

STICHTING BAYANIHAN

Philippine Women's Centre in the Netherlands



“We are a self-help women organization that aims to advance the participation, integration and emancipation of Filipinas in the Netherlands through empowerment.”

BAYANIHAN FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER | JULY-AUGUST 2020

Dear Friends of Stichting Bayanihan,

As we give you our first newsletter of year, we hope that you are doing well these days.

The first half of the year 2020 is almost behind us. However, this year has been the most challenging and has tested everyone's resilience due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Many of us are home working, taking care of families and perhaps some are still commuting regularly because of the exigencies of work and other personal matters. We salute everyone for being courageous amid the pandemic.



At the start of the year, besides our regular social services, Bayanihan had planned several activities for the year 2020. We are also proud to announce that some Bayanihan's efforts were mentioned in a number of [press reports](#) last year. One of these is the program of Bayanihan for senior migrants ([read more on last phase of life information sessions](#)).

Now that face-to-face meetings and gatherings have been on hold for a while, our members regularly meet online. The Bayanihan Board had its 2nd board meeting of the year online, while the seniors' group is meeting online every Tuesday.

Because the intelligent lockdown in the Netherlands has now stretched to more than three months, it can be a bit lonely for many, especially the seniors who are already retired and whose children and family members are no longer at home. Our online chat group has provided an avenue for them to keep updated and talk to someone. We have assigned a buddy system so that each pair can talk or communicate when necessary. We have a very active online chat group where everyone shares her stories, prayers, jokes, words of encouragement, and a lot more. There are even online group singing, dancing, and watch parties.



In April, we received some good news. Our board member Corazon 'Cora' van Campenhout-Alarcon and our core group volunteer Cecilia 'Sister Ching' Francisco-Lansang were both awarded this year's Koninklijke onderscheidingen (Royal honors), a yearly recognition for personal and special merits for individuals. It is awarded by the sitting monarch to any Dutch citizens or foreign nationals who have served the Netherlands.

Ching was awarded the Ridder in de Orde van Oranje Nassau (Knight of the Order of Oranje Nassau) for her work as founder and pastor for the Word International Ministries The Netherlands (WIN-NL) for 24 years, for her social service volunteer work for Stichting Bayanihan, and for her other volunteer work, while Cora was awarded the Lid in de Orde Van Oranje Nassau (Member of the Order of Oranje Nassau). She was recognized for her 28 years of volunteer work at Bayanihan Foundation and other Filipino organizations since she arrived in the Netherlands. [Read More](#)

We couldn't be any prouder of this important award. Sister Ching and Cora joined the other two Bayanihan women Diana Oosterbeek-Latoza and Myrla Danao who were also awarded the Royal Honors in the past years.

In May, the Bayanihan Foundation was invited to become a participating organization of the Filipino Community-Netherlands or FilCom NL. The alliance was formed to address the concerns of fellow Filipinos in the Netherlands and to work collectively especially in these trying times like the COVID-19 pandemic. Bayanihan was tapped to address the sociological and social services aspects of the alliance. For the overview of the alliance, what it has done so far and the profile of the other 17 participating organizations, please check its [FilCom Facebook page](#).

Also, as part of Bayanihan fundraising, we have started selling facemasks to members, their families and friends. The facemasks are sewn and designed by one of our active senior core group members Bane Molabin. In return, she gets a fraction of the sales for her time and effort. The face masks are sold between 5 to 7 euros a piece. We welcome those who would like to pay more for the facemasks as this will go a long way to support our work.



In June, Bayanihan has joined other women's and rights organizations and other international organizations in [calling to scrap the Anti-Terrorism Bill in the Philippines](#) that was officially signed by President Duterte. We believe that if the bill becomes a law, it would give authorities the hand to abuse their power and accuse anybody who is critical of the government of violating the said law which provides for warrantless arrests and without bail. As a women's organization, we believe that being critical and fighting for human rights and justice is part and parcel of our work.

The women's rights we enjoy today are a product of the generations of human rights and women activists who fought repressions and limitations in law. We will continue to improve the lives and rights of women by helping women and at the same time resisting laws that will lead to repression of human rights.

As we inch towards the third quarter of the year, we hope that you find enough strength and inspiration amid the challenges we face. Stichting Bayanihan will continue to be of service to everyone who is in need. Our **Bayanihan Helpline +31616367125** or **+31634875310** is always available.

For other matters, you can always reach us through info@bayanihan.nl.

Enjoy the sunny summer weather!

www.bayanihan.nl | www.facebook.com/stichtingbayanihan

ACKNOWLEDGMENT
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