

Thank You

FOR ALL YOUR HELP!



Dear Friend of the World Youth Alliance,

My name is Ma. Zarina San Jose and I come from Metro Manila, Philippines. I am 21 years old. Last April 2013, I completed my Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from the University of the Philippines Diliman. Right after this I began my training with the World Youth Alliance as an intern in the Asia Pacific (AP) office.

I met WYA through a good friend of mine who was at that time also an intern. She told me about its mission and I found myself very interested with the work WYA does because it is very similar to the values I grew up with and learned both in school and with my family. As an intern for the WYA Asia Pacific office, I handled projects that were close to my interests. I worked on an educational workshop which aims to bring WYA's principles to less privileged young people in order to help them understand their worth and dignity in the context of their situation. Another project I handled was an "inter-faith" activity wherein we visited different churches to learn more about different religions.

Upon finishing my three-month internship with the Asia Pacific office, I was accepted as an intern for the WYA headquarters office here in New York. I have been helping out a lot with social media and documentation, taking photos and posting updates, especially for our major events like the WYA North America Emerging Leaders Conference and the International Arts Forum. Aside from these, I have also been given opportunities to attend events at the United Nations and see for myself how solidarity works at the international policy level. I have also been helping out with membership drives and WYA's after-school Human Dignity Curriculum Program. The ability to share WYA's principles and beliefs with other young people and help them understand is a very worthwhile experience. Coming from a different culture, it's never easy to relate to the people here, but whenever I go out to attend conferences, events or even just small get-togethers, I am always amazed at the universal applicability of WYA's principles.

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I have now been involved with WYA for almost a year and this has been one of the best experiences of my life, so far. I'm not only referring to the New York internship, but even my time with the AP office. WYA has definitely helped me become more grounded in my beliefs, especially in the ingenuity of the human person. I am now more resolved to dedicate my life to further volunteer activities and to similar work after this internship.

As a graduate of Journalism, I have been taught a lot about the power of words. The beauty of words is its capability to incite action. Through the World Youth Alliance and its grounding in the dignity of the human person, I have found many other young people who believe in the power of words coupled with action. These numerous experiences, both good and bad, have really humbled me and brightened my outlook on life.

All this would not be possible without your help to WYA. We are truly grateful for all the support you are giving to our work. Because of you, so many more young people are learning about the value of the human person and how we can all help in changing our society.

With deepest gratitude, Ma. Zarina San Jose

Manila, Philippines | WYA Asia Pacific