



STEPPING STONE

Center For Excellence In Special Education

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“A Story about Love!” (Accenture Gift Giving Day)

By: Teacher Lea Dines Balusdan

MESSAGE BOARD



Dayal Nandwani
Executive Director

Christmas is a time for sharing blessings although this should be a whole year round practice. Companies are now becoming more and more aware that there is a need to give back and share with their less fortunate countrymen.

Although we are busy always, we need to reflect and act on what is important. Giving back is a sign of thanking the Lord for all he has blessed us with.

A culture of sharing, giving back, paying it forward, corporate responsibility, social enterprises or whatever it is called is simply **SHARING Your Blessings.**

No one has ever become poor by giving back.

Thank you to all who shared their time, treasure and talents with us this **Christmas Season.**

Dayal Nandwani
Executive Director
Stepping Stone



One call center that continues to value quality when it comes to their performance is **Accenture**. It is a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company. As part of their **Corporate Social Responsibility**, **Accenture** also provides arts and crafts classes for children with and without disabilities.

On the 8th of December 2017, Accenture visited **Stepping Stone Makati** to share their love for our special education students and outpatients totaling 50 participants. Our parents and all the 6 teachers, **Karla** and **March**

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for *Early Intervention (EI)*, *Lea* and *Angelica* for *Functional Academics (FA)*, *Hannah* and *Sofia* for *Teen Adult classes (TA)* and *Ms. Ria* from the admin office, were there to guide them with their activity.

There were 18 staff from *Accenture* who conducted a short program for the students of *Stepping Stone*. The program was led by their *Senior Manager Mr. Rajesh*. The event took place at the Teen Adult Classroom and despite of the limited area, everyone still happily and willingly entertained the children with so much energy.

The program with a short prayer. Next the group motivated the students with a short dance entitled "*Hula-hoop*" and "*Baby Shark*". Everyone was able to sing and dance actively. After the dance, the students were all given the chance to play the game, "*hep hep hooray*" with the presence of their parents who gave them moral support. All the participants were winners which left everyone happy.

The highlight of the program was the distribution of gifts by the volunteers from *Accenture*. One by one the students names were called out to claim their gifts. All the students and parents were very happy and thankful receiving these gifts given to them.

A photo session with all volunteers and students ensued with big smiles on everyone's faces. Despite their "night shift duties" the volunteers were very glad to have opportunity to be with these students. Simple play time and just having fun with our students to see their happy faces and smiles washed away all the stress from work. It was quite an unforgettable experience for the *Accenture Volunteers*

The day's activity with a free lunch for everybody at the school.

We thank *Accenture* and all their volunteers from *Project Verizon* for spending their time and treasure with our students at *Stepping Stone*. We look forward to your company being a partner with us at *Stepping Stone*.





Full Participation of Stepping Stone Foundation Students

by: Teacher Angelica Varona



One of our country's advocate for awareness of *Persons with Disability (PWD's)* is the *Archdiocese of Manila Ministry*. It was created to provide Persons with Disabilities in the Archdiocese of Manila the pastoral care they need.

The implementation and monitoring of pastoral programs for the PWD's in the Archdiocese of Manila consists of cities like *Manila, San Juan, Valenzuela, Mandaluyong, Pasay* and *Makati*.

As **Stepping Stone Foundation Inc.** is one of the institutions that are part of their advocacies, we are always invited to join the annual *AMMPD Day* celebration. Last December 2, Saturday, we celebrated their 18th year held at the same venue last year at *Don Bosco Technical School, MAKATI*.

Participants of these events were from different *SPED Schools, Parishes, PWD Institutions* and *PWD Organizations* within the *Archdiocese of Manila, Parents, Caregivers* or *Personal Assistant of PWD'S* and *SpEd Teachers*.

Stepping Stone students from Early Intervention class, Functional Academics and Teen-Adult class were present during the event. They were accompanied by their parents or guardians and they had fun-filled experience.

Program of activities included Children's' activities such as *Painting: Mosaic, Tattoo, Face Paint, Stamp Art, Paper Folding (origami), Leaf Painting, Picture Coloring, Dance Exercise* and *Play Zone*.

The children's area was full of surprises, arts and crafts were everywhere that made our students enjoy. They received toys, won prizes and made new friends. It was even brighter because of cute Animators from different volunteer groups from Church, schools and barrangay communities who assisted them to enjoy the whole art activities.

The program proper began with the *Eucharistic Celebration* of Mass presided by *Fr. Amado L. Picardal* followed by the opening of

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Services which are the **Free Medical, Dental (Teeth Cleaning/ Prophylaxis, Dental Extraction, Dental Restoration or Filling) and Legal Services.**

The Parents were really thankful for this opportunity, and our students were able to be accommodated and rendered those services from generous volunteer **Doctors** and **Dentists** from **Philippine Dental Association** and other **Hospitals** and **Centers** here in Metro Manila.

Most of our students had their Dental Fluorosis or Tooth Whitening, some had teeth cleaning, medical checkups and received Multivitamins and freebies like toothbrush, toothpaste and face towel. Free food for Lunch and snacks for all were all provided and distributed during lunchtime. Everyone was so delighted because of different Philippine snack food such as unlimited **Lugaw (Porridge), Taho (fresh, soft/silken tofu w/ arnibal), biscuits, cupcakes, chips, juice, cotton candy** and everyone's favorite **ice cream.**

One of the much awaited part of the program was the raffle draws, freebies for PWD and gifts such as cookies from **AMMPD**. Also, PWD registered participants received a free white T-shirt with a print of this year's theme "**Communion of Communities: Ecclesiological Perspective**"

This years' **AMMPD PWD Day** was extra special because our school won as **The Early Bird**. It was **Atasha Lorraine Sison** from **Functional Academic Class** who arrived first early in the morning at the venue. And surprisingly, we won the category. The school received a 1,000 Pesos worth of **Gift Certificates** from **Ronald McDonalds.**

And as what have mentioned there were Raffle Draws and we had lucky winners from our school, **Mrs. Vicky Pacit** won a "**Noche Buena**" package and **Mrs. Veniedai Rey** won ₱500.00 cash, it was full of blessings for everyone! Lastly, the event was ended with a message for everyone about the full participation of all in the life of the church, **Fellowship, Friendship, Sharing, Partnership** there will be a **Unity.**





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