



Presentation for the City of Los Angeles Commission on the Status of Women

November 17, 2023





BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW

HISTORY

Founded in 2010 to address the needs of Filipinos in Long Beach and Carson, but we have since expanded to serve across Southern California.

MISSION

We will work for an empowered Filipino community actively engaged in the movement for local and global justice. We aim to educate, organize, and mobilize the low-income and working-class families of the Filipino community in Southern California and address the issues and concerns that we face in our daily lives.

VISION

We dream of a society where a family is not torn apart by urgent need for survival. We dream and will actively work for a society where there is equal opportunity to live a decent and humane life.



2011 General Assembly & 1st Anniversary Celebration



Some of our FMC staff members

COMMON ISSUES & CHALLENGES WE FACE

There has been a 175% increase in case intakes in 2023 (majority are women)

01. Workplace Violations

Issues of wage theft, unsafe working conditions, and retaliation from employers if workers advocate for themselves.

02. Family Separation

Working to support families back in the Philippines

03. Housing

Unaffordable housing, gentrification, and displacement

04. Anti-Asian Hate

Exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic

05. Health Inequities

Uninsured or under-insured; impacted by social determinants of health (healthcare, economic stability, education, environment, and social context)



PROGRAMS FOR WORKERS & YOUTH



WORKERS' RIGHTS

This year, we worked with domestic workers and caregivers to continue their campaign to end wage theft in their workplaces and agency placements, **winning \$30,000 in back pay for workers**. We've also continued to participate in the CA Domestic Workers Coalition and LA County Public Health Councils program to advocate for occupational safety and improvements in workplace conditions.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP

We held a summer youth empowerment program, ***SPEAK (Storytelling for People's Empowerment and Knowledge)***, to train youth as leaders in their communities through the use of storytelling and visual performing arts.

STOP THE HATE PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- Work with directly impacted community members who are victims and survivors of racial violence
- Provide direct case management, including assistance with systems navigation such as accessing victim services, connecting with pro-bono or low-cost legal providers, etc.
- Conduct grassroots fundraising efforts for impacted individuals
- Hold intergenerational training and community dialogues to build multi-racial solidarity



Community Forum (July 2023)



Justice for the Roque Family



Community Supporters

HEALTH & WELLNESS



● WALKING CLUB

Weekly gathering of older adults to exercise together, share resources, and exchange fruits and veggies from their gardens

● HEALTH SCREENINGS

Culturally relevant and language accessible health education: stroke symptoms, diabetes, hypertension, etc.

● OUTINGS & CELEBRATIONS

Opportunities for social bonding through different outings, including quarterly birthday celebrations

LIWANAG

Liwanag (Light) is a multimedia project highlighting the stories of Filipina frontline workers in Los Angeles during the COVID-19 pandemic. In collaboration with community organizations, immigrant youth artists and filmmakers produced Liwanag — both a film documentary and storybook to uplift these narratives and invite the community to learn more about the lives of these courageous women who continue to fight back and organize for change.



May 2023 - Film premiere at Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival



JENNIE
(BAKERY WORKER)



NERISSA
(CAREGIVER)



MARY
(ICU NURSE)



TO HOST A SCREENING OR PURCHASE A STORYBOOK, VISIT:
FILIPINOMIGRANTCENTER.ORG/LIWANAG

EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND

Grassroots fundraising efforts have proven to be the quickest and most effective way to gather resources together and find services for community members in need of immediate help. As of November 2023, over \$12,000 have been distributed to low-income workers and families

As the need for our services has grown, now more than ever it is necessary to build a strong Emergency Services Fund for the Filipino community to meet this increasing demand. With this fund, community members seeking resources can apply to access these funds for emergency needs such as:

- Accessing health services, including mental health
- Emergency shelter
- Transportation to court or medical appointments
- Food, clothing, or other emergency needs

DONATE: [TINYURL.COM/EMERGENCYFUNDFMC](https://tinyurl.com/emergencyfundfmc)





Thank You! Maraming Salamat Po!



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