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SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 988

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

RESOLUTION

COMMENDING EFREN "KUYA EF" PEÑAFLOIDA AND THE DYNAMIC TEEN COMPANY (DTC) FOR CHAMPIONING THE UNSCHOOLED, LABOR-EXPLOITED, AND NEGLECTED STREET CHILDREN BY PROVIDING ACCESS TO BASIC EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the critical condition of the Philippine educational system today remains problematic as exemplified by shortage in classrooms, school facilities and educational materials, the shortage of teachers in public schools, the poor performance of students and the high drop-out rate of our schoolchildren;

WHEREAS, a group of concerned young people initiated by Efren "Kuya Ef" Peñaflorida Jr. formed the Dynamic Teen Company (DTC) with a mission of making a small yet significant difference in the lives of street children without access to basic education, basic hygiene and sometimes, even care from their families;

WHEREAS, the DTC was founded by Peñaflorida with three other teenagers from Cavite National High School in August of 1997, namely, Jefferson Bernal, Mary Jane Causarin and Rezcel Fajardo with their platform that will cater youth awareness projects, talent and self development activities, and community services;

WHEREAS, the group started as a friendship club which aimed to divert the attention of students from joining violent gangs and notorious fraternities that were thriving on the campus;

WHEREAS, in 1999, Peñaflorida who was living near a city dump site in Cavite, began to reach out to slum kids who scavenged for left-overs and spoiled food in the area through the DTC's feeding project "*Kalingain Batang Mahirap*" (Care of Impoverished Children) Program;

WHEREAS, despite the group's tough beginnings, they trained themselves to be self-sufficient, creative and resourceful, molding themselves to become potential youth leaders;

WHEREAS, the DTC was able to support itself and its projects by showcasing their members' talents in staged concerts and performances, and by selling old newspapers, bottles, and recycled products that eventually led to a purchase of a *pedicab* for its literacy and feeding projects;

WHEREAS, the group has made history with its project *Kariton, Klasrum, at Klinik* (K3) project which started as a *pedicab* outreach program in 2004 in which the group designed the (*kariton*) pushcarts to be converted into a classroom with a library, chairs, tables and chalkboards, packed with school supplies and educational toys to be used in teaching;

WHEREAS, the K3 Outreach Program helped the DTC grab a spot in the 2008 Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO), in recognition of the youths' contribution to community service and nation-building;

WHEREAS, in 2009, the DTC upgraded the K3 Outreach Program into the *Kariton Klasrum, Klinik at Kantin (K4)* Outreach Program to bring the basics of education, love for learning, nourishment and care for the wounded street children, catching the attention of local and international media including the Cable News Network (CNN) which named Peñaflorida among nominated "CNN Heroes for 2009";

WHEREAS, the DTC was able to reach thousands of children through its "Mind Your Rights" (MY Rights) campaign which promotes human rights to the youth by providing free lectures and fellowship activities;

WHEREAS, in 2007, the DTC launched the "We Are The Change" campaign to inspire people to be catalysts for change, believing that "real change happens when one begins to touch one soul and change one heart at a time";

WHEREAS, the DTC established other projects such as the: *Balik Skwela* (Back To School), Hygiene and Medical Mission, Interactive Support Group, LAKBAYAN (*Likhang Awit Kabataan Para sa Bayan, Pangarap Na Pasko*) (Wish For Christmas), and Treat D' Street Kids;

WHEREAS, only ten years from its foundation, the DTC has grown into a 10,000-strong volunteer force that has tutored approximately 1,500 children from the slums;

WHEREAS, the fruits of the volunteers' labor are slowly being reaped, as former drug users, petty thieves and gang members who were reformed through their projects are now also serving as volunteers, while former scavengers are now in school and are helping to raise funds, and those who remain unschooled are now able to read and write; *Now, therefore, be it:*

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Senate of the Philippines, to commend Efren "*Kuya Ef*" Peñaflorida Jr. and the Dynamic Teen Company (DTC) for championing the unschooled, labor-exploited, and neglected street children by providing access to basic education.

Adopted,



RICHARD J. GORDON