

04/20/2013 05:38 AM

EMPOWER Grant Announced at Deaf Benefit

By: YNN Staff

Hundreds of people joined Discovering Deaf Worlds for its Third Annual Benefit Friday night.

The organization announced that it has received an EMPOWER grant from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The grant will fund an exchange program with deaf leaders from the U.S. and the Philippines.

"Over 90% of deaf people in developing countries have no education, they don't go to school. And a small percentage, only 1 to 2 percent of them get an education in sign language. So some of them are really bright amazing people, who have a lot of potential they have dreams, we're just here to support them," said Executive Director Davin Searles.

The program will bring 11 deaf Filipinos to Rochester and Washington D.C. for three weeks in May, and will send 10 American deaf advocates to the Philippines for three weeks in November.

