



PARTNERSHIPS THAT WORK

PARTNERSHIP. JUST ANOTHER BUZZWORD? NOT AT THE BCDA.

In 2018, the agency forged and maintained partnerships through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects. The BCDA implemented six CSR projects and conducted three fora—all in partnership with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

The fora is part of BCDA's Stakeholder Engagement Program that allows for meaningful engagement with our country's heroes. It is a venue for BCDA to explain its role in the modernization of the AFP as steward of military lands and to generate feedback from its primary stakeholder and main beneficiary. Over 300 uniformed men benefited from the activity. Among the attendees were troops from the 202nd Infantry Unifier Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division of the Philippine Army based in Cavinti in Laguna, the Northern Luzon Command at Camp Servillano Aquino, San Miguel, Tarlac and public information officers of the AFP and the Department of National Defense.

Living the bayanihan spirit

THE BCDA'S DONATION of office furniture and equipment to the 202nd Infantry (Unifier) Brigade is more than just a donation.



"IT WAS NOT BUILT OVERNIGHT."

Brig. Gen. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos, Jr., Commander of the 202nd Infantry (Unifier) Brigade of the Philippine Army, was not referring to the Bayanihan Center, their multipurpose building in Cavinti, Laguna, constructed and inaugurated in 2018.

He was referring to the military's relationship with the BCDA.

It started in 2010, when he was asked to speak as a resource person at the BCDA's branding workshop. He was the Chief of the AFP Public Affairs Office at the time.

"I had to be very honest with [the BCDA]," Burgos said. "I told them everything—the truth about what's really the perception of the soldiers [about the BCDA]. Not only the soldiers but the civilian employees. Even their families."

That was a turning point. Working from the premise that the general public, and especially the troops, deserve to know the truth about the BCDA and its work, an information drive for the AFP was organized. This was followed by a survey. The results altered the soldiers' perception of the Authority, and what it does.

Since then, Burgos said, the engagement between the AFP and the BCDA has taken on a new dimension: "We've become partners. We benefit from the BCDA, aside from being their principal stakeholder."

The 202nd Brigade benefited concretely from the BCDA through its Bayanihan Center—which, aside from serving as their administrative, tactical operations, and communications center, provides a secure venue for community activities.

Because there was virtually no funding for the building, it was put up through "bayanihan efforts," Burgos emphasized. Assistance for the construction came from private corporations like Aboitiz and DMCI.

The Bayanihan Center was inaugurated on April 19, 2018, with BCDA President and CEO Vivencio Dizon as the guest of honor. At the time, the offices were bare. With the BCDA's donation of equipment and furniture, received in December, the Bayanihan Center became fully operational.

"Build, Build, Build does not only pertain to infrastructure projects that stimulate economic development. It

also means building relationships with stakeholders, building trust among the people, and building partnerships between the soldiers and the public," Mr. Dizon said.

Burgos acknowledges the Duterte administration's support to the AFP. "It's really unprecedented," he said. A big part of this support is the remittances coming from the BCDA, from the sale or lease of military camps, which fund AFP modernization efforts. This motivates the men and women in uniform to further provide the best service that they can give to the nation, he added.

After years of working with the BCDA to achieve mutual objectives, Burgos sees no end to the engagement between the two organizations. The information drive, projects, and programs will continue. "More than any agreement, it's the friendship that we were able to forge between BCDA and the Armed Forces of the Philippines," he noted.

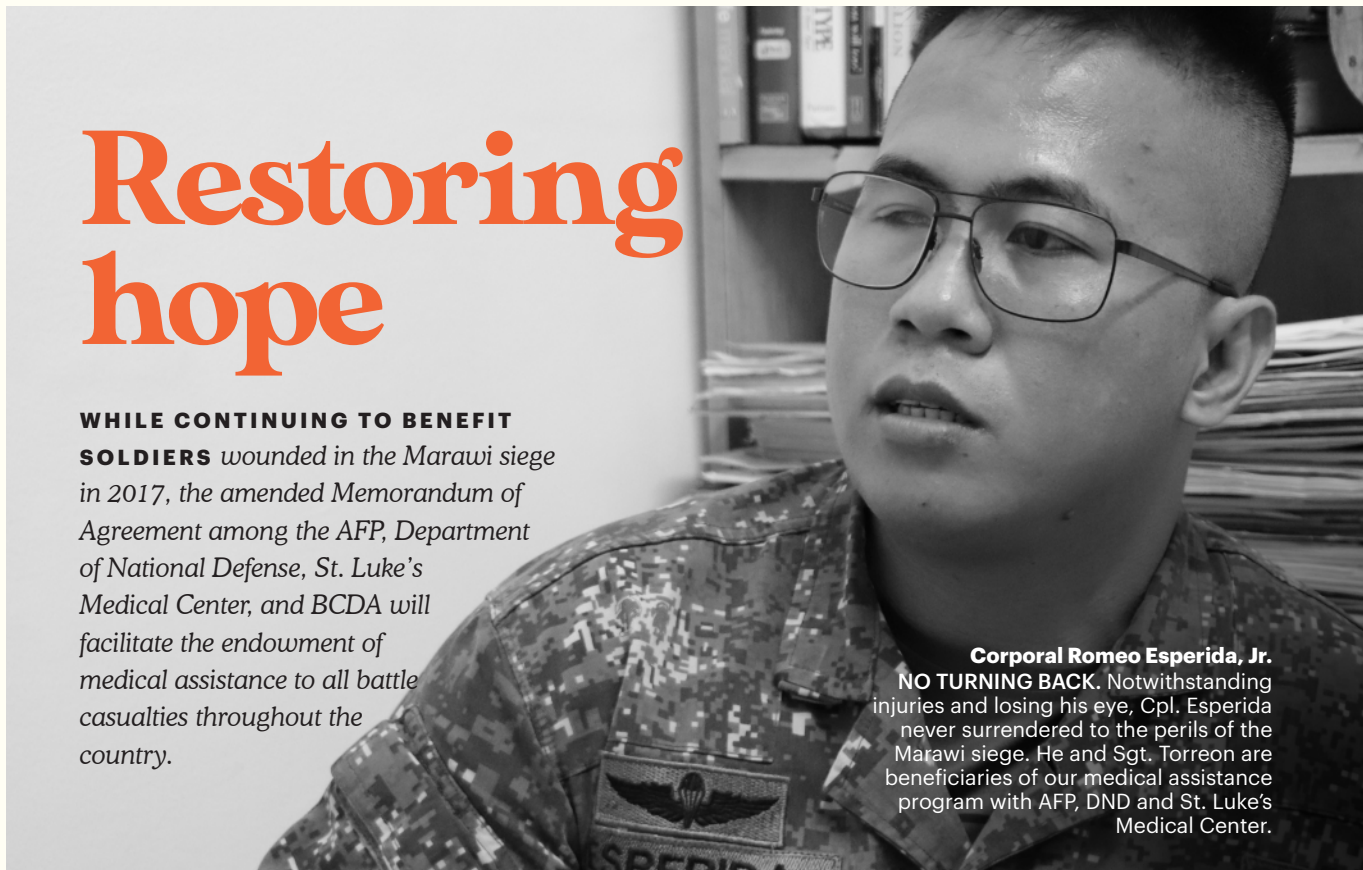
This could be what the bayanihan spirit is really all about. As Mr. Dizon said, "The collaboration between the Bases Conversion and Development Authority and the 202nd Brigade is stronger than the sturdiest pillar of any project that we have completed or will ever complete."



Restoring health

Sergeant Domingo Torreon FOR THE LOVE OF SERVICE.

Sergeant Torreon was one of the thousands wounded in Marawi while saving lives amidst the threats.



Restoring hope

WHILE CONTINUING TO BENEFIT SOLDIERS wounded in the Marawi siege in 2017, the amended Memorandum of Agreement among the AFP, Department of National Defense, St. Luke's Medical Center, and BCDA will facilitate the endowment of medical assistance to all battle casualties throughout the country.

Corporal Romeo Esperida, Jr. NO TURNING BACK. Notwithstanding injuries and losing his eye, Cpl. Esperida never surrendered to the perils of the Marawi siege. He and Sgt. Torreon are beneficiaries of our medical assistance program with AFP, DND and St. Luke's Medical Center.

ASK ARMY SGT. DOMINGO TORREON how many times he was operated on and he'll say, "Hindi ko na mabilang sa dami (There were so many that I've lost count)."

Torreon was one of 1,548 government troops wounded in action in the Marawi siege in 2017. After taking a direct hit on June 23, 2017 that showered his eyes with shrapnel and left his throat and mouth torn, he had to undergo several operations. Throughout the experience, he pushed himself to stay positive. However, during the five days that he spent in the ICU in Iligan, he couldn't help but break down when he learned that some of his companions in Marawi had been killed.

From Iligan, he was brought to Cagayan de Oro and then to the AFP Medical Center, also known as the V. Luna General Hospital—but the procedures he needed for his eyes could not be done there. He was endorsed to the St. Luke's Medical Center in BGC, where doctors performed seven operations on his eyes—the first on July 15, 2017 and the last on June 7, 2018—including a cornea transplant.

Cpl. Romeo Esperida, Jr. of the Philippine Marine Corps also took a direct hit in the "Bloody Friday" incident of June 9, 2017. After falling to the ground, he could no longer feel his right leg and arm, and would have blacked out if not for his companions slapping him to keep him awake.

Esperida had to be confined for seven months at V. Luna for his arm and leg injuries. His eye could not be treated there, however, so he was later endorsed to St. Luke's for treatment.

REVOLVING FUND Both Torreon and Esperida were beneficiaries of the PhP 5 million medical assistance fund that was made possible through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the AFP, the Department of National Defense, St. Luke's, and the BCDA. St. Luke's provided discounted services to soldiers endorsed by the AFP, and the BCDA paid the bill.

But 2017 was coming to an end, and with it, the MOA. The treatment of Torreon, Esperida, and other soldiers like them was not yet complete. Without the funding provided under the MOA, they would not get the medical attention they needed.

Recognizing the urgency, BCDA President and CEO Vivencio Dizon gave the nod for the assistance to continue—and the MOA was amended to provide medical assistance on a yearly basis to battle casualties throughout the country.

The PhP5 million revolving fund has thus become the BCDA's main CSR effort in terms of providing medical assistance to the AFP. "We know the limitations of military hospitals. Maraming kulang (There's a lot that's lacking). There are medical conditions that they cannot address," said BCDA Senior Vice President for Corporate Services Retired Brig Gen Carlos Quita. The amended MOA therefore specifies that the wounded soldier's condition must be something that any military hospital cannot treat.

Esperida noted that with the volume of patients at V. Luna General Hospital, not everyone could be treated right away. "Lalo na nung time ng Marawi siege. Tuluy-tuloy 'yung mga wounded. Tuluy-tuloy ang pasok sa V. Luna (Especially during the time of the Marawi siege. The wounded soldiers just kept coming in)," he recalled.

A SECOND CHANCE

At St. Luke's, doctors told Esperida that they could not do anything about his eye injury—a shattered retina—and treated him as an outpatient. But the nagging pain in his neck, which he told doctors about, turned out to be the result of shrapnel that had lodged itself very close to the carotid artery.

He was confined at St. Luke's for two weeks while a stent was ordered from Malaysia, and he was operated on in December 2017. "Sabi ng doktor, kung hindi naagapan, may possibility na magiging lantang-gulay ako once pumutok ito (The doctor said that if it had not been treated right away, there was a possibility I would have deteriorated to a vegetative state if this had burst)," Esperida said, referring to the artery.

In March 2018, he went back to work at the Force Reconnaissance Battalion, but it was only after his last check-up in August that he was finally given a clean bill of health. "Malaking tulong po 'yung naging pag-save sa buhay ko ng BCDA. Gusto kong magpasalamat dahil kung hindi sa kanila, wala na ako (It was a big help that the BCDA saved my life. I want to thank them because if not for them, I'd

be a goner)," he added.

Torreon recalled how he felt after the eye operations restored his sight: "Nung nakakita na ako, grabe ang tuwa ko! Nakita ko na 'yung doktor. Salamat, Lord (When I was able to see, I was overjoyed! I could see the doctor. Thank you, Lord!)"

This lifted his spirits after his recent loss. While he was confined at St. Luke's, his wife gave birth to their first child in Bohol on July 12. The following evening, just two days before his first eye operation, the baby—a girl—died.

Still, the whole experience made a profound impact on Torreon. He shared that while he was in Cagayan de Oro, a child came up to him, touched his arm, and said, "Salamat sa pagtatanggol ninyo sa ating bansa (Thank you for your service in defending our nation)."

Torreon passed on the gratitude to the BCDA. "Napakalaking tulong ng BCDA sa akin," Torreon said. "Kung wala siguro 'yung pondo ng BCDA, bulag na sana din ako ngayon (BCDA was such a big help. If they had not provided the funding for my treatment, I'd probably be blind by now)."

Although Torreon and Esperida will never again see action in the battlefields, they are grateful for the ability to continue serving the Philippines—and for the second chance at life.

2017

NO. OF PATIENTS TREATED
52

OUTPATIENT SERVICES
PhP 397,382.32

INPATIENT SERVICES
PhP 3,170,233.46

TOTAL AMOUNT UTILIZED
PhP 3,567,615.78

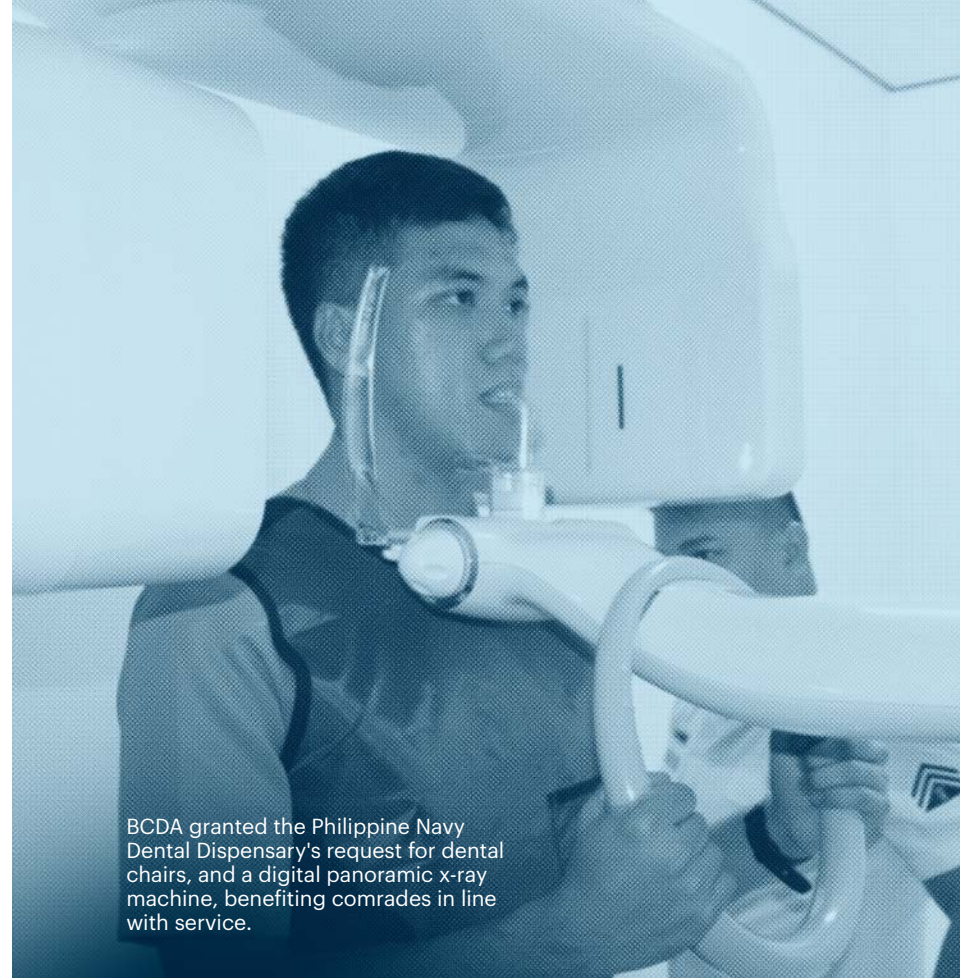
REMAINING BALANCE
PhP 1,432,384.22

2018

NO. OF PATIENTS TREATED
56

TOTAL AMOUNT UTILIZED
PhP 4,828,242.01

REMAINING BALANCE
PhP 171,757.99



BCDA granted the Philippine Navy Dental Dispensary's request for dental chairs, and a digital panoramic x-ray machine, benefiting comrades in line with service.

the 1302nd PNDD in Cavite, at their request.

According to PNDD staff, the average lifespan of a dental chair is around three years. For a clinic like the 1301st that serves a steady stream of 20 to 40 patients each day, coming from the camps of the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Marines at the Bonifacio Naval Station, the Headquarters of the Philippine Navy, and sometimes even the PNDD in Cavite—this estimate can go down to two years. Usually, the air valve or the hydraulic system, in general, would be the first to break down. As a result, the chair would no longer go up or down, making it inconvenient to properly adjust and treat the patient.

The X-ray machine is another matter. A panoramic X-ray machine captures 18 angles or views in one shot. It makes life easier for any dentist—until it begins to deteriorate.

“The image produced by an X-ray machine is very critical,” Cervantes said, adding that a good image shows tissue that cannot be seen by the naked eye. “If the image it produces is no longer accurate, it can no longer help us in our diagnosis.”

To replace the chairs and machine that have seen better days, BCDA donated six more dental chairs in October 2018, and a digital panoramic X-ray with its computer, monitor, and printer in November. The total cost of the donation was PhP3.82 million.

Now, Cervantes said, the 1301st is the only dental unit in the Philippine Navy with a digital panoramic X-ray machine. Not only that—theirs is now the most advanced digital panoramic X-ray machine in the entire AFP inventory, he emphasized.

“The donation was a big help. We're truly grateful,” Cervantes said, adding that the equipment has benefited not just the officers and personnel of the Philippine Navy, but even their dependents.

For the dental officers of the 1301st PNDD, the new chairs and digital panoramic X-ray machine translate to speed and efficiency with which they can treat their patients. This means better service—and brighter smiles.

HELPING THEM SERVE

SMILES ARE BRIGHTER at the 1301st Philippine Navy Dental Dispensary (PNDD), thanks to a brand new digital panoramic X-ray machine and dental chairs.

AT THE 1301ST PHILIPPINE NAVY DENTAL DISPENSARY, Bonifacio Naval Station, talk of equipment and apparatus doesn't revolve around ships or rifles, but around dental chairs, compressors, hand pieces, and X-ray machines.

“We are equipment dependent,” said Administration and Personnel Officer Major Carmelito Cervantes. “If our equipment is functioning well, we'll be able to provide good service to our patients.”

It was the sorry state of their equipment that prompted PNDD Commanding Officer Col. Ruth

Valdevilla to seek funds for new equipment. She had written to the BCDA once before, in 2016, to request for dental chairs and a digital panoramic X-ray machine. The BCDA granted her request—a total of 12 dental chairs and an X-ray machine—amounting to an estimated PhP4.7 million.

Two years later, the 2016 donation has actually benefited more than just the 1301st. Some of the dental chairs were sent to the Manila Naval Hospital, while others were installed in ships or given to other PNDD units. The X-ray machine has also since been sent to

KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE

BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY, NOW A PRIME BUSINESS DISTRICT, was not only the very first city built by the BCDA and one of its biggest projects. It was also once part of a military camp.

So it is only fitting to have, within BGC, a series of markers commemorating this history and to pay tribute to the AFP.

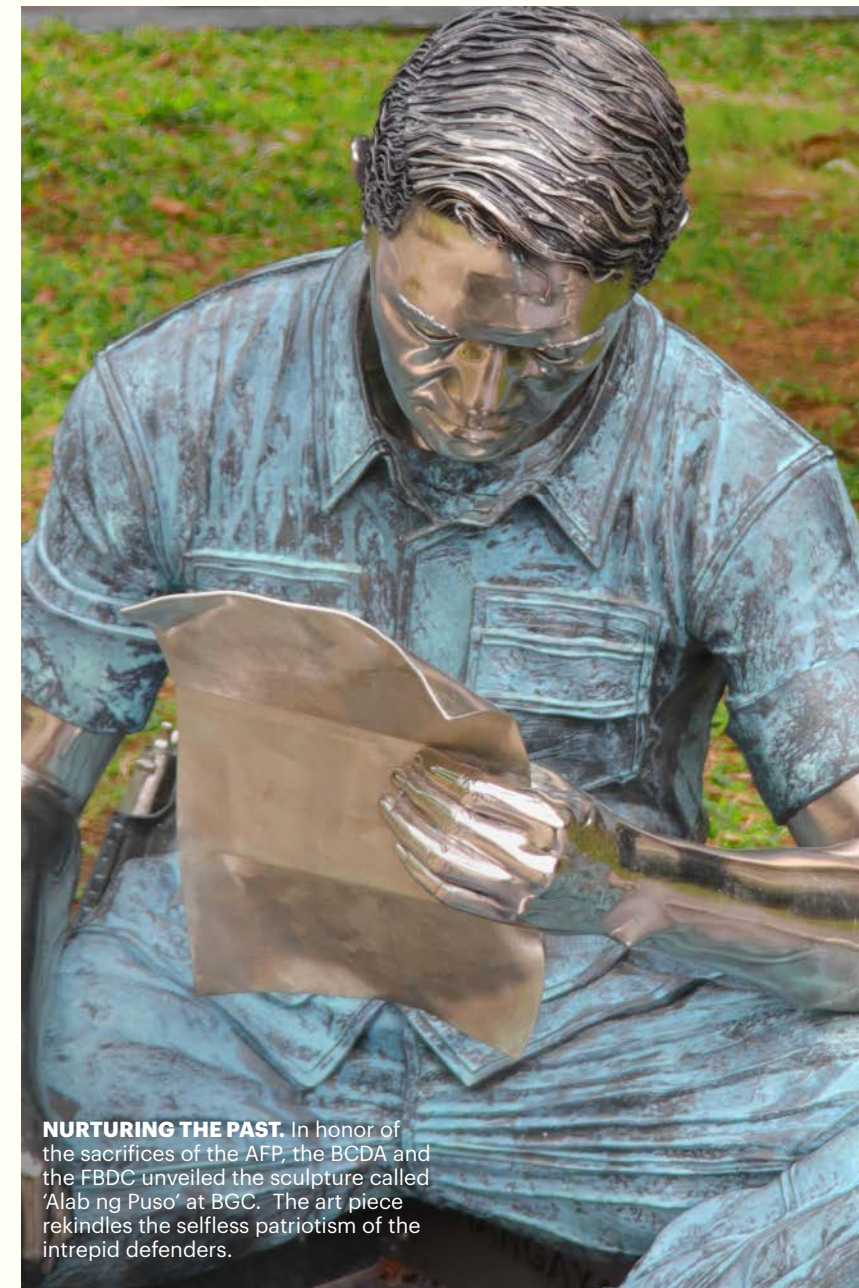
On April 16, the BCDA and Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC) unveiled the first of these markers—a sculpture called *Alab ng Puso* (Flame of the Heart).

The work of artist Daniel dela Cruz, the sculpture portrays a Filipino soldier seated with his weapon set aside, reading a letter from his family.

“The *Alab ng Puso* sculpture is a fitting tribute to the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, always putting country above self,” said BCDA President and CEO Vivencio Dizon.

At the unveiling, AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Salvador Melchor Mison, Jr., who represented President Rodrigo Duterte, said that *Alab ng Puso* “signifies the burning fire in the heart of every Filipino.”

Reading the message of outgoing AFP Chief General Rey Leonardo Guerrero, Lt. Gen. Mison said: “We stand in tribute to all those who have made it possible for the Republic to stand tall



NURTURING THE PAST. In honor of the sacrifices of the AFP, the BCDA and the FBDC unveiled the sculpture called ‘Alab ng Puso’ at BGC. The art piece rekindles the selfless patriotism of the intrepid defenders.

and free among [the] community of nations—the gallant soldiers, unsung heroes, and selfless patriots. This is our monument to their fire and heroism.”

With the unveiling of *Alab ng Puso*, the BCDA pays tribute to the AFP and also officially launches the BGC Historical Markers Project, in collaboration with the FBDC and Bonifacio Art Foundation, Inc. (BAFI).

“This is just the beginning,” Mr. Dizon stated. “We're currently working on more tribute markers for our soldiers.” He also mentioned that the installation

of historical markers was the idea of BCDA Chairman Gregorio Garcia III.

“Looking back at our cherished history is so important. The history of Fort Bonifacio is really very much ingrained... in the hearts of our soldiers; and it should be the same for each and every Filipino who goes [to BGC],” he added.

One day, when no one will be old enough to have lived through the history of BGC, markers like *Alab ng Puso* will keep the flame alive.

OUR COMMUNITY

IN 2018, the BCDA implemented a number of projects for the benefit of different sectors and groups.

1

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (GAD)

The BCDA participated in the 2018 National Women's Month Celebration (NWMC) by conducting an enhancing image program. This served as a venue for women to inspire and appreciate each other and create an environment supportive of each other. In addition, streamers announcing the 2018 NWMC were displayed in all BCDA offices. NWMC shirts were printed and other peripherals procured for distribution to all BCDA personnel.

- Part of the BCDA's observance of the 2018 NWMC was a medical mission done for the benefit of women and children in Bamban, Tarlac. The medical mission was conducted in April.

- The BCDA participated in two seminars organized by the Women's Business Council in Makati and endorsed by the Philippine Commission on Women: "W2W Talks: Fathers for Daughters: Building Next Gen Business

Mindsets," in March; and "W2W Talks: Crawling Out of the Black Hole of Depression and Mental Illness," in September.

2

THE BCDA CONTRIBUTED TO "RUN FOR HEROES," a running event held in March for the benefit of the widows and orphans of government troops killed in the Marawi siege.

3

IN JANUARY 2018, the BCDA donated medicine to the Association of Generals and Flag Officers (AGFO) Foundation, Inc. upon the request of its President, Retired Commodore Liberato Lazo.

4

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUSIVITY and of maintaining good relations in the project-affected communities, the BCDA and its partner MTD Clark, Inc. employed more than 300

Aetas to work in New Clark City. The hiring of indigenous peoples (IPs) in the project site was, and will continue to be, a priority.

5

THE BCDA'S CHRISTMAS GIFT-GIVING ACTIVITIES in past years benefited, among others, the security guards detailed at the BCDA head office in Bonifacio Technology Center—but not their counterparts in Clark, Pampanga, who perform the same duties. So in December 2018, the BCDA gave 96 Christmas baskets to SCAA.

6

THE BCDA PARTNERED WITH the AFP Northern Luzon Command in May for the Fishermen Shelter Project. The facility built in Mavulis Island, Batanes will serve as a shelter for the troops patrolling along the perimeter of the coastline in Northern Luzon, and the fishermen of Batanes during inclement weather.