



Message from Veronica Gamez, aidha Executive Director

Hola, dearest aidha community!



The opening ceremonies at the aidha graduation

It has been another incredible year of achievements for aidha and our community. It gives me great pleasure to share some of them with you.

This year, we welcomed 388 new students and 145 volunteers who attended 10 volunteer orientations. We had 113 mentors who dedicated over two thousand hours to aidha. And we celebrated our largest graduation ever that saw 96 ladies from 4 different cohorts complete our integrated programme.

All this was made possible by the support of so many.

Our management team composed of individuals passionate about the aidha mission, brought their long and prestigious professional experience into their respective roles: Rohini Chopra, Priya Mendon, Marjo Kurkela, Citlalic Gonzales, Marina Chiericato, Abel Lee and Marigold Duncan drove forward many projects and put in place professional processes we utilise in our daily operations.

Our corporate partners have been generous in their support and showed unwavering belief in our work. Research company, Kadence International, provided pro-bono services to help us measure our impact in a more systematic manner. Alexander Mann Solutions developed critical processing tools and raised funds for aidha. AustCham, a long-standing supporter of aidha, continues to provide support through participation in our events and fundraising. There was also Deutsche Bank who recognised one of their employees, an active aidha volunteer, with a Volunteer of the Year Award. While Barclays awarded aidha with a second grant, organised multiple fundraising events, and supported aidha in numerous areas of the business.



Representatives of Alexander Mann handing out a cheque to aidha



aidha conducting a workshop at the Philippine Embassy

Other organisations such as Primetime, Humanity and TEDx Singapore gave us a wider platform from which to share the aidha story. We also developed stronger partnerships with the Philippine and Indonesian Embassy through conducting workshops for their staff and communities. And in solidarity with our Filipino community, our volunteers and students managed to stage a simple donation drive for the survivors of Typhoon Haiyan.

Cont'd from previous page



Veronica with members of her aidha classes

2014 will no doubt bring a new set of challenges and adventures for aidha. As early as now, we have opened our March batch as the January and February classes are already full! This is a trend that will only continue to grow as we welcome more and more domestic helpers who enjoy weekly days off, are hungry for self-improvement and eager to achieve their dreams. With this comes the need for more volunteers and partners to ensure that we do not fail them.

Yes, 2014 has many exciting things we can look forward to. And while we are still far from reaching the 210, 000 FDWs in Singapore, with your continuous encouragement and support, I am confident that aidha will be able to reach economies of scale that will enable us to empower more women through financial education and entrepreneurship and make a considerable impact on the fight against poverty.

For now, let's celebrate the holiday season with a heart full of gratitude for the year that was, and a fearless spirit that's ready to embrace the larger future that awaits us. Go, go, go, dearest aidha community!



Free workshops during Sunday Funday

Always yours,
Veronica



aidha graduation day



Volunteer orientation



aidha participates in the 4th Foreign Domestic Workers Day



Fiesta Latina fundraising



aidha at the Indonesian National Day celebrations



Fundraising for Typhoon Haiyan victims at aidha

Events and Happenings

Farewell gathering for Veronica and Year-ender Party



Upcoming Event

Watch out for our forthcoming fundraising next year, the “Tour de Singapore” a bike ride fundraising event for aidha on February 16, 2013.

Like us on Facebook:

Office Hours: 10am-5pm, Mon- Thu

Campus: 10am-5pm, Sunday

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**A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Thank you for reading!**

Warm Regards,

The aidha Editorial Team:

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