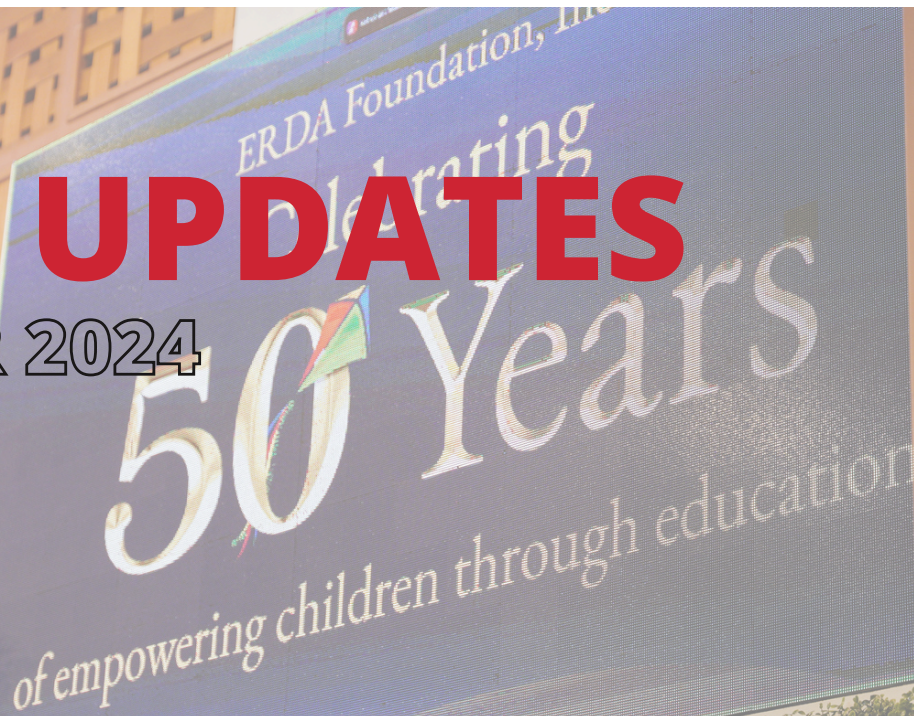




Educational Research & Development Assistance (ERDA) Foundation, Inc.

ERDA UPDATES

DECEMBER 2024



Dear ERDA Friends, Supporters and Donors

Greetings of Merry and Blessed Christmas Everyone!

We are still experiencing the effects of the shear line, resulting from time-to-time rain throughout December. On December 25, Christmas day it rained the entire day in Metro Manila and other parts of the country, less people are moving around. Many were affected, including youth, children, and parents, as they were not able to visit their friends, godparents, relatives, or enjoy various activities and celebrations. Businesses, utilities, transportation, vendors, parks, carnivals, interesting places, stores, and malls were affected. Generally, the people felt frustrated, but Filipinos still love Christmas and look forward to welcoming the New Year 2025.

The government, including the legislative, executive and judicial branches are particularly focused on discussing the National Budget for 2025. Legislative sessions and investigations are ongoing, including interviewing people in relation to the War on Drugs by former President Duterte. This campaign led to Extra Judicial Killings (EJK) of more than 30,000 individuals suspected of being drug addicts, drug lords or involved in drugs, smuggling and trafficking. Initially, it was discovered that many EJK victims were innocent, including children, youth, and even family members of suspected drug addicts, drug lords, and drug smugglers. It's all for the money.

Congress is also busy processing and accepting the Impeachment cases filed against the Vice President of the Philippines due to allegations of corruption. Three impeachment cases have been filed against her. Meanwhile, the President is focused on reviewing the national budget, with some opposition arguing that certain aspects of it are unconstitutional. Congress has allocated a smaller budget for education, social protection and welfare, while a larger portion of the budget has been designated for public works and highways, as well as for the President's confidential funds.

At ERDA, the staff are busy working on the ERDA Strategic Plan for 2025-2031. The draft results prepared by the staff will be submitted to the members of the Board of Trustees, for they are going to have a Strategic Plan together with the ERDA Management Group in January 2025.

The Social Development Workers are facilitating and conducting various activities in the communities together with the parents, children, youth, volunteers, partners, donors, and sponsors of some activities.

ERDA and some of its partners facilitated capacity building sessions, and trainings on Mental Health, Leadership, Computer Literacy, Environment, Climate Change, Human Rights, Career Preparation/Development, and Candle Making. Parents, children, and youth participated actively in these activities.

In some communities, the Social Development Workers facilitated and conducted a Recollection for graduating Grade 6 and Grade 12 students.

The community leaders held their Leaders Gathering at the same time they celebrated Christmas by organizing activities like games, exchange gifts and some contests.

Partners, organizations, individuals, donors, and volunteers organized and sponsored Christmas activities for the children, youth and parents. More than 1,500 children, youth participated in Christmas gatherings, feeding, gift-giving, food, games, singing, and dancing.

Foreign visitors from Australia and Japan conducted community exposure, immersion and facilitated activities and distributed some gifts to the children.

Junior Educators from Manila 1 conducted tutorial sessions focused on reading and mathematics.

ERDA continues to organize a Children's Choir from the bay areas, and some partners have invited them to perform at some activities to sing.

University students from Adamson University, Polytechnical University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle University facilitated data gathering, research, brief assessment, activities for the children like tutorials and some inputs & capacity building.

Members of the Community Managed Savings and Credit Association (CoMSCA) for parents and the Community Managed Savings Association (CoMSA) for children facilitated their share-out. They received their savings, earnings and shares from the social fund.

ERDA Human Resources organized and facilitated a training session for the staff on Anxiety. A resource person was invited to lead the discussion and facilitate the reflection, feedback, and questions on the topic. Based on the feedback from the staff, the inputs and discussions were very helpful.

The staff Christmas party was attended by all staff. One staff, a social worker, retired this December.

This December, due to the weather conditions, we are experiencing rainy and dark surroundings because of the heavy clouds. In some provinces, there have been floods, flash floods and landslides. The Christmas season has projected a sad atmosphere.

Thank you very much! Have a Blessed, Prosperous New Year to all. God Bless!

Sincerely yours,

Dolora H. Cardeño
Executive Director

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Gift-giving



CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Games & Play



CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Feeding



CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Dancing & Singing



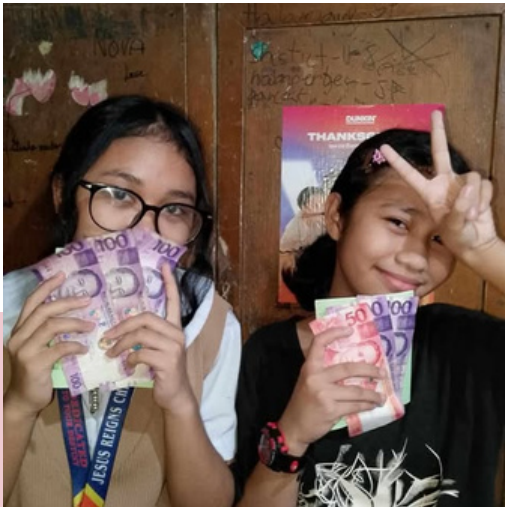
CHILDREN'S RECOLLECTION



CHILDREN'S RECOLLECTION



CoMSCA/CoMSA SHARE OUT



OUTREACH ACTIVITY FROM PARTNER UNIVERSITY



OUTREACH ACTIVITY FROM PARTNER ORGANIZATION



CAPACITY BUILDING SESSIONS FROM PARTNER ORGANIZATION



Session on Anxiety for ERDA staff

