Pa'a Taotao Tano'

Project Title:	Northern Cultural Performing Arts Project
Award Amount:	$883,077
Type of Grant:	Social and Economic Development Strategies
Project Period:	Sept. 2006 – Sept. 2009
Grantee Type:	Native Nonprofit

Project Snapshot

- 9 jobs created
- 5 elders involved
- 1,759 youth involved
- $73,910 in resources leveraged
- 1,759 individuals trained
- 6 partnerships formed

Background

The Chamorro are the indigenous people of the Mariana Islands, which include the American territory of Guam and the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Micronesia. According to the 2000 Census, roughly 65,000 people of Chamorro ancestry live on Guam and another 19,000 live in the Northern Marianas.

Incorporated as a nonprofit organization in Guam in 2001, Pa'a Taotao Tano, or Pa'a, strives to perpetuate education and the promotion of Chamorro culture through song, chants and dance. Pa'a is comprised of 14 cultural performing groups made up of over 400 individual performers.

Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this project was to provide Pa'a's cultural performing groups with opportunities to showcase Chamorro culture through study, instruction, and exhibition.

The project's first objective was to establish a cultural arts training program in nine northern public schools in Guam. Originally intended to take place in three new schools each year for three consecutive years, staff altered the project to continually serve three schools for the entirety of the program, thereby creating stronger bonds with participants. Staff also taught in two other schools during the project, bringing the school total to five. The performing arts classes focused on song, dance, and traditional arts, including basket and dress making. They also gave students an opportunity to learn Chamorro history and traditional culture, which emphasizes respect and understanding. Nearly 2,000 of Guam's school children participated in Chamorro cultural activities by the end of the project.

The second objective was to establish a cultural arts training program for the wider

community and deliver trainings to at least 120 of Guam's residents. Pa'a centered the trainings, which took the form of daily after-school community classes, in the villages of Dededo and Yigo. The main participants were school children and their parents, with additional involvement from the families of students from surrounding schools. The content for these trainings paralleled the trainings given to the public school students, and many participants overlapped. To promote the new cultural programs, recruit participants, and raise awareness of Chamorro culture, Pa'a staff and participants performed at three large cultural events on Guam, including an annual dance festival and arts and crafts fair. In the third project year alone, over 140 community members participated, exceeding the original projection. Many participants also chose to join individual dance companies, giving Guam new resources for cultural preservation and activities.

The final objective was to establish an advanced training program preparing cultural performing arts practitioners for entrance into the tourism industry. To do so, Chamorro cultural performers mentored students to become future teachers and professional dancers at area hotels, which cater to a large tourism industry. During the project timeframe, one area hotel contracted with some of the program's trained dancers and musicians. Pa'a attempted to secure additional contracts by marketing their dancers to other hotels and airlines.

Outcomes and Community Impact

Prior to the project, many of the cultural instructors had never been able to share their dance or artisan skills with others due to a general lack of community interest and paucity of opportunities to make a living teaching Chamorro dance. This project provided them with both an interested audience and steady paycheck, allowing many to live long-held dreams. As community interest has grown, the instructors are gaining stature and importance throughout Guam.

As the instructors became integrated into school classes, they often assisted teachers in finding creative ways to address behavioral issues. By the end of the project, several public school teachers and principals had developed close relationships with the instructors and leveraged their good relationships with students to enhance classroom learning environments. The mayor of Dededo, Melissa Savares, praised the training program's ability to infuse language, values, and history into the dance and artistry classes. She personally noticed an improvement in the behavior of youth in Dededo during the course of the project.

For participants, the training and performances helped develop self-confidence, an understanding of responsibility, and a desire to learn, which parents reported was translating to improved efforts in other classes and opportunities. Performers at the area hotel were assisted by the project, as they were able to earn regular pay doing an activity they enjoy.

For Guam, the project added momentum to cultural preservation activities already underway, and helped create a new generation of Chamorro cultural practitioners.

> *"Due to positive changes in the attitudes of participating youth, many parents see our classes as a way to help their kids."*
>
> Frank Rabon,
> Master of Chamorro Dance
> and Project Manager

Sanctuary Incorporated

Project Title:	Fan Macho'ocho Healing Farms
Award Amount:	$1,205,478
Type of Grant:	Social and Economic Development Strategies
Project Period:	Sept. 2005 – March 2009
Grantee Type:	Native Nonprofit

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 6 jobs created
- 1 businesses created
- 1 Native American consultant hired
- 5 elders involved
- 189 youth involved
- $181,861 in resources leveraged
- 189 individuals trained
- 7 partnerships formed

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1971, Sanctuary Incorporated (Inc.) is a nonprofit organization in Guam offering alternatives to the juvenile justice system by providing temporary shelter and transitional living arrangements for at risk youth. On average, Sanctuary Inc. serves over 1,500 youth per year through its programs.

In the past several years, Sanctuary Inc. has begun focusing on economic development opportunities for the youth in its program. In 2000, it created an aquaculture micro enterprise alongside its transitional living program as a means of generating skill building opportunities for participating youth.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this project, Fan Mach'ocho Healing Farms, was to create a youth-driven organic agriculture operation to teach youth useful farming and business skills.

The project's first objective was to establish a base office and codify management procedures. Staff opened the office at Sanctuary Inc.'s headquarters and developed a comprehensive set of financial and administrative procedures.

The second objective was to clear land and establish two farm sites, one near Sanctuary Inc.'s headquarters and the other in the village of Dededo. Using equipment purchased through the project, staff worked with youth from its transitional living program and paid youth from the community to clear land and plant local fruits and vegetables.

The next objective was to market and sell farm products from both farm sites. While somewhat successful, the project was unable to make significant profits through its sales operations due to unexpected difficulties

competing with established local farmers and erratic weather conditions.

The fourth objective was to develop an agriculture education curriculum in collaboration with the University of Guam's Cooperative Extension and teach it to 10-150 youth. Though this objective faced significant delays, and resulted in the need for a project extension, the partners eventually developed a 5-module curriculum that integrates 100 hours of classroom study with field work.

Staff recruited and trained 189 youth in the new curriculum. In addition, 50 of the youth participants completed a series of micro-enterprise workshops taught by a branch of the local Pacific Small Business Development Center (PSBDC). As part of the training, students developed real life business plans and received one-on-one counseling from PSBDC staff to enhance their proposals. Of the completed plans, one student, Lawrence Fejarang, successfully submitted and received a business license for a jewelry carving business. Mr. Fejarang began by selling his jewelry at a mid-week market and on a newly created website. He feels that his work and sales are more than simply a means for profit, however, sharing, "I'm promoting Chamorro culture with my jewelry."

Outcomes and Community Impact

Participating youth learned practical skills regarding business and agriculture that may help them attain stable jobs and fulfill career goals. Participant Kyle Duenag opened two sales booths and is currently developing ideas for a new clothing line. He share, "The project has pushed me to realize my ideas,", adding, "I now have business opportunities that I didn't have before because of this project." Youth from the transitional living program reported that the farm work was therapeutic and helped them become more active.

Because of the project's unique mixture of business and youth development, Sanctuary Inc. was invited to several conferences to present their experience with the farm and an outside news agency aired a documentary program about the project. In addition, Guam's court system recognized Sanctuary Inc. for its efforts, and uses the farm as a new resource for local at risk youth.

Sanctuary Inc. was unable to financially sustain all project components from product sales revenue. However, many project components were carried on after ANA funding ended. The village of Dededo secured control over the farm on its site and will maintain it with community youth in perpetuity. Sanctuary Inc. is also pursuing Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) licensing status and hopes to allow youth to sell products and share in profits through the new entity. It also attempted to fold the onsite farm component into its transitional living program on a permanent basis with limited success. Finally, the Guam Community College adopted the agricultural curriculum as a credit course and contracted two Sanctuary Inc. staff members as its instructors.