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# Outreach

**Heeding UP Diliman Chancellor Fidel R. Nemenzo's call to "continue to look out for each other," members of the UPD community organized a number of outreach activities to address the pressing concerns brought by the pandemic and the ensuing hard lockdown.**

**M****AKING A DIFFERENCE.** Drawing on their expertise and the support of their extensive network of friends and colleagues, a number of dormitory residents on campus, student organizations, alumni and academic units sought to inform, counsel, mobilize supplies and resources, and provide relief and even comfort to the most vulnerable sectors of society in the early months of the pandemic.

Fifteen initiatives were undertaken, most of which were for the general public and health, medical and other frontliners in the Metro and other parts of the country.

**SERVING THE FRONTLINERS.** Seven activities addressed the concerns of medical and other frontliners.

Early in the lockdown when personal protective equipment (PPE) was scarce but in great demand, dorm residents caught by the lockdown on campus utilized their time to assemble face shields from frames produced by the colleges of Fine Arts and Engineering and donations of private individuals and enterprises. The face shields were given to 1,700 frontliners in medical institutions in Metro Manila, Pangasinan, Cagayan, Isabela, Batangas, Laguna, Baguio, Mindoro and Palawan.

The alumni group Nowhere to go but UP mobilized support, secured donations and delivered more than 9,000 meals to frontliners in various COVID-19 hospitals, AFP checkpoint personnel, the MMDA and scientists at the Philippine Genome Center and the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine. It also launched a campaign to pool funds and in-kind donations of PPE for healthcare workers

When public transportation was suspended and medical and health workers found it difficult to get to work, the UP Bike Share project offered their bicycles to several medical institutions to be used by personnel as a temporary mode of transportation. The project

lent out 92 bicycles to the Philippine Heart Center, Philippine Children's Medical Center, Philippine Orthopedic Center and St. Luke's Medical Center, Global City.

The UPD PsycServ program of the Department of Psychology offered free tele-psychotherapy services to frontliners and those severely affected by COVID-19 while students from the UP Integrated School (UPIS) made greeting cards to boost the morale of both patients and frontliners alike. The cards were posted at the UPIS Facebook page as Messages of Love and Hope for COVID-19 Patients and Frontliners.

To pay tribute to the frontliners and health workers who passed away from COVID-19 and comfort their bereaved, the College of Music (CMu) performed inspirational music about hope and courage online. Among the performers were the Villancico Vocal Ensemble, the official performing arm of the Junior Philippine Conductors Association of the CMu; the UP Concert Chorus, the UP Madrigal Singers and the UP Symphony Orchestra.

**GENERAL PUBLIC.** Efforts were also undertaken for the public in general. A group of UP lawyers launched *Isumbong mo sa UP Law*, a call for volunteer lawyers to assist victims of discrimination because of COVID-19. Meanwhile, the UP Law Center Institute of Human Rights posted on its Facebook page the "Q&A Bayanihan To Heal as One Act" to better inform the public about RA11469 and on the COVID-19 Emergency Powers on Mar. 24. The Q&A was in English and Filipino and in the succeeding days, in other Philippine languages like Bisaya, Waray and Hiligaynon.



*Donations from Nowhere to go but UP*

The College of Education, through its Counselor Education Area, opened the COVID-19 Helpdesk on Mar. 31 for those who were “feeling down or locked up” while the College of Home Economics Department of Food Science and Nutrition opened Padayon ND online on Apr. 6 for individuals seeking answers to questions on nutrition.

**UP COMMUNITY.** The UPD Ugnayan ng Pahinungod, through its Psychosocial Support Program, disseminated information on and sought to equip UPD students, faculty, staff and alumni with knowledge and skills on basic psychosocial support they can offer to their respective families, peers and communities. It was also intended to train volunteers as a first layer of psychosocial support. This way, psychosocial specialists will be assisted and not be overworked especially when an overwhelming number of people were seeking help.

Seeking to boost the morale of the UPD Community, particularly the Philippine General Hospital workers, the UP Varsity Pep Squad posted online the video presentation “Bend but Don’t Break: Stay Holistically Well While on Quarantine.” The presentation contained a breakdown of UP cheers usually performed at UAAP games.

Addressing the workers’ health needs, the All U.P. Workers Union distributed Vitamin C and other immunity-boosting supplements and merienda to frontliners and skeleton workforce in various UPD offices.



*Musikaakbay features tribute performances for the frontliners*

**SPECIAL AUDIENCES.** Students of the UP School of Labor and Industrial Relations (SOLAIR) set up the Online Labor Consultation (OLaC), a closed Facebook group for consultation on employment and human relations (HR)-related issues and concerns experienced by workers as a result of the lockdown. Catering to SOLAIR students working in various industries, OLaC serves “as a platform for sharing good employment and HR policies and practices adopted by businesses and workers to address the impact of the health crisis.”

Last but not the least, the UP Asian Institute of Tourism, through the Tourism LEAP (Tourism, Lives and the Economy for Collective Action Program), sought to formulate possible recovery solutions for the industry. Using online platforms, the outreach program sought to gather and document information on the ground from tourism small and medium enterprises and tourism officers and co-develop strategies for recovery and rehabilitation of the industry.