



Philippine Center Update October 2011

By: Gerry Ramos, AIA
Executive Director



The dream of having our own 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.

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. (PCCCF) **last July 29, 2011.**



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, tagalog and other language classes. The **lower level** will be primarily used by the **Free Medical Clinic**. The lower level **1100 SF open area** will also be used for planned activities such as exercise programs, ballroom and folk dancing, martial arts training, when not in FMC use.

Parks will retain the use of the 1500 SF upper level community room which they will 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, **have been approved by the Milwaukee County and the City of Greenfield.** Building Permits have been granted and demolition work starts on Saturday, October 29, 2011. **Construction is estimated to take about 3 months.**

The following 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

Executive Director Gerry Ramos is coordinating with Consul General Leo M. Herrera-Lim of the Philippine Consulate in Chicago on the schedule of consular services at our Philippine Center.

Philippine Center Computer Classes (Registration ongoing)

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.

Philippine Center Tagalog Language Classes (Registration Ongoing) Tagalog Lessons with **Jojo Ramos as instructor** will start on **Saturday, November 12, 2011** from 12:30 to 1:30 PM at the Philippine Center, 535 N 27th St., Milwaukee, WI. Contact Jojo : (414) 423-0901 or email : diwa@wi.rr.com

Please come and join us at the following fund raising events to support the Philippine Center and the Free Medical Clinic.

Gala Night – Scheduled for March 3, 2012 at the Crystal Ballroom, Hilton Milwaukee Center

Music Concerts – To be announced



A ceremonial signing was held at the Zablocki Pavilion last August 11, 2011. The 35 year lease agreement for the use of Zablocki Pavilion by the Philippine Center was signed by the Milwaukee County Parks Director Sue Black, and PCCCF Executive Director Gerry Ramos and witnessed by 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 and PCCCF officers, board members and representatives Drs. Johnny and Vulette Singson, Jojo Ramos, Dr. Henry and Linda Ravelo, Drs. Max and Letty Cueto, Tom Sipin, Evelyn Brown, Mila Lamerand, Sheila Plaga, Belinda and Lito Tenorio, Linda Ramos, and Jimmy Soriano, and Camille Ramos Rhodes, photographer.