

SUAF MEMBERS VOTED FOR 2 PROJECTS TO FIGHT COVID19

By Miriam Tan Cole

Here we are in 2020, a year permanently etched in history for the pandemic COVID19. It felt unreal that the whole world shuts its doors to travel, business, school and social activities. Fear was prevalent and the theme of “survival of the fittest” was aired all over the neighborhood. The race to the stores for toilet paper, paper towels and anti-bacterial wipes was futile because there was not enough for everyone. Face masks were required and there was not enough fabric and elastic to be had.

VOTE 1

So, in the midst of this hysteria, members of the SUAF-SD (Silliman University Alumni and Friends in San Diego) decided to honor and protect our most vulnerable members, i.e., the septuagenarians and above. A care package, which included face masks, hand sanitizers and anti-bacterial wipes, was assembled and delivered. It was a slow process because even online stores were out of the needed materials. Finally, all of these items were collected, assembled and delivered. There was a deluge of warm and sincere notes of appreciation from the recipients.

This project was approved by the SUAF-SD Board of Directors on April 4, 2020. So, thank you, SUAF members for being a part of this humanitarian task. Big thanks to **Louella Dolar** who provided the materials and sewed the masks. **Laarni Catague Gularek** purchased the other items. **Fely Tan Narvaez**, **Priscilla Gallardo Madrid** and **Efren Madrid** helped in the assembling of the materials.



Items included in the care package: hand sanitizers, Clorox/Lysol wipes and cloth face masks.



Care packages ready for delivery. Assembly & delivery group, L-R: Louella Dolar, Fely Narvaez, Efren Madrid, Laarni Catague Gularek and Priscilla Gallardo Madrid.

VOTE 2

In the meanwhile, our alma mater, Silliman University, campaigned for PPE (personal protection equipment) for the Silliman University Medical Center Foundation Inc. (SUMCFI) medical staff, who are exposed to COVID19 and/or equivalent diseases. On April 4, 2020 SUAF-SD voted to contribute PPE amounting to \$1,000. Instead of giving cash, the Board voted to purchase the PPE that included 55 coveralls, 68 isolation gowns and 100 N95 masks. **Jerrold Pabillan**, who works with the SUMCFI Heart Institute and is also Louella's relative, was chosen to be our purchasing agent and liaison between SUAF and the SUCMFI COVID19 Donation Center. Thanks to Mr. Pabillan, all of the PPE were completed and are now ready for use at the health facility.

A Turnover Ceremony for the donation was held at the Assembly Hall on June 16, 2020 and was coordinated by **Ruben Bokingo**, SU Alumni and External Affairs Director. Present for the ceremony were our very own Silliman University President **Betty McCann**, SUMCFI President **Roberto Montebon**, **Ruben Bokingo**, SUMCFI Nursing and Patient Services Vice President **Fredita Tan**, **Rewa Caber** SUMCFI Purchasing Department Head, and **Jerrold Pabillan** SUMCFI Heart Institute Unit Head.



Donated PPEs: isolation gowns (left) coveralls (right) and N95 masks.



PPE donation received by Dr. Betty McCann, SU President and Robert Montebon, SUMCFI President/Administrator



Turning over of the PPE donation. L-R: Ruben Bokingo, Betty McCann, Roberto Montebon, Fredita Tan, Rewa Caber & Jerrold Pabillan.

In spite of all the social restrictions, we are still able to reach out and fulfill our mission to serve our community and alma mater. Stay healthy, everyone! We hope to see you soon!

