

COOP SAMARITANS

BY MIMI F. OLARGA

WHEN one teacher of the law asked Jesus “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus told him the story of the good Samaritan who was moved by compassion when he saw on the road a man who fell into the hands of robbers. At the end of the parable, Jesus told the teacher of the law to “go and do the same.” This Christmas is one opportune time to do the same.

As the Philippine Cooperative Central Fund (PCF) celebrates its 15th anniversary with the theme “Planet, People, Peace and Prosperity,” its officers and members envisioned and aligned 15 programs and projects to commemorate the event. One of these activities is centered on the second “P” which is “people.”

In cooperation with the different allied-member coops in Bacolod City, Philippine Cooperative Central Fund, an Iloilo- and Cebu-based coop network, conducted a medical mission and feeding programs at Purok Himaya, Barangay Mansilingan, Bacolod City last December 16, 2012.

And true indeed is the saying that many loving hearts and working hands can do a lot. With the aid from Dr. Pablo O. Torre Sr. Foundation, Inc. (DPOTFI), Riverside Medical Center, Inc., Occidental Negros (Host) Lions Club, CENECO Employees MPC, LCC Faculty/ Community MPC, Techno Ventures MPC and Riverside Medical Center MPC, the concern-for- people program, our neighbors, happened.



A medical mission and feeding programs cannot happened without the generosity of doctors who share themselves with others. Eleven doctors from Riverside Medical Center, Inc. came and served eighty-eight children and fifty-seven adults. The wonderful medically-trained people who selflessly rendered their services were: Teresa Mae Bacaro, Mary June Cabarles, Joseph Eli Cong, Dorothy Cornel, Kristoffer de la Pena, Ma.Luilla Mandal, Marco Mendezona, Ma. Thesa Militar, Katherine Ocejá, Christian Tortosa, and

Paolo Sogono.

Through the DPOTFI, led by Jing Mider, the gentle and young people allowed themselves to be God’s instruments of healing of the least of their brothers and sisters. Philippine Cooperative Central Fund (PCF) representatives were headed by its CEO, Betta Socorro “Butch” Salera. Members



Dianeta Casuno; Maricar Clamonte, Coney Alajero, Amie Gonzales, Florence Camillo, Ramil Tagolabong, Ana Ziela Monterola, and Daisy Pilar Luna came all the way from Cebu and Iloilo to extend helping hands in the logistics of the activity.

Ten members of the Occidental Negros (Host) Lions Club, headed by the Club’s Past-President Betty Ditching shared their sumptuous arroz caldo soup and hot bread; Manuel Uy and Rey Dasmarrinas from Techno Ventures MPC brought the target-patients from Barangays Estefania and Felisa; Olive Dequinto and Junalyn Liberan from LCC Faculty/ Community MPC and Bernard Desabelle from CENECO Employees MPC graced the event with their warm presence. The members, officers and management staff of Riverside Medical Center Multi-Purpose Cooperative, who have been conducting medical missions and feeding programs for the past years, shared their persons and presence.

Eighty-eight pedia cases and fifty-seven adults. These were the neighbors who have touched the lives of the different participating entities in the medical mission conducted at Purok Himaya, Barangay Mansilingan last Sunday. They’re the wonderful people who have taught us the meaning and purpose of life, and how good it is to share. Thank you for allowing our coops to be Good Samaritans to you, even just for a day. God bless you.—Reprinted from Sun.Star Weekend | December 23-29, 2012