



**Filipino American
History Month**

FCDC TODAY

**Filipino-American Community &
Development Center of Ocean County Inc.**
2014 Bayaning Pilipino Awardee
October 2025

Member Spotlight - Odessa Sadsad

My story begins in Zamboanga City, the vibrant “City of Flowers,” where I was lovingly raised by my aunt and grandmother. They were strong, faith-filled women who taught me the virtues of perseverance, respect, gratitude, and service to others. From them, I learned that success is not measured by what we achieve alone, but by how we uplift those around us. Their lessons became the compass that continues to guide my work and life.

The rhythm of home still lives within me — in the sound of Chavacano, the language that carries the warmth and melody of Zamboanga. Wherever I go, I carry that music in my heart.

When I was seven, my mother made a courageous decision to immigrate to the United States, hoping to build a better future for our family. My grandmother — a formidable woman with an unshakeable spirit — raised my younger brother and me in her care. Ten years later, we reunited with my mother in the U.S. I was midway through nursing school at the time, but the pull of home led me back



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back to the Philippines, where I completed my Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Western Mindanao State University. Shortly after graduation, I returned to New Jersey to begin a new chapter — one that would test, transform, and ultimately define me.

In my early 20s, I began my career as a Registered Nurse in Toms River. But the curiosity of youth and a deep love for adventure soon beckoned. One evening, while browsing online, I stumbled upon an advertisement seeking men and women to become flight attendants. I had no aviation experience, but something in me said go. So I called out from work, dressed in my best suit, and drove to North Jersey for the interview. That single leap of faith changed my life.

Before long, I was flying across the world — working for a charter company that transported NFL teams, living for a time in Venezuela while flying with their national carrier, and eventually joining a start-up company, JetBlue Airways, in New York. Through these experiences, I discovered the extraordinary power of human connection — how kindness transcends language, and how shared stories make the world feel smaller. Over the years, I've been blessed to travel to more than 25 countries, each journey deepening my appreciation for culture, diversity, and resilience.



Still, amid the constant motion of airports and new horizons, I found myself missing something — the sense of fulfillment that came from caring for others. My heart had never truly left healthcare. As my travel schedule allowed, I returned to nursing, this time with a renewed sense of purpose. I later pursued my Master's in Healthcare Administration, merging my clinical foundation with my passion for leadership and service.

Today, I am humbled to serve as the Vice President of Health Services for a not-for-profit organization — the largest senior housing provider in New Jersey and Delaware. In this role, I oversee quality, compliance, and clinical excellence across multiple service lines, including post-acute care, assisted living, home care, and health service firms. Every day, I'm reminded that leadership is not about titles, but about the lives you impact and the teams you inspire.

The late President of Cornell University, Frank Rhodes, once said: "Some will be lucky to find a job they love. Others will be luckier to find careers they love. But the luckiest of all will find their calling."



family



love

I consider myself among the luckiest. The work of caring for others can be challenging, sometimes even thankless — but it is always sacred. It is a privilege to listen, comfort, heal, and serve. Outside of work, life remains full and rich. Together with my husband, Marco, and our daughter, Isabella, I find joy in travel, music, photography, and design — creative outlets that reconnect me to the beauty and diversity of the world.

Through every chapter of my journey — from the narrow streets of Zamboanga to the boardrooms of healthcare — my faith in God has been my constant source of strength. In quiet moments of prayer, I find joy, clarity, and the courage to continue serving with purpose.

No matter how far I've traveled, I remain deeply proud of where I came from. The values born in that small coastal city still ground me today: hard work, humility, faith, and the belief that true success is measured by the lives we touch.





PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Jasmine Alcid



HALLOWEEN AND FILIPINO-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

What an enjoyable weekend for FCDC on October 25 as we celebrated both Halloween and Filipino-American History Month. Attendees showed up in fantastic costumes, adding to the festive atmosphere. A quiz bee on Filipino-American history allowed participants to compete as teams, showcasing their knowledge. The FCDC Ensemble delivered a special performance, captivating everyone with beloved Filipino songs such as "Bituing Walang Ningning," "Magkaisa," and "Forevermore," skillfully conducted by Michael Rosin.

The evening was filled with delicious dinner and lively line dancing, along with a 50/50 raffle and auction prize drawing. There were games for young children and plenty of trick-or-treating fun! Those with the best costumes were awarded prizes. It truly was an action-packed night.

We are grateful for the amazing sponsors for supporting this event. (See poster).



auction winner



50/50 winner



FCDC Ensemble



Best in Costume winners



More photos at FCDC Facebook site

FAMS/FCDC GOLF OUTING

FAMS joined forces with FCDC to host the Annual FAMS Golf Outing on October 1, 2025, at the Pine Barrens in Jackson, NJ. This was my first experience of the event, and I must say it was exceptionally organized by FAMS, led by Drs. Oscar Ortiz, Mario Gallardo, Dino Espinelli, and Ramon Suatengco. FCDC is truly honored to benefit from the proceeds, which will be donated to FACES activities and Dr. Ynaya Scholarship Foundation. This scholarship awards cash prizes to graduating high school students who plan to pursue a four-year college degree.

The event kicked off with registration and lunch, followed by an opening ceremony and tee-off. After several hours on the greens, players returned to enjoy a delightful meal and refreshments. A highly anticipated raffle took place after dinner, where participants had the chance to win golf clubs, bags, and other golf-related items.

Thank you to everyone who supported this event! There are numerous ways to actively participate in this initiative: you can play, become a sponsor, or simply help spread the word. We hope to see you next year! The golf outing is typically held on the first Wednesday of October, so be sure to save the date!



More photos on our Facebook site

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SILVER

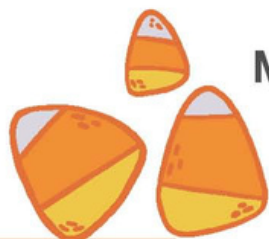


Dr. Jose Ramon Suatengco

**Ricky & Daisy Enriquez from Tax
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BRONZE

Mrs. Lorna Tejada



WWW.FCDCNJ.ORG

A festive border surrounds the central text area, featuring a repeating pattern of red and teal Christmas ornaments, stars, and snowflakes on a light cream background.

*Save
The
Date*

**FCDC'S HOLIDAY
PARTY**

**DECEMBER 13, 2025
SATURDAY
6PM**

**DETAILS TO BE
POSTED SOON**



*LETTER FROM THE
EDITOR*
by Jamie Mariano



October is Filipino-American History Month. Here are excerpts from Wikipedia explaining more about the month that honors us and our American history:

"October was chosen to commemorate the arrival of the first Filipinos who landed in what is now Morro Bay, California on October 18, 1587. It is also the birth month of Filipino American labor leader Larry Itliong."

"Congress passed a resolution recognizing Filipino American History Month. In November 2009, Congress passed the resolution (H. RES. 780), officially recognizing October as Filipino American History Month."

Notable Filipinos Who Made History in the US:

- Philip Vera Cruz
- Vicki Manalo Draves
- Alice Pena Bulos
- Pedro Flores
- Robert "Bobby" Cortez Scott

If you don't recognize the names, do some research get to know these people who made an impact on this country in their own ways.



ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT

by Ferlie Almonte
Speaker. Author. Life Coach.

WHERE YOUR EVOLUTION BEGINS

Reimagination. Transformation. Reinvention. It is a process. Not solely about making changes. They all stem from our inner works. Mindset. The mindful shift from procrastination into decision, followed by action. Those build the foundation to makes change possible at any age or circumstances, despite challenges. There comes a point when you reach a pivotal moment in your life when you admit that change is imperative.

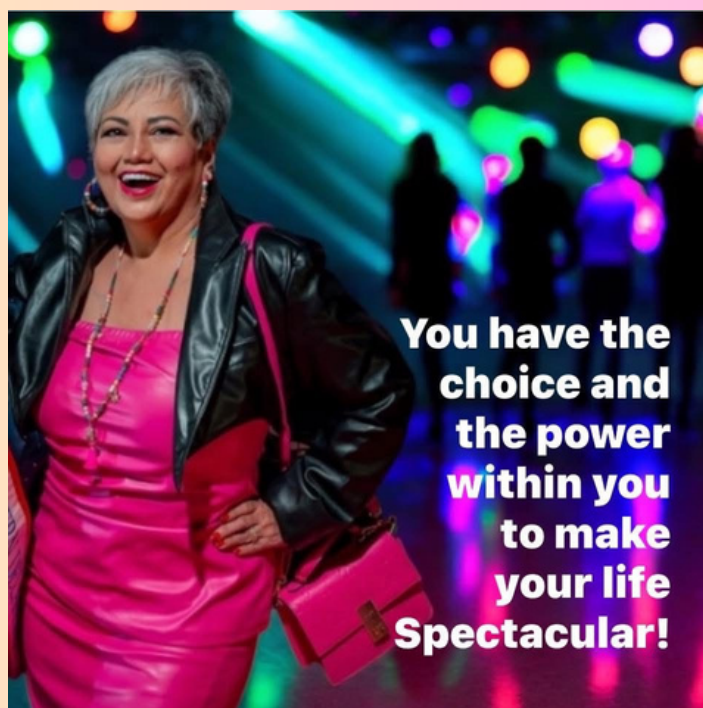
Reimagining possibilities. Having the vision to reinvent your new life and muster the audacity to move forward and make things happen. It takes courage and fearlessness. Being fearless doesn't mean the absence of fear — it means having less fear to keep pushing forward. That boldness and audacity are driven by purpose and faith. Faith in a higher power, oneself and the belief that even if your path is still hazy, your vision is clear and you'll find your way to get there. Understand that your belief is a dealbreaker. Your mindset is a great foundation for your transformation. That will make you unstoppable in your cycles of reinvention. Resilience is key. Confidence is crucial. Self esteem, the whisper of your spirit that you are worthy of your desires, truly owning your value, will strengthen and fuel you. Understand that your value isn't defined by your accomplishments or accolades.

Growth happens where you water the seeds of change. Your belief in God, in your own greatness and purpose are your oxygen. Confidence in your conviction for reinvention is your fertilizer and becomes a catalyst for growth and evolution to take place.

Everything you need is within you. Uncage them. Be confident knowing you'll be fine even if you stumble. Your spirit of resilience will get you back up and start over. Stronger and Wiser. Grateful, peaceful and joyful. Because you are living a life that is purposeful. Your mindset, resilience and confidence will catapult you to a Life of Magnificence.

Reimagining your life, making decisions on redesigning your future, and facilitating your own transformation with audacity, unwavering faith and massive inspired action, are all part of the process of REINVENTING THE UNSTOPPABLE YOU.

And remember, when you purge what no longer serves your needs, also detox from places and people who do not feed the reinvented you. Surround yourself with those who celebrate the New Precious, Audacious and Fabulous You!



Our FACES Kids and Barkada Making a Difference!

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, our amazing youth are stepping up with compassion and action by collecting donations for the Ocean Partnership for Children's appeal for help.

All items collected will benefit Providence House, supporting survivors and families impacted by domestic violence.

You may donate any of the following items and call 732-350-2120 :

📄 Paper products • 🧴 Cleaning supplies • 👚 Women's pajamas • 🍹 Juice boxes • 🍝 Boxes of pasta • 🧺 Laundry pods • 🔌 Cell phone chargers • 🛏 New towels & blankets

Every act of kindness helps bring light and hope to others.



One of the managers at Ocean Partnership for Children accepted our donations.





Save The Date



PNANJ OCEAN COUNTY SUBCHAPTER

Thanksgiving Event

**FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 21
6-10PM
CLARION HOTEL
815 NJ-37 TOMS RIVER**

Join us in celebrating gratitude and excellence-honoring the nurses who leave their mark on the profession and the lives they touch.

**ATTIRE:
SEMI-FORMAL
FALL COLORS**

Please provide email and phone no. during registration to receive your confirmation. For any questions please reach out to Jessica Bue at 732-330-2556

JESSICA BUE
at 732-330-2556



zelle

PNANJ Ocean
@pikay



venmo



Ocean County's Simbang Gabi 2025

Theme: "Jesus is the HOPE for this holy season"

DEC 13	ST. JUSTIN THE MARTYR ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 975 Fischer Blvd Toms River, NJ 08753 President: Fr. Mark Kreder Rosary 6:30pm Mass 7pm	DEC 18	THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTHA 3800 Herbertsville Rd Point Pleasant, NJ 08742 President: Fr. David Swantek Rosary 6:30pm Mass 7pm
DEC 14	CHURCH OF ST. DOMINIC 250 Old Squan Road Brick NJ 08724 President: Fr. Carlo Calisin Rosary 7pm Mass 7:30pm	DEC 19	CHURCH OF ST. MONICA 679 W Veterans Hwy Jackson, NJ 08527 President: Fr. Alex Enriquez Rosary 6:30pm Mass 7pm
DEC 15	ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 685 Hooper Ave Toms River, NJ 08753 President: Fr. Scott Shaffer Rosary 6:30pm Mass 7pm	DEC 20	ST. LUKE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 1674 Old Freehold Rd Toms River, NJ 08755 President: Fr. Mike Kennedy Rosary 6:30pm Mass 7pm
DEC 16	ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 619 Chestnut St Lakehurst, NJ 08759 President: Fr. Tito Ignacio Rosary 6:30pm Mass 7pm	DEC 21	ST. MAXIMILLIAN KOLBE CHURCH 130 St Maximilian Ln Toms River, NJ 08757 President: Very Reverend Edward Blanchett Rosary 5pm Mass 5:30pm
DEC 17	ST. MARY OF THE PINES 100 Bishop Way Manahawkin, NJ 08050 President: Fr. Vic Magdaraog Rosary 6:30pm Mass 7pm		

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



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