



## **ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE SOLEDAD FERNANDEZ SCHOLARSHIP**

**Deadline Wednesday March 25, 2020**

**Filipino Advocates for Justice (FAJ)** started in Oakland in 1973 and in 1983 opened a second office in Union City. Our mission is to build a strong and empowered Filipino community by organizing constituents, developing leaders, providing services, and advocating for policies that promote social and economic justice and equity.

The **\$5000 Soledad Fernandez Scholarship** is endowed by the Cora and Pablo Tellez family who were inspired by Soledad Fernandez's "zest for life and love for her family" among other qualities. Soledad provided loving care for Cora and Pablo's infant son for which the Tellez family is eternally grateful. She was 74 years old when she started caring for him.

Soledad "Tita" came to the U.S. after World War II - with three young children - to join her husband who preceded her. The thrill of finally joining her husband and starting a new life together was short-lived. A month after her arrival her husband died making her the sole breadwinner for her family.

While college-educated with a degree in teaching, Tita was unable to find work as a teacher in the US. She found a job as a cafeteria worker on Treasure Island. There, she worked hard, made many friends, and with her earnings, managed to buy a house and send all 3 of her children to college.

Tita was not one to dwell on her personal sacrifices or hardships. Her gentle smile said it all – persevere can transcend whatever hardships life presents. Her faith in herself and the universe made her a pillar of strength for her family and her friends.

"Remarkably," says Cora, "she volunteered to care for our infant son and he was as cherished and loved as if he were Tita's own grandson. We were struck by her zest for life, her love of family, her intelligence, her intellectual curiosity, her interest in people, and her all-consuming love for baseball! She spoke three languages fluently. Her home was the gathering place for friends, family and newly arrived Filipinos seeking opportunities in America. A woman of grace and courage, Tita was always interested in young people – what they thought of the world, how they saw life and trends. She was also very interested in how young people in America were coping with the opportunities and challenges presented to them. Tita was proud of being a Filipina in America."

**Deadline March 25, 2020**  
**For questions call Judith @ 510-465-9876**

**Application instructions on next page**

**SOLEDAD FERNANDEZ SCHOLARSHIP  
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS  
DUE March 25, 2020**

**Eligibility requirements:**

- Of Filipino descent (Full to 50% Filipino)
- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Reside and attend high school in the SF Bay Area
- If selected, attend an award ceremony and luncheon with the scholarship benefactors
- *And the following year, attend the luncheon for the next recipient*

Note: **Gather information for #3, #4 and #5 below ASAP** so you have them when you're ready to submit. Mail the package to:

Filipino Advocates for Justice  
310 - 8th St., Ste 309  
Oakland, CA 94607  
attention: Scholarship

**1. Cover Letter (1-page)** include the following:

a. Personal Information:

Name  
Address  
Phone Number  
Email Address  
Gender  
Date of birth  
Place of birth

b. Name of High School you are attending; name of college you will be attending

**2. Essay (2-page)** - Statement of interest in the scholarship, single-spaced, typed, including the following:

- a. How your personal values and characteristics align with those of Soledad Fernandez.
- b. Demonstrated sense of social justice, equality, or compassion for the less empowered or marginalized of society.
- c. Demonstrated community service experience.
- d. Demonstrated economic or financial need.
- e. What you hope to do with your college education.

**3. Transcript** of Academic Records directly mailed by high school to FAJ address above

**4. Copy of FAFSA or Guardian's Income Tax Return**

**5. Letter of Admission** to an accredited college or university.

(Community College is acceptable, **but grant is \$2,500 for community college students.**)

**6. Interviews** conducted as needed.

**DUE March 25, 2020**