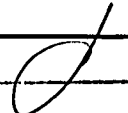

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RECEIVED BY: 

RESOLUTION
COMMENDING ANA PATRICIA NON AND THE VOLUNTEERS OF HUNDREDS OF COMMUNITY PANTRIES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY FOR IGNITING THE TRUE BAYANIHAN SPIRIT OF FILIPINOS AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

1 WHEREAS, more than a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, and with the total
2 number of cases at 1,067,892 and total number deaths at 17,622¹, many livelihoods
3 and businesses were affected causing an unmitigated hunger crisis among the more
4 vulnerable sectors of Filipino society;

5 WHEREAS, as of September 2020, at least 90,000 businesses remain closed
6 after the lockdown was first imposed last March 2020²;

7 WHEREAS, on January 2021, the unemployment rate in the country reached an
8 alarming rate of 8.7% which translates to around four (4) million Filipinos. This is
9 higher than the 3.8 million unemployed in October 2020 and the 2.4 million in January
10 2020³;

11 WHEREAS, with businesses closing down and unemployment going up,
12 involuntary hunger in the Philippines reached 16%, which roughly translates to around
13 four (4) million families having experienced involuntary hunger at least once in the
14 past three (3) months – double the 8.8% figure in December 2019⁴;

¹ Data as of 5 May 2021. Department of Health (DOH) COVID-19 Tracker. Retrieved from <https://doh.gov.ph/2019-nCoV>

² Domingo, K. (2020 September 28). 90,000 businesses remain closed due to COVID-19 pandemic. Retrieved from <https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/09/28/20/number-of-closed-businesses-closure-affected-covid19-coronavirus-disease-pandemic-philippines>

³ Rivas, R. (2021 March 09). 4 million Filipinos unemployed in January 2021, but gov't sees 'signs of recovery'. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/business/unemployment-rate-philippines-january-2021>

⁴ Parrocha, A. (2020 December 17). Fewer hungry Filipinos due to reopening of economy – Palace. Retrieved from <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1125087>

1 WHEREAS, this scenario is expected to be further exacerbated by the unabated
2 rise in the number of new infections per day and the continued imposition of
3 community quarantines in Metro Manila and nearby provinces;

4 WHEREAS, even with the implementation of the Special Amelioration Program
5 (SAP) and the numerous livelihood assistance programs of various government
6 agencies, help seems scarce and hardly enough to provide food on the table of every
7 Juan;

8 WHEREAS, this propelled 26-year old, University of the Philippines alumnae Ana
9 Patricia Non, to address hunger in her community by parking her bamboo cart filled
10 with food items beside a tree in Maginhawa St., Quezon City bearing the now famous
11 slogan "*Magbigay ayon sa kakayahan, kumuha batay sa pangangailangan.*";⁵

12 WHEREAS, Non posted this initiative on Facebook and it instantly went viral
13 leading to the influx of donations and hordes of people lining up to get much needed
14 commodities;

15 WHEREAS, aside from giving food and nourishment to thousands, the first
16 community pantry encouraged kindness and compassion, re-awakened the sense of
17 solidarity among Filipinos, and inspired many more to do the same;

18 WHEREAS, the more than 6,700 community pantries⁶ now in existence across
19 the country show that one's act of generosity can spark a movement and set in motion
20 a phenomenon of giving and sharing;

21 WHEREAS, the proliferation of community pantries all over the country is proof
22 that the Filipino *bayanihan* spirit is alive and many Filipinos remain willing to help
23 despite experiencing hardships themselves;

24 WHEREAS, this spirited moment of selflessness amid the pandemic must be
25 encouraged and aided by the government to ensure the implementation of health and
26 safety protocols instead of closing it down or subjecting it to red-tagging;

⁵ Concepcion, P. (2021 April 18). Community pantry: Activism to feed the people. Retrieved from <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/04/18/community-pantry-activism-to-feed-the-people/>

⁶ Balancio, J. (2021 May 6). DILG: Community pantries sa bansa umabot na sa higit 6,700. Retrieved from <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/05/06/21/dilg-community-pantries-sa-bansa-umabot-na-sa-higit-6700>

- 1 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to commend Ana Patricia
- 2 Non and the volunteers of hundreds of community pantries all over the country for
- 3 igniting the true *Bayanihan* spirit of Filipinos amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adopted,


GRACE POE