

Profiles of AFS KL -YES Returnees



Name: **KATHRINA GONZALES**
 Disability: Deaf
 Batch: YES 2007
 Attended High School: Isabela School for the Deaf
 Host School: East High School, Alaska, USA



Name: **JEMMER JONES RAMOS**
 Disability: Blind
 Batch: YES 2008
 Attended High School: General Santos City SPED Integrated School
 Host School: The Colorado School for the Deaf/Blind, USA



Name: **MARK GIL PUNZAL**
 Disability: Deaf
 Batch: YES 2008
 Attended High School: Manila High School
 Host School: Indiana School for the Deaf, Indiana, USA



Name: **DEBIELYN GAMUTAN**
 Disability: Deaf
 Batch: YES 2009
 Attended High School: Cagayan de Oro National High School
 Host School: Indiana School for the Deaf, Indiana, USA



Name: **JEREMIAH BARTOLOME**
 Disability: Deaf
 Batch: KL- YES 2010
 Attended High School: Manila High School
 Host School: Waite High School, Toledo, Ohio



Name: **JENNESSEY EMPANG**
 Disability: Deaf
 Batch: KL- YES 2010
 Attended High School: Manila High School
 Host School: Rochester School for the Deaf, New York



Name: **MARK KEVIN CARANDANG**
 Disability: Blind
 Batch: KL- YES 2010
 Attended High School: Philippine School for the Blind
 Host School: Bear, Delaware



Name: **MAE REECAH PALMA**
 Disability: Deaf
 Batch: KL- YES 2011
 Attended High School: Isabela School for the Deaf
 Host School: Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf, Faribault, Minnesota



Name: **CAROLL ANN DE BELEN**
 Disability: Deaf
 Batch: KL- YES 2011
 Attended High School: Manila High School
 Host School: Edward Little High School, Auburn, Maine

For details, please contact:



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AFS KL-YES Program for Students with Disabilities

*Kenny-Lugar (KL)
Youth Exchange & Study (YES) Program
for Students with Disabilities*

A partnership of:



What is AFS KL-YES Program?

- AFS is global, voluntary, private, non-profit organization that gives intercultural learning opportunities to help people gain knowledge, skills and understanding for a more just and peaceful world.
- KL-YES Program aims to build bridges of understanding and mutual respect between the US and countries around the world.
- The Program was funded by the US State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
- It is a full scholarship for a year of living and studying in the US to a select group of teenagers from countries with significant Muslim populations.
- PWDs who are marginalized and vulnerable as the Muslims, are very much part of the program.
- In started in the country in 1956, and ran for 24 years during which a total of 1,047 young Filipinos became exchange students in the US for 1 year with 609 American teenagers coming to the Philippines in turn.
- In 1980, AFS Philippines stopped operations and resumed after 20 years. AFS returnees established a Foundation in 2000 known as AFS-Returnees Foundation of the Philippines (ARFP).
- In 2003, AFS Philippines formally opened as the AFS Intercultural Programs Philippines (AFS-IPP).
- In 2004, the first 40 Filipino exchange students including the first 3 PWD scholars under the AFS-YES Program.



AFS KL-YES applicants, 2012-2013

- A total of 16 exchange students with cross disabilities are now YES alumni.

Who can participate?

- Filipino Citizen
 - Muslim
 - Students with disabilities (blind or vision impaired, deaf or hearing impaired, wheelchair or crutches users)
- Enrolled as a 3rd year high school student in a Department of Education-accredited school
- Belong to the top 10 of the 3rd year level
- 15-17.5 years old (time of departure for US)
- Proficient in English
- Have demonstrated leadership potential
- Nominated by the school principal where student is enrolled
- Pass AFS selection process
- Meet medical clearance
- Complete compliance with documentation

NCCA as an AFS Philippines Partner will...

- provide technical assistance in screening of KL-YES applicants
- provide advocacy support
- monitor, evaluate and document AFS Returnees' status
- provide information on the latest disability issues and trends
- provide networking with other local and international partners

AFS Intercultural Programs Philippines will ...

- provide information on AFS exchange programs where PWD students may participate

- work for the participation of PWD students in AFS exchange programs, subject to AFS policies
- provide feedback on the progress of PWD students while on an AFS program abroad
- explore ways of increasing the slots/participation of qualified students with disabilities.

Profiles of AFS KL-YES Returnees



Name: **CARLA DELA CRUZ**
Disability: Orthopedic Impairment
Batch: YES 2004
Attended High School: N.O.H School for Crippled Children
Host School: Poolesville High School, Maryland, USA



Name: **MARLON CELSO**
Disability: Short Stature
Batch: YES 2004
Attended High School: Villamor High School
Host School: Powers Catholic High School, Michigan, USA



Name: **LOUDEMYS GARCIA**
Disability: Speech Impairment
Batch: YES 2004
Attended High School: Philippine School for the Deaf
Host School: Alabama School for the Deaf, Alabama, USA



Name: **MARIA ADISA NAHIL**
Disability: Blind
Batch: YES 2005
Attended High School: Quirino High School
Host School: Wisconsin School for the Visually Handicapped, Wisconsin, USA



Name: **YAMIE FIESTADA**
Disability: Deaf
Batch: YES 2005
Attended High School: Quirino High School
Host School: Ironwood Ridge High School, Arizona, USA



Name: **MARK PUZON**
Disability: Blind
Batch: YES 2006
Attended High School: Philippine School for the Blind
Host School: Ohio State School for the Blind, Ohio, USA



Name: **GEMMALYN MORTA**
Disability: Deaf
Batch: YES 2006
Attended High School: Quirino High School
Host School: Indiana School for the Deaf, Indiana, USA