PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
Office of Strategy Management

A Dream Fulfilled: Bringing New Hope to Ilonggos
1st PHC Iloilo Cardiovascular Surgical Mission

No mountain is too high to be climbed, no ocean is too deep to be crossed, no road is too long and difficult to be travelled for a unified, willing-hearted and determined team to reach out and be a catalyst of change in the lives of the less-privileged kababayans in Western Visayas. This fits the description for the challenging journey of the Philippine Heart Center (PHC) - Western Visayas Medical Center (WVMC) team towards the realization of the 1st ever Cardiovascular Surgical Mission in Western Visayas (Iloilo City) on November 22-27, 2016.

A 23-man Surgical Team spearheaded by the vision and passion-driven leaders of PHC, Dr. Gerardo S. Manzo, OIC-Executive Director; Dr. Juliet J. Balderas, OIC-Office of Strategy Management and concurrent Manager of the Pediatric Cardiology Department; and Dr. Reynante T. Gamponia, Acting Manager of the Surgery and Anesthesia Department, who brought a Mini-Operating Room comprising of the Heart-Lung Machine and all necessary medical equipment and supplies from PHC to WVMC. The strong will and dedication of both institutions surpassed the challenges of transporting these delicate equipment and bulk supplies to pursue the open heart surgery of pediatric patients from various provinces in Western Visayas.

The same concerted effort was shown by the Management of WVMC, headed by Dr. Cristina VC Woo, OIC-Medical Center Chief, and Dr. Mae Dago-oc, Pediatric Interventionist, who initiated the first step of coming up with the list of pediatric patients who greatly needed cardiovascular intervention but lack the needed resources. Spurred by that simple list, a dream and vision of extending Cardiovascular Care in Region 6, particularly in WVMC, was conceptualized. The WVMC is the 6th local center partner eyed by PHC to become an independent Regional Heart Center in the Western Visayas region.

The strong partnership and unwavering support of Bantay Bata 163, Mending Kids, Compassion, Philippine Airlines Foundation, Philhealth, and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office was instrumental in opening new doors of opportunities for the children to have a brighter future after the heart surgery. The selfless services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Philippine Army, Philippine Navy, and Philippine Air Force) in helping the team for the logistic requirements was also remarkable.

The successful 6-day CV Surgical Mission became an avenue in changing the lives of the Ilonggo children and has brought hope and unspeakable joy to their families. A total of 20 open heart surgeries: 8 Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD) patch closure and 12 Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA) ligation were performed by PHC and WVMC experts. The initial step in the journey towards collaboration and transfer of expertise was accomplished through this 1st mission.

Furthermore, moved by the aspiration to strengthen and expand the advocacy for Rheumatic Fever in the country, the PHC in cooperation with the Philippine Heart Association (PHA) - Iloilo, and Philippine Pediatric Society - Iloilo Chapter, conducted a simultaneous Provincial Rheumatic Fever Rheumatic Heart Disease (RF RHD) Symposium: OPLAN “A.S.A.P.” RF RHD Prevention and Control Program on November 25, 2016 at the Rooftop Conference Room of the Western Visayas Medical Center.
It was a well-attended symposium with a total of 91 participants composed of Medical Practitioners, Nurses, and Administrative staff from the partner institutions. This RF RHD symposium was intended to prepare WVMC as an RF RHD Registry Center for Region VI and disseminate the RF RHD Registry of the PHA among Medical Doctors, Pediatricians and General Practitioners, in the region.

The Iloilo mission marks the end of the four (4) PHC CV Surgical Missions for this year but entails a beginning for the new set of regions to be established as Regional Heart Centers after the initial 5 regions were already started in 2015. True to its commitment, with the full support from the Department of Health, the PHC remains fully steadfast in expanding access to Cardiovascular care through establishing Regional Heart Centers all over the country, one region at a time.

2016 Iloilo CV Surgical Mission

Hopeful Hearts
Post Operation

20 Mended Hearts... Changed Lives
PHC- WVMC Surgical Mission Team

Surgical Mission Team in Action

Pre-operation Assessment
Pre-operation Conference

Anesthesia Team

Perfusion Team
Operation Proper
Post-Operative Conference

RF RHD Symposium