

## PRESS RELEASE



# Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### “Season of Giving Celebration Honors Community Champion”

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) Community Guidance Center (CGC) Transitional Living Center (TLC), in collaboration with the Behavioral Health Planning Council (BHPC), recently



*Image caption: 21<sup>st</sup> Legislature of the CNMI, House of Representatives members present Mrs. Emerenciana Reyes Sonoda a House Commemorative Resolution.*

helped to recognize and honor a community champion for her selfless and unwavering dedication to members of the CNMI community who are living with mental health or substance abuse illness.

During the 2019 Season of Giving celebration on November 21, CNMI House of Representatives Rep. Edmund Villagomez, Health Chairperson Rep. Jose Itibus, House Speaker Jonathan “BJ” Attao, Rep. Luis John Castro, Rep. Ivan Blanco, and Rep. Joel Camacho presented a House Commemorative Resolution honoring Emerenciana “Menchang” Reyes Sonoda, a landlord who has been providing safe and affordable apartments for residents living with mental health or substance abuse issues, along with supportive hired assistance for tenants' personal hygiene, daily nutrition, laundry, grocery shopping, and maintenance of their living quarters for the past 10



*Image caption: Mrs. Sonoda and her family with Acting CHCC CEO John Tagabuel.*

years. Mrs. Sonoda's wonderful deeds are a testament to her selfless character, and represent the best qualities of the people of the CNMI.

At the celebration, Doris Drew - Mrs. Sonoda's sister - expressed her gratitude and spoke of how Mrs. Sonoda treated her residents as though they were family. TLC program participants, including a number of people residing in Mrs. Sonoda's apartments, also performed three songs dedicated to her.

The Season of Giving celebration also highlighted the theme "Spreading the Seeds of Love," featuring an essay contest that was won by Juwan Jastillana from Marianas High School, who read his essay on the importance and impact of giving and receiving.

TLC Program services are available on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for residents living with long-term and persistent mental health and/or substance abuse illness. To learn more about the Transitional Living Center or Behavioral Health Planning Council, please contact (670) 323-4060.

For more information about CHCC programs, please follow us on Facebook and Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

This press release may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/PressRelease.html>

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*Image caption: Mrs. Sonoda and her sister, Mrs. Doris Drew*



*Image caption: Season of Giving essay contest winner Juwan Jastillana reading his essay.*