

Pinawa welcomes health-care workers from Philippines

The team at Pinawa Hospital offered a warm welcome to health-care workers who arrived from the Philippines along with their families.

Hanna Pascua came to Canada in February as a participant in the Philippines recruitment initiative, along with her husband Victor and their children Venice and Vaughn.

“Working in Manitoba, and in Canada as a whole, is a dream come true because of the many opportunities instore for us immigrants,” Pascua said.

“I have always been optimistic in every way, and one of these ways is working in Manitoba where me and my family could experience different cultures and meeting new people.”

In the Philippines, Hanna worked as a registered ICU nurse. In that role, she enjoyed providing quality care to her patients and assisting them with their recovery.

Now that she’s here, she’s working as a health-care aide in Pinawa Hospital with Jennifer Lema.

Jennifer also arrived in Pinawa from the Philippines in February, along with her husband Mark and children Sophia and Marcus. She feels that working in Manitoba is a great opportunity for herself and her family.

“I’ve heard so many good things about Manitoba. The compensation is good, school is free and, most of all, the community is friendly,” Jennifer said.

“I’m looking forward to becoming one of the best members of a great health-care team and becoming successful in my chosen profession. I am always open for continuing education to broaden my knowledge and skills.”

In the Philippines, Jennifer worked in a tertiary hospital for seven years. She also worked as a community health nurse, as well as a nurse clinical instructor. She’s happy to be here, although she misses her family, friends and mouth-watering foods from her home country.

“I was so excited to see real snow,” she added. “This is my first time to leave the country, so that’s why weather is really a huge adjustment for me. We came in Canada in the midst of winter, coming from a 30-degree weather country.”

Now that she’s settling in to her new community, Jennifer said the people of Pinawa are awesome.

“The health-care team that we have in the hospital is great. The nurses give me knowledge of things that I need to know when it comes to the disease process because all patients matter. The health-care aides are very helpful and friendly too. I was able to learn quickly because of their help,” Jennifer said.

“All the people that work in Pinawa Hospital are very welcoming and they never let me feel that I am a newbie.”

According to Janine Harcus, manager of health services for Pinawa Hospital, it has been wonderful having Hanna and Jennifer as part of the team.

“They are eager to learn, grow and participate,” Janine said. “Thank you to the community for their generosity in helping collect household items and winter clothing, as well as identifying housing for our two new recruits.”

The generosity is not lost in the new recruits who express their gratitude for the warm welcomes they have received.

Jennifer expressed gratitude for the care and compassion from Pinawa community members, who have welcomed them in chat groups and in person.

“Some people share rides whenever they are going to Winnipeg to buy some groceries and if we have important errands. When they learned that my husband did not have work yet, they gave us referrals and useful information where he can work — and that actually worked. I am very grateful and thankful,” Jennifer said.

“Manitoba is a great place to live. We've met good and generous people. I am looking forward to having more friends in the community and workplace.”

Like Jennifer, Hanna is grateful for the support of the Pinawa community.

“It is a big step to live in another country that you are not familiar with, but the people in the community of Pinawa are very welcoming and considerate, as well as in the workplace. There are a few Filipinos that I encounter, but nonetheless everyone is lending a helping hand for newcomers like me,” said Hanna, adding that the Philippines is forever in her heart.

“I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority for giving me this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in achieving my career goals. Thank you!”