



THIS MAY IN MANO AMIGA...

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MAY 2017

MANO AMIGA

This month of May, Mano Amiga had exciting projects with various partners like Benefit Cosmetics and Philip Stein watches that will enable us to touch more lives. Mano Amiga students also shined as they showcased their talents and skills during a ballet recital and as well as during the school's Idea Carnival open house for guests. Read on to find out more about these moving stories in Mano Amiga!

DO GOOD WHILE FEELING GOOD: BENEFIT COSMETICS' 'BOLD IS BEAUTIFUL' CAMPAIGN!



For this year, Benefit Cosmetics chose Mano Amiga as their beneficiary for their unique initiative — the Bold is Beautiful Project. With this program, Benefit Philippines donated 100% of the proceeds from all the brow wax services done in their branches nationwide for the whole month of May 2017, which will go to the scholarships and mentorship programs for the girls of the school.

As part of this, they also conducted insightful workshops for the students and moms. They taught them proper hygiene, stress management, and how to dream big and think outside of the box. The staff of Benefit, the 'benebabes'

were also able to get to know the moms at a deeper level from spending time with them during the one-on-one make-up sessions. With this project, both Mano Amiga and Benefit Philippines had a month full of inspiration and empowerment to be bold and beautiful!





PHILIP STEIN PARTNERS WITH MANO AMIGA TO HELP BUILD LIBRARY

Last May 25, 2017, the spirit of community was at its strongest when Filipinos gathered in New York City to launch the first edition of Philip Stein Cares Global Filipino Watch collection to help build the new Mano Amiga library. Each timepiece sold donates 20% to Mano Amiga to be able to reach more students from underprivileged communities through the building of a new library.

The limited edition watch collection honors the contributions of the Global Filipino community who are considered modern day heroes. Each Philip Stein Cares timepiece is uniquely made features a large white mother of pearl Philippine dial with the numbers 6 and 12 etched to commemorate the Philippine Independence Day. The Philippine sun is also embedded in silver and the interchangeable straps represent the colors of the Philippine flag.

What Went On in New York As told by our Executive Director, Lynn Pinugu

The best thing about a project like the Philip Stein Global Filipino Heroes Campaign is the opportunity to gather like-minded Filipinos who share our ideals about the role of education in empowering individuals to break out of poverty.

The launch, had a '*Bayanihan*' theme, an ancient custom where villagers come together to help their neighbor relocate to another place by carrying his home in their shoulders. This value, which represents the best of the Filipino spirit, perfectly captured the atmosphere of warmth, community, and compassion during the event. It was inspiring to hear many of the guests say that they are



passionate about the work of Mano Amiga because they themselves had experienced what it's like to be given an opportunity to radically transform their life. To them, owning the watch was a small but concrete way to do something about the gross inequality in the country.

When they spoke to me about poverty in the Philippines, they did not discuss it in collective terms, merely reduced to statistics. Instead they talked about people they knew, whether it be a distant relative who is struggling financially, or a stranger they got to know when they were still living in the country.

One guest fondly remembered the little girls selling Sampaguita she would see at Church on Sundays. "It is a sight many of us back home have gotten used to," she shared. "When I got

here, I realized that I had grown numb to social injustice. Children should be playing, not working, and helping Mano Amiga is one way of helping right this wrong."

I came home from the event with renewed enthusiasm about our work, and even more determined to scale up the impact of our programs. We are grateful to Philip Stein for giving us the chance to reach more Filipinos and to share our work on a global scale. Emily Dickinson wrote: Hope is that thing with feathers that perches in the soul.

This event was a beautiful reminder of just how generous the Filipinos are, and that we can always find hope in the hearts of our countrymen who never tire of helping those in need in whatever way they can.





MANO AMIGA ALUMNI, NOW INCOMING PHILIPPINE HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS STUDENTS, SHINE DURING BALLET RECITAL

The lights dimmed, the curtains opened, and a long line of dolled up children in flounced tutu skirts tiptoe their way across the stage. Much like a wonderland, gigantic playing cards and gargantuan wall clocks hung around a projected screen, welcoming the audience to the magical world of dance.

Dance Basics 2017 recital started with Aladdin's A Whole New World as the number's musical backdrop, with some of Mano Amiga's grade 6 girls dressed in satin, Arab-style ensembles gracefully leaping while waving

colored cloths in the air. The program went on number after number reminiscent of fairytale Disney movies – from recent ones like Tangled to the classics like Lion King.

Camille Rosaloes and Jazailah Cababat, Dance Basics scholars and Mano Amiga alumni, shined through with each arabesque and every stretched gallop. It took us back to the moment over six years ago when Dance Basics did a free workshop in Mano Amiga FTI. Crammed in a little classroom, the girls showed unrelenting eagerness to practice



and know more about ballet, encouraging Dance Basics' Trina Zafra and Nesa Tanyag to offer free training and coaching sessions for the two even after their workshop. And just as we thought the program was done, Nesa Tanyag announced they were going to show a send-off tribute to two of their dearest girls.

Tears began pricking our eyes as they presented Camille and Jazailah's journey. Photos of that crammed room in Taguig with the wide-eyed girls trying to reach their toes, montages of their training with globally renowned prima ballerinas from Ballet Philippines and Julliard University, videos of Jazailah claiming that dancing will allow her to travel the world, and another video from their moms encouraging them to follow their dreams.

This June, our Mano Amiga alumni Camille and Jazailah will start another journey at the Philippine High School for the Arts, after being carefully chosen to be two of the 15 scholars handpicked from 200 applicants across the Philippines.

Our girls walked center stage as Trina and Nesa gave them bouquets of flowers – overflowing emotions and gratitude filled the AFP theatre.

In the midst of pirouettes performed, tutus worn, tears wiped, and hugs exchanged, we saw how giving children access to the many dreams that they can pursue is in itself like magic.

DANCE BASICS DANCE STUDIO

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MANO AMIGA STUDENTS WOW CROWD DURING IDEA CARNIVAL



In the recently concluded Idea Carnival last May 5, 2017 which served as its open house to interested parents who want to enroll their children in Mano Amiga, **students from Kinder to 7th grade showcased their different innovative projects** for guests, partners, donors, and parents to witness first-hand.

The familiar look of a carnival welcomed the guests with beaming smiles, whimsical tunes, and colorful banners while being greeted by ecstatic Mano Amiga students as each group of guests entered their classrooms.

Phoem, a Mano Amiga student, was one of the 7th grade students who spearheaded one of their project-based learning or PBL activities in class where they created their own solar panels from scratch, which they plan to share with the people from the community who do not have access to electricity and cannot afford the expensive rates.

Other classes such as the 3rd grade focused on their stop motion animation videos to communicate better using audio-visual communication. The 5th grade class also showcased their artistic talents through their own MoMA, or Museum of Mano Amiga

having said that since they cannot go to the real MoMA in New York City, they can set-up a small version of it in the comforts of their classroom.

The 3rd, 5th, and 7th grade classes, along with 170 other students in Mano Amiga, have all been reaping the benefits of Project-Based Learning activities which enables them to collaborate and effectively communicate to solve a problem and contribute to their school, immediate community, or country by immediately applying what they learned in their different subjects.

The curriculum in Mano Amiga not only focuses on developing student knowledge, but more importantly, on honing a child's leadership, collaboration, communication, and problem-solving skills.

Every quarter, the students undertake several projects that integrate what they have learned in class, and allow them to apply what they know in solving real-life challenges.

