## Women Empowering Women in Need: Filipino American Society Inc. Hosts Inspiring Event #WEWIN2024

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The Filipino American Society Inc. (FAS) recently held an impactful event titled "Women Empowering Women in Need" at the Punta Gorda Public Library. This gathering was not only a celebration of outstanding female members of FAS making a difference in our community but also a tribute to the past female officers whose leadership has shaped the success and growth of our organization.

Highlighting the evening were two distinguished guests: Roberta McLaughlin, representing DMSI International, and Alyssa Burns from C.A.R.E. Florida. Both speakers shared insightful talks on the sensitive yet crucial topic of abuse and the journey of survivors. Their words resonated deeply with attendees, offering perspectives on resilience and healing.

At the heart of the event was a panel discussion led by FAS President, Atty. Jane Dixon. The discussion centered on the creation of support groups for Filipina Americans and children in need. Participants engaged in a meaningful dialogue, exploring avenues for building a more supportive community and empowering individuals to seek assistance when needed.

The event also served as an opportunity for attendees to give back to the community by donating items to benefit The Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies (C.A.R.E.) Florida, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting survivors of abuse and assault. The outpouring of generosity underscored the community's commitment to standing in solidarity with those in need.

In addition to the enriching discussions and charitable contributions, guests indulged in a culinary experience, enjoying Filipino hors d'oeuvres (kakanin), coffee, and tea. The event further featured an auction aimed at raising funds to support the initiatives of the Filipino American Society Inc., with attendees enthusiastically participating in the fundraising efforts.

The event was a testament to the strength and resilience of women, emphasizing the importance of solidarity and support in overcoming challenges and fostering empowerment. Through collaborative efforts and ongoing advocacy, FAS remains steadfast in its mission to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for all.