

The Honorable Consul General Ding & Mrs. Nolasco, Supporters and Friends, Good Evening.

The time has come for me to step down and give way to someone who is younger, dynamic, focused, and full of bright ideas that can bring FtH to greater heights. With great pleasure, we announce that Pepito Solis, your friend and mine, starting January 1, 2010 is the incoming Executive Director of Feed the Hungry, Inc. May I ask that you extend to him the same, if not more, of the support that you had given me all these years.

I sincerely thank each and every one of you for all that you did for FtH. Feed the Hungry, Inc. is what it is now because each one of you believed in what it stood for and threw your unwavering support each time the call was put out. You were there when each calamity happened back home and when each new outreach project was launched. Your helping hands always came outstretched and you stood up to be counted no matter the cost or personal time and sacrifices involved. You gave so much and never asked anything in return.

The devastations of each succeeding typhoon that recently lashed its fury on our helpless kababayans brought out the best in all of us. FtH and the whole community rallied to the needs of our people as images of their sufferings seared our souls with sadness and concern.

The overwhelming financial support of FtH supporters in recent weeks since Typhoon Ondoy and the many others that followed is beyond belief. The generosity and compassion, and most importantly, the trust and confidence in designating Feed the Hungry as the hub for the distribution of funds for the typhoon victims is both humbling and exhilarating. Humbling, because it was such a great honor to be the recipient of your belief and trust in the integrity of FtH and exhilarating, because the responses by people here in the US from all walks of life was just simply superb and very touching and magnanimous.

FtH's Emergency and Calamity Relief Program, led by Mila Nazal reports that as of October 30th, with the help of the Philippine Embassy, PAFC and others, FtH had received a total of \$51,220- in donations, spent \$25,360.26 reaching out to 3,339 families, in 18 barangays in Marikina, Laguna, Muntinlupa and Zambales. Rain or shine, our volunteers purchased, repacked

and delivered relief goods to our countrymen, even as many of our own volunteers were also victims of the calamities.

The havoc and devastation that hit our country needs a united effort from all of us to pitch in is imperative. The needs are great and beyond the short term needs of food, water, medicines to survive for a few days, there are needs beyond comprehension for the long term haul. It will take months for the floods to subside, years to repair the schools, or even resume livelihoods if there is one since so many businesses that employed people were devastated too. Our kababayans truly need help and we, who are so fortunate to live here in America CAN HELP. So, may we ask each one of you to continue to be there with your outstretched helping hand and according to your means help those whose needs are unimaginable as they struggle to piece their lives together once more in the months and years to come.

There was one of our own who was witness to what Ondoy and Pepeng did and who put all sense of comfort and security aside to represent the FtH in its Mission of Mercy during the relief efforts. She ignored her own hunger and fatigue to simply be there to lend a helping hand. She is FtH's STAR VOLUNTEER. With deep gratitude, we give you our own Washington based volunteer, BING BRANIGIN, please join me in a round of applause for Bing. Bing, a big THANK YOU TO YOU from all of us who were not there.