propagating the passion for cooking and elevating it into a noble profession through the establishment of the country's pioneer culinary-arts school, the Center for Culinary Arts (CCA, Manila), Ms. Guerrero has many meaningful contributions not only in culinary education but also in many groundbreaking advocacies on entrepreneurship, sustainable environmentalism, and corporate social responsibility on various levels. In addition to her admirable works, Guerrero's nurturing spirit has inspired the creation of the Culinary Education Foundation, the social responsibility arm of The Cravings Group that aims to bring culinary education and livelihood opportunities closer to less privileged Filipinos through scholarships and grassroots entrepreneurial short courses. She is also the President of Zero-Waste Philippines, Inc., a non-government organization with a vision of promoting ecological awareness and zero-waste lifestyle.



MARY BETH MANINGAS
Awardee for Science and Technology

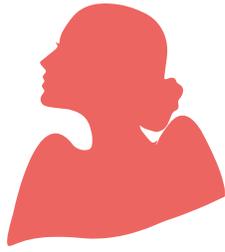
Dr. Mary Beth Maningas is one of the most prolific scientists in the Philippines and Asia, currently working on the detection of disease-causing microorganisms in aquacultured shrimps through cutting-edge and innovative molecular techniques. She was the pioneer in perfecting the technique for RNA interference (RNAi) in shrimp as part of her Ph.D. dissertation from Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology. RNAi is a new and revolutionary technology that has facilitated the understanding of previously unknown biological mechanisms, and is paving the way for various applications in diagnostics and therapeutics. This technique is now being adapted by other students and researchers in several laboratories in the country and around the world.



JESSIE LICHAUCO
Special Award for Social Service

Ms. Lichauco is a Cuban-born American who has resided in the Philippines since 1930. She was granted Philippine citizenship in 2012 through Republic Act No. 10356 which was signed into law by President Benigno Aquino III, citing her for her social contributions to the country, adopting the Philippines as her home, speaking the Filipino language, and for embracing Filipino culture. Her life, her social work and support of the arts and culture of the Philippines, are captured in her life documentary produced by her granddaughter entitled, "Curiosity, Adventure and Love." She is 105 years old.

The 2017 BRAVO Search Committee was composed of Belen Lim and Celeste Gelito, Executive Vice President and Marketing Services Unit Head, Corporate Communications Department of Security Bank respectively, and Zonta members Armita Rufino, Georgitta Puyat and Angelina Lopez. The author served as Chair. The next BRAVO search will run in 2019.



FILIPINAZ

IS BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER

Under typical circumstances, shopping is merely viewed as a transaction that ends the moment you take home what you bought. It's a familiar process: you see something you like, pay for it, take it home, and eventually use it for whatever purpose it serves.

What a shopping event doesn't do is invite you to think beyond that transaction. FilipinaZ hopes to expand your idea of the typical holiday bazaar with this year's fair. As the only bazaar created for and by women, FilipinaZ is a platform that empowers women to shine and show their true potential.

The fair is meant to be an avenue for self-expression, connection, and collaboration, no matter your background. FilipinaZ nurtures a supportive atmosphere for men and women alike because there is nothing more powerful than for everyone to come together and support each other, engage in open conversation, and listen to each other's voices for social transformation.

Despite the differences in age, gender, cultural background, career, or religion, we find a common ground through learning who the Filipina is: she is strong, multi-faceted, tenacious, artistic and most importantly, she empowers all. We share HERstory as she creates a positive and lasting change in the world.

From Nov. 9 to 11, visit the 8 Rockwell Penthouse to find a well-curated mix of mid-range to high-end items in the realm of jewelry, fashion, and art pieces from established names in their respective industries, along with other up-and-coming artists, artisans, and small entrepreneurs.

Expect to see pieces by over 80 exhibitors from various design-oriented industries, including ADNTÈ by Adante Leyesa, Jor-el Espina, Rhett Eala, Anna Macopa, Zarah Juan, Charming Baldemor, Joanique, Cole Vintage, Coco & Tres, KuwintaS, Les Nereides Paris, and more. There will also be a FilipinaZ gift shop where you can discover other well-made pieces for the home as well as beauty products.

One of the main highlights of this year's FilipinaZ is a special setting on the Philippines' first National Artist for Fashion, Ramon Valera. Together with the Valera family, this fashion vignette will showcase Valera's creations that truly celebrated who the Filipina is. It will also serve as a platform to reveal the relaunch of the House of Valera brand.

FilipinaZ aims to enlighten guests on Philippine culture and share HERstory as a means to create positive change in the world. All proceeds support the woman-empowering projects of the Zonta Club of Makati, including our Empowering Women Scholarship Program, the Psychological Center for Sexually Abused Children, as well as other health missions.

By showcasing our livelihood projects and supporting we encourage shoppers to leave the venue inspired to take action and at the very least, feel empowered enough to empower other women through their experience interacting with talented designers and artists.

picture

We're sharing HERstory
as she creates a positive
and lasting change
in the world.

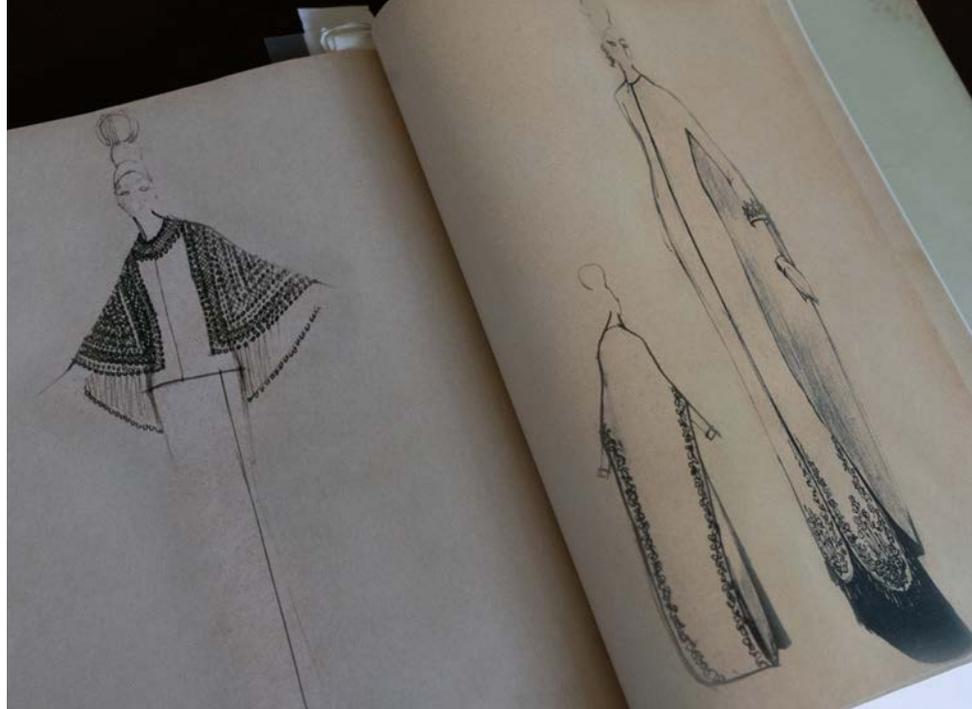
picture

picture

VALERA UNEAR



UN



Celebrating the Filipina through a tribute of Ramon Valera's works

Ramon Valera's legacy lives on in his notable works that celebrate the Filipino woman. As the Philippines' first National Artist for Fashion Design, his creations and significant contributions to the modernization of the Filipino national dress, will take center stage in a special setting at this year's FilipinaZ, called "Valera Unearthed." Presented by Zonta Club of Makati and Environs together with Security Bank, this fashion vignette will feature some of Valera's finest creations as well as pieces belonging to some of the club's members and their friends, which have never been publicly showcased.

A celebration of womanhood, "Valera Unearthed" aims to give life and pay tribute to the FilipinaZ as a fashion icon then and now, which is greatly as reflected in the late designer's creations. Designed to be an immersive experience, the vignette will recreate Valera's workspace—revealing stories, beautiful creations, and creative processes of the late designer. At a time when everything was done painstakingly by hand, Valera's elegant and timeless creations were fueled by passion, incredible intricacy, while greatly showcasing the exceptional craftsmanship that went into each of his beautifully handmade Filipiniana dresses.

"Valera Unearthed" will also serve as a platform for the relaunch of the Valera brand as the late designer's family unveils a new line of pieces that continues Valera's legacy of craftsmanship and artistry.

Take this opportunity to discover up close Valera's contributions to the fashion, design, and arts industries that merited him the National Artist medal—the highest accolade given to a Filipino whose vision, artistry, and craftsmanship continues to transcend time.

THE FILIPINAZ LOGO THROUGH THE YEARS



2014

In 2014, the poster included elements from a painting by contemporary painter Joy Mallari and sketched by Billie Cowper. It was inspired by traditional Filipiniana fashion of the Spanish period. The painting was also sold at the fair as prints.



2015

Sculptor (and Zontian) Charming Baldemor created the base sketch for an eight-foot tall sculpture of a woman dancing, which was then colored by Patricia David. The finished product was a collaboration between the two artists, along with crochet artist Aze Ong and Christine Sioco.

Since 2014, the FilipinaZ bazaar has aimed to engage in a truly nurturing community that celebrates women and supports important causes through interacting with talented designers and artists. Following this tradition, we have teamed up with Filipina artists and designers over the years to create our poster icon.



2016

2016's FilipinaZ icon continued to build on the silhouette of a woman in traditional Filipiniana attire, but decided to go further into our indigenous routes, making use of texture, with each pattern on the dress representing the tribes of different regions of the Philippines.



2017

The original sketch by Billie Cowper was then used again for FilipinaZ 2017, this time with a more modern design of a woman elegantly standing on the side.

Empowering Filipinas since 2014.

At one point in time, we all had a bag— the bag— that helped us feel complete whether it was a delicate clutch, a trusty leather tote, or a durable outdoor backpack. The bags that I create and devote time to have their own story to tell, and it is my hope that you allow their narrative to be a part of yours. These bags go beyond being a mere accessory. Perhaps it is best to describe them as a vessel— one that carries not only the valuables you hold dear, but also one that conveys a message of hope. They hold my hopes for the future of the environment, the new generation of carvers of Paete, and the empowerment of women.

Every bag in the collection supports these advocacies that are near and dear to my heart and I, with earnest optimism, hope that you will too.

- Charming Baldemor





FilipinaZ is an event that aims to recognize and empower the women who are trailblazers in the fields of fashion, art, and jewelry-making. Hosted annually by the Zonta Club of Makati and Environs as a fund-raising event, FilipinaZ allows women to create connections with fellow artists and entrepreneurs, and to showcase their creations to a wider audience. Charming joined the fair in 2014. While her exquisite pieces were warmly received by the patrons of the event, she realized that she needed creations that would convey her and the organization's advocacies to a bigger audience more effectively. She conceptualized and created something entirely new for the fair with the support and encouragement of her fellow Zontians: a collection of wearable art in the form of bags. Since its first introduction in 2015, Charming has exclusively launched the new collections of her wearable art series during the annual FilipinaZ fair. Drawing patrons who are awed by her intricately carved pieces, her work with the organization continues as she unveils new collections.





*“ If a piece of wood
can be given [a
chance at] new life,”
Charming states,
“what more in
the case of these
women? They’re
human. They have
so much potential! ”*

One of Zonta Club of Makati and Environs’ notable projects is providing various means of support for those who have been victims of abuse— both domestic and sexual. Being a part of this particular project had the most impact on Charming because of the women’s narratives. Each incident of abuse with every passing day has implanted a seed of hopelessness in these women who were often also breadwinners and mothers, and even children. This hopelessness would commonly grow

and alter their perspectives altogether, causing them to think that they no longer had a future. “If a piece of wood can be given [a chance at] new life,” Charming states, “what more in the case of these women? They’re human. They have so much potential!” Resolving to be of help to empower her fellow women to help them realize the latent strength they possess, Charming has committed to donate part of her bag collection’s profits to the programs of Zonta Makati and Environs. She

believes that being broken does not define one’s identity and that with the proper support channels, every woman can be her best independent self— most especially those who had gone through hardships such as the beneficiaries of Zonta. Any well-made designer bag can provide a woman with an additional air of confidence, but Charming Baldemor’s bags do that and more— each one is a unique art piece that also provides support and empowerment to women who need them the most.

The star of each Charming Baldemor bag is the wood used to create it. These are locally sourced upcycled wood, rescued and restored from various states of damage or decay, and selected for its robust and enduring character.

All wood used in the Studio undergo proper conditioning and treatment to ensure that the material can withstand the crafting process, after which they are given a durable finish made to endure constant use in the years to come.



EMPOWERING WOMEN

Though wood-carving is a seemingly male-dominated field of the arts, with hard work and an adept artistic vision, Charming has successfully made a name for herself not only in her hometown, but also beyond. The advocacy to empower women took on a deeper meaning through her work in the Zonta Club of Makati and Environs, an organization whose principal object is to empower women for service and advocacy. The club involves itself in numerous projects which includes support for the sexually-abused women in Marillac Hills through psychological rehabilitation in this Zonta haven. Having heard encounters with the different narratives that had befallen these unfortunate women – particularly incidents of sexual and domestic abuse – Charming appreciated how these women now view life with a degree of hopelessness and uncertainty. One with the ladies of Zonta, Charming believes that not all hope is lost for them. Thus, she resolves to continue her support for the Zonta Club of Makati and Environs and its various projects to support and empower women particularly in the Marillac Hills community.

Another notable project of the club is the Empowering Women Scholarship Program (EWSP). This initiative supports young female students who are pursuing fields that are normally dominated by men, such as in Engineering. The students who are a part of the program are enrolled in the Polytechnic University of the Philippines and are taking up a variety of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) courses toward a degree in Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, B.S. in Architecture, and B.S. in Civil Engineering. Through the scholarships, the young ladies of the project are given a chance to stand alongside their male peers in the numerous possibilities that await them in the various fields of the exact sciences. Moved by her own experience of struggling to gain recognition in a discipline where hardly any women are recognized, Charming fully supports the EWSP.

Believing strongly in these two particular causes, she has resolved to donate a part of her carved wooden bags' proceeds to support the two initiatives.

4 YEARS WITH SECURITY BANK

As advocates for women empowerment, the Zonta Club of Makati and Environs always welcomes allies willing to support its many causes and projects. This is why we are ever grateful for the support that our major sponsor, the Security Bank Corporation, has given us since we mounted the first ever FilipinaZ bazaar in 2014.

The partnership began when Security Bank (SBC) sought to create an environment where the women in their workforce would be respected and well-cared for. As women have come to occupy 61% of the senior and middle management positions, and 68% of the Bank's entire workforce, SBC began asking: how do we continue to empower women?

After starting the partnership in 2014, SBC went on to support Zonta's advocacies for the "8 Bravo Empowered Women Awards." Conceptualized in 2015, the Awards were set to be an avenue to inspire Filipino women, and lead them to create a lasting impact on Philippine society. Four years later, the partnership is still going strong with the holding of this year's FilipinaZ.