

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MONTH CELEBRATION

The Laura Vicuña Foundation (LVF), a member of the National Steering Committee (NSC) of the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) actively took part in the 22nd National Children's Month celebration with the theme, "Bata Kasali Ka, Ikaw ay Mahalaga" which put emphasis on the importance of child participation.

These were the highlights:

- **October 4, 2014, Luneta, Manila** – LVF child delegates participated in the awareness walk in Luneta, the opening event of this year's National Children's Month with children coming from schools, NGO's and the Boys and Girls Scouts of the Philippines. LVF delegates came from various Child Protection Clinic areas including Pampanga, Quezon City and Manila. The LVC girls started the program with a dance interpretation. The Child Protection Clinic on wheels was on hand at the Child protection station where counseling for children was made available during the day. Sr. Candy Carmen Balverde FMA and Tricia Nadine Velasquez were the LVF representatives who at the end of the event signed the commitment of NSC members on our behalf.
- **October 8, 2014, Crowne Plaza Manila** – Ms. Asuncion Cueto and Ms. Carla Juncia represented LVF at the launching of the CWC Seal of Child-Friendly Philippines at the Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria. The event was led by Secretary Dinky Soliman with participants from government and NGO's including Secretary Enrique Ona of DOH and Secretary Armin Luistro of DepEd. Through mandatory audit, all LGUs nationwide shall have to meet or pass the 12 indicators e.g. health and nutrition, education, protection and child participation among others. CWC will use the audit results to confer the Seal of Child-Friendly Local Governance to qualified LGUs to be nominees for the Presidential Award for the Child-Friendly Municipalities and Cities which will be awarded in 1st quarter of 2015.
- **October 10-12, 2014, Rizal**– Twenty children from a variety of NGO's attended the Story Book Write Shop at the Ciudad Christhia Resort, Rizal. Our representatives were Stephen Arcan (LVF Sta Mesa) and Princesslyn Regulacion (LVC Pampanga) who picked up first and second place in the contest for their story books. The event was facilitated by Dr. Luis Gatmaitan, Mr. Richard Nollen and Ms. Posh.
- **October 18, 2014** – World Day Against Child Labor -BATANG MALAYA... PROTEKSYUNAN CHILD LABOR... LABANAN organized by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), International Labor Organization (ILO) and National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) with NGO core group. LVC girls from Pampanga opened the program with an

invocation, through a song and dance interpretation. LVF Child Advocate Cecil Meniado, welcomed the guests and participants. She told the participants that she was once a victim of child labor and many hearts were touched with her disclosure. Cecil was also interviewed by ABS CBN during the event. Another part of the event was the on-the-spot art contest where Thrish Anne Hizon, LVF Sta. Mesa, won the second place for the 10-13 year old Category.

- **October 21, 2014, Manila Hotel** – LVF Child Advocates Princess Regulacion and Elenel Sipe along with 6 other children from other NGO's represented the Council for the Welfare of Children during 2nd Legislative National Summit Welfare and Protection Of Children with the theme: BATA ALAGA NG LOKAL NA SANGGUNIAN. It was a very good opportunity to voice their concerns and needs as children to our government officials particularly the Vice Mayors' League of the Philippines and those at the Legislative Body.
- **October 23, 2014** – LVF Advocate Cecil Meniado was the resource person who shared her story and advocacy among her fellow children during the 4Ps (Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program) Congress For Children Her topic was: "AKO AT ANG AKING PAMAYANAN."
- **October 25, 2014, Quezon City** Princesslyn Regulacion attended the Pre-Summit on Children at the Council for the Welfare of Children regarding child participation towards the empowerment of the Filipino family. The objective of the pre-summit is to emphasize the important role of the child within the Filipino family and in nation building.
- **October 25, 2014, Makati City** – Three teams from our CPC in Taguig participated in the Annual Miguel Dizon Cup organized by Mr. Francisco Dizon family held at Don Bosco Makati. The 35 LVF boys were trained by Coach Richie Garcia on Saturdays before the event. Mr. Francisco Dizon, LVFI Board of Director, organized the football tournament with 200 poor children in memory of his son, Miguel, who was a football player of Ateneo de Manila.
- **October 27, 2014** –Final judging of PSA entries at FFW Training Hall. Cecil Meniado, our child representative from LVF was chosen to be one of the judges for the PSA.
- **October 29, 2014** – Children's Arts Festival at Skydome SM North Edsa
The LVC girls opened the event with their dance prayer - Heal the World. The Philippine National Anthem was sung by Princesslyn Regulacion. Since this was the culminating activity of the National Children's Month Celebration, the LVF Project Team Committee

sent around 100 participants for the arts festival, the biggest number of participants from among the NGO's. The LVF children came from Child Protection Clinic areas in Bacood, Judge Jimenez, Hillcrest, the LVC girls and Sta. Mesa. Stephen Arcan, the winner of the Story Book Write shop did a story telling on his winning piece. LVF was acknowledged by Council for the Welfare of Children for its valuable support to the National Children's Month series of activities.