

Chicago, Illinois - The Passport to the Philippines Committee at the Chicago Children's Museum proudly announces the winner of the 2011 postcard design contest in celebration of the Philippine Independence Week in Chicago on June 9, 11 and 12th at Navy Pier. Jeraldine "Jeri" Millan, 14 years old from Bolingbrook, Illinois took the first prize. Jeri is currently an eighth grader at Gregory Middle School in Naperville. She has been involved in arts, music and dance since her early childhood days. Her activities include singing, reading, hip-hop and cultural dancing, and playing the cello in addition to eating, sleeping, facebooking, and online gaming.

Jeri's winning entry "Passport to the Philippines" will be used in postcard mailing to invite families in celebration of the Philippine Week at the Chicago Children's Museum. A facsimile of the postcard can be viewed here: <http://passporttophilippines.org/PressRelease.aspx>.

The Passport to the Philippines Committee will present a series of programs, performances, workshops and exhibits that authentically represents Filipino culture, music, arts and crafts, games, children book reading, taste of the Philippines, including Halo-Halo making demonstrations, and a parade of costumes. Filipino American artists, teachers, students, and volunteers will be on hand to greet and help museum's visitors with ongoing activities. Participants include students from area schools and colleges, civic groups, music bands and rondalla, martial arts experts, dance and performing arts companies, cultural and historical associations.

The Philippines joined the Passport to the World Program at the Chicago Children's Museum in June 2008. This is now the 4th year that the Passport to Philippines is held on the 2nd weekend of June to celebrate the Philippine Independence Day on June 12. This year, we will also be having special presentations to commemorate Jose Rizal's 150 year anniversary. The Philippines was chosen to the Passport series because it represents a sizable ethnic presence and rich historical contributions to the diversity of Chicago neighborhoods. Visit here for participants and event schedule: <http://passporttophilippines.org/default.aspx>.

Passport to the Philippines Committee is co-sponsored by PepsiCo Asian Network (PAN), Filipino American Community Health Initiative of Chicago (FACHIC), Filipino American Historical Society of Chicago (FAHSC), Filipino American Network (FAN), National Association of Filipino Americans Associations (NAFFAA), Philippine American Cultural Foundation (PACF), and the University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Greater Chicago (UPAAGC) and TUY Club USA.

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