

2010 Annual Medical Mission Report

Medical Mission 2010 started in Zambales on Jan 16th. This year we were privileged to have 23 volunteers from the States. They came from CA, MA, RI, NY and PA.

We arrived at Subic Park Hotel on Sat. Jan 15th. It was from there that we traveled daily to the various sitios by jeepney. We worked at 3 sitios and attended to 344 adults, 320 children, 114 dental patients and 142 eye patients. Dra Torres an ophthalmologist from Olongapo joined us and performed 10 cataract removals and 8 surgeries for pterygium. Mayor Bong Gordon provided us with 3 provincial dentists. There were 22 patients who needed follow-up care and they were followed-up by local physicians. There is still 1 surgery left to be performed on a patient with myoma from Iba. Dr Torres prescribed glasses for 122 patients and they were purchased and distributed.

On Jan 19th we left Zambales and traveled to Leyte/ Samar and with the organization of Dr. Tan we conducted a mission on Samar. It was rainy season there and a little difficult to travel but we overcame all the obstacles which is typical for our medical team. We saw 422 adults, 261 children, 156 dental and 109 eye patients. Dr Tan was able to recruit an ophthalmologist and various volunteers. We were hosted in the home of Dr. Tan's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Tan where we witnessed mock cock fights and good food.

In Samar it came to our attention that there was a need to perform circumcisions on the youth who gathered to have the procedure done. We will acquire circumcision kits and have them on hand. We will also acquire kits for Zambales.

This year we started a little feeding program. Every family that came to be given medical care received a sack of rice and some cans of sardines. We intend to carry on with that program and the people were very grateful.

Throughout the mission we had plenty of local volunteers who enjoyed the experience and gave back to their people...The FOCUS group provided the food while we were in the mountains of Zambales and we thank them. In Samar the barrios where we went cooked for us. The meals at both places were very delicious.

Thanks to all the volunteers from the States who gave up their time to join. Many spent their vacation time to be on the team. Thanks again to the volunteers on Samar and the Tan family, especially Dr. Deb Tan.

Marie Halo
Executive Director