ADI Fellow, Dr. Edgardo de la Vega
Builds Second Charity Dental Clinic For Indigent Filipinos

Working through the Dentistry For Every Village Foundation, Inc., a non-profit corporation he established to help improve access to dental care for many indigent and underserved residents in poor villages in the Philippines, Ed de la Vega, DDS of Canoga Park, CA. recently completed the construction of a fully equipped dental clinic built for the Rogationist Catholic Congregation in Parañaque, Philippines. The Congregation provides free medical and dental services to indigent residents in their area of responsibility as part of their health care ministry.

The dental clinic was blessed and opened on March 6, 2017. It was funded by many donations and grants. Leading the list of biggest donors are the Academy of Dentistry International Foundation in Hicksville, Ohio, Marifi Pipkin, DMD of Apple Valley, CA., Matthew Okui, DDS of Encino, CA., Russell Rayman, MD of Arlington VA., and the DLV Family Trust.

Dignitaries from the St. Matthew Province of the Rogationists of the Heart of Jesus Congregation led by Provincial Superior Rev. Herman Abcede, RCJ and Provincial Vicar Rev. John J. Lucas, RCJ headed the list of more than one hundred guests that witnessed the blessing and the opening of the clinic.

Following the opening of the clinic, a dental mission was conducted by Foundation volunteers and more than 50 children from the surrounding villages were treated. The volunteer dentists in a three-hour mission did more than 100 procedures including extractions, oral prophylaxis, pulpotomies and fillings. All the children that came to the mission were provided with toothbrushes and toothpaste as well as basic oral hygiene instructions.

The clinic is furnished with top of the line equipment including a digital x-ray system, UV-lit cabinet to store surgical instruments, E-generator LED handpieces, a large steam-driven sterilizer, a wireless endodontic handpiece, an intra-oral camera system with a 32-inch monitor, a computer and a dental lab. The Foundation also installed the first ever amalgam waste separator in the Philippines at the clinic.
The clinic built for the Rogationist Congregation is the second charity dental clinic built by the Dentistry For Every Village Foundation. In April of 2016, a similar dental clinic was built and endorsed to the St. Scholastica’s Mission Hospital in Pambujan, Northern Samar, Philippines. The Academy of Dentistry International, International College of Dentists Global Visionary Funds and the Henry Schein Cares Foundation extensively supported that project. The clinic is now fully operational and sees an average of 30 charity patients a week. (See ADA News June 6 2016 issue)

“We built the clinic to help address the lack of access to dental care for many indigent Filipinos, particularly children and young adults who are essentially neglected and ignored by the local government”, stated de la Vega. “Certainly, one dental clinic no matter how modern and well-equipped can’t solve all the dental problems in the many impoverished villages around the country. But, it is a beginning” he added.

The Foundation aims to complete another dental clinic in the Visayas region of the Philippines in the spring of 2018. It is now in the middle of a fundraising drive to complete funding for that project. Tax-deductible contributions to the Foundation will be highly appreciated.

Please visit the Foundation website, www.D4EVF to get more information about the organization and how to donate and support its projects.

The first ever amalgam waste separator in the Philippines.
Cutting Ceremonial Ribbon to Open the Clinic 7 March 2017
L to r: Dr Ed de la Vega, Rev. John Lucas, Rev. Herman Abcede and Dr. Amry Chavez

Dental Chair, Unit and x-ray

Sterilizing area

Operatory Cabinet

Mini Lab

Viewing digital x-ray image on 32 inch monitor
Patient Registration and Screening

Tooth Brushing Clinic

Working on a Patient

Patient Registration and Screening

Typical Patient Age 5 years old

Using the new equipment for more difficult cases