

## SIMPLE STEPS

My humble beginnings in the Peer Counselors' Group started in the imposition of the 2-clubs per student rule when I was in my sophomore year in college. My friends, knowing that I'm a bit introverted, keep bugging me to join because they think that joining will somehow change my personality. Though the membership process was lengthy, something within me pushed to go through it all. And at last, I became a part of the organization, and since then, I realize that Peer Counselors' Group is more than a school organization.

Being a newbie with an introverted personality, I wasn't that active at all with the activities. I simply attended activities when pushed by my friends or when I'm interested. I don't even have an idea why the group exists. This innocence gave me the drive and thrill to try to discover for myself the real purpose of the organization's existence. I started to join the activities. I began to get acquainted with people from different walks of life. From those who were timid, ecstatic, troubled, innovative, elated, and simple. Life from a distance was beautiful looking at these diverse personalities interacting with one another without generating any conflict, instead helping each other grow to be better individuals. Since then, I opened myself to certain changes that I believe will enhance my potential as a person.

The following year, I won as the organization's President without any opponent. When the other members were asked why they voted me, they believed they have seen the changes as well as the potentials I have to become a good leader. With those testimonials, I was challenged to strived more and to fulfill the duties and responsibilities attached to my position. The responsibilities were tough at first; however the experience in dealing with the other officers and members, along with reminding them about their tasks, deadlines, and even reprimanding them for their negligence had grew in me an inch of maturity. In addition to that, I have seen the positive changes from the different people we have helped such as those juvenile delinquent children, some uneducated youth, as well as those students who have their hidden potentials. We have molded students through bringing out the best and unique abilities they have making them excellent followers and/or leaders. The organization also helped in the adjustment to the college

life of the freshmen students through knowing, understanding, and listening to their dilemmas. We also have strengthened the bond among groups through the different teambuilding activities we have conducted. All of these changes were made possible through the trainings, seminars, team building seminars and months of experience with the organization. The bond that had grown and the life changing experiences during my two-year stay in the organization had proved that the Peer Counselors' Group is more than just an organization.

That same year, an awarding ceremony for the best organization was created. Though the organization didn't win, it never became a hindrance for us to feel our sense of fulfillment. We have the passion to serve, and we have the ultimate purpose to assist in creating a change in the life of each individual we get acquainted with. For we believe, that at the end of the day, it is not the number of awards we've bagged, but it is how we have optimistically changed the lives of other individuals in our own simple steps.