Chamorro groups have scholarships

By Sandy Flores Uslander
For Pacific Sunday News

For a student, getting into a good college is hard enough. Then there’s the challenge of how to pay for the often necessary but terribly expensive higher education.

Fortunately, a few of our Chamorro organizations have taken it upon themselves to offer scholarships, making it just a little easier. For students in the Mariana Islands and across the country, there are opportunities for our youth to be awarded education funding.

• The Guam Society of America, or GSA, is the oldest Guam organization in existence. It offers the Brigida Guzman Lizama Scholarship in honor of the GSA matriarch who passed away in 2010.

The scholarship application and award amounts will be available on the Guam Society website this month, with applications due in May. They’re awarded to both high school and college students anywhere in the world.

There’s no residency requirement, but applicants need to submit an essay, be registered student members of GSA, and contribute 24 hours of service to the club, which can be done remotely.

The award is presented at GSA’s annual Liberation Day picnic in July.

More information is available through the Guam Society of America website and email, gsa schizophrenia@verizon.net or info@gusociety.org.

• The Gisela Camacho Memorial Scholarship Program is offered by the Pacific Islanders Optimist Club of El Paso, through the generosity of Gisela Camacho’s husband, founding President Greg Camacho. This scholarship is structured as an essay contest.

The Gisela Camacho Scholarship is open to graduating high school seniors and college students of Asian and Pacific Island heritage. Applications are accepted now through Feb. 15. There’s no fee to enter, and the winner will be given funds toward tuition or books.

For more information on the program, get in touch with Pacific Islanders Optimist Club through Mariano “Sonny” Jr. at miguel.shirley@yahoo.com or Kathy Quenga Moniaya at pkemoniaya@shqglobal.net.

• The Southern California-based Cal Islander Humantarian Association, or CIHA, whose primary mission is to assist medical referral patients from the Mariana Islands to honor the ancestors because without them, there will be no more Chamorro culture. It is also a time for us to pay tribute to Guam artists who are no longer with us,” Alcon says. “We want to honor the ancestors because without them, there will be no more Chamorro culture. It is also a time for us to pay tribute to Guam artists who are no longer with us.”

The exhibit also features a mix of local artists with different two- and three-dimensional works.

Artists include a few of Alcon’s students through the years — including the youngest, 13-year-old...