

October to December 2015

Bridges

News for and about P&A Grant Thornton alumni

Initiating change
one step at a time



A message from your P&A Grant Thornton family

Dear Alumni P&Aers,

Last quarter, P&A Grant Thornton posted photos from Grant Thornton's first global corporate social responsibility (CSR) day. The event was a huge success after collecting more than 3,300 social media posts about the global activity, from over 80 member firms around the globe.

And, with great fervent, we are proud to share that the P&A Grant Thornton held the highest percentage in social media activity, painting the Philippines bright red in the global map shared by Grant Thornton after the successful global CSR day.

As part of our continuous campaign to create awareness on CSR, and in light with Grant Thornton's recent global CSR day, we have interviewed two of our alumni who were, and still are, active volunteers. We were given the opportunity to hear their thoughts on the various societal and environmental concerns, and how volunteerism changed their viewpoint in life.

All these and more on this issue of Bridges: News for and about P&A Grant Thornton alumni.

Mabel Comedia
Audit & Assurance Partner



In Highlight:

Initiating change one step at a time: *Rosey Demigillo*

“We are never too small to help out. We can always do our part in giving back to those who need our help, one person at a time. By doing this, we can help make our nation a better place to live in.” Moving words from a small lady - Rosey Demigillo never considered size, quantity, and availability of resources as a hindrance in initiating change. Instead, she sees these as motivation to reach out to those who seek assistance.

A LADY WITH A BIG HEART

Rosey has been an active volunteer in various CSR activities ever since she became a part of P&A in 2006. She was a Semi-Senior at the HR Department. Later on, she shifted to academe work and began teaching english to Grade 6 students at Miriam College Middle School in Quezon City.

During her stay at the Firm, she was a regular in different CSR activities initiated by P&A for a Cause (P&Ause), a unit under P&A Foundation, Inc. In fact, Rosey was appointed as [HR] representative for P&Ause, a solid proof of her charitable personality and was attested by her former colleagues. Most of the time, when people are asked of inspirations in doing philanthropic acts, they would naturally drop names, but not Rosey. “I’m just thinking about forming children in reaching their full potential to become our future leaders. It pushes me to volunteer in these causes.”

True to her words, our alumna has been very determined in continuously pushing campaigns that would benefit the youth. Rosey is an active member of Children’s International Summer Villages (CISV) International - a global organization dedicated to educating and inspiring for peace through building inter-cultural friendship, cooperation, and understanding. As a volunteer, she is involved in holding different summer programs for the youth that would expose them to social realities and later on mold them as advocates for world peace.

Aside from CISV, Rosey is also an advocate of Gawad Kalinga Development Foundation, Inc. (GK) where she was able to organize an outreach program in one of the GK-adopted communities. GK is a local



Rosey with her rco-volunteer during one of Gawad Kalinga's housing projects

movement that aims to gradually end poverty for five million families through restoring the dignity of the poor.

CSR AS A POTENTIAL DOOR FOR GROWTH

CSR has become a trend in the corporate industry, with both local and multinational companies realizing its impact to the growth of our society and their businesses. According to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), CSR is a management concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and interactions with their stakeholders.

Rosey says CSR has the capability to unlock the growth of local communities by training the people with necessary skills that would develop their potential as a community. “These companies may also be a medium for local communities to get ample exposure for their capabilities,” adds Rosey.

Beside the idea that companies can create doors of opportunities for communities to showcase their skills through CSR, Rosey also suggested two more concerns with which she believes should be given priority by the government, or at least be taken into consideration by firms for their next activity. “First is education.” Rosey, who has already shown great affection towards children, firmly believes that education inculcates discipline in them. For her, proper education and discipline pave way for better opportunities in life. Another concern which she thinks has to be given immediate notice is climate change.

“We are never too small to help out. We can always do our part in giving back to those who need our help, one person at a time. By doing this, we can help make our nation a better place to live in.”



AN EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE

Almost every volunteer can affirm that charitable activities feed one's soul. Not only does doing good feel overwhelmingly great, but it also imparts learnings that could last for a lifetime.

Rosey shares that becoming a part of CISV taught her how fragile children are. “What you say or do can make or break them. The things we do at the camp are the ones that the children will remember and apply in their lives, once they are done with the camp.” Nevertheless, no matter how sensitive the activity can get for children, these programs have somehow made her a Proud Filipino, especially the fact that she can promote the culture and values of Filipinos to other nationals who are also part of this wonderful activity.

*In Highlight:***Initiating change one step at a time: *Jam Lazaro***

Goodness is an inherent trait in human beings - an ideal posited by ancient philosopher Mencius. In which he says, one must cultivate his inner goodness throughout his lifetime. Same as Mencius, Jam Lazaro has also been a believer of human's innate goodness after witnessing the transformation of her co-volunteers. "It is innate for people to do good. People just need to have the opportunity to help."

THE YOUNG ALTRUIST

"My inspiration are the youth who dedicate their lives to pursue their advocacies," the young philanthropist praises her co-youth volunteers when asked who inspires her as a volunteer. Jam was a Semi Senior at the Audit & Assurance Division before she left to establish a volunteering project with her friends - the "Sibol Pilipinas". "In Sibol Pilipinas, we conduct a photography and advocacy ("Photocacy") four-day workshop, which aims to empower the Filipino youth through photography to advocate for the unprivileged children and the environment." The drive that brought birth to this project stemmed from the people she met along the way. "There are these people who are very talented, intelligent, and dedicated. There are those who choose to serve the society rather than conforming to the social norms of getting a job to earn money." Inspired by their courage to create change in our society, Jam and her friends gave all their personal efforts for the success of their budding project. "We did a crowdfunding campaign to support the project; went to private schools to recruit eligible high school students; and personally invited professional photographers as speakers and mentors." Their team also partnered with an organization in Payatas where the "photocacy" sessions were held.

Though Jam is currently at Grant Thornton New York working as a Senior Associate, away from her Sibol Pilipinas family, she still makes sure that she is able to participate in other volunteering activities. Recently, Jam says she taught poetry writing and soccer to children in New York.

EMBRACING THE TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE

With all the charitable projects she has participated in, there is no wonder Jam has become more sensitive to the growing concerns of our society. In fact, she welcomes the idea of becoming a full-fledged volunteer if given a chance. As for now, she encourages institutions to begin to



Jam sits merrily as she enjoys the bright weather in New York

value society more, thus, they must consider having a triple bottom line: profit, people, and planet. “It is very relevant today to ensure that, as an individual and as an organization, we are socially responsible on what is happening in our society and the environment.”

Jam says that CSR activities have the potential to unlock growth of our local communities if it is sustainable. “Ideally, private organizations bridge the gap between marginalized communities and the government.” It is highly known to Filipinos that, often times, our government alone is incapable of delivering assistance to these communities. This has led to Jam’s conclusion that collaboration between private organizations and the government could draw greater social impact. “For me, CSR is acknowledging, taking responsibility, choosing to act on the society’s needs and pressing problems. And as a corporation, they can so by utilizing their financial and human resources for a greater impact.”

CLOSER LOOK ON SOCIETAL PROBLEMS

But before anything else, Jam says it is important to identify the root of these problems first. “I believe the most important thing in today’s society is having good governance. I would say fighting against corruption is the highest priority that should be addressed by the government itself.” With such a widespread dilemma, Jam can only encourage the people

to not participate in any illegal actions in the government practice.



Another societal concern with which she says must be prioritized is the extended support to our local farmers. “I volunteered with PAKISAMA (Pambansang Kilusan ng Samahan ng Magsasaka) and learned about the rapid decrease in rate of our local farmers despite being an agricultural country.” Jam suggests for the government to arrange more farmer-to-market channels to increase the [local farmers] income.

After joining in various volunteering programs, Jam can attest that there are a lot of people who wants to do charitable work but do not have any idea where to begin. And based on first-hand experiences, she can’t wait to recruit other people to become a volunteer at their local communities to make them understand the joy of reaching out. “I want others to experience the joy of volunteering,” because it is more than just helping, it is also a fulfillment of one’s being.

“It is innate for people to do good. People just need to have the opportunity to help.”

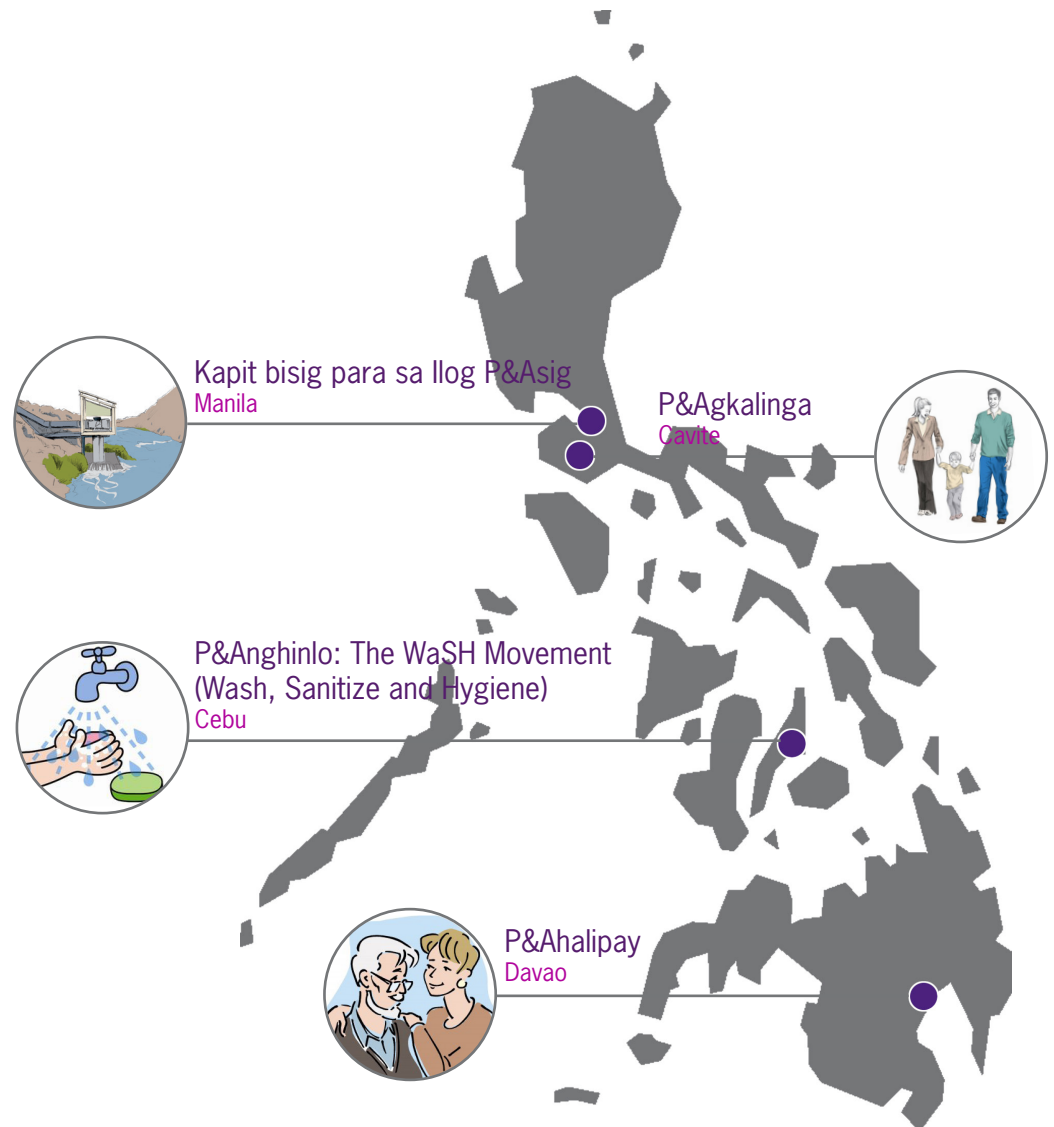
GT in the community: *Act. Commit. Share*

On September 17, Grant Thornton had its inaugural global CSR day, which was participated by over 80 member firms worldwide, including P&A Grant Thornton. As participation, P&A Grant Thornton conducted four (4) simultaneous activities in Manila, Cavite, Cebu, and Davao.

In coordination with ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation, Inc., volunteers from P&A Grant Thornton Makati organized a river rehabilitation project for Pasig river - "Kapit Bisig para sa Ilog P&Asig". Volunteers scooped trash from Estero de Pandacan, built and painted trash bins for the residents, and prepared bokashi or mud balls for fermentation. However, volunteers from Cavite office organized "P&Agkalinga," a charity program for the children of Little Angels Home, Inc. (LAHI) Foundation, wherein the volunteers granted toys and basic necessities to the young audience.

In Visayas, P&A Grant Thornton Cebu led "P&Anghinlo: The WaSH Movement (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene)" at the Day Care Center in Barangay Luz, Cebu City. Two licensed occupational therapists taught 50 kindergartners the essence of proper hygiene behavior and practices to one's well-being. And in Mindanao, P&A Grant Thornton Davao took part in "P&Ahalipay," a thanksgiving program for the elders at Care for the Elderly Foundation, Inc. Home for the Aged in Davao City. The volunteers brought entertainment and provided the elders with basic necessities - including toiletries and medicines.

Grant Thornton's global CSR day is an idea that evolved from a collaborative activity within Grant Thornton member firms.



Here is a photo collage of some of the highlights during P&A Grant Thornton's celebration of Grant Thornton's first global CSR day, dubbed "GT in the community".



P&A Throwback Wall

Any photos you want to share to show fond memories with your former colleagues at the Firm? Look back at those infinite memories with P&A Photo Album!

P&A
Christmas Party
December 2004



Reminisce, Relive, and Reconnect...

Reminisce the good ol' days and *relive* those unforgettable memories at P&A by *reconnecting* with your former colleagues. Share your stories and catch up with your former colleagues!

Send us your P&A throwback stories and photos at pcg.helpdesk@ph.gt.com or message us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pnaalumni.

Your entries may be on our next P&A Photo Album!



Birthday Calendar: *October*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Sheryl Villegas	2 Reuben Paul Bello Jasmine Mallari Rossana Sapan	3 Eliezer Francisco Jocelyn Sibug
4	5 Jaimie Rose Santos	6 Jennifer Talosig	7	8 Cezar Uy	9	10 Francina Sibayan
11 Michael John Abdon Benedict Cabaltica John Lerry Martinez	12	13 Ma. Sarah Paule	14 Albert Molina	15 Joseph Nico Cando Desiree May Sulit	16	17 Rolly Daylusan
18 Jovelon Toledo	19	20 Emir Crisostomo Ethel Lyne Mungiduing Lorene pe	21 Roselyn Caisido Queenie Payumo	22	23 Allain Aquino Nigel Avila	24 Rachell Mendiola
25 Jerome Ubalde	26 Jill Cyrene Bolaños Lea Lanuza	27 Arlene Espiritu	28 Bryan Joseph Sanqui	29	30 Girlie Villareal	31 Dianne Kay Pantaleon

Birthday Calendar: *November*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Christopher Faustino	2 Ma. Carla Magallanes	3 Eliezer Francisco	4 Menchie Tan	5	6 April Vivienne Ancheta Ruel Bumatay	7 Janina Marie Mantuano
8 Jacquelyn Laborte Marlo Patacsil Jean Tabuso	9 Genesis Edic Renee Rose Reyes	10 Nympha Magkamit	11 Ma. Theresa Seballos	12 Louise Demillo Rowell Garcia Rodel Mendoza	13 Dia Nerissa Bautista Ma. Bunnie Gotera Imelda Tuazon	14 Jennelyn Adoc
15	16 Roxanne Ramos	17 Christopher Camato Ma. Margarita Verceles	18	19 Antonino Castillo, Jr.	20 John Paul Malinao William Yerro	21 Crispin Borganio
22	23	24 Jenylyn Laquindanum	25	26	27 Jose Leandro Ramos	28 Jodilyn Salcedo
29 Aldrich Trinidad	30 Maricel Francisco Andrea Manabat					

Birthday Calendar: *December*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 Steven Ching	4 Lynette De Guzman	5 Crisanti Abrogena Crispina Santos Ma. Concepcion Trinidad
6	7 Emmanuel Ernesto Cruz Kim Albert Grabillo Christine Rodriguez	8 Jobelle Atienza Ma. Liza Evangelista	9	10 Ma. Cecilia Aguilar Kaleena Kiff Tevar Heliodoro Tingson, Jr.	11 Melissa Ferrer	12 Ma. Corazon Balwis Robert John Mañol
13 Mae Ann Cariño John Paul Jayson Ventura	14 Ma. Jazmine Rutaquio	15	16 Jessie Lumba, Jr.	17 Rhofalyn Apostol	18	19 Palma Vidallon
20 Hanna Victoria Fajardo	21	22 Pio Icamen	23	24 Noel Carillo	25 Cristine Afable Celeste Razal	26
27 Sheryll Cabantoc Ma. Rica Pineda Rodagail Reola	28 Rosanna Ricafort	29 Dennis Arada Maria Anna Garcia	30 Richard Cruz	31 John Dominic Esteban	<p><i>NOTE: If we have missed your birthday or your birthday on our list is incorrect, send us an e-mail at alumni.relations@ph.gt.com or message us on Facebook to help us update our database.</i></p>	