PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
Office of Strategy Management

PHC Commitment Beyond Building Bridges:
1st EVRMC- Tacloban Cardiovascular Surgical Mission

The Philippine Heart Center's unwavering commitment of expanding access to better and quality Cardiovascular Care in every region all over the country goes beyond just building bridges of inspiration and hope for the Regional Heart Centers. It entails crossing every bridge and journeying together through collaborative partnership towards moving forward the other side of the often less travelled roads.

Every regional mission has its own beautiful story to tell. On one hand is the joy of being catalysts of change to the lives of children and their families after the heart surgery which always outweighs the painstaking preparations for the mission. On the other hand is the strengthened camaraderie among the PHC mission team and their new extended family members- the regional hospital partners.

As a kick off Regional cardiovascular mission for this year, once again the barriers of lack of medical facilities and equipment for cardiac care in Eastern Visayas region (Region VIII) did not hinder the Philippine Heart Center (PHC) - Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC) CV Surgical team to successfully conduct the 1st CV Surgical mission on February 24- March 2, 2018 at the Mother and Child Hospital (MCH) in Tacloban City.

A 27-manned PHC CV Surgical team was spearheaded by the advocacy and action-driven leaders of PHC, Dr. Joel M. Abanilla, Executive Director, Gerardo S. Manzo, Deputy Executive Director for Medical Services; Dr. Juliet J. Balderas, OIC- Office of Strategy Management and concurrent Manager of Pediatric Cardiology Department and Dr. Calixto Chan, lead Pediatric Surgeon.
The equally highly-driven and enthusiastic Medical Center Chief of EVRMC, Dr. John Edward M. Coloma, with the indefatigable support of his team headed by Dr. Avito H. Salinas, Chief of Medical Professional Staff, Dr. Jenny Lind Lesigues, MCH- Chief of Hospital Designate, Dr. Jose Carlo Del Pilar, TCVS Mission Coordinator, and Dr. Jonnaly Redona, a dedicated Pediatric Cardiologist paved way to the realization of the partnership with EVRMC as the 7th Regional Hospital to be assisted by PHC to become an independent Regional Heart Center in the Eastern Visayas region.

The strong partnership and steadfast support of the Philippine Airlines Foundation, Philhealth, and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office for patient and logistic support were remarkable. Also, the provision of medical equipment and supplies of Biodevices, Bbraun Medical Supplies Inc. and Medtronic Philippines, Inc. were instrumental to the success of the mission.

The successful 6-day CV Surgical Mission became an avenue in changing the lives of the 18 pediatric cardiovascular patients. A total of 9 open heart surgeries: Vetricular Septal Defect (VSD) patch closure and 9 closed heart: Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA) ligation were performed by PHC and EVRMC experts. The initial step in the journey towards collaboration and transfer of expertise was accomplished through this 1st mission.
Furthermore, spurred by the aspiration to strengthen and expand the advocacy for the prevention of Cardiovascular diseases, a back-to-back lecture in Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease was conducted by Dr. Juliet Balderas on February 26, 2018 and Wellness lecture at the Out-patient Department of EVRMC was conducted by Dr. Francoise May Sarmiento of the PHC Department of Education Division on February 27, 2018.

As a culmination activity, the EVRMC hosted a press conference with local media to promote awareness to the public and invite support from other concerned government and non-government organizations on the initiative of developing the EVRMC as the Regional Heart Center in Region VIII. Also, a fellowship night was organized not only to show their appreciation to all the participants of the CV surgical mission but also to celebrate a significant accomplishment that left an indelible mark to the lives of their kababayans.

Indeed, this mission signifies the “timeless and numberless collaboration” between PHC and EVRMC.
POST-OPERATIVE CONFERENCE

“We came here not to give you numbers for your accomplishments, but to inspire you that you can do this on your own, that you are capable of doing this for the years to come”

- Dr. Gerardo S. Manzo
  Deputy Executive Director, Medical Services
PRESS CONFERENCE WITH LOCAL MEDIA

EVRMC-PHC FELLOWSHIP NIGHT
RFRHD LECTURE

Z-BENEFIT ORIENTATION

CLINICAL PATHWAY ORIENTATION
CARDIOVASCULAR WELLNESS LECTURE - OPD