



Puso sa Puso Edukasyon, Inc.

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January – March 2016. Issue No. 7

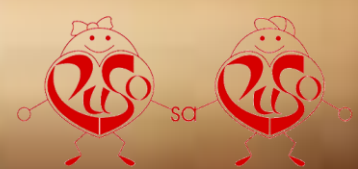


**A New Year
A New Start
& Way To Go!**



NEWSLETTER

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ALS Program in Line with K-12

(January 15, 2016)



The Department of Education upgrades its educational system; the K-12 program to uplift the education status of our country. The new system is now already implemented, and as partner of DepEd, our main program, under Alternative Learning System curriculum will be affected by this system. In connection with this, Dr. Veronica Alcazar, NGO Coordinator of DALSC Manila, discussed ALS Program in line with K-12 last January 15, 2016. This talk aims to update and impart knowledge to learners and instructional managers about the impact of the newly adapted educational system.

This event was held in ALSA-BUHAY Parola Livelihood Center at 1:30 pm and it was attended by the 5th and 6th batch of secondary learners. The discussion began with prayer followed by an ice breaker. The program continued with an activity where learners drew pictures that show their lives 10 years from now. After that, the K-12 system was discussed properly including its curriculum, its impact to college curriculum and its effect to ALS Program. The resource person gave positive insights toward this new system which was well understood by the learners. In the end, different questions from the participant were asked and answered accordingly.



Ferdinand , secondary learner led the prayer.



The learners enjoyed the ice breaker where they danced.



The learners draw their projection of their lives 10 years from now.



Selected learners discussed their output in the class where are very optimistic toward their future.



The discussion proper



Community Outreach and Exposure Activity:
Orientation Day
(January 20, 2016)



Last January 20, 2016 (Wednesday) Orientation regarding Community Outreach and Exposure activity was discussed by Sr. Frances R. Mangabat, SDS and Ms. Joceline Basconcillo, Social worker at San Beda College in Manila. It was attended by 30 junior students of San Beda College; majority from Bachelor of Science in Psychology and some are from BS Accountancy. It was in coordination with Professor Frederick Sanchez on their theology subject.

The objective of the activity is to let the students witness and experience the lifestyle of the marginalized sector, to reflect on theological aspect on the possible interventions on how to alleviate social issues, and to become living inspiration towards the children and youth for reaching their dreams in life.

As initial part of their community outreach activity, Pusong Pusong staff introduced them the brief history of the organization, its main objectives, programs, client it served and the people behind the program.

We also discussed them the possible area of work which is the following:

1. Volunteer Teacher of Basic Home-Based Education Program
2. Peer Facilitator of Basic Literacy Program
3. Student ALS Teacher of Elementary & Secondary learners
4. "Exposurists" in selected Foster families

We also tackled them about the do's and don'ts, and we shared some relevant scenario encountered before. San Beda interns are seems very excited to start their community outreach/ exposure activity.

They expect that they will gain deeper learning and at the same time, they will be helpful in the operations of the organization especially with the clientele it served. Accordingly, they need to comply 30 hours in the community of Payatas.

We are looking forward to the positive results of the said activity.

Photos:



Sr. Frances discussing the program to the San Beda intern students.



The attendees of the said orientation.



Livelihood Program: Financial Education for January 2016

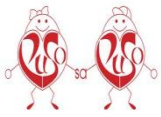
Three day sessions of Financial Education was conducted last January 22nd, 27th, and 29th of this month held at Tambayan Hall of Gate 17 Parola Tondo Manila. It was attended by the 15 active parents of the beneficiary of Eskwelahan ng Buhay "Basic Home based Educational program" under Pusong Buhay, Inc.

The activity was facilitated by Mrs. Lucita Lachica, Pusong Buhay Livelihood coordinator with the collaboration of Br. Peter Thien from the Society of Divine Savior.

The facilitator tackled the financial matters including the importance of budgeting in the life of each member.



These photos were taken during the session of Financial Education



Monthly Mass for January 2016

"Have mercy on me, God, have mercy"



The first mass for this year was observed for both centres of ALSA-BUHAY program Payatas and Parola sites. Two of our beloved priest conducted the mass in separate center. Fr. Roland Jaluag, Parish Priest of Kristong Hari headed the mass in Payatas last January 22, 2016 while Fr.

Steven Ochieng, from the Missionary community of St. Paul the Apostle presided the mass in Parola last January 29, 2016. The attendees composed of learners, staff, volunteers, Eskwelahan ng Buhay beneficiaries and parents in the community.

In Payatas, the homily reflected from the Gospel of Mark 3:13-19. Fr. Lando explained that the mission of Jesus Christ should be the same mission of people in his life. That people should act the way Jesus Christ touches the lives of many. To be like a priest who preaches goodness, a prophet who conveys messages of God, and a King, who like Jesus, serves the people and can sacrifice his own life. After the mass, Fr. Roland handed over 38 Encyclopaedia books to our learners. All of these were donated by his friends to our center.

In Parola center, the homily was based from the Gospel of Mark 4 26:34. It's about the faith of each one of us to God. Fr. Steven pointed out that our faith must be relied in our God so that it will be growth and manifested in our lives. According to him, the Kingdom of God is like a seed of mustard that when it grows, it will become useful to us. Once harvested, it can be shared and becomes a blessing to others. He challenged every one of us that as a Christian, we must shade glory and light to everyone.

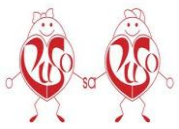
Photos during the mass in both centers:



The Parola Choir sang an ode in praise of God.







A Visit from Salvatorian Priests

(January 28, 2016)



Two priests from Salvatorian congregation visited both centers of Payatas and Parola ALSA-BUHAY program of Puso sa Puso Edukasyon, Inc. Fr. Hubert Veesser, SDS, Provincial Superior of German Province, and Fr. Hubert Kranz, SDS, were welcomed by the staff and introduced to the learners and to the communities that we serve.

Parola center was initially visited in the morning followed by Payatas center in the afternoon. The program as a whole was briefly discussed to them that include the beneficiaries, profile of the community, their working conditions, and the international volunteer-teachers that are currently working under the "Eskwelahan ng Buhay" program.

Photos during the visits:



During the ocular visit in the segregation area near Payatas center



Sr. Frances formally introducing the visitors to the learners



The two Salvatorian priests together with ALSA-BUHAY learners and staff



Group photo with Parola staff and volunteers.



Ocular visit in Parola community



Livelihood Program: Production of Fabric Conditioner (January 31, 2016)



After the sessions of Financial Education, the parents from Gate 54 and 56, Binondo Manila is now on the process of actual making of livelihood products. Mrs. Lucita, introduced first the fabric conditioner, one of the leading products of the program. As part of the livelihood project, our foundation provided all the raw materials needed.

Last January 31 (Saturday), the parents gathered in the livelihood center for the said activity. As it goes, Mrs. Lachica, demonstrated the step by step process of making the latter product, and later on, she let the parents to experience making their own establish raw product. The members showed their enthusiasm to learn the process of making the fabric conditioner and we hope that more products will be materializing from this program.

Photos taken during the demonstration and actual production of fabric conditioner:





Team Building for the Parents of Eskwelahan ng Buhay (January 31, 2016)



"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results." --*Andrew Carnegie*

On the 31st of January (Sunday), another fruitful activity was extended for the parents of the beneficiaries of Eskwelahan ng Buhay residing at Gate 17, Tondo Manila. The activity was facilitated by Ms. Lerma Dela Pena, a Salvatorian Lay Minister. It was attended by the twelve (12) active parents of Eskwelahan ng Buhay whom continuously supporting the activities of the Pusong Buhay, Inc.

The program was initiated by Br. Peter Thien, SDS, by formally introducing Ms. Lerma, the guest speaker to the participants. It was followed by an opening prayer led by the one of the parents. Ms. Lerma gave the introductory activity called "Getting to know you." In this activity, they were able to share memorable experiences in their lives that they really wanted to go back.

As the dynamic goes, Ms. Lerma discussed the importance and implication of setting a goal, the team spirit, and the three essential component of having a harmonious team which are the following; respect to each member; support from one another; and lastly, encouragement that comes from the team. Dynamic workshop was given to the participants such as "Paper tearing activity," "Sabihin mo at gagawin ko," and the building of a community using only the materials given by the spoke person.

The activity was ended by the closing prayer led by Br. Peter Thien, SDS.

Photos:



Photos taken during the activity which includes explanation of mechanics and workshop proper.



Parents' and Learners' Formation on UNCRC



"...in serving the best interests of children, we serve the best interests of all humanity."
-- Carol Bellamy

A formation for learners and parents entitled "United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child" conducted by Ms. Mary Ann Bernardo and Ms. Joan Canero, RSW, of Salvatorian Pastoral Care for Children (SPCC) took place at ALSA-BUHAY Payatas and Parola centers last January 23, 2016 and January 31, 2016 respectively. It was attended by learners and parents of the new batch of ALSA-BUHAY program.

Since this is the first time of our learners and parents to meet the speakers/facilitators, the formation proper formally began with an activity entitled 'Kamusta Ka Na?' as their getting to know, and followed by an expectation set-up for the program and speakers.

On the discussion proper, the speaker clearly explained the definition of "child" under the convention. It was followed by a group activity where each group listed down the positive and negative situation of children in their respective communities. The activity exposed the unfortunate situation of the majority of the children in Payatas and Parola. These include involvement in vices like drugs, participation in fraternity and gang war, teenage pregnancy and many more. On the positive note, they observe that there are still children that continuously persevere with their studies, industriously help their parents, and joyful and active to their community.

The speaker-facilitator emphasized also the Guidelines of Child's Right which are the following: No Discrimination, Benefits of the Child, Life and Progress, Insights of Child and the 10 Child's Rights.

It's truly fulfilling that the heart and mind of our beneficiaries were equipped with fruitful knowledge about the Protection and Welfare of Children.



Sir Darren formally introducing the new speakers of this session.



Discussion proper



Learners sharing their experiences related to the discussion

Photos from the formation in Payatas:



Ms. Joan is dicussing the expectation set-up for the program and speaker



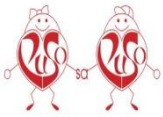
Parents were discussing about their observations to the situation of child/youth in community



Learners in action - writing their observations and sharing their insights



Rubilyn Mato and Joshua Punzalan are sharing their observations to their co-participants



Livelihood Program and Skills Training (February 2016)



Livelihood skills trainings were given for both ALSA-BUHAY learners in Payatas and Parola Center for 3rd batch and 5th batch respectively. In Payatas, skills training on “pastillas” and guava ointment making were done last February 2, 2016, while in Parola, “yema” and “pastillas” making were taught to them. It was done last February 15, 2016.

On February 5, 2016, Gate 17 parents of Eskwelahan ng Buhay in Parola, Manila had their first skills training on livelihood program. Short discussion and demonstration for detergent powder making was headed by livelihood coordinator – Mrs. Lucita Lachica. The said skills become their livelihood product for the group.

Entrepreneurship



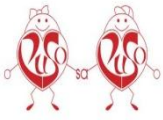
Entrepreneurship sessions were given to both parents and learners in Payatas and Parola where they taught on how to make business plan if they were going to put up business in the future. This is also essential in building a strong foundation for a livelihood program

Election of Officer

(Parents of Eskwelahan ng Buhay)



Last February 3, 2016, election of parents of Eskwelahan ng Buhay for the livelihood program was held at "Tambayan" on Gate 17. It was done by secret balloting headed by the livelihood coordinator with the assistance of SDS Brother Peter Thien.



Annual Partners' Meeting with CEFAM (February 9, 2016)



"As healers we take care of our own growth".

On Tuesday February 9, 2016 CEFAM (Center for Family Ministries) conducted a seminar on "Self-care." It was attended by the partners NGO (Non- Governmental Organization) presented at Spiritual-Pastoral Center Ateneo de Manila University Campus. It was led by Dr. Myrna Sanchez and attended by the representative of Pusong Pusong Edukasyon, Inc.

The seminar teaches participants specifically the social workers on how they can actively promote healthy lifestyle despite of stress that they encounter, and how to overcome the pressure situations in the work place.

The two social workers of our foundation were pleased to be part of this meeting as it is also an opportunity to grow professionally in their respective working environments.



ALSA-BUHAY staff had an opportunity to participate on the said gathering.

“All We Need is Feb-Ibig (Love)”
(February 11, 2016)



Valentine's Day is a time when people show feelings of love, affection and friendship. It is celebrated in many ways worldwide and falls on February 14 each year.

On the 11th of February 2016 (Thursday), spontaneous Pre-Valentine's celebration happened in ALSA-BUHAY Parola center. It was spearheaded by the Instructional managers. The activity was conducted during the class of Secondary level.

Mr. Darren Ilarina, initiated the simple activity for the class. Several funny quotations about love were gathered and presented to the class, where every learner will choose one, read it loudly and explained it in the class. It was followed by a simple contest where every learner made their own quote about love which we called "Who goat lines" meaning it is a rhyming lines, which was from the bottom of the heart of every learner. Then all Instructional Managers gave advices to the learners, for as an adolescent and a person who need love and belongingness, they must pray and wait for the right person and right time and they must enjoy life together with their families and friends. In the end of the program, the history about valentine was discussed to the class.

The outcome of this activity was very important to every one of us, for several past experiences of every learner was heard and shown based on their discussions as well as their values and perceptions about love.





Monthly Mass for February 2016
(February 10 & 26, 2016)



"It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than to do without Holy Mass."
~ St. Pio of Pietrelcina

In building up the spiritual aspect of our learners, another mass has been conducted in ALSA BUHAY Center in both Payatas and Parola communities. It was both officiated by Fr. Steven Ochieng, from the Missionary community of St. Paul, the Apostle (MCSPA). Parola center celebrated the mass during the start of the Season of Lent – the Ash Wednesday last February 10, 2016 at Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Parish Church, Tondo Manila. On the other hand, Payatas celebrated the mass on February 26, 2016 at its center. The attendees for both masses were learners from all levels, staff, and volunteers as well.

During the holy mass in Parola, Father Steven recalled that Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lenten Season. He pointed out that this is the time for us to reflect; the chance to know how we relate to God and to the other people, for our life is dynamic and has an end. He teaches us the importance of deep praying to God and doing charity to others than fasting. He added that in our life situation today, we are forced to fast, but we know that poverty is evident in our society so it will be best to lend a hand to poor people instead.

In Payatas center, the homily was based on Gospel of the Lord – Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46. Fr. Steven highlighted the importance of finding someone who can save us and someone that we can rely on therefore allowing ourselves to be saved by the others. He also emphasized the value of contemplating before doing an action. That we should think first, foresee the consequences, reason out things, and have a prayerful life.

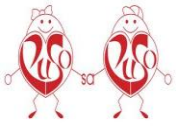
Photos during the mass in Parola:



Attendees received ashes in their forehead with the sign of a cross

Photos during the mass in Payatas:





ALSA BUHAY PROGRAM

Handicraft Class

(February 16, 2016)



Last February 16, 2016, Payatas international volunteer-teacher Franzi Grubchen conducted her first handicraft session to our 3rd batch Elementary and Secondary learners. This creative class is schedule every Tuesday at 3:15 pm – 4:30 pm. The goal of the activity is to impart knowledge and skills in making crafts out of inexpensive materials. Creativity and focus are some skills being observed out of this session.

Teacher Franzi taught first the learners on how to make bracelet and earrings out of colored strings and beads. Learners seem very persistent on their task and Franzi help them out especially with their difficulties.

This is a personal initiative of Teacher Franzi to extend her talents not only to the kids that she is currently teaching under Eskwelahan ng Buhay but also to the learners of ALSA-BUHAY. She advised them that this craft can be a gift to someone or they can use it as a form of livelihood.



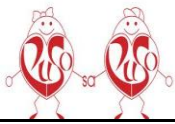
Materials used on their first class



Franzi demonstrating the proper way to make a bracelet.



Learners having fun while doing their first task.



“Post Valentine’s Day Formation: #PagibigWins”
(February 24, 2016)



Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
– 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

Love comes in all forms, different degree but always wins. On 24th of February in the year of our Lord, learners and staff of ALSA-BUHAY Payatas center celebrated a Post Valentine's day Formation entitled “#PagibigWins” or literally means “love wins.” It was attended by almost 70 learners coming from 3rd and 4th batch. The formation was spearheaded by Payatas staff with a resource speaker namely
Ms. Julie Pearl O. Buanhog, RSW. It was a whole day fun-filled activity.

On the first half of the formation, Payatas staff gave an enticing introduction about love. Thereafter, a getting-to-know-you activity was given in a form of “Heart-Bingo” game where learners got an opportunity to interact with other learners and got some pieces of information about their life. It was followed by a video presentation about the story behind Valentine's Day and how it gets started. Ma. Margarita Clores , a 2nd batch passer, performed a song number to everyone. A series of games and activities were also part of the highlights of the formation such as “Sing-Galing,” “Videoke Challenge,” and “heART Attack”.

On the last part of the formation, Ms. Julie Pearl, resource speaker, talked about the meaning of love and its different form based on old Greek style. Learners learned that there are four kinds of love namely storge (love for family), eros (romantic love), philia (love for friends), and agape (love for God). A group activity and sharing was conducted as well to deepen their understanding about the topic.

Finally, Sr. Frances Mangabat, SDS, expressed her closing remarks about the program and thanks everyone who took part of the said event. Truly, love always wins.

Photos:



Ms. Joceline Basconcillo, RSW, giving her opening remarks for the program



During the "Getting to know you" activity where learners interviewing each other



Learners making their artwork in line with the program



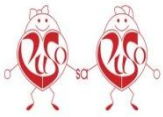
During the discussion of our resource speaker, Ms. Julie Pearl.



Group activity of the learners



Message wall of the learners



Parents' and Learners' Formation on Women and Child's Rights

(February 20 and 27, 2016)



A formation for learners and parents entitled "Women and Child's Right" which was conducted by Sr. Adel Abamo, SDS of SPCC on both ALSA-BUHAY centers in Payatas and Parola transpired this month. It was attended by both learners and parents of the said program. This is still in line of the foundation's mission of providing safe and protected environment for our beneficiaries.

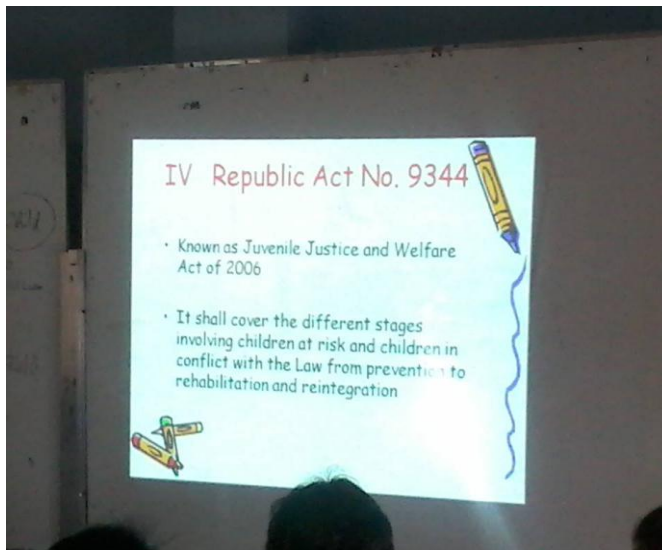
On the first part of the activity, Sr. Adel recalled the topic of previous seminar where the participants, in response, actively recited the different rights of a child and the classification of abuses. After that, Sr. Adel continued discussing the new topic for the participants. The speaker focused more on the Republic Act 9710 (AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA OF WOMEN) , RA 9344 (Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006), RA 9262 (Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) and RA 7610 (Child Abuse Law).

Learners and parents gave some personal experiences such as on how they treat their child and same with the learners on how they obey their parents. As an additional sharing, participants shared also their feelings after they learned these laws. They also mentioned that the knowledge that they gain in this seminar will be used by them in their daily life and will share it to their family and community.

Photos:



Sr. Adel is discussing about Republic Act, which is one of the laws for Women and Child.



Republic Act No. 9344 , one of the laws for Children's right



Sis. Adel is asking one of the learners about the topic to be discussed



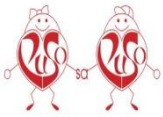
The discussion proper in Parola formation.



Lolita Bartolay, one of the Parent from Eskwelah ng Buhay acted the real behavior of a mother when they discipline and punish their children resulting to abuses



Selected learners shared their feelings and emotions after they gained knowledge about protecting their rights.



Young Mothers' Formation: Closing Liturgy (February 27, 2016)



On February 27 (Saturday), the last session of young mothers' formation was held in Payatas ALSA-BUHAY Center. It was attended by 6 young mothers from both centers. The first part of the activity was a recap of the previous topics on biological factor and core value of stewardship. It was accomplished with the help of Sr. Guada Olano, SDS and Mrs. Lea Soriano, RN.

The closing liturgy was done after the recap. It was facilitated by the social workers. First, by a prayer, followed by the lighting of candles that symbolizes new hope for each participant as they journey life. After the lighting of candles, the participants read the Gospel of Luke (Luke 24:13-35). After a short silence, group sharing was done; they were able to share their realization towards the Gospel reading.

Before the activity completely ends, participants together with the resource speakers and staff prayed and gave wishes to each other.

Young mothers were very grateful for the opportunity that were given to them especially for the chance to become part of the formation. They also shared that they really gained new relevant knowledge which they can use to enhance their relationship between their children and husband. They said that as a good stewards, they will do their task to impart their learnings to other young mothers like them.

They are looking forward on the continuity of the said program, so that many young parents will be empower and will have enough knowledge on how to become a good mother and steward.

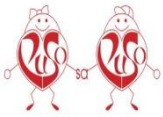
Other photos:



Learners praying for each other headed by Ms. Joceline Basconcillo, Rsw.



Recap of the previous topic with Sr. Guada and Mrs. Lea



“Reflection”
(February 27, 2016)

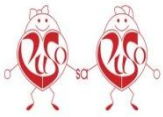


In line with the celebration of the Lenten Season, Sr. Mila Singap, FLP, shared some insights about the theme: Celebrating the Jubilee of the year of Mercy and the Year of the Eucharist and Family. This happened last February 27, 2016 in ALSA-BUHAY Livelihood Center in Parola, Manila.

In her sharing to the learners, she stressed that the year of Mercy being celebrated this year (from December 8, 2015 - November 20, 2016), challenged our capacity to transform our Faith into action, to be Merciful to others as called from us, Christians by the Gospel; “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” Lk 6:36). We become truly Christian or authentic Church, when we become herald of God’s mercy to others by our own acts mercy especially to our brothers and sisters in need in our own family and community. In relation to this, she also mentioned on the missionary implication of the Mass, as expressed at the last part of it, “Go in peace and proclaim the Gospel of the Lord” which calls for a mission to evangelize other people on the love of God, in which its core and heart is “Mercy” that led our Lord Jesus Christ in offering His Life for our Salvation.



The discussion proper.



Commemoration of First Anniversary of Fire Incident in Parola (March 02, 2016)



On March 2, 2016, the residents of Area C, Gate 54, Parola Compound, Binondo Manila organized a massheld at their Half Court Plaza commemorating the first anniversary of fire incident that happened last March 2015. It was made possible through the collaborations of Nuestra Senora De La Soledad Parish headed by Rev. Fr. Jeremiah Adviento who served as celebrant of the Mass, and the active involvement of Brgy. 275, Zone 20, Delpan, Binondo Manila headed by Brgy. Captain Willie Masakayan. The program ended with the blessings of five houses located in the area.

On the same date, Br. Peter Hoang, SDS, with the help of the selected parents of Eskwelahan ng Buhay in Gate 54, Binondo Manila initiated the activity intended for the kids of the area on which 100 beneficiaries received a meal.



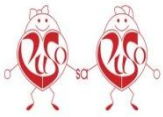
Fr. Jeremie Adviento is giving Holy Communion to the residents of Gate 54 and 56, Binondo, Manila



The parents are preparing the food for the kids

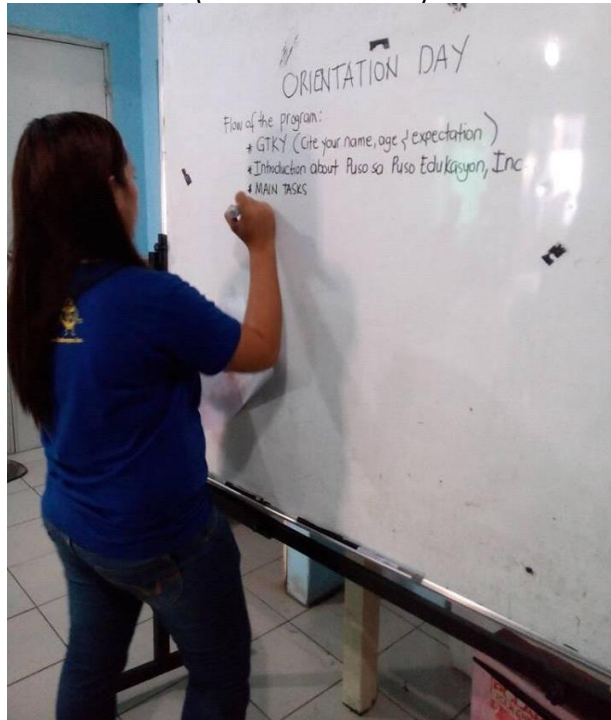


The kids are enjoying the meal.



“Orientation to San Beda Accountancy Students about Community Exposure”

(March 9, 2016)



In the morning last March 9, 2016 (Wednesday), orientation about Community Exposure took place. It was attended by 30 Junior Accountancy students. It was held in Payatas ALSA-BUHAY Center. The activity was headed by the Social Worker and Sr. Frances R. Mangabat, SDS.

Sr. Frances led the opening prayer, followed by the welcoming remarks and the getting to know you activity. Also, we asked them about their expectations on the said activity. Majority said that they want to gain new insights, happy moments, and also they want to impart something that will cause changes or impact to the lives of the people they are going to meet.

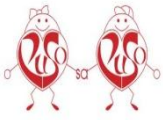
After knowing each participant, Sr. Frances introduced Pusong Pusong Edukasyon, Inc. She discussed the brief history of the organization, the vision, mission and goal. Additionally, she informed the participants about the people behind the program and the clientele it served. After that, the social worker gave the list of groups as well as their foster parents. They become excited to see their foster parents as they heard a little background about the family. The selected foster families are those residing within the ALSA-BUHAY center and some of them are also beneficiaries of Pusong Pusong Edukasyon, Inc.

Lastly, the do's and don'ts during exposure activity was also tackled in the orientation. Questions were raised by the participants, and it was clarified by the staff. Later on, the participants with the lead of Social worker & Ms. Rodelyn Asturias visited the area. We also introduced them to their foster parents, and the 1st encounter occurred.

We are looking forward on the positive result of the said activity.

Photos:





Holy Mass for the Month of March 2016 (March 11&18, 2016)



Another holy mass has been observed in both centers of Parola and Payatas of ALSA-BUHAY Program. On March 11, 2016, Payatas beneficiaries and staff joined together to celebrate another thanksgiving to our Lord God. It was headed by Fr. John Castillo, FDP, Parish Priest of Mother of Divine Providence Parish in Payatas in the morning. On the other hand, last March 18, 2016, Parola monthly mass took place at Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Parish Church headed by Fr. Francis Teo Kean Seng, from Missionary Community of St. Paul the Apostles.

During the homily and reflection of the Holy Gospel in Payatas, Fr. John cited that there are two kinds of time in our world: a sequence of hour and an opportune of time. The latter was discussed and emphasized that only God knows the perfect time for everyone of us. Furthermore, he explained that our God knows every situation that we have and we should not blame anyone but rather we should redeem ourselves especially if we are in a difficult situation. He added as well the significance of humility so for us to express our gratitude, to say sorry for the people we hurt, and to acclaim peace in our heart.

Fr. Francis cited the two important things he observed for the ongoing mass. First, he acknowledged one of our Secondary learners (Mark Christian Casauay) in the present batch in his reading and speaking skills noting that it was very well delivered. He pointed out that we should be more attentive in English language and to use it as a medium of communication. Moreover, nowadays, having good English communication skills can be beneficial especially in the work place. Secondly, he discussed the gospel. He encouraged us to be more conscious and responsible for our words, that we must watch the word we speak. He said that everyone must walk our talk like our Lord Jesus Christ.

Photos:



Mark Christian Casauay conveying the 1st readings to the participants.



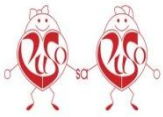
Receiving the Holy Communion.



Singing of the Lord's Prayer



Group photo together with Fr. John and Sr. Frances



Community Exposure: Integration Day (March 13, 2016)



On March 13, 2016 (Sunday) Integration day happened. It was attended by 32 Psychology San Beda students and 9 foster parents together with their children. It was held in Payatas ALSA-BUHAY Center with the lead of Sr. Frances Mangabat, SDS and the Social worker. Professor Frederick Sanchez together with his wife also attended the activity. The objectives of the said activity are to assess and evaluate the exposure experiences of the students.

It started with inspirational Morning Prayer, followed by the opening remarks given by Sr. Frances. Several questions were asked and it was answered by group. After 30 minutes, big sharing of experiences was done between the groups of students and parents. Majority of the students said that they really learned a lot in the exposure activity. They expressed that not only garbage are found in Payatas but also people who had a heart like gem. Before, they said that they had a negative impression in the area but as they start journeying with the people in the community, everything changes. In addition, they said that they really feel amazed because even though their foster families are having less in life, they still managed to smile and share the little things that they have to other people. They also witnessed the deeper faith of people to God.

As they stepped out on their comfort zone, they realized that life is full of hardships and they are very lucky to have such comfortable lifestyle. They become aware and responsible on the things that they have. They also further realized to value people around them, specially their family. Foster parents become emotional as they heard the messages from the students. They also shared their thanksgiving message towards the students.

Before the activity ends, students gave some gifts to the foster parents as a sign of their gratitude. Prof. Frederick and Psychology students donated Television and long folding table to Puso sa Puso Edukasyon, Inc. for the purpose of helping the beneficiaries in their learning journey. Participants are very thankful for the opportunity given them. They are looking forward on the time that they will be able to see each other again. Accordingly, they will treasure all the memories that they got with their foster families and they will used the fruitful experience as they journey life.

The activity ended with a video prayer entitled "Gratitude" by Nichole Nordeman. It is a song that truly emphasizes thanksgiving in every little thing that we had in life.

Photos



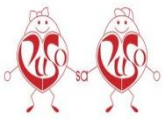
Sr. Frances giving her welcoming remarks to the participants.



Small Group sharing of parents spearheaded by Nanay Rosalyn Baquilar



Small Group sharing of San Beda interns



Meeting on the NGOs ALS Implementers in Quezon City (March 17, 2016)



The School Division Office conducted a meeting for the Non-Government Organization ALS implementers at Quezon City Division Office Conference Room last Thursday, March 17, 2016, at 9:00 am. The aim of the meeting is to update stakeholders about the trends in the ALS program.

The meeting was spearheaded by Education Program Specialists – Ms. Ria V. Herhas, Mr. Daryl G. Morato and Jennylyn G. Ching. The following agendas were discussed during the meeting: Rationalization Plan, Community Mapping Results, Updates in ALS, and “Kariton Klasrum (K4)” Project.

As per Rationalization Plan, there are changes in the position of Division Office especially to the ALS Division headed by Ms. Elizabeth E. Quesada, CESO V, School Superintended. With regards to the Community Mapping results, it shows that there are at least 47,000 out-of-school-people (partial data) ranging from 5 years old to 45 years old in the whole district of Quezon City. Other highlights of the meeting were the implementation of ‘Division Assessment for ALS Learners’ formerly had known as “Qualifying Test” to be schedule on March 21, 2016. This assessment helps to prepare learners mentally and physically. Additionally, this exam will not affect their registration status as it is only a form of practice test and a way to evaluate our learners from which difficulties that we can still able to work on. Some issues also were being addressed and the most important information we acquired was the status of our learners with regards to the implementation of K-12. Learners who will pass the A&E for the current calendar year will be able to get a basic education diploma which means that they don't need to undergo the senior high school program. The schedule also for this year's A&E will be on April 17, 2016 at Placido del Mundo Elementary School.

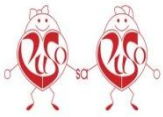
Photos:



Ms. Ria and Mr. Daryl facilitating the meeting



During the open discussion of some issues pertaining to ALS program.



Division Assessment for ALS Learners (March 19, 2016)



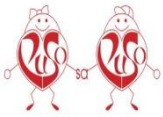
A new memorandum has been implemented in Quezon City area as initiated by the Department of Education Quezon City Division. Formerly known as "Qualifying Test," a Division Assessment for ALS Learners is another simulation/practice test. This is to increase the performance rating of the Division of City Schools Quezon City in the Alternative Learning System-Accreditation and Equivalency Test (ALS A&E). Since this is a simulation of the actual A&E test, the guidelines for administering the ALS A&E set by the Bureau of Alternative Learning System will be used.

In line with this, learners from ALSA-BUHAY Payatas center took the said exam. A set of multiple choice exams and an essay writing test has been given to them. Learners felt the stress and pressure that they may actually feel in the upcoming A&E test. Though this was their situation, they felt the need of this exam for them to be prepared physically and mentally.

Overall, the response for this assessment was extremely good as it also helps learners to identify the areas that they need to focus more. A total of 32 learners who took the exam and majority of them passed it. We are really thankful for the committee of the Quezon City Division who took charged for the smooth implementation of this activity.



Learners who took the exam at San Francisco High School



EDM Formation: “True Love Waits”

(March 19 & 20, 2016)



On weekends, 19th and 20th of March, a two-day formation was held at Lay Formation Center (Lay Force), San Carlos Seminary Compound, EDSA, Guadalupe, Makati and attended by 35 college students under EDM sponsorship program.

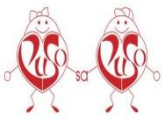
For the achievement of the event, two objectives were made: firstly, to face the issue towards the early pregnancy in the case of EDM scholars by educating them about entering a relationship at the right time and secondly, to train the scholars in educating children and teenagers through their learning from the formation.

As representatives of the ALSA-BUHAY Program, Noriel Zabay and Joan Dealca were required to attend in the said formation and they actively participated as well as the other scholar did.

The two days formation was organized by the Enfants Du Mekong (EDM). The said activity was facilitated by the EDM coordinators; Mr. Patrick Piaton and Ms. Helen. The lecturers for the said activity were Ms. Mabel Samarista, Mr. Joseph Cinco, Ms. Roggie Lecaroz, and Mr. Jim Java.

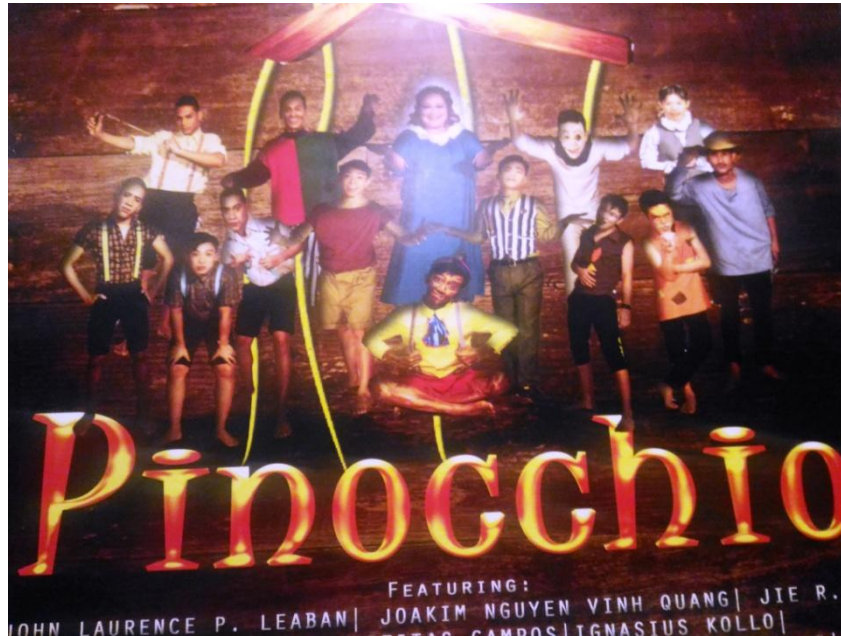
Photos during the formation:





Theatrical Play: “Pinocchio”

(March 20, 2016)



The Society of Divine Saviours (SDS) in partnership with Christian Family Movement of the Philippines (CFM) which celebrating their 60th founding anniversary held their first event at The Skydeck at Barrington Place in Congressional Avenue, Quezon City. It was attended by members of CFM, various guests and friends, SDS representatives, and ALSA-BUHAY learners from Parola and Payatas center last March 20, 2016 in the evening.

The event commenced with an opening gratitude from the new CFM President Mrs. Josie Sta. Maria together with her husband Mr. George Sta Maria. After that, Fr. Artur Chranowski, SDS, took over the stage and gave a glimpse of what we are going to expect about the play and its story.

“Pinocchio” is a widely known cartoon character that taught us some imperative virtues like honesty and unconditional love. With its inspiring plot, students of English Language Development Program under SDS brought the fictional character into a live, engaging, and amusing play.

Learners indeed enjoyed watching the play as majority of them experienced this kind of event only for the first time. They were very thankful that they had the chance to watch this play. They are also inspired to do theatrical play someday. With regards to the entirety of the play, it was visually entertaining and actors did great on their roles. I guess all of the audience will agree that the show touched our innermost being and conscience.

Photos:



Mr and Mrs. Sta Maria giving opening remarks to all



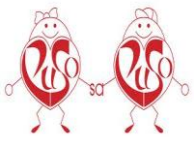
ALSA-BUHAY Learners prepping up for the play



The actors after their successful presentation



Group photo with actors and our learners



“Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) R.A. 9262”

(March 20 and April 01, 2016)



A formation entitled **“Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) R.A. 9262”** was conducted by Sis. Adel Abamo of SPCC in Payatas and Ms. Merian Penoso Aldea in Parola center. Attended by parents and learners of both centers of ALSA-BUHAY Program (Parola and Payatas), the formation is the continuation of educating our beneficiaries for a safe environment free from abuse and violence.

The session was actively participated by the learners and parents through a workshop given by the speakers which focused more on the characteristics of a woman, and most of their sharings are the following: they should be loved and respected, they are the light of one's home and they can become the confidant.

Aside from the workshop given to them, they also undergo a conversation about the difference between a man and a woman. And some of them stated that a man cannot give birth unlike with the woman, secondly, the man is stronger than a woman, and lastly, they should be equal in all aspects.

In the second part of the formation, participants stated the rights of women and synthesized by speakers in connection with the RA 9262 in which the main objective is to respect and protect women's right.

Deepening the formation, learners shared their experiences on violence and asked for legal advices. Speakers emphasized and explained the different kinds of violence: sexual violence, emotional, physical, economic, psychological, and spiritual violence. It was very informative, interesting, and also enlightening to most of the learners.

Photos from Learners' and Parents' Formation



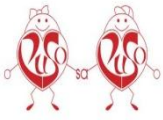
Sis. Adel is asking James Pingcas about RA 9262



Sr. Adel discussing about the (VAWC) RA 9262



Ms. Merian on her first meeting with Parola learners



Easter: A Challenged to Begin a New and Fruitful Life (April 01, 2016)



Easter Sunday is one of the most festive events among Christians worldwide. It commemorates Jesus Christ's resurrection from death, as written in the Christian Bible. In line with this, last April 01, 2016 at exactly 9:00am in ALSA BUHAY Parola Center, Sr. Mila P. Singap, FLP, (Parola Program Supervisor) discussed about the challenged of Easter in the life of our beneficiaries.

She started the program with the "Kumustahan" to know the activities and reflections did by each learner during the last Easter. It was followed by the discussion of the topic where she encouraged the beneficiaries, like our Lord Jesus Christ, who was moving on, moving out and moving up from the tomb. She further elaborated to the beneficiaries that they must move on to their situation in life, move out to begin a new life and fruitful life, and move up to have life with more closer to God. This is another spiritual enrichment activity for our learners.



During the discussion proper.

