

Search for the Pinoy Pilgrim Genius

Contributed by Administrator
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Search for the Pinoy Pilgrim Genius Press Release: 16 April 2008 Carlo de Leon, Executive Director of the Pinoy Pilgrim Global Foundation, Inc. (PPGFI), announced recently the launching of the Nationwide Search for the Pinoy Pilgrim Genius, a scholarship program for gifted and deserving children of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). De Leon explained that the goal of the scholarship is "to help gifted children who have the potential to be great to get the support they need to make their dreams come true." The first batch of scholarship awardees, to be designated as PP Geniuses, would be announced by early 2009. Several applications from young boys and girls from all over the Philippines have been received. A scholarship committee from the academe and business evaluates the applications to identify the most deserving ones. "If possible, in five years, we want to get scholars from every province, region, city, town, municipality, and barangay," de Leon added, "so that we can help as many kids as possible coming from every part of the country." What makes the scholarship special is that each Genius has the potential to receive support until he or she finishes a Master's or Doctoral degree. There are not too many strings attached to the scholarship. The basic rules to avail of the program are available at the Pinoy Pilgrim website (www.pinoypilgrim.org). "The Genius can decide to be a musician, artist, engineer, doctor, carpenter, electrician, or farmer, but he or she has to exercise ingenuity in whatever line of work they decide to go into." Who are qualified and how should they apply? First, the applicant must be enrolled or planning to enroll in a public elementary school anywhere in the Philippines. Second, one or both parents must be currently working or have worked outside the Philippines. Third, the Genius has to write a short, one-page letter to the Pinoy Pilgrim Global Foundation explaining why he or she deserves to be supported. The letter should show acceptable proof that the applicant is a Genius. Lastly, the applicant must post the application personally through the PPGFI website or send it by mail to the following address: Search for the Pinoy Pilgrim Genius Pinoy Pilgrim Global Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 333 Greenhills Post Office San Juan City, Metro Manila, Philippines 1502 There are no deadlines. Once a Genius is identified, the Pinoy Pilgrim foundation will contact the family. The scholarship support terms and conditions would be explained in detail. According to De Leon, an initial test announcement of the program in early March 2008 attracted some 72 applicants from 46 provinces. "We were greatly encouraged by the response, which was really amazing! We discovered a 7-year-old girl, consistently at the top of her class, who will be in Grade 6 next school year, and a 9-year-old boy who is a genius of astronomy, having memorized all the stars he could see in the sky. We were also impressed by a 6-year old girl who speaks 12 languages, including Greek and Latin! In fact, her application letter was in Classic Latin. We were lucky one of our volunteers is a Latin expert, so she translated the letter for us. We want to help these Genius kids achieve their dreams. This way, we can show the world that what makes the Philippines great is the quality of our children, especially kids of hard-working Pinoy Pilgrims or OFWs. Seeing all these geniuses has helped us in PPGFI continue having hope in the future of our country." PPGFI is a Filipino foundation committed to promoting the greatness of the Pinoy's country and people. Friends of Manuel de Leon, author of the highly acclaimed autobiography "Pinoy Pilgrim", established PPGFI two years ago.