



A Million Voices Newsletter

December 2017

THE PROUD ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JUN '17 TO DEC '17

PHOTOS FROM GIRLS GOT GAME

Girls Got Game

In 2012, the United Nations established International Day of the Girl – which is celebrated every October 11.

Last October, AMV, Girls Got Game and several other NGOs held a sports camp where the scholars participated.

Girls Got Game is an NGO, which empowers young women through sports, and AMV was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to collaborate with them. AMV scholars were able to learn the basic techniques of four sports: volleyball, football, basketball and rugby.

High performance athletes from each modality devoted their time to share skills and teach the importance to collaborate in a team to achieve a common goal.

The AMV team got the first place award in the football championship, along with an award for star athlete in volleyball!

The camp was not only filled with sports and fun for the scholars, they also learned the value of camaraderie.

This kind of event exposes the female scholars to the endless possibilities of life. They now know what their sports capabilities are, and it is up to them to create an opportunity for themselves to further practice what they have learned.

Truly, this was an event for them to remember. Not only did they gain new friends, but also increased self-confidence.





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PHOTOS FROM THE EXAMINATIONS

Annual Examinations

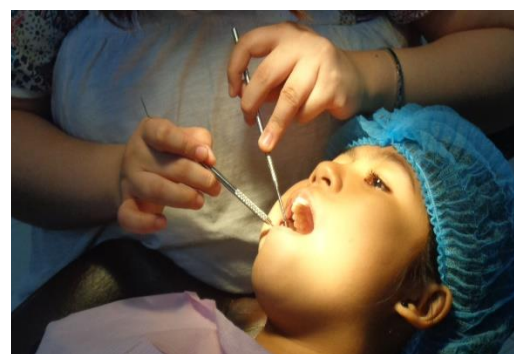
The Philippines does not have an inclusive health system for those with financial constraints, and the bar is therefore very often quite high for a family to attend a physician for health concerns. With health being one of the main pillars of A Million Voices, we ensure that our scholars receive the best of medical care and follow up.

From the first year of being included in the scholarship program, each scholar has undergone an annual health check-up. Every check-up has been completed with the collaboration of the private clinic, Vizcarra Pharma, and it wouldn't have been possible without this kind of partnership.

This year, the annual physical examinations were held in August and the parents accompanied the scholars in order to ensure engagement between parent and physician. The check-up itself included x-ray screening and laboratory examinations.

AMV acknowledges that while physical check-ups are important, there are additional health concerns that need to be addressed. The scholars have therefore also attended optical and dental examinations this fall.

The optical check-up was conducted at Regalado clinic, while the dental treatment was at Emilio Aguinaldo College.





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PHOTOS FROM THE ACTIVITIES

Mentorship and Spark Fest

A Mentor for Life

In partnership with Boldr Impact, AMV scholars now have a mentor that will guide them in setting their personal goals and assisting them in realizing how to achieve them. Mentoring sessions also include basic IT and communication skills.

Every other Saturday of the month, the pairs of mentors and mentees meet. Through a structured curriculum, the mentors teach English and Computer skills, and the goal is that a program like this will encourage the scholars to remain engaged in curricular and extracurricular activities.

Spark Fest 2017

On June 24, four AMV Scholars attended the Spark Fest 2017, a festival and conference for entrepreneurs and change makers in the Philippines. It was a great opportunity to learn and be inspired by the founders of businesses such as Rags2Riches and Commune Cafe+Bar.

Thanks to The Office Project (TOP) and especially to Shumate Royo for giving AMV scholars this unique opportunity. In the words of one of our scholars: *"That day became memorable (in my life) because of what I learned"*.





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PHOTOS FROM THE DISTRIBUTION

Supplies Distribution

Attending school is in theory free, but for many students the reality is that the school necessities create a barrier for attending and/or excelling in school.

A student will need school supplies, school and PE uniforms, shoes, and a school bag. In addition to that, there are mandatory projects that need materials and equipment. Aside from the direct school expenditures, a student will also need daily school meals to stay focused. Some will also require school transportation in order to get safely to and from their schools. In other words, it can become a costly affair to get an education.

The scholarship program provides all of this for the included scholars. Lunch can

be collected in the school canteens, a tricycle driver collects and fetches the students to and from school, and each scholar has an allowance for project materials.

Twice per year, school supplies are distributed to the scholars as wekk. The amount of supplies, uniforms, bags and shoes provided need two tables in order to fit in a photo, and covers every scholar's school need each semester. The supplies are selected in collaboration with the scholars themselves, as these are based on their actual needs.

These needs are met thanks to the corporate donation of the Norwegian travel agency **G Travel** and individual scholarship sponsors.





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PHOTOS FROM THE CELEBRATION

Holiday Celebration

The Holiday season is truly jolly for everyone. It is a time for getting together with family and friends, being thankful for the relationships we have with one another and spreading the holiday spirit.

The AMV scholars were able to experience this last December 17, together with the employees of the company Boldr. Andi, Hana, and Milene also joined them – three dedicated AMV volunteers whom the scholars have become familiar with over several activities.

The celebration started with a dance presentation from the scholars, followed by another group of scholars who sang a heart-warming rendition of the Chinese

song “Peng You” - which means friend in English.

After showcasing their talents, the scholars gave recognition to the attending volunteers.

To end the night, each scholar received a gift from AMV and Boldr, together with Christmas cards all the way from Norway.

It was indeed a night to remember for them as new friendships developed, and old ones were treasured.

