



Philippine Center *Update*

August 2011

By: Gerry Ramos, AIA
Executive Director

The dream of having a Philippine Center Building in Milwaukee is now a reality.

The Filipino American community in Milwaukee celebrated having its own **Philippine Center Building** last July 24, 2011 by having an **Open House** at the Zablocki Park Pavilion. The Open House showed the Zablocki Pavilion before it is renovated and retrofitted to house the Philippine Center and its **Free Medical Clinic (FMC)**.

The **Philippine Center** is located at the Zablocki Park, 3717 W Howard Avenue, Greenfield Wisconsin.



Map



Front View from Parking



Rear View from Park

The **35 year lease agreement** for the use of the Zablocki Park Pavilion to house the Philippine Center was officially **signed by Sue Black, Director** of the Milwaukee County Parks, Recreation and Culture Department (Parks) **and Romulo "Gerry" Ramos, Executive Director** of the Philippine Cultural and Civic Center Foundation, Inc. (PCCCCF) **last July 29, 2011.**



Parks Director Sue Black shaking the hands of PCCCF Executive Director Gerry Ramos after the signing of the lease agreement as witnessed by County Supervisor XXXXXX and PCCCF Vice Chairman Johnny Singson.

A **ceremonial signing was held at the Zablocki Pavilion last August 11, 2011.** The Milwaukee County was represented by Parks Director Sue Black, County Supervisor Jason Haas, Director of Community Relations Thomas Harris, Contract Officer Paul Kuglitsch, Aquatic & Recreation Manager Jodi Pritzlaff, Marketing Manager Jeff Baudry and Dan Roddy, Zablocki Park Manager.



The PCCCF was represented by Gerry and Jojo Ramos, Drs. Johnny and Volette Singson, Dr. Henry and Linda Ravelo, Drs. Max and Letty Cueto, Tom Sipin, Evelyn Brown, Mila Lamerand, Sheila Plaga, Belinda and Lito Tenorio, Linda Ramos, Jimmy Soriano, Camille Rhodes



Parks Director Sue Black partaking of the Filipino Merienda served after the ceremony.

The 8800 SF **Zablocki Park Pavilion** is surrounded by a 9 hole par 3 golf course, soccer, baseball and softball fields, a children's playground, basketball courts and picnic areas. **A new picnic area will be dedicated for the Philippine Center** which will be open to the public when not in use.

The **Philippine Center** will have **1200 SF of dedicated space at the upper level** as reception, library, and activity areas for meetings, senior activities, computer and tagalog and other language classes. The **whole lower level** will be primarily used by the **Free Medical Clinic**. The **1100 SF open area** in the lower level will also be used for various planned activities such as exercise programs, ballroom and folk dancing, martial arts training, etc., when not in FMC use.

Parks will retain the use of the upper level community room (1500 SF capacity) which the Parks rent out to the public **except for days reserved for use by the Philippine Center**.

Plans prepared by Architect Gerry Ramos, who offered his services pro bono, **are being reviewed by the Milwaukee County and City of Greenfield planning and building officials**. Demolition will start once the construction permit has been issued. **Construction is estimated to take about 3 months**.

The following ongoing programs will continue at the new Center:

Philippine Center Free Medical Clinic (FMC) – Every 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month starting January 2012

FMC patients now total 2,800 and had been seen about 6000 times. A lot of the patients use the FMC as their main source of health care and medication. The assistance of the **Philippine Medical Association of WI (PMA-W)**, the **Philippine Nurses Association of WI (PNA)**, **UPAAW**, **Medical College of WI**, **UWM** and **Marquette students** and other volunteers have sustained the success of the program. **Free medical services , medication and laboratory services given to patients now total \$1.3 M** and does not include imaging costs.

Consulate on Wheels at the Philippine Center –To be announced

Executive Director Gerry Ramos is coordinating with Consul General Leo M. Herrera-Lim of the Philippine Consulate in Chicago on this year's schedule of consular services at our Philippine Center for dual citizenship, passport and visa, overseas voter registration, birth and marriage registration and notarization of documents.

Philippine Center Computer Classes

The **Marquette Bayanihan Student Organization** members have provided computer training at the Philippine Center since last year. Classes resumed last June 11, 2011, and is held every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month. 15 refurbished laptop computers donated by **Entech Technologies** are used for the computer class, as well as for PCCCF administrative and FMC use.

Please come and participate in the following planned fund raising events to support the Philippine Center Building construction:

Gala Night – Tentatively scheduled for March 2012

Music Concerts – To be announced

Philippine Center Open House, July 24, 2011

An Open House of the proposed Philippine Center was conducted last July 24, 2011 at the Zablocki Park Pavilion. About 240 people came to celebrate the realization of the dream to have their own Philippine Center.

Registration of attendees were ably handled by Zen and Jack Edralin, Remy Lanzaderas and Linda Ravelo.

The event's short program, emceed by Christine Lamerand Sharp and Anbel Tenorio, started promptly at 1 PM. Fr Jojo Orosa led the invocation and blessing of the building before renovation. The children proudly waived the American and the Philippine flags as Anbel Marie

Tenorio sang the Star Spangled Banner and as Kevin Angelo Tenorio sang the Pambansang Awit ng Pilipinas.



Gerry Ramos, PCCCF Executive Director gave the introduction which was highlighted by a moment of silence for the founder and past chairman of the Board of the PCCCF, Dr. Elieser Suson, who passed away last June. He also thanked Dr. Violeta Singson, over-all event coordinator and the hardworking Open House Committee led by Belinda Tenorio, Chairperson; Mila Lamerand, co-chair; Christine Lamerand Sharp, Johnny Singson, Jojo Ramos, Jaime Soriano, and Tom Sipin who provided the sound system for the event.

Dr. John Suson, PCCCF Chairman of the Board gave the welcome address, followed by Dr. Violeta Singson, FMC Medical Director who gave a brief report and status of the Free Medical Clinic.



The event was graced by Mr. David Burch, Milwaukee County Parks Chief of Finance and Development who spoke on behalf of Sue Black, Parks Director and Mr. Jerwin Mamalateo, Philippine Consulate Trade Officer who solicited support for the Save the Act movement.



The guests were given a tour of the facility and an explanation of the renovation and use of the different areas by the Officers and Members of the Board of the PCCCF led by John Suson, Gerry Ramos, Johnny Singson, Henry Ravelo, Sheila Plaga Jackson, Evelyn Tan Brown, Mila Lamerand, Tom Sipin and Roxanne Felizmena Suson.



The open house committee and volunteers came early to set up tents and tables for the food, led by Drs. Johnny and Volette Singson, Belinda & Angelito Tenorio and family, Gerry and Jojo Ramos, Linda Ramos, Mario & Mimi Ballesteros, and Bob & Mareta Prill. In addition, Sheila Plaga Jackson, Mila Lamerand, Remy Lanzaderas, Precy Griffin, Rose Ricks, Imelda Refuerzo Gutierrez, Aida & Paz Villegas Refuerzo came to help set up and serve food.



The registration area, community room for the display and powerpoint presentation for the program and the multi-purpose hall seating areas were set-up by Gerry Ramos, Jack and Zen Edralin, Joe Sharp, Dr. Johnny Singson, Dr. Henry and Linda Ravelo, Linda Ramos, and Joann Capitan.



Food served were donated by the different organizations such as PMAW, FAAWIS, PNAW, FCM and UPAAW. Two lechons were given by Tom & Sue Sipin and Evelyn Tan Brown.

Fortune Restaurant, Drs. Johnny & Volette Singson, Dr. John Suson, Dr. Henry and Linda Ravelo, Jojo Ramos, Linda Ramos, , Sheila & Alvin Jackson, Rose Ricks, Alexi Criss, Evie & Tina Morris, Mila Lamerand, Christine Lamerand Sharp, Precy Griffin, Angelito & Belinda Tenorio provided more food and refreshments.



Capital fund raising for the retrofit and furnishing of the Philippine Center and the Free Medical Clinic has started. Donations in cash and in kind including consulting and construction volunteer services are welcome. Volunteers can leave a message at 414 342-1400

Donations to the Philippine Cultural and Civic Center are tax deductible. Please send your donations to the Philippine Center, 535 N 27th St. Milwaukee WI 53208.