



SMSS Alumni and Friends Foundation

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Website: www.smssfoundation.com

Motto: "Aditako bokodan di gawis = Let us share our blessings"

Date: _____

To: St Mary's School of Sagada [SMSS] alumni and friends;
Friends of Sagada folks and other hinterland communities in Northern
Philippines;
Episcopal Church Congregations;
Corporations looking for school beneficiaries of tax deductible donations;
Sympathizers of efforts by the less endowed or less fortunate in life to educate
themselves and catch up with mainstream society.

Re: St. Mary's School of Sagada [SMSS], Mountain Province, Philippines.

Greetings!

Alumni and friends of SMSS are engaged in a humanitarian effort towards rehabilitating and sustaining the operations of SMSS so that it will continue to be a source of quality education for indigenous tribes of Northern Philippines collectively known as Igorots.

Established by American Missionaries of the Episcopal Church in 1904, SMSS played a significant role in educating and improving the lives of an impressive number of Igorots. Through quality education such as what was offered at SMSS, legions of Igorot sons and daughters were able to leapfrog from subsistence-economy-related livelihoods to become nurses, doctors, teachers, accountants, engineers, architects, seamen, artists, musicians, entrepreneurs, business managers and the like in the world's major labor markets.

Hinterland Igorots in Northern Luzon, continue to look towards SMSS among a few affordable quality schools in the Cordillera mountain ranges of northern Philippines, as the best hope for their children to catch up with their lowland countrymen and the rest of the world.

However, overtaken by adverse developments in recent years, the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines [EDNP], the administrators of SMSS, announced that it could no longer sustain operations of the school beyond year 2005.

Cognizant of the importance of the school in the socio-economic improvement of their people – still categorized among the poorest of the poor based on Philippine key economic indicators – alumni and friends of SMSS opposed the plan to close the school. They were able to convince EDNP that a better option to closing the school was for them to take over the school administration. The school remains a property of EDNP.

Subsequently, alumni and friends had the school incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the Philippines allowing them to explore new directions

and funding resources, autonomous from the church which was, and still is, likewise struggling with financial difficulties.

SMSS alumni and friends in the United States, thereafter, organized themselves and applied for a tax-exempt public charity foundation status under section 501 (c) (3) of the U. S. Internal Revenue Code which was granted to them effective May 4, 2004. As such, donations/contributions to SMSS Alumni and Friends Foundation are tax deductible under section 170 of the Code. Likewise, bequests, devises, transfers or gifts made to SMSS Alumni and Friends Foundation are also entitled to tax deductions under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code.

Much has been accomplished at SMSS since then in terms of keeping the school afloat; but much remains to be done. A more detailed presentation on what has so far been done and what has yet to be done maybe accessed in the website "www.smssfoundation.com" particularly in the "Five Year Development Plan", the "Help Options", "Pictorials" and "Alumni" pages of the website. Please visit that website.

This year, the focus of fund-raising efforts by SMSS alumni and friends is the "Sponsor A Faculty Chair Project" (please see attached brochure). Thus we, SMSS alumni and friends in North America, will try to rally support to this project during our 3rd reunion and business meeting to be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in Flushing, Queens, New York, on August 17-19, 2007.

Our conference theme this year is: "Serving Our People, Teaching Beneath God's Wings". To commemorate the event as well as to help generate funds for the "Sponsor A Faculty Project", we will be coming out with a Souvenir Program for which we are soliciting ads/greetings subscriptions (Please see attached flyers).

We fervently pray that our "Sponsor A Faculty Chair Project" and/or our Souvenir Program fund raising efforts will merit your favorable consideration individually or under whatever charitable-donation-related programs that your congregation, company or organization are currently engaged in.

Rest assured that your donations to St. Mary's School of Sagada will be used for molding responsible peace loving citizens of the world in accordance with its mission statement: "TO BE A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL WITH STRONG EMPHASIS ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY; WELL EQUIPPED LABORATORY AND LIBRARY; HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND WELL PAID FACULTY; AND SERVING AS TRAINING GROUND FOR FUTURE LEADERS."

Thank you very much and we hope to hear from you.

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