

FEATURE STORY

2015 Search for Outstanding Volunteers

31 March 2015

A bastion of benevolence and beacon of inspiration,

'Mother Ricky' Reyes continues to beautify more lives through volunteerism

More than his aesthetic knack in style and fashion, Ricardo Enriquez Reyes Jr. distinctively known as "Mother Ricky," has beautified more than what can be seen with the naked eye. He was able to transform the lives of the disadvantaged members of the society with his remarkable philanthropy and heart for the sick and the poor.

Driven by his strong adage that providing livelihood to destitute Filipinos would help answer the problem of poverty, Mother Ricky translated his vision and mission to serve others by strengthening his livelihood venture through the Bagong Buhay Bagong Hanapbuhay sa Isang Gunting Isang Suklay Program.

"I had my social awakening 31 years ago noong ipinanganak ko mula sa aking puso ang programa na tinawag kong "Bagong Buhay Bagong Hanapbuhay sa Isang Gunting Isang Suklay." Naniniwala ako na dahil sa isang gunting at isang suklay ay magkakaroon ng bagong buhay ang mga kababayan natin na walang hanapbuhay," Mother Ricky shared.

Mother Ricky continuously proves that a comb and a pair of scissors can make a big difference as the Isang Gunting Isang Suklay beneficiaries beautify their own lives towards a brighter future. Since its inception in 1984, over 200,000 housewives, out-of-school youth and other citizens interested in the local hairdressing industry were trained with basic haircutting and provided for with starter kits to start off their own salon ventures. Mother Ricky has also established 10 livelihood productivity centers in depressed areas nationwide located at Smokey Mountain, Sapang Palay, Cavite, Iloilo, Tacloban, Surigao del Sur, Jolo, Sulu, Isabela, Benguet, and Dagupan. Until now, he manages the Ricky Reyes Learning Institute (RRLI), a TESDA-certified learning center which provides free educational assistance to aspiring beauticians. Her network of Gandang Ricky Reyes salons nationwide provided employment to over 1,200 workers.

The success of his noble feat allowed Mother Ricky to fully share his blessings by providing livelihood, skills training, and micro-enterprising to poor, but deserving, Filipinos empowering more community members towards self-employment and self-sufficiency.

More than providing livelihood, Mother Ricky also shares his heart to cancer-stricken children by founding the CHILD (Center for Health Improvement and Life Development) Haus in 2003. The Child Haus provides temporary shelter for the sick children while undergoing their respective treatments. Serving as a home for the children, the facility offers free meals and lodging; transportation; counselling; and medicine for the cancer patients and their family members. The program has already cared for over 11,000 patients and their families across the country and continuous to facilitate treatment to more children through its affiliation with eleven government hospitals in the country.

“To all the things that we do in life, people would ask us, “Why do we do this?” I always tell a lot of people, I only believe in this song, ‘Walang sinuman ang nabubuhay para sa sarili lamang. Walang sinuman ang mamamatay para sa sarili lamang dahil tayong lahat ay may panananagutan sa isa’t isa’. Indeed, volunteerism will make us truly happy,” Mother Ricky remarked.

Recognizing Mother Ricky’s exceptional selfless servanthood and remarkable contribution as an outstanding volunteer , the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) and the National Volunteer Month Steering Committee (NVM-SC) awarded Mother Ricky a Special Citation in Volunteerism during the 2014 Search for Outstanding Volunteers held at the House of Representatives last 10 December 2014.

For a munificent man who keeps on sharing his time, talents, and treasures in uplifting the lives of others, the recognition acknowledges Mother Ricky Reyes’ lasting and life-changing contributions to the Filipino society.

This year, the PNVSCA again opens the Search to the following individuals and organizations currently providing volunteer assistance in the Philippines. Individuals of

Filipino citizenship; Filipino or local chapters of foreign/international non-profit organizations; and Filipino or local chapters of foreign/international corporate organizations are entitled to join the SOV.

Nominations are now accepted for the following categories: (1) National Outstanding Volunteer Award: (a) Individual: Youth and Adult, (b) Organization: Not-for Profit and Corporate; and (2) Volunteer Lifetime Achievement Award: (a) Individual and (b) organization.

The Special Citation award is also conferred to outstanding volunteers and volunteer organizations who do not qualify under the regular SOV categories but which are deemed equally meritorious in accomplishment.

Nominations are accepted from 1 April until 30 June 2015.

“As the country continues to face the challenges of an evolving volunteer landscape, we encourage greater participation and cooperation by all sectors of society in recognizing outstanding individuals and groups that brought life-changing and life-saving acts through volunteerism. We invite everyone to join and be part in this year’s accolade for volunteerism champions,” PNVSCA Executive Director Joselito De Vera said as he enjoined the volunteer community to participate and nominate to the 2015 SOV.

Additional information on how to participate and nominate to the SOV is available at the following:

1) PNVSCA

Website: www.pnvsca.gov.ph

Email: info@pnvsca.gov.ph

Telephone: 1 (02)225 3267

2) NEDA Regional Offices

3) Regional Planning and Development Office- Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

4) Bureau of Local Government Development-Department of the Interior and Local Government

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