



JUNE 2023

# PNANJ Somerset Subchapter News

2023 Q2 Newsletter



## Energizing Somerstrong Events & More

## PROUDLY CELEBRATING OUR TRADITIONS

Our Filipino culture is rich with traditions that have been passed down through generations. It is in these traditions that we find the values and principles that shape our character as nurses. Our ancestors taught us the importance of compassion, respect, and selflessness—the very essence of nursing itself. These values have become embedded in the fabric of our culture, guiding us in our daily practice as caregivers.

In the realm of healthcare, Filipino nurses have made an indelible mark across the globe. We are admired and sought after for our unwavering dedication, exceptional skills, and innate ability to provide comfort during times of distress. We carry the legacy of our forebears who paved the way for us, leaving a trail of compassion and excellence that inspires us to this day. Happy 125th Anniversary of Philippine Independence Day!

In embracing our culture, we find strength and a deep sense of belonging. Our traditional Filipino outfits, worn with pride, serve as a symbol of our identity and a testament to the beauty of our heritage. They remind us of the sacrifices our ancestors made and the strength they instilled in us. By donning these outfits, we honor our roots and carry forward the legacy entrusted to us.

So, let us cherish our traditions, celebrate our Filipino culture, and embrace the incredible privilege of being nurses. Let us remember that our commitment to compassionate care is not just a profession—it is a calling, deeply embedded in our cultural DNA.

By Dianne F.C. Bautista, MBA, MPH, BSN, RN-BC  
PNANJ Somerset County Subchapter President



## April 2023 to June 2023 Somerstrong Events



April 28 - BP Screening at SC Office of Disability and Aging



April 29 PNANJ Convention  
Bridging the Gap in Nursing an  
Enduring Challenge



May 20 PNANJ Somerset  
PNAAF Bayani Ng Mundo Recipient



May 26 BP Screening at SC Office  
of Disability and Aging



June 3 BBQ & Zumbathon



June 4 Philippine Independence  
Day Council Inc., (PIDCI) Parade  
at Madison and 5th Ave.



June 10 PNANJ Foundation  
Membership Appreciation Day



June 11 Girls On the Run 5k



June 11 Indian Health Camp  
Recognizing PNANJ Somerset



June 12 RWJ Asian BRG  
Philippine Independence Day



June 15 Dr. Elena Holguin Speech  
at SPUH Nursing Graduation



June 25 PAFCOM Parade and  
Health Screening



June 30 BP Screening at SC Office  
of Disability and Aging

## PNANJ Somerset

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# MONTHLY BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING AT HILLSBOROUGH SENIOR CENTER

Blood pressure screening plays a crucial role in the overall well-being of our senior community members. It serves as a vital tool in detecting and monitoring hypertension, a condition that affects many individuals as they age. At PNANJ Somerset, we recognize the importance of proactive healthcare interventions, which is why our dedicated volunteers collaborate with the Somerset County Office of Disability and Aging to conduct monthly blood pressure screenings for seniors.

During these screenings, we diligently check the blood pressure of our senior participants, seeking any signs of elevated readings. In instances where high blood pressure is detected, we take immediate action. Our volunteers promptly inform the individuals and emphasize the urgency of contacting their physicians for further evaluation and treatment. By intervening at an early stage, we strive to prevent potential complications and promote the overall health of our senior community.



Furthermore, our commitment extends beyond measuring blood pressure numbers. We understand that education is key in empowering individuals to take control of their health. Through our interactions during the screenings, we take the opportunity to educate seniors about the importance of a healthy diet in maintaining optimal blood pressure levels. We provide information and guidance on making dietary choices that can contribute to better blood pressure management, promoting a heart-healthy lifestyle.



By providing regular blood pressure screenings and educational support, we aim to make a positive impact on the lives of our senior community members. We believe that early detection, coupled with timely medical intervention and informed lifestyle choices, can significantly enhance their quality of life. Together, we strive to empower seniors with the knowledge and resources necessary to lead healthier, happier lives.

At PNANJ Somerset, we are honored to serve our senior community and remain committed to making a lasting difference in their lives. Through blood pressure screenings, we take a proactive approach to healthcare, ensuring the well-being and longevity of our seniors. Together, let us continue to advocate for the health and happiness of all individuals in our community. We created a Somerstrong BP Passport to track senior's monthly BP.



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Clara Bautista, the exceptional leader and Community Outreach Chair of PNANJ Somerset. With her unwavering dedication and passion, Clara has played a pivotal role in empowering our communities and spearheading our impactful initiatives. Her exceptional leadership and commitment to our mission have been instrumental in the success of our community outreach events. We would also like to give a special shout-out to the PNAA Community Outreach Chair for their continued support and invaluable guidance. Together, Clara and the PNAA Community Outreach Chair have been invaluable assets to our organization, inspiring us all to make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.





## PNANJ ANNUAL CONVENTION



Nurses' practice gap is a multifaceted challenge that requires a comprehensive approach. From transforming nurse education to fostering collaboration, preventing chronic conditions, and addressing specific healthcare concerns, there are numerous strategies that can help bridge this gap. By recognizing the invaluable role nurses play and providing them with the tools and support they need, healthcare systems can close the practice gap and ensure the delivery of high-quality, patient-centered care.



# **PNANJ SOMERSET BAYANI NG MUNDO RECIPIENT**

**For 22 remarkable years, the Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey Somerset County Subchapter (PNANJ Somerset) has exemplified excellence within the nursing community. Through unwavering dedication, visionary leadership, and a relentless pursuit of improved health outcomes, PNANJ Somerset has become a beacon not only for Somerset County, the Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey (PNANJ), but also for the Philippine Nurses Association of America (PNAA). Its unwavering commitment has elevated the reputation and well-being of Filipino-American nurses to unprecedented heights.**

**At the heart of PNANJ Somerset's success lies a vibrant culture of collaboration, unity, and adaptability. These values foster the growth of exceptional healthcare leaders who passionately promote the richness of Filipino culture within various organizations. PNANJ Somerset is known for its unwavering activism, as evidenced by its member-focused programs and impactful community outreach initiatives.**

**Among PNANJ Somerset's notable member-driven programs, the sunshine fund and scholarship & nursing excellence awards stand out as shining examples of their dedication. Setting them apart from others, PNANJ Somerset is the only subchapter that allocates a portion of its fundraising efforts to support nurses during pivotal moments, such as bereavement and celebrations, through the PNANJ Somerset Sunshine Fund. Moreover, biennially, PNANJ Somerset bestows nursing scholarships and excellence awards to deserving individuals. In May 2022, two \$1,000 scholarships and six nursing excellence awards were proudly distributed, showcasing their commitment to nurturing future healthcare leaders.**

Recognizing the profound impact of social determinants of health (SDOH) on vulnerable populations, PNANJ Somerset actively addresses these factors to improve overall well-being, reduce health disparities, and promote health equity. Through more than 2,500 volunteer hours, over \$16,000 in donations, and reaching over 50,000 vulnerable individuals locally and internationally, PNANJ Somerset has left an indelible mark on the community.

Noteworthy contributions include aiding victims of the Taal Volcano Eruption, Hurricane Ida, and Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

Furthermore, PNANJ Somerset played a crucial role in the construction of a school stage and dormitory at Fortunato Perez Memorial High School in Pakyas Vicotria Oriental Mindoro. The dormitory provides native Mangyan students with a safe and conducive environment for focused studies, eliminating arduous hours spent walking home to the mountains.

PNANJ Somerset's impactful collaborations extend to esteemed community partners such as Somerset Homeless Interim Program (SHIP), HomeFront NJ, Zarephath Christian Church, Raritan Food Pantry, Reformed Church of Highland Park, Girls on the Run, Indian Health Camp, Food Bank Network of Somerset County, and many more.

Together, let PNANJ Somerset stand tall and proud, for they are the torchbearers of a remarkable association that sets ablaze the flames of nursing excellence, cultural heritage, and compassionate service. With unwavering determination, PNANJ Somerset forges an indelible path, leaving an awe-inspiring legacy that resonates through time and fills our hearts with an unmatched sense of pride. They embody the very essence of Filipino greatness, making our community swell with immense pride. Let the world witness the unwavering spirit of PNANJ Somerset as they illuminate the way forward. Mabuhay

**#SomerStrongProudFilipinoNurses**



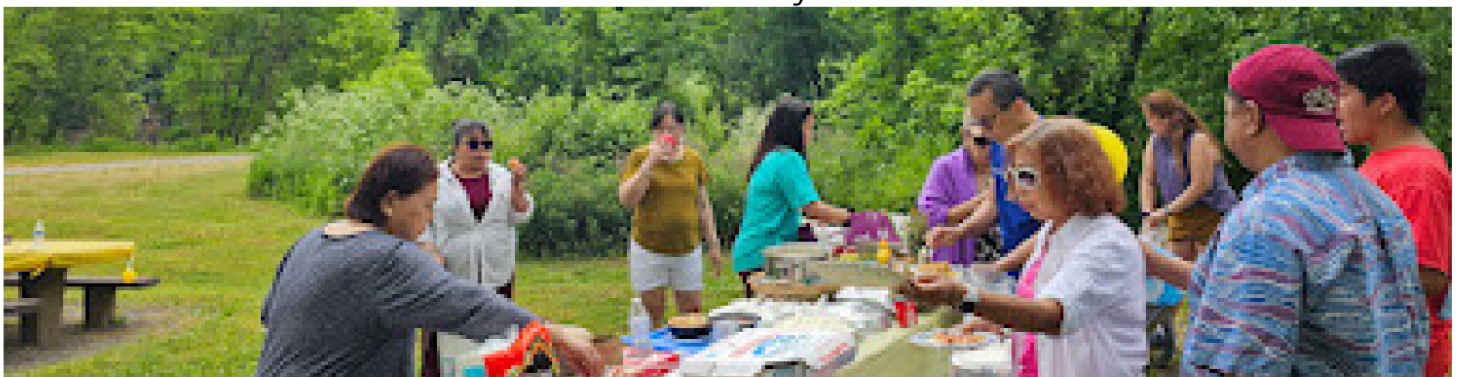
## BBQ AND ZUMBA



In the heart of Somerset County, an annual celebration unfolds that is more than just an event—it's a testament to unity, diversity, and the power of community. The Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey (PNANJ) Somerset chapter's annual gathering is a fusion of fitness, culture, family, and fun, and this year, it took on a special significance thanks to the exceptional leadership of Dr. Elena Holguin and PNANJ Somerset EB.



As the years pass, the legacy of Dr. Elena Holguin's leadership in hosting this celebration will continue to shine brightly. Her efforts have created an annual tradition that fosters unity, celebrates diversity, and promotes health and happiness. Her dedication serves as an inspiration to others, reminding us all of the positive impact one individual can make on a community.



The combination of Zumbathon, Filipino dance, and BBQ created a vibrant tapestry of togetherness, where healthcare professionals, families, friends, and neighbors converged to celebrate health, happiness, and cultural diversity.

## BBQ AND ZUMBA (CONT.)



Our Zumba instructors - Natalie and Kristen, along with the entire PNANJ Somerset chapter, deserve a heartfelt thank you for their dedication in making this celebration a reality. Their commitment to creating an environment of fun, fitness, cultural appreciation, and togetherness has made a lasting impact on the community.



A heartfelt thank you goes out to Mr. Jacob and Mr. Manongdo for their invaluable assistance with the BBQ. Their hard work and commitment added a delectable touch to the event, making the gathering even more memorable. Special recognition is also due to Juanita from Mary Kay for her generous contribution of a free facial and makeover experience.



In conclusion, the PNANJ Somerset's annual celebration is a testament to the power of combining fitness, culture, food, and family. It's a reminder that amidst the hustle and bustle of life, there are moments of joy and unity waiting to be embraced. As the celebration continues to evolve, may it serve as a beacon of togetherness, inspiring health, happiness, and a strong sense of community for years to come.



# PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE @ NYC



Every year, the vibrant spirit of the Philippines is brought to life on the streets of New York City through the much-anticipated Philippine Independence Day Parade Celebration. Organized by the Philippine Independence Day Council Inc. (PIDCI), this annual event serves as a testament to the rich history, culture, and resilience of the Filipino people. In 2023, this remarkable celebration takes on a special significance as it commemorates the 125th anniversary of the Philippine Independence from Spain.



That year's parade held a special honor for Dr. Dely P. Go, the Grand Marshal. A proud nurse, educator, and entrepreneur, Dr. Go was also a member of the Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey. Her contributions to the Filipino American community had left an indelible mark. Her dedication to her profession and her commitment to making a positive impact exemplified the values that the parade sought to highlight. Her presence at the event served as an inspiration to all attendees.







## PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE @ NYC



At that grand celebration, it was fitting that nurses played a significant role. Represented by organizations like the Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey, the Philippine Nurses Association of America, and the Philippine Nurses Association of New York, nurses stood at the forefront of the parade. Their dedication to healing, caring, and community embodied the very essence of the Filipino spirit.



The dedication of the Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey's Somerset County Subchapter shone brightly as they journeyed to the parade lineup. From Somerset County to Jersey City, these devoted individuals had utilized public transportation to make their way to the parade. Their commitment to celebrating their heritage, supporting their community, and honoring the Philippines' journey to independence was truly commendable.



# PNANJ FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION DAY



With utmost gratitude, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey Foundation (PNANJF), as well as to every dedicated subchapter member and leader of PNANJ. The "Fun Day" event was a resounding success, a joyful testament to the unity, hard work, and spirit that define our association. As we gathered to enjoy the day's festivities, we celebrated not only camaraderie but also the unwavering commitment that each subchapter, member, and leader brings to our nursing community. This event, filled with laughter, connection, and shared purpose, serves as a reminder of the power of collaboration and the positive impact of our collective efforts. We thank the PNANJF and everyone involved for creating a memorable day and for inspiring us to continue uplifting the nursing profession in New Jersey with passion and dedication.



## Empowering Young Girls Through Running: A Look at Girls on the Run



Every year, the Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey (PNANJ) Somerset volunteers at an extraordinary event called "Girls on the Run." This program, part of a national non-profit organization, aims to empower third- to eighth-grade girls by strengthening their social, emotional, physical, and behavioral skills. Let's explore the impact and significance of Girls on the Run.

Girls on the Run is a nationally recognized program with a unique approach to empowering young girls. Its curriculum is carefully designed to foster competence, confidence, connection, character, caring, and contribution in participants. This holistic development approach ensures that these girls are well-equipped to navigate the challenges and triumphs of life.



One distinctive aspect of Girls on the Run is its incorporation of running and other physical activities into its curriculum. These activities not only promote physical health but also instill important life lessons. Running becomes a metaphor for life's journey, teaching girls' perseverance, determination, and the value of setting and achieving goals.

On June 11, 2023, PNANJ Somerset volunteered to do face painting and course marshalling. It was an exhilarating way to showcase our leadership and our talents. I was surprised by the creativity and imagination that came out of this volunteering experience.



Central to the success of Girls on the Run are the dedicated coaches who guide and mentor the young participants. These coaches receive specialized training to deliver the program's curriculum effectively. They serve as role models, helping girls build self-esteem and navigate the challenges they face as they grow up.



The involvement of PNANJ Somerset in Girls on the Run is a testament to the commitment of nurses in the community to promote the well-being and development of young girls. By volunteering their time and expertise, they contribute to the program's mission of empowering these girls to become strong, confident, and resilient individuals.

Every year, PNANJ Somerset proudly serves over 1,000 young runners through Girls on the Run. The impact of this program extends far beyond the finish line of a race. It equips these girls with essential life skills and a sense of empowerment that will benefit them in the years to come.

As Girls on the Run continues to make a positive impact on the lives of young girls, the partnership between PNANJ Somerset and this exceptional program is set to grow stronger. The volunteers eagerly anticipate the opportunity to serve the community and inspire the next generation of confident, capable, and compassionate leaders.



In conclusion, Girls on the Run is a remarkable program that empowers young girls to develop essential life skills while promoting physical fitness and self-confidence. With the dedicated support of organizations like PNANJ Somerset, this initiative promises a brighter future for countless girls as they embark on their journey of growth, self-discovery, and success.



## **PNANJ Somerset: Honored for Strong Partnership and Wholehearted Support of the Health Camp of NJ**

PNA-New Jersey Somerset County Subchapter  
*Dianne Francel C. Bautista, MBA, MPH, BSN, RN-BC*  
 PNANJ Somerset County President

On June 11, a significant milestone was reached as PNANJ Somerset received recognition from the Indian Health Camp of New Jersey (IHCNJ) for their invaluable contribution. The collaboration between these two organizations has been instrumental in advancing healthcare access and promoting well-being in underserved communities. In an exciting development, IHCNJ has expanded its services to encompass all black and brown communities, leading to their rebranding as the Health Camp of NJ.



During the recognition ceremony among the dedicated volunteers, PNANJ Somerset proudly stood shoulder to shoulder with the esteemed individuals who tirelessly serve the Health Camp of NJ. Amongst the heartfelt speeches and expressions of gratitude, PNANJ Somerset's President, Dianne Francel Bautista, took the stage to highlight the strong partnership that has blossomed between the two organizations. With passion and conviction, she emphasized the unwavering support that PNANJ Somerset wholeheartedly offers to the Health Camp of NJ. Dianne underscored the shared commitment to fostering equitable healthcare and addressing the unique needs of underserved communities. Her words echoed the sentiment felt by all PNANJ Somerset members, reaffirming their dedication to standing by the Health Camp of NJ as steadfast allies and advocates.



The Health Camp of NJ has adopted a comprehensive model that addresses the Social Determinants of Health, recognizing that health outcomes are deeply influenced by various socioeconomic factors. Their dedication to



holistic care is evident in the diverse range of services they provide. At the camp, individuals can undergo blood tests, receive comprehensive eye examinations, consult with specialists, undergo pap smears, EKGs, and even receive vaccinations—all at no cost.

This transformative model has captured the attention and support of PNANJ Somerset, who wholeheartedly endorse the Health Camp of NJ's commitment to addressing the underlying factors that affect health. By offering a wide array of services, the Health Camp of NJ not only attends to

immediate healthcare needs but also takes a proactive approach to prevention and early detection. This approach aligns with PNANJ Somerset's core mission of empowering communities and promoting positive health outcomes.

The partnership between PNANJ Somerset and the Health Camp of NJ exemplifies the collective effort needed to effect meaningful change in healthcare delivery. Through their collaboration, they are not only providing essential medical services but also fostering a sense of community and support for individuals who may have limited access to healthcare resources. This unified approach serves as a beacon of hope, inspiring other organizations to join in the mission of promoting health equity and dismantling barriers that disproportionately affect marginalized communities.



As PNANJ Somerset continues to work hand in hand with the Health Camp of NJ, their shared vision of a more equitable healthcare landscape grows stronger. The recognition bestowed upon PNANJ Somerset by the Health Camp of NJ serves as a testament to the dedication and impact of their collective efforts. It reinforces the importance of

collaboration, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to addressing the Social Determinants of Health.

Together, PNANJ Somerset and the Health Camp of NJ are not only providing medical care but also instilling hope and transforming lives. Their unwavering support for one another signifies a shared belief in the power of community and the potential for positive change. By championing this groundbreaking model of healthcare delivery, they are setting a remarkable example for organizations across the nation, demonstrating the profound impact that can be achieved by prioritizing the well-being of black and brown communities.



## Celebrating Filipino Pride: Building Connections and Embracing Heritage

PNA-New Jersey Somerset County Subchapter

*Dianne Francel C. Bautista, MBA, MPH, BSN, RN-BC*

*PNANJ Somerset County President*



Thank you, Mrs. Nellie Sun, for inviting PNANJ Somerset. The Asian Business Resource Group (BRG) at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH) Somerset made history by hosting the very first Philippine Independence Day event at Fuld Auditorium. This momentous occasion brought together Filipinos from all walks of life, including the esteemed members of PNANJ Somerset. As we proudly launched our Handmade Bahay Kubo and Ati-Atihan outfits, it became clear that this gathering was more than just a celebration of independence—it was a powerful platform for fostering connections within the Filipino community.

We express our sincerest gratitude to Mrs. Clara Bautista (wearing Maria Clara) for her exceptional craftsmanship in bringing the Bahay Kubo (Traditional Filipino House) to life in a remarkable timeframe of less than two weeks. Using recycled brown paper bags, she ingeniously constructed the various components of the Bahay Kubo, ensuring its ease of assembly and dismantling. Her meticulous attention to detail and dedication to the project resulted in a stunning masterpiece that left a lasting impression on this special occasion, making the day truly unforgettable.



Interacting with fellow Filipinos holds immense importance, as it provides us with a sense of belonging and reinforces our shared heritage. In a world that often feels vast and disconnected, connecting with individuals who understand and appreciate our culture can be incredibly fulfilling. It creates a space where we can freely express ourselves, share stories, and celebrate our collective achievements. The Philippine Independence Day event served as a catalyst for these interactions, bringing together over 300 individuals who proudly embraced their Filipino identity.







The significance of being proud of our Filipino heritage cannot be overstated. Our culture is a tapestry woven with the threads of centuries-old traditions, resilient spirits, and rich diversity. By embracing and celebrating our roots, we not only honor our ancestors and their sacrifices but also inspire future generations to hold onto their cultural identity with pride. The event at RWJUH Somerset exemplified this pride, as PNANJ Somerset showcased the Handmade Bahay Kubo and Ati-Atihan outfits—a testament to the artistry, creativity, and craftsmanship deeply embedded in Filipino culture.

It was an extraordinary moment for PNANJ Somerset. The presence of our Handmade Bahay Kubo and the successful execution of the event's activities marked significant milestones for us as a team. We realized that through collaboration, dedication, and hard work, we can accomplish remarkable feats that elevate our community. The joy and pride we felt were palpable as we witnessed the positive impact we made on those who attended the event.



In conclusion, the Philippine Independence Day event at RWJUH Somerset was more than just a gathering; it was a celebration of unity, culture, and shared experiences. It highlighted the importance of interacting with fellow Filipinos, fostering connections, and embracing our heritage. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to RWJUH Somerset for their unwavering support and for recognizing the value and contributions of the Filipino community. As PNANJ Somerset, we will continue to strive for excellence and find innovative ways to celebrate our cultural identity with pride, ensuring that the flame of Filipino heritage burns brightly for generations to come. legacy of compassion and dedication that knows no bounds.





We also graciously met the executives and directors at RWJUH Somerset such as Chief Administrative Officer, Patrick Delaney, Director of Operations, CJ Cruz, Director of Diversity & Inclusion Perry Farhart, VP, Nursing & CNO, Michael Valendo, BRG Coordinator, Abigail Luan, PNA delegates, Susan Repotente and Nini Jurado.



We are immensely grateful to RWJUH Somerset for their support and recognition of the Filipino community's value. By hosting this event, they demonstrated their commitment to inclusivity and appreciation for the cultural contributions of Filipinos. The collaboration between PNANJ Somerset and RWJUH Somerset allowed us to create a remarkable experience for attendees. As PNANJ Somerset, we took the opportunity to engage with the crowd by setting up four stations that provided different experiences. From spinning the wheel for free gifts to inviting individuals to join our membership drive and Nurses' Night, and even offering a vibrant Ati-Atihan-inspired photobooth, the event brimmed with excitement and fun.



## Proud Filipino Nurses and Nurse Grand Marshal, Dr. Dely Po Go Celebrate Heritage, and Friendship at the PAFCOM Parade

Every year, on a sunny Sunday in June, we, Filipino nurses, take to the streets of Jersey City with pride and excitement. It's the day of the Philippine American Friendship Community, Inc. (PAFCOM) Parade and Festival – an event close to our hearts as it embodies our heritage, our profession, and the cherished friendship between the United States and the Philippines.



As Filipino nurses, we wear our uniforms not just as a symbol of our profession but also as a badge of honor. Chanting "Nurses are the Best," we march in unity, celebrating our dedication to healthcare and our Filipino roots. It's a moment when we stand tall, proud of our contribution to the American healthcare system.



Beyond the parade, we extend our care to the community. We set up health screening booths to ensure the well-being of our fellow Filipinos and American friends. It's our way of giving back to the community that has embraced us and our values.



The PAFCOM Parade and Festival are not just about our profession; they're about our culture and heritage too. The floats, the folk dances, the traditional art displays, and the mouthwatering aroma of Filipino cuisine all remind us of home. It's a day when we can showcase the richness of our heritage to our American friends.



This year, we are honored to have Dr. Dely Po Go, an esteemed nurse and figure in our community, leading the parade as the Grand Marshal. Her presence is a source of inspiration, representing the strong bond between the Philippines and the United States.



The PAFCOM Parade and Festival are more than just a cultural event; they're a celebration of friendship. It's a day when we come together, not as strangers in a foreign land, but as friends united by shared values, respect, and a common history.

In conclusion, the PAFCOM Parade is a day we eagerly await each year. It's a day when we, Filipino nurses, can proudly celebrate our profession, our culture, and the friendship between two nations. As we march, we carry our heritage with us, and in our hearts, we know that our dedication to healthcare and our Filipino identity are inseparable. With Nurse Grand Marshal Dr. Dely Po Go leading the way, we stand as a testament to the strong bond between our two nations and the excellence of Filipino nurses worldwide.

## Celebrating Success: Saint Peter's University Hospital Honors Accomplished Nurses



In a world where healthcare professionals are the unsung heroes, it's heartening to see their dedication and hard work recognized and celebrated. Recently, Saint Peter's University Hospital hosted an event that not only acknowledged the accomplishments of nurses but also showcased the deep-rooted commitment of the institution to the nursing profession.

The event, a veritable festivity of achievement, witnessed nurses transitioning from Associates to Doctorate degrees, a remarkable journey of academic excellence. Saint Peter's University Hospital, through its nurturing environment and unwavering support, played a pivotal role in equipping these nurses with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide high-quality care to our communities. It was a testament to the institution's dedication to the growth and success of its nursing students.

One of the highlights of the event was the presence of distinguished speakers, Dr. Dula Pacquiao and Commissioner Judith Persichilli, who shared their insights and wisdom with the nurses. Their words resonated deeply, serving as a source of inspiration for the nurses as they embark on the next chapter of their careers.



philanthropy and the importance of being part of a professional organization, underlining the value of community and support in the nursing field.

However, the event wasn't just about external voices; it also featured a truly remarkable address by Dr. Elena Holguin, the President of the Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey Somerset County Subchapter. Dr. Holguin's speech emphasized the profound importance of education in the nursing profession. Her personal journey as a nurse was a source of inspiration to all in attendance, highlighting the remarkable resilience and dedication that nurses bring to their profession each day. Dr. Holguin also touched on the significance of



Beyond the inspiring speeches and academic achievements, the event provided a platform to showcase the vibrant Filipino culture. From the traditional bahay kubo to the lively ati-atihan outfits, attendees had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich heritage of the Philippines. The event's giveaways added a generous touch, allowing attendees to take a piece of the culture home with them.



Saint Peter's University Hospital's commitment to supporting nurses goes beyond the academic sphere. It is a reflection of their belief in the potential of these healthcare professionals to make a difference in the lives of countless patients and families. The event served as a poignant reminder that behind every nurse is a unique story of dedication and sacrifice, and that their role transcends the clinical setting.



As we look to the future, it's clear that the partnership between Saint Peter's University Hospital and the nursing community is one of great significance. The institution's dedication to its nurses' success is truly commendable, and it's a source of immense pride for all involved. We anticipate continued collaboration and celebrate the ongoing achievements of these nurses as they continue to positively impact the healthcare field and the communities they serve.



In conclusion, the recent event at Saint Peter's University Hospital was a resounding celebration of success and a testament to the institution's support for its nurses. It is a story of dedication, education, and community, highlighting the extraordinary journeys of these healthcare professionals. As we move forward, let us continue to recognize and celebrate the vital contributions of nurses to our society. Thank you, Saint Peter's University Hospital, for being a steadfast advocate for these remarkable individuals.







**Thank YOU, Saint Peter's University Hospital!**

Over 30 pictures were taken and can be viewed [here](#):

