

Shakey's Pizza opens job opportunities for Senior Citizens, PWD in all Manila stores; Brings back Love 'Em Down



Shakey's Pizza Asia Ventures, Inc. (PSE:PIZZA), the country's leading fast casual restaurant chain and food service group, makes a big push toward more inclusive hiring this September, opening up job opportunities to senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PWD).

In partnership with the Public Employment Service Office (PESO), PIZZA has finally launched its Senior Citizen and PWD Hiring Program for all Shakey's stores in the City of Manila. Originally initiated prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the program aims to provide senior citizens and PWDs an avenue to earn income for their families; however, amidst the pandemic, it was put on hold in light of quarantine restrictions on health and safety.

Now that mobility restrictions have eased and a significant majority of the population has been vaccinated, the initiative is again well underway. Shakey's is hiring one senior citizen and one PWD for every branch in Manila to be deployed to the stores this September.

Vicente Gregorio, PIZZA's President and Chief Executive Officer, said, "We are absolutely thrilled to be working with the City of Manila on this initiative. Many of the elderly and PWDs have the capability and desire to take an active part in our society through gainful employment but, sadly, are often overlooked, making them a vulnerable sector. Together with PESO-Manila, we hope we can make a meaningful difference in their lives. Shakey's doors are wide open to welcome seniors and PWDs as valuable members of our team."

Moreover, PIZZA has brought back one of its most awaited hiring programs, Love 'Em Down, in partnership with the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines. The program provides people with Down Syndrome an additional environment for fun and learning. It also fosters employee and guest engagement, by giving them an opportunity to participate in community-building activities where they can help create joyful moments for differently-abled individuals.



To help prepare its new set of hires, PIZZA created development programs to orient and equip them with the skills to perform their tasks at the store. All store employees are likewise being trained to provide support and create a safe and secure environment for their new team members.

Initially rolled out in 2018, Love 'Em Down was warmly received by participants, employees and guests.

Gregorio shared, "Having them [individuals with Down Syndrome] in our stores was a gift. They were having fun, learning, and interacting with our guests. They brought a deeper sense of joy and family to Shakey's. We are truly grateful to them and their families for giving us the privilege of working alongside each other."

He added, "I firmly believe the private sector has a role to play in breaking cycles of inequity in our society, and inclusive job creation is among them. Employment gives people a sense of dignity, more so for those who are often marginalized and underrepresented. Embracing inclusivity and diversity in our workforce is not just beneficial to the communities we serve but it also builds our character as a people-focused organization."

PIZZA's inclusive hiring program is an essential part of the Company's sustainability agenda, where People Development takes center stage. Among its key initiatives is Project Nerdy, which ensures that at least 80% of its store employees live within 30 minutes from their place of work to support their health and wellbeing and to create crisis ready stores. To date, 88% of Shakey's store employees live within 30 minutes of their respective stores.