

# Making a Difference Miles and Miles Away

## Jak N Jil Foundation Reaches Out to Neglected Seniors in the Philippines

By REY C. ANDRES

**H**ow does one make a difference for a life more purposeful and meaningful?



**LOCAL FOUNDATION REACHES OUT TO RP SENIORS.** Jak N Jil Foundation, President Ariane Manalo, shows the first customized tricycle designed to accommodate wheelchair-bound elderly in Kanlungan ni Maria (an elderly home) in Antipolo, Philippines as part of the Foundation's effort to assist in the residents' mobility. The second unit, product of the second fund-raiser will be delivered in February 2020, this time to another Philippine foundation catering also to marginalized senior citizens.

Photo: Trike ambulance

With the myriad of problems besetting the world, we are simply overwhelmed and drown in the hopelessness that envelops us. But still the thought of doing something different just to let go of that hapless feeling continues to haunt us. How does one make a difference and claim that personal victory of being able to do something meaningful not for ourselves but for others?

How to make a difference? "Start by believing in something bigger than yourself. Begin with the belief that you can do something that doesn't just benefit yourself", goes one advice.

When the only reason for doing something becomes self-serving, there won't be much energy that will be required to fuel the momentum needed to go on.

Ariane Manalo, founder of Jak N Jil Foundation had wanted to make a difference and for a long time nurtured in her heart a desire to "help the less fortunate especially the elderly". This gnawing altruistic feeling was one she shared with a friend, Philippine movie director Wenn Deramas, who passed away a few years back. Both Ariane and Wenn have soft spots in their hearts

for the unfortunate. Wanting to perpetuate the memory of her best friend, she mustered enough strength to push through with their chosen advocacy.

For ideas, Ariane sought the help of their common friend, Philippine-based Mel de Rosario, an ABS-CBN Television Network Creative Consultant who suggested "Kanlungan ni Maria" an advocacy group in the Philippines that houses and takes care of abandoned elderly.

Desirous to make her birthday more meaningful sometime back, she decided to spend her special day doing charitable work at the home for the elderly. An incident she witnessed at Kanlungan proved to be an eye-opener on what immediate project she needed to embark on - something immediate and doable.

She witnessed an elderly woman on a wheelchair having a hard time getting into a motorized tricycle

that would bring her medical appointment. Thus, the idea of a customized tricycle specifically designed for the elderly was born.

Ariane contacted her architect classmates to help in customizing a wheelchair accessible three-wheeler. (She is herself took up Architecture in the Philippines and later pursued a nursing degree in the U.S and now works as IT Nurse project Manager.) Another friend referred her to a fabrication shop which could manufacture the prototype.

To finance her project Ariane established Jak N Jil Foundation in August 2018, to provide her an avenue to generate funds with her friends and colleagues for her project. Two friends, Maru Lazatin and Lally Parcon, joined her in the Foundation where she serves as president.

The Foundation held its first fund raising event with a concert held on December 2,

2018 titled "Odette Quesada Live" at Josephine's Restaurant in Cerritos, Los Angeles with all the proceeds earmarked for the manufacture of the customized tricycle.

Ariane delivered the first customized wheelchair accessible tricycle on February 2019, her birthday, to Kanlungan ni Maria with some cash donations.

Jak N. Jil Foundation produced its second concert entitled "Party Party na Sabi ni Lola" with performers Valerie Concepcion, Joseph Gelito and Stephen Paysu at the same venue.

The full proceeds of the concert will be used to finance the second customized wheelchair accessible tricycle for the abandoned and indigent elderly at another home for the elderly - Josefheim Foundation - which Ariane will personally deliver on February 2020 plus cash to help for other needs of the elderly like diapers.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** Family members surround Florencia Hernandez (seated 6th from left) who celebrates 91st birthday last October 5 at Larry's Grill in Artesia. Photo by BOBBY CRISOSTOMO

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## FIL-AM... FROM PAGE 1

old.

In 2017, Kyla, "Boss" as she is nicknamed, made history in the NCAA by becoming the first female gymnast ever to win an Olympic, World and NCAA titles.

Ross is a molecular, cell and developmental biology senior at UCLA.

Another outstanding Filipino American, Perlita Rasing, was also honored during the same occasion.

Rasing, a retired registered nurse from Alaminos, Pangasinan, formed the Lucap (Hundred Islands) Association, which has since been helping new Filipino immigrants in the U.S.

Rasing received the community leadership award.

The retired nurse urged the audience to engage in civic work and serving the Fil-Am community.

Rasing is a trustee of the Philippine Independence Day Foundation and a past president of the of Carson Women's Club.

She is also a member of the Sister Cities Association for many years.

Both awardees received certificates of recognition from the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works through its first Filipina American boardmember Jessica Caloza. The said award was presented by Fe Koons and Joselyn Geaga Rosenthal.

The board of public works also shared a certificate that honored the City of Carson for holding the Filipino American History month.

Joan Ria Salumbides Tagle, president of the Los Angeles Filipino Association (LAFACE) represented the board.

Carson Councilmember Jim Dear who is a former history teacher stressed that it is important to learn about the past and the cultural heritage of people.

The Fil-Am history month celebration in Carson City will be capped by the 10th annual Larry Itliong Day celebration on October 26 at 8 am at the Veterans Park.