



*History in
the making,
One Brick at a Time!*

Philippine Center
of Minnesota



PCM CONDUCTS STRATEGIC PLANNING

The PCM board of directors conducted its 2nd strategic planning on September 14, 2008 as a follow up to the 2006 planning session. This year's planning retreat was focused on the discussion and development of action plans to address the PCM decision to acquire a building. With only \$125,000 on hand, it recognized the need to take incremental steps to reach this goal. The action plan is to lease or purchase space within its means and plan on expanding in the future depending on the actual usage, buy-in, and financial support of the Fil-Am community.

BUILDING NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY

We are actively searching for a building to lease or buy. We are excited to inform you that we are seriously looking at a building in North St. Paul to temporarily lease with the hope of buying in the future. This building meets 90% of our community's needs, and we hope it can be our community's future HOME!

SPOOKTACULAR NIGHT

PCM celebrates its 4th annual Spooktacular Night and once again, it was a fun filled night. We had a houseful of little princesses, heroes, witches ghost, and goblins. The highlights of the evening were the presentation of Miss PCM contestants and the parade of everybody in costumes and little ones happy to get their treats. Our very own Filipino talent, Ronley Aviles, and Miss PCM, Renee Schneider, wowed the audience with their duet of "The Prayer", singing it better than any celebrity could render it. We ended dancing the night away.

ANDREA ARAMBULO, JENNIFER MIRABUENO LIGHT UP THE STAGE FOR PCM

Creaky halls. Ghosts and goblins. Wooded cemetery. These do not seem to make the right setting for presenting elegant princesses. But everything fell into place on the evening of Saturday, October 25, at the St. Clement's Church in Minneapolis when Ms. Jennifer Mirabueno and Ms. Andrea Arambulo, candidates for the title of Miss PCM 2009 were officially presented to the Filipino American community.

The title holder will become PCM's Ambassador of Goodwill, and will represent the Philippine center of Minnesota in various community events and PCM activities. Both candidates excel in school, but their excellence and interests go beyond the classroom as evidenced by their impressive resumes reflecting their leadership and remarkable volunteer work in the community.

At the Talent Show part of the Presentation, Jennifer delighted the audience with her vocal rendition of "Better in Time" by Leona Lewis. It was a beautiful delivery with a perfect mix of sweetness and energy, a combination that works.

Andrea, on the other hand, brilliantly displayed her skills on the dance floor as she and dashing partner, Patrick Faunilan, gave the screaming crowd a flavorful taste of their amazing moves ala "Dancing with the Stars."

When asked about her impressions of Filipino Americans in the community, Andrea says, "I strongly believe that when Filipinos are presented and provided with social, cultural, educational, and civic activities and opportunities, we can thrive

and succeed as a community."

She continues to say, "Being around with other Filipino American youths and their parents helped me learn more about the Filipino culture, traditions, and values. It helped me grow. Now, I have a greater appreciation of where I came from, and I am proud to be a Filipina." But Andrea's best compliments are always saved for her mom. Her message – "I love you, Mom. You're the best!"

Jennifer says she has decided to become a candidate for Miss PCM "not for the attention drawn to myself. I understand there is a scholarship award regardless of how I place. I plan to donate the award to the Risen Savior Missions, a non-profit organization that works with Feed My Starving Children, and sends food to the hungry children in the Philippines. I pray for guidance so that I may be able to use it wisely on issues that matter the most, such as feeding hungry Filipino children."

When asked what she thought of having a Philippine Center, Jenn replied, "Running for Miss PCM enables me to help build a gathering place for Filipinos in Minnesota. I like how that sounds—"gathering." It sounds like a huge family coming together. Wouldn't it be nice to have a consistent place to meet new faces. Being involved with FMYO made me realize how important that is. It is through those gatherings that I met many young people whose heritage is the same as mine. I am proud to be a Filipino."

PCM salutes you, Jennifer Mirabueno and Andrea Arambulo, and thanks you profoundly for your willingness to be part of the quest for "Our Home."

Our Path ...



We have now reached a major milestone of cash and investments of \$125,000 from time and talent, door prizes, stock grants, and cash from \$1 to \$10,000. We also have received a number of company-matching donations.

We still have a long way to our goal of \$500,000. That's only 1,000 of us donating \$375 each! The more donors there are, the lesser the burden on each of us and the quicker we achieve it. Please be generous, and continue to support and give to PCM. Remember: Your donations are tax-deductible!

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2008-2009 Filipino Community Activities

Dec. 6 - FMA Paskong Pilipino

Dec. 7 - PNA Annual Christmas Party/ Meeting

Dec. 13 - CSFA Pasko sa Nayon

Dec. 21 - FMA Klasika Grand Finale

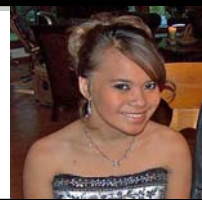
Dec. 27 - FCO Rizal Day

Jan. 24 - PCM Coronation Night

Meet our



Miss PCM 2009



Candidates

Andrea Clarisse Arambulo, 16 years old, is a junior at Central Senior High School. She is a Junior Varsity Volleyball setter for Central High School; participated in her school's Multicultural Festival twice; elected Vice-President for FMYO; 2008 FMA Debutante; a volunteer at St. Joseph's Hospital; a volunteer/member of Gawad Kalinga Minnesota Chapter; a sponsor for a young Nicaraguan girl through Compassion International; inducted into 2007/2008 National Honor Roll; a college scholarship recipient through Multicultural Excellence Program; a college scholarship recipient through United States Achievement Academy National Awards; taking all Advanced Placement courses and earning college credits; and maintaining a high GPA.

She works part-time at Sonic as a car hop, enjoys hanging out with friends, eating out, going to the movies, watching plays and musicals, and loves to act, sing, and dance. The best of them all: She loves her mom and looks up to her as her role model.

Jennifer Mirabueno, 15 years old, is a sophomore at Eastview High School in Apple Valley. One of her life goals is to be of service to the community. She began this journey as a little girl as she watched her parents work with the Filipino community on different volunteer efforts. At the age of 8, she has begun singing solos every year at the Spring, Christmas, and Fall concerts at St. John Neumann Church in Eagan. Over the years, she has performed for various Filipino community organizations like FMA Seniors and FMA Paskong Pilipino. She sings Christmas carols every year.

On the 30th anniversary of FMA Paskong Pilipino, she played the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Nativity program. The following year she became an emcee and also filled in as Santa's helper. Last year, she joined the FMYO group that performed a hip hop dance. She was invited to sing at Sayawan Club, San Pablo group, Santacruz, and Filipino Children's Choir of Minnesota. She likes performing at Philippine Day where she gets to meet new people, eat Filipino food and check out Philippine products like clothes and jewelry. As a volunteer, she served meals at Dorothy Day and worked in Habitat For Humanity. The premier and one of the most meaningful performances for her was the PCM's Konsyerto Pilipino where she sang a duet with Arnel Lungay.

CORONATION NIGHT

An evening of Family ... Fun ... Entertainment ...

Food ... Prizes ... Dance ...

Special features: Last Counting of ballots & Coronation of Miss PCM 2009

Saturday, January 24, 2009

(Mark your calendars... Place, time, and other details to be announced later. Watch for the flyers!)