

## NANAY's Elder Meets Miami Heat –

### A Dream Come True

October 29, 2001 – Miami, Florida

**“My only wish before I die is to be able to meet the Miami Heat players. I always see them on TV, but I want to see how tall they really are.”**

This sentiment of Nicolas Tablizo, a Filipino elder, was shared with Bennie Trinidad, NANAY's Administrator when he celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday last September. On October 23, through NANAY's intervention, his wishes finally came true.

Nicolas Tablizo was personally escorted by Bennie Trinidad to the United Airlines Arena where he watched them practice their game, and was able to shake hands and exchange pleasantries with his favorite players in front of the Channel 10 camera. On his Miami Heat T-shirt, autographs were signed not only by Miami Heat Center player Alonzo Mourning but also by Miami Heat Coach Pat Riley, the other players, Channel 10 newscaster Daisy Olivera, and the Miami Heat Management Team.



As they were going home after almost two hours of excitement, Nick Tablizo kept exclaiming: “Mission accomplished!” He said he was a different man now, after meeting his favorite players. “I feel very young”, he said with glittering eyes and a wide smile.

This exciting and memorable experience which was aired that same afternoon on Channel 10 Eyewitness News was made possible through the help of Christine Gaudiosi, Assignment Editor of Channel 10, who coordinated the meeting with Doris Howe, Public Service Director of Miami Heat. She heard about the old man's wishes following the Channel 10 Eyewitness News featuring NANAY's services that are making a difference in the community.