



ERDA Foundation Updates

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AEM and Pag-asa by Edlyn Ortega-Burgonio

I like the ERDA benefactors.

Every year, I see the representatives of Pag-Asa Group of Japan. They would fly to the Philippines to meet the ERDA children and youth whose education they are sponsoring.

I would hear the students tell their struggles and triumphs in school. The Representatives would be so happy to hear their stories. And they are extra happy when graduates come and update them that they are now working and helping their families.

We have a graduate, Arvin Mendoza, from Taguig. After graduation, he would attend the monitoring visit of Pag-Asa each year. During his first year of work as an Engineer, he bought a washing machine for his mother. In the second year, he bought a television. For the third year, he bought a second-hand jeep for his father.

We feel that the Pag-Asa representatives appreciate the efforts of our graduates to lift up the spirit of their family.

I could imagine all ERDA funders are like this.

For several years, I have been bringing my son, Enzo, with me to the Pag-Asa monitoring visit because his father and I had to take turns in taking care of him during weekends. The Pag-Asa representatives were very understanding of this.

I attend the Pag-Asa monitoring visit to give moral support to both Pag-Asa representatives and ERDA scholars. In the Pag-Asa monitoring visit this February, Enzo was a bit older and had more understanding.

He might have heard bits of the students' stories of struggles and triumphs. But I am certain that he heard them saying "thank you" to Pag-Asa for helping them.

After the Pag-Asa monitoring interview, I brought Enzo to the dinner with the Representatives of Les Amis des Enfants du Monde (AEM). The AEM representatives were also finished with their monitoring visit.

I told Enzo that AEM is also helping the children of ERDA. The AEM representatives were friendly toward him, too.

When we reached home, he was decided to give his little can of savings to ERDA for the children.

I think the positive effect of people like those who belong to AEM and Pag-Asa and their work is not only on the lives of the ERDA children but also on other people especially the children around them.

I believe that they have this effect on Enzo not only because they have been helping the ERDA students but because they were nice to him.

I would be writing about the rest of the ERDA benefactors soonest.



AEM representatives visited ERDA communities and partner schools.



Pag-Asa Group of Japan ladies met with their former and currently assisted children.

