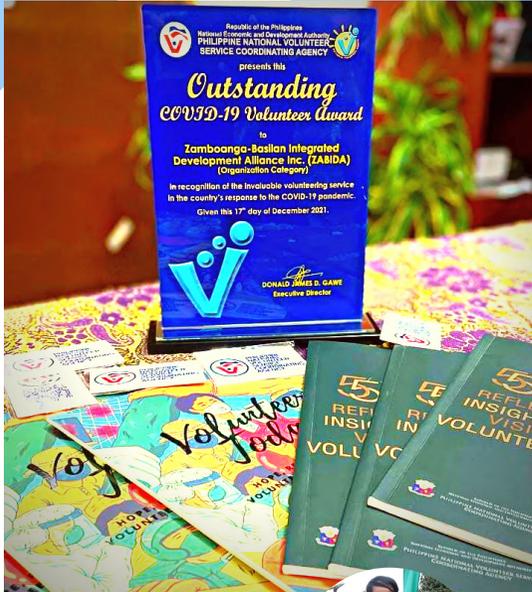




ZABIDA receives NEDA-PNVSCA Outstanding COVID-19 Volunteers award

by Frances Carreon, Communications Advocacy Officer



Through a virtual awarding ceremony last December 17, 2021, ZABIDA was awarded as one of the Outstanding COVID-19 Volunteers in line with the celebration of the National Volunteer Month Celebration. This award is given by the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) with the support of the National Economic Development Agency (NEDA). The Search of Outstanding Volunteers (SOV) in 2001 but for 2021, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, movement of people and goods halted. Despite restrictions, individuals, groups yet organizations took initiatives to conduct COVID-19 Humanitarian and volunteer response. SOV is a PNVSCA program in "recognizing the exemplary individuals and organizations which have significantly contributed to the country's development goals and objectives through volunteering" According to its rationale, "the SOV is conducted in partnership with the Regional Search Committees (RSC) chaired by the NEDA Regional Offices (NROs), the Department of the Interior and Local Government – National Capital Region (DILG-NCR) for the National Capital Region (NCR) and the Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority (BPDA) for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). The RSCs are in charge of the advocacy, receipt, alidation and documentation of nominees in their region. Regional nominees are endorsed to the SOV National Selection Committee, which in turn conduct further validation and deliberation to select the national awardees subject to confirmation by the National Volunteer Month – Steering Committee (NVM-SC). The Search concludes with an Awarding Ceremony which also serves as the yearly centerpiece event in the celebration of the National Volunteer Month (NVM) every December. In addition, an appreciation ceremony is spearheaded by each of the SOV-RSCs in cooperation with their Regional Development Councils (RDC) as applicable." ZABIDA was recognized for its COVID-19 response efforts in Risk Communications Capacity-building for Barangay Health Emergency and Response Team (BHERTs), Community Sani-Sink (sanitation sink), Community Livelihood Enterprise for Women and Farmers such as Garments (PPE production) and Food Processing for ginger production, dried fish, etc. and the involvement of various volunteer groups including fraternities in the City.



NAGDILAAB, A CSO amidst the Global Health Crisis: Dynamism, Resilience and Response



by Rennie Rose Daraug, Communications Advocacy Staff-NFI

As the COVID-19 pandemic swept the globe, civil society organizations responded nimbly and effectively, providing frontline help and defending the rights of people across the world. In the face of these challenges, civil society adopted a can-do mindset, mounting a positive response characterized by flexibility, creativity and innovation. Even CSOs that normally prioritize advocacy for rights rapidly reoriented to providing essential supplies and services, including food, healthcare, information and cash support, to help sustain communities. In close partnership and collaboration with our stakeholders and with grants provided for implementation of relevant projects, address the fast rising need of immediate response.

Despite the extensive efforts of government agencies to curb the sudden increase of Covid 19 positive cases during its spike, initiatives has the tendency to falter. Aside from being a member of the Covid 19 Interagency Task Force and in support to our community frontliners, Nagdilaab Foundation Incorporated thru the support of the United States Agency for International Development, RTI Reachealth was able to conduct series of capacity building and trainings to members of the Barangay Health Emergency Response Teams so as to organize and strengthen this structure on the barangay level as well as the community-level risk communication mechanisms. In dealing with their clientele especially those who are tested positive from the said virus and whose families are considered close contacts and are bound to undergo corresponding RT-PCR Tests prior to contact tracing. As a result of the project intervention through Trainings and Capacity Building, the BHERTs gained clearer understanding of their roles in the prevention and control of COVID 19 infection/transmission and communication capacities in the information dissemination to the public about health risk and event, and the outbreak of diseases and the process of referral system as well as the health authorities

have developed their capacities in communicating, case handling, expression of care and behavior, and the ability to identify consequent behaviors.

Other provision includes wash facilities, modular tents, hygiene kits and personal protective equipment as cloth facemask, faceshield and hazmat suits that falls into shortage in the onset of the pandemic. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support is top priority and was provided to both medical and non-medical frontliners thru partnership with the Local Government Unit of Isabela de Basilan. Cross cutting efforts of the Basilan Communicators Network Incorporated, a local alliance of both government and non-government agencies resulted to the creation of the Pagtabangan Helpline whose aim is to provide psychosocial support to facility guests (ROF's and LSI's) referred by the facility nurse in-charge and individuals who seek for that particular intervention.

Information dissemination was considerably one of the challenges that pokes the society during the health crisis. When thousands of rumors, conspiracy theories and reports of stigma have spread rapidly in social media channels and other media platforms fuelling mistrust of government and health workers, and contributing to unhealthy practices such as ingesting harmful substances in the hope of counteracting COVID. In doing so, these rumors undermine the people carrying out the pandemic response, thus we face "infodemic" (coined information pandemic) as well. NFI used mechanisms to debunk myths and disseminate valid, accurate and timely information from reliable sources thru its official social media page and its regular radio program that airs on 97.5 FM DXNO Radyo Komunidad. A myth-buster that encourages a whole-of-society approach in addressing compromising and unhealthy media environment.



Working in partnership with communities to include geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA), local government instrumentalities and other CSO's, the protection of human security is our main impetus as we continuously journey in the forefront of advocacy towards suppressing transmission, reducing exposure, countering misinformation and disinformation, addressing anxiety and depression, protecting the vulnerable, reducing mortality and morbidity rates and increasing equitable access of diagnostics and vaccines for all.

Ginhawa Wellness to help cope with pandemic

by Frances Carreon, Communications Adv Officer

In 2020, a Global Public Health issue that is the COVID-19 Pandemic halted government and business operations, challenged the educational process, affected livelihood of the marginalized sectors especially that the locked down and quarantine guidelines limited the movement of goods and people.

The implementation of the ZABIDA-Convenio Project was modified adapting to the "New Normal" wherein most activities were conducted virtually. In 2021 up to this date, with the COVID-19 vaccines and its availability, quarantine guidelines eased and allowed movement of goods and people which is why the project adapted blended activities - virtual and on-site participation of the stakeholders.

Amidst the resiliency, Mental Health cases became rampant which peaked curiosity and focused on public awareness through Social Media advocacy. And, to combat this, ZABIDA took the initiative to organize Ginahawa (Breathe) Wellness activities for its stakeholders. A Mental Wellness intervention for its stakeholders namely the Teachers, Students, the Youth, the CSO, the VAW Focal Persons and ZABIDA's workforce.



Ginhawa Wellness for Teachers

The Wellness Session was conducted last September 27, 2021 through zoom online and Face to Face last September 28, 2021 to the twenty-two Peace Education Coordinators.

The wellness session provided a space for the teachers to check on their mental and emotional state as educators in the 2nd year facing the COVID-19 Pandemic. The activity also provided a Psycho-Spiritual support to care for their physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health which is an extended support for their families, communities and fellow teachers.

As revealed by their post-activity sharing of learnings and reflections, most if not all participants agreed that the wellness sessions were a much needed recharge. They have shared that being busy with occupation is no excuse to neglect their health, and by learning proper breathing and ways on destressing, they can do better and more efficient in their work.

The activity was facilitated by Ms. Madeth Gardiola, Wellness Coach and Dr. Ferdinand Brawner. The activity was supported by Dr. Roy Tuballa, Schools Division Superintendent and Dr. Gloria Carpio, Division Peace Education Focal Person.

This was an effort supported by AECID and Manos Unidas under the Convenio 3 project.



PEACE ED FELLOWSHIP: AN INITIATIVE TO ADVANCE PEACE EDUCATION IN ZAMBOANGA

by Putli Monaira Amilbangsa II, Communications Advocacy Staff



Throughout the third year of the Convenio 3 project, Zamboanga Basilan Integrated Development Alliance, Inc. with support from Manos Unidas and AECID along with Peace Advocates Zamboanga and Interreligious Solidarity for Peace, implemented a 4-workshop series of Peace Ed Fellowship Training to twenty-seven (27) Peace Education Coordinators coming from different schools in Zamboanga City.

This Peace Ed Fellowship was a significant effort to fully capacitate Peace Education Coordinators from partner schools with the needed knowledge, skills, and principles to assist them in integrating peace education and developing peace advocacy actions in their institutions.

A Peace Ed Colloquium was held to culminate the Peace Ed Fellowship program, of which Twenty-Six (26) Peace Education Coordinators succeeded to complete. This not only served as a completion ceremony of the teachers but also the coming together of stakeholders within the Educational sector in an exchange of innovative ideas to advance Peace Education in the city. The colloquium was conducted on Dec. 1, 2021 at the Grand Astoria Hotel, Zamboanga City, as part of the closing celebration of the Mindanao Week of Peace 2021. This program was done with full support of Dr. Roy Tuballa, Schools Division Superintendent and Dr. Gloria Carpio, Division Peace Education Focal Person.

The educational sector in Zamboanga City faced great challenges in continuing academic activities during the pandemic. Having to transition from the traditional form of learning to virtual and blended form of instructing had its fair share of strengths and challenges. For the the Peace Ed coordinators, new means of conflict

such as cyber-bullying and communication misunderstandings were a challenge to their conflict resolving skills. Through the Fellowship Program, they have shared how they are doing and how they are coping up with the pandemic and new normal virtual training and education. Some shared that it is actually hard for them to adjust especially they are used to face-to-face interactions, this is coupled with their personal battles like financial constraints, health issues, familial conflicts, etc. They have also admitted to being unequipped for their role given the current situation.

During the trainings the participants shared how significant this program have been in helping them relieve their stress knowing that their welfare is being put into priority. The camaraderie that they have built through this program gave way to a lot of shared learnings of best practices in their own institutions as Peace Educators. They have learned many salient knowledge and skills like Community Peace- Conflict Management grounded on the Meaning of Community Peace, Five categories of Peace Building, Concepts of Peace translated as messages to mediate, mitigate and eliminate conflicts in the community, etc. By the end of the trainings, they have learned the proper analysis of conflicts, better strategies on educating the people of the community about peace and generate programs that build communal peace. This Fellowship Program contributed to Convenio target result of promoting the culture of peace and management of conflicts with a gender perspective in educational centers this is through generating a significant change in the participants' knowledge, skills, and abilities in terms of handling conflicts in schools.

One significant output of their trainings which will be their sustaining step from this program is their development of a Peace Module and Training Matrix on Culture of Peace. They understand that this entails the cultivating of the 6 petals of peace from the self, to the schools, and into the community.

This was a modified activity intervention by the Peace Component team through the leadership of Mr. Robert Basco, Peace Project Coordinator, and Angeline Pacure, Peace Education Project Staff, with special thanks to main Resource Person, a volunteer of Peace Advocates Zamboanga, Engr. Aldrin Bucoy-Abdurahim.



Stories of Peace from Peace Ed Coordinators

by Putli Monaira Amilbanga II,
Communications Advocacy Staff
Narrative Layout by: Robert N Basco,
Peace Project Coordinator

As one of the harvests of the Peace Ed Fellowship program, personal accounts of peace and experiences as a Peace Educator were gathered from the 27 Peace Ed fellows. This serves as an appreciation of their learning experience from personal struggles to applying peace in their daily lives, and how these experiences left an impact to how they are as the Peace Educators they are now.

Most of the fellows shared their personal difficulties and experiences on social conflicts. There were some who shared personal accounts of death and grieving. Some recounted how they were a witness to misunderstandings between people of different faiths that escalate further causing discrimination, threats, & insecurity. There were also who witnessed many fights in the community and school they are in, hence, even as a Peace Coordinator they say they are not totally at peace. One came to the realization that violence can reshape one's view in life. In our Culture of Peace and Peace Advocacy interventions within schools, our Peace Ed Coordinators become students and learners in handling conflicts and assisting the students cope with inner struggles as adolescents. They expressed that it is with the help of ZABIDA and Peace Advocates of Zamboanga, that they have gained a new family, one that understands and shares their struggle as as Peace Educators. They were trained to be more compassionate, extend arms in sharing their best practices, and apply them to their respective communities. It is through the interventions that they can build a better relationship in the family, school and the community.

Collecting these peace narratives is a way to give appreciation to their work as Peace Ed Coordinators, in addition, these narratives serve as a gauge to the personal impact of the trainings to the participants. Personally asking for their entries of peace stories is an advocacy approach for our teachers to share their learning experience on Culture of Peace and serve as inspiration in Peace-Building steps within schools.

PEACE ED. FELLOWSHIP 2021

“ Moving on, who am I today? As a Peace Education Fellow, honestly, I don't know how to begin with this Culture of Peace. But I believe with the bit of knowledge I have, the attributes I have in my simple way, I can take the challenge and embark & embrace the culture of Peace as I Journey for Peace. Still, I am undergoing the process geared with passion, compassion, and skills. One thing is for sure, and I can enable to make things possible in the name of Peace. I wish to happen in my school in the coming days, especially in this time of Pandemic. I wish I could pay it forward by easing the three S - the struggles of each parent, learner, and co-teachers facing right now. How can I sustain my Journey for Peace with them, and will we survive in this endeavor as we Journey for Peace.”

MA. JANET S. DEZA
PEACE EDUCATION COORDINATOR
Zamboanga City National High School

Narrative

PEACE ED. FELLOWSHIP 2021

“ As a peace coordinator, it was an honor to be part of the peace processes in the school, indeed, an amazing way to touch the lives of others as my life was also touched by them in many ways. We had planted peace in the hearts of our learners in the hard way yet it has produced fruits of conquering self, loving others and relating with others peacefully. Thus, without doubt, such learning experiences for sure will last a lifetime and that is from generation to generation, all by God's grace and mercy! To HIM all the glory!”

EMIL "BAPAH" ARANAL
PEACE EDUCATION COORDINATOR
Zamboanga City National High School

Narrative

PEACE ED. FELLOWSHIP 2021

“ I have realized that our role as Peace Education Coordinators does not end in school but also in our community. I envision taking responsibility for addressing some of our society's concerns, including Improper Waste Disposal. Sad to note that improper disposal of waste is evident in most of the communities. If we won't save our planet, how will our grandchildren's grandchildren experience nature's beauty and gift? Saving the planet does not only involve information drive, cleaning the environment, and planting trees, personal change must be evident as the community. I want to become an advocate of change by transforming the youth most positively, like cleaning their surroundings. Heavy household in the community tends to the surroundings and dispose of their waste correctly, maybe the garbage won't trash our oceans. In this simple way, I can give back and fulfill my purpose in the community as an eradiator of literacy and as a peace advocate. I want to end this narrative by saying, Acted need not be grand. They must be true.”

SHEILA MAE M. DUNGIS
PEACE EDUCATION COORDINATOR
Zamboanga City National High School

Narrative

PEACE EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP 2021

“When I was designated as Peace Coordinator of our school, I accepted the challenge of conducting Peace training. From then, I overcame my stage fright, developed my speaking skills, and developed confidence. I am grateful to be a part of this organization, to learn more and do better as a peace education coordinator. Some milestones in my journey include being a Speaker in School-Based Peace Training in 2018, Conducting School-Based Peace Camp in 2019, initiating the development of a school Peace Park and leveling up as a Speaker in School-Based in-service training in 2018 and 2020.

As a proud peace education coordinator now, I envision myself as an individual who contributes much to my colleagues and the school to promote peacebuilding in school. Eventually, transform our school into a zone of peace with a clean environment, where there is unity and progress among students, parents, teachers, and the school



ARMINIA MAGHINAY ALIPON
 PEACE EDUCATION COORDINATOR
Spoken Through High School

Peace Narrative

PEACE EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP 2021

“As I always listen to the music of the songs we play through the choir, the inner happiness in me radiates that no matter how challenging life is, I see to it that God's Calling for Peace remains at the heart of everyone and I will continue to use my talents and hone other people's talents as Gifts for Inner Peace. With this cause and motive, I commit myself to continue this journey even after I am no longer the Peace Education Coordinator.



GEMMA A. TOLENTINO
 PEACE EDUCATION COORDINATOR
Remember, We are All Here

Peace Narrative

PEACE EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP 2021

“My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive, and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor & some style. My hopes for the future include to see Peace being co-owned by the people of our community. It is in this way that Peace becomes a lifestyle by its institutionalization not only as an advocacy but as a way of life. I pray schools becomes the Center for Culture of Peace and Dialogue where people can realize their peace liabilities and improve their peace assets.



CATHERINE B. FELIX
 PEACE EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Peace Narrative

PEACE EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP 2021

“It was a big honor for our school and most especially for me as a coordinator to be able to mold students with a vision and mission for peacebuilding.

Above all, as a Peace Education Coordinator, I will forever believe in the power of influence. As an individual with the capacity to influence others towards peacebuilding, it will always be a part of my aspiration as an educator.

My aim is not just to teach my students what is in the book but also to instill the idea of developing peace throughout the community that will not just positively affect us today, but in each tomorrow that we shall face as well.



ANGELINA CASTILLO OLIVERA
 PEACE EDUCATION COORDINATOR
Let's Remember to Stay Humble

Peace Narrative

PEACE EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP 2021

“Ten years from now, I can see myself sitting on a rocking chair singing a song of love and peace. Talking and sharing my stories with my grandchildren, I was once a peace coordinator who somehow contributed peace educations and values to my pupils, who are now peace advocates and peace-loving individuals. If the goals and dreams of PAZ-ZABIDA will be realized, then, ten years from now in God's grace, I will hear singing birds are chirping; maybe I can see again flocks of butterflies flying in my garden, I can see the blue sea and clear beaches to swim with my grandchildren.



ERMELINDA ENOPIA
 PEACE EDUCATION COORDINATOR
Remember, We are All Here

Peace Narrative

PEACE EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP 2021

“That is why, as Peace Education Coordinator, I take this as a significant challenge. I envisioned myself as the bridge that one day, I can cultivate inner peace, build intercultural and interreligious Dialogue to them, and promote respect and understanding.

To have harmonious relationships among learners and colleagues is my ultimate goal. To feel that there is an equal opportunity given to learners regardless of who they are, gender orientation, sexual orientation etc. I believe our Peace at Home can be our source of strength in life and inspire community peace. All these things will be realized with my colleagues' help, Peace Education Fellows, and the PAZ-ZABIDA as well.



MELISSA P. MACLIENTE
 PEACE EDUCATION COORDINATOR
Spoken Through High School

Peace Narrative

PEACE ED. FELLOWSHIP 2021

“ As a Peace Education Coordinator for almost seven years, I know I haven't done enough yet. I have started things slowly but am excited about my journey in the next coming years...
 Today, as I look into it, I know I can still do more. Do more not just for myself but for our school and my community. I envision my school and community to have proper waste disposal management, recycling mechanisms, and lesser use of plastics. I dream of a society where differences in culture, gender orientation, ethnic backgrounds do not matter anymore. I know I cannot be a champion of all the petals of peace in one time, but I believe, step by step, one at a time, I could be. I may not be the best person to be here, but I claim that I am the RIGHT person.



RIZA MAE TAINO - FLORES
 PEACE EDUCATION COORDINATOR
 Zamboanga National High School

Narrative

PEACE ED. FELLOWSHIP 2021

“ Inspired and motivated, our role as Peace Education Coordinator is not only to make sure peace activities are done but to continuously empower our students to be weavers of peace as well. The piece of peace or Kalinaw that young minds need to learn the basic of compromise thru dialogue and that cooperation is better than competition. Peace is not something you wish for, it is something you make, something you are, something you do, and something you give away.



FLORITA MYRNA P. PATACASIL
 PEACE EDUCATION COORDINATOR
 Zamboanga National High School

Narrative

PEACE ED. FELLOWSHIP 2021

“ I define the path to peace as an EXPERIENCE of encounter and the willingness to live with disagreements. It is an encounter of dreams and varying hopes. It is a PHENOMENON, as we meet others towards an ACT OF EMBRACING – finding spaces where You and I can thrive and grow. As a MOMENT, the oath to peace is finding blessing amid our differences, despite limitations. This path to peace I now journey is a hidden joy rooted in the being of God.



ELBERT L. MANAYON
 PEACE EDUCATION COORDINATOR
 Zamboanga National High School

Narrative

PEACE ED. FELLOWSHIP 2021

“ no worked abroad as a Domestic helper to sustain the needs of my family. I gained greater cultural understanding and came up with my utmost realization of the need to understand cultural diversities. Secondly, the development of my social being can be attributed to my significant experiences working as a Social Worker in the Archdiocese of Zamboanga's Social Action, a faith-based organization. I met different people coming from various tribes. I understand that our cultural diversity led me discover managing and dealing with different personalities.
 This year, despite the pandemic, we conducted a love drive and anti-bullying symposium for our learners parents, believing that we help by sharing the spirit of love and learnings with our parents. To put it in a nutshell, peace begins with ourselves, understanding and accepting things for the better. Thank you, PAZ-ZABIDA, for making us to be better as peace champions in the future.



EMILY O. SANTIOSO
 PEACE EDUCATION COORDINATOR
 Zamboanga National High School

Narrative

PEACE ED. FELLOWSHIP 2021

“ As a peace education coordinator, I value Faith most. It is the Faith that God placed me here for a reason. It is the same Faith that whatever will come my way, I know God will provide and ultimately defend me. Like the magic shop in all of us, we are here to provide comfort for others and make them believe that Peace is indeed Possible.



MA. RAZZEL PEDROZA
 PEACE EDUCATION COORDINATOR
 Zamboanga National High School

Narrative

ZABIDA is a Consortium of four (4) Non-Government Organizations, namely: Peace Advocates Zamboanga Foundation, Inc., Katilingban sa Kalambuan, Inc., Reach Out to Others Foundation, and Nagdilaab Foundation that are implementing programs in Basilanga City and some municipalities in Basilanga.



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