



# NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO NURTURE THE AGED AND THE YOUTH, INC. (NANAY)

United States of America

conversational English lessons, caregiver program; and has developed and implemented case management and early intervention program.

the competency development component and 3 outreach missions for the community action and volunteerism component of the Y4Y Program.

To care for those who once cared for us is one of life's highest honors. Recognizing the plight of the elderly, US-based Dr. Jocelyn "Joy" H. Bruce started a mission to bring smiles to the elders by catering to and supporting their social, psychological, emotional, and other needs. She founded the National Alliance to Nurture the Aged and the Youth, Inc. (NANAY) in November 1994 in honor of her late mother Jacinta who had been known as a *good samaritan*, and as her way of reaching out to other older mothers and fathers in need of love, companionship, and recognition.

In its first five years, NANAY would provide recreational and medical support to Filipino seniors whether be it in a backyard, picnic area, or an empty beauty salon. With its contagious passion to serve the elderly, NANAY received its first major funding in 1999, followed by one-year transitional funding in 2000. With the funding and support, they were encouraged to serve the community better by putting up a permanent center and acquiring a transport van service for the elders. The NANAY Community Center in North Miami has then opened its door to the elders and youths of different races - Asian, Non-Hispanic White, Hispanic, Haitian, and African American.

Since then, NANAY has provided services and promoted the involvement of elders of different races in community activities. It has also enhanced the elders' ability to handle stress, increased their self-confidence, and improved their social interaction among themselves and with the youth through various weekend programs and supportive services. These include arts and crafts, board games, bingo, sharing meals, karaoke bonding, ballroom dancing, folk dancing, traditional monthly birthday celebration, special field trips, and participation in outside community events

NANAY has also conducted regular physical fitness activities, health screening, educational seminars, and activities on health, financial literacy, and citizenship. It has also provided transport services for the elders, individual and group counseling sessions, basic computer education workshops to elders and youth,

In July 2000, NANAY began a youth mentorship and senior companionship service model which encouraged intergenerational activities and discussions about family, goal-setting, life's values, stress management, and conflict resolution.

The NANAY Youth Council has also organized activities designed for the NANAY's youth members that include retreat, leadership training, intergenerational activities, and fundraising activities. One of their programs was the NANAY Youth Skills Training and Employment Project for the Youth (YSTEP) that prepared low-income 16-21 years old toward meaningful employment. Through NANAY's Student Internship Youth Program, students learned social services, organizational skills, customer service, research, and awareness on various social issues.

In response to the August 2005 *CNN News* on children imprisoned with adult criminals, and the November 2005 *ABS-CBN* documentary on imprisoned elders under sub-human conditions in the Philippines, NANAY seniors pooled voluntary financial contributions that were used to provide a prosthesis for an older inmate who lost her leg due to complications of diabetes. In January 2006, NANAY went on a mission trip to the Philippines to look after the plight of Philippine Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) and lobbied for the amendments to the Comprehensive Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act.

In January 2006, the Advocates for Children and Elders International-Philippines (ACEIPI) was born as an organizational arm and affiliate of NANAY to support CICL, low-income families, children, and elders in the Philippines. During the first years, ACEIPI catered the CICL in a detention facility in Bicutan and an outreach project at Cagayan de Oro. Realizing that much can be done to prevent poor and out-of-school children and youth from entering prison, a Youth-for-Youth Program (Y4Y) was launched in 2007. With this Y4Y Program, 137 youth members (junior high school to college) from 6 mission areas were continuously given educational assistance; and an average of 39 youth and parent members participated in the 11-monthly sessions of the values reintegration program in 2019. They also conducted 6 activities under

NANAY has also extended its helping hand to the less fortunate and victims of calamities. In March 2021, NANAY donated \$1,000.00 to pay for the internet service of elementary school children in the Philippines. Through their School Supplies 4 Filipino Children Project, NANAY was able to raise \$5,228 that benefitted 740 underprivileged school children in South Cotabato and Zamboanga City. Through the assistance of ACEIPI, NANAY has distributed relief packs to 600 individuals during the 2020 Taal Volcano Eruption. They also distributed rice and other essential needs to the hundreds of families displaced by Typhoon Sendong in 2012.

With its joy and passion to serve the elders and the youth, NANAY has been recognized and awarded by different organizations. It received the ABS-CBN's Gawad Geny Lopez Jr. *Bayaning Pilipino* Awards (2009), Local Hero Award - Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Awards by the Bank of America (2009), Miami Award in the Senior Citizens' Center Category by the U.S. Commerce Association (2009), Best of North Miami Award in the Community Center Category by the North Miami Award Program (2019), Community Organization Award by The Association for Asian American Studies (2016), and the Outstanding Community Organization Award by the Anglican Girl's Grammar School Awkunanaw Alumni Association - USA (2016).

The organization was also given commendations and appreciation for its valuable contribution to the activities and partnership with various organizations such as the US Census Bureau, City of North Miami Florida, Philippine Nurses Association of South Florida, Inc., and the City of North Miami Police Department.

*In conferring the Banaag Award to the National Alliance to Nurture the Aged and the Youth, Inc. (NANAY), the President recognizes its dedication in the promotion of the health, welfare, and well-being of the elders and the youth, while preserving their cultural heritage; and for its commendable initiatives and philanthropic activities to the underserved communities in the United States and the Philippines.*