



HIGHLIGHTS

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FANOGCS LAUNCHES HIGHLIGHTS: A NEWSLETTER TO INSPIRE AND INFORM

STORY: NAOMI DILIDILI PHOTO: MERLYN CAMAT

On September 28, 2024, during its General Assembly, the Filipino American Nurses Organization of Grand Canyon State (FANOGCS) proudly unveiled Highlights, the organization's official newsletter. Designed to keep members and the community informed, Highlights showcases FANOGCS's commitment to member enrichment and impactful outreach programs.

The newsletter serves as a platform to document the organization's various initiatives, from professional development events to community service projects,

while fostering transparency and engagement. Each activity highlighted in the publication reflects FANOGCS's mission to make a difference—not just within the organization but throughout the broader community.

Managed by a dedicated committee, Highlights also encourages contributions from outside its editorial team, inviting a diverse range of voices to share stories, insights, and ideas. This collaborative approach ensures that the newsletter remains dynamic, inclusive, and representative of the organization's values.

With Highlights, FANOGCS aims to celebrate the spirit of service and dedication that defines its members while inspiring others to join in their mission of care and compassion.



COMMUNITY EVENTS



HALLOWEEN ZUMBATHON 2024: A SPOOKTACULAR SUCCESS

AMY LAXAMANA

On October 26, 2024, the CDC was alive with energy and creativity as FANOGCS hosted its annual Zumbathon fundraiser—this time with a festive Halloween twist. Participants danced the day away in costume, led by dynamic Zumba instructors Avette T-Warrior, Cathy Moreau, and Kimberly King. The 1.5-hour session featured an exhilarating mix of playlists, with each ZIN (Zumba Instructor Network member) bringing their unique style to the floor.

Adding to the excitement, the Ways & Means Committee organized two side fundraisers: Purse for a Cause, offering stylish bags for a great cause, and a mouthwatering bake sale. Guests and attendees also generously supported the event through free-will donations at the drop box.

The combination of high-energy dancing, creative fundraising, and community spirit made this year's Halloween Zumbathon a thrilling success. It was a perfect example of fitness, fun, and philanthropy coming together for a greater good.



FANOGCS LEADS AT THE 13TH FILIPINO FESTIVAL

EDRALYNE G. HONCULADA

On October 12, the Saigon Center in Mesa, AZ, came alive with the 13th Filipino Festival, a vibrant celebration of Filipino-American History Month. The event fostered cultural connections as attendees enjoyed Filipino delicacies, traditional crafts, and attire from local vendors.

FANOGCS's Community Outreach Committee contributed to the festivities with free health screenings, wellness education, and lively Zumba sessions led by Aljeareau Manabat, infusing energy and fun into the celebration.

The festival's highlight was a stunning performance by *4th Impact*, the globally acclaimed Filipino girl group from *X Factor UK*. Their powerful rendition of *Bohemian Rhapsody* mesmerized the audience and left a lasting impression.

This joyful event beautifully blended culture, health, and entertainment, reflecting the pride and unity of the Filipino-American community.



FANOGCS SUPPORTS THE 10TH ANNUAL PRETTY IN PINK DANCE PARTY

ALJEREAU MANABAT

On October 12, FANOGCS joined Zumba instructor Avette T. Warrior's 10th Annual *Pretty in Pink Dance Party* at the Apache Junction Multi-Generational Center. The event raised funds for the National Breast Cancer Foundation, bringing the community together for a fun and meaningful cause.

Attendees, dressed in pink, enjoyed a lively atmosphere with raffle prizes, including wins by FANOGCS members Billie Sparenga and Ocamie Dawe. Members A-Jay Manabat, Clay Boren, and supporter Amy Laxamana also contributed to the success of the event.

FANOGCS is proud to support initiatives that align with its mission of community service and extends gratitude to all who participated in this impactful event.



The FANOGCS General Assembly



CONTRIBUTOR: JUVI LINDSEY STORY: NAOMI DILIDILI PHOTO: MERLYN CAMAT

On Saturday, September 28, 2024, FANOGCS members came together for a vibrant and impactful General Assembly, setting the stage for the 2024-2026 term under the leadership of President Alain Dela Cruz. The day was filled with energy, collaboration, and a shared commitment to the organization's mission.

The event kicked off with registration and a hearty breakfast, fueling members for a productive day. Committees energized the room with their annual reports and ambitious plans for the coming year. A standout moment was President Alain Dela Cruz's presentation of his vision for the term, encapsulated in the theme: "Turn Passion into Inspiration!" His budget proposal was also unanimously approved, motioned by Amy Laxamana and seconded by Marissa Gregorio.

Remarkable Initiatives: The GIVE Ministry Project

One of the most notable announcements was the GIVE Ministry Project, which will allocate 15% of FANOGCS's operational fund to support four chosen charities:

1. MIHM (Mary's Immaculate Heart Missionary) – Based in Bogo City, Cebu, Philippines, this mission serves society's outcasts, the poor, and the sick with love and compassion.
2. Jacob's Hope – A specialty care nursery providing 24-hour medical care for substance-exposed newborns.
3. A Better Chance (ABC) Foundation – An NGO in Quezon City, Philippines, assisting financially challenged students to access quality education.
4. Charitable Makima – A youth-serving community-based organization officially registered with the National Youth Commission.

Welcoming New Members

The assembly also celebrated the induction of new members: Chloe Saldana, Ruby Sirilan, Jenel Jones, and Edelman del Mundo. Edelman has since joined the Newsletter Committee, bringing remarkable talent and dedication to the team.

The day concluded with a strong sense of unity and purpose, highlighting FANOGCS's unwavering commitment to community service, collaboration, and inspired action.

Stay tuned for exciting updates on future projects and initiatives. Together, we're building a brighter future!



GLOBAL OUTREACH



FANOGCS RESPONDS TO TYPHOON KRISTINE'S DEVASTATION

AMY LAXAMANA

On November 7, 2024, FANOGCS responded to the devastation caused by Typhoon Kristine, which ravaged the Bicol region and other parts of the Philippines. The storm displaced countless families, destroyed homes, and wiped out communities. Schools were flooded and closed, crops were ruined, and many were left without access to basic healthcare as children began to fall ill.

Unlike the U.S., the Philippines lacks organizations like FEMA, leaving disaster response heavily reliant on the Red Cross, which often struggles with limited resources. Recognizing the urgent need, FANOGCS launched a heartfelt fundraising effort, appealing to friends and families for support.

The initiative, led by Amy Laxamana, Mydee Vergel de Dios, and Susan Araneta, raised \$1,366.67. These funds were entrusted to St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chandler, which forwarded the donations to the office of the Archbishop of Caceres in Naga City. The funds will provide essential supplies, medicines, shelter, and much-needed hope to those affected.

FANOGCS expresses its deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed, helping make a meaningful difference in the lives of those devastated by Typhoon Kristine.



FANOGCS EXTENDS RELIEF TO TYPHOON MERCE VICTIMS

AMY LAXAMANA

In early November, FANOGCS successfully raised funds to support Bicol in the aftermath of Typhoon Kristine. Shortly after, Typhoon Merce struck Northern Philippines, devastating Sanchez Mira in Cagayan Valley. The storm left many homeless as roofs were torn off houses, fishermen lost their livelihoods when their bancas (boats) were destroyed, and power outages plunged the area into darkness. Families were left without dry beds, clothing, or essential resources.

Despite the looming threat of another typhoon, which fortunately weakened upon landfall, FANOGCS quickly stepped in to help. Guided by its mission of global outreach, The organization raised \$1,300 to support relief efforts. Dr. Alma de Leon, a dentist who volunteered in FANOGCS's recent medical mission in Laoag City, spearheaded on-the-ground assistance to deliver aid directly to affected families.

FANOGCS is deeply grateful for the generosity of its friends, families, and supporters, whose contributions brought hope and relief to the deprived and underprivileged in Sanchez Mira. Together, we continue to share our blessings for the glory of God.

Maraming salamat po!

