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Consulting the Children of Madja-as

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Service knows no limit, sees no boundaries. Thus, upon the invitation of Dr. Evangeline Banggi-Cua, an alumna of WVSU College of Medicine, six resident members of the Order of Asclepius joined the Team Banggi as they conducted a four-day medical mission at Brgy Malabor, Tibao and in the islands of Culasi, Antique, May 27-30, 2015.

The series of medical mission kicked off at Santo Rosario Elementary School at Brgy. Malabor, Tibiao, Antique, servicing a total of 327 adult and pediatric residents.

The second leg of the medical caravan was held at Brgy. Maniguin, Culasi, Antique, roughly a three-hour boat ride from Malalison Island. The team held their free health check-up and gave away free medications in the barangay's basketball court where they consulted 348 residents of the community.

From Maniguin, the team transferred to Brgy. Batbatan, an island

barangay roughly 90 minutes away from Maniguin. A total of 299 residents had their health consultation wherein, 181 of them were adults while 118 were pediatric clients.

The final leg of the medical mission was conducted at the famed Malalison Island, a 20-minute boat ride from the port of Culasi in Antique where a total of 62 residents were consulted and were given free medications by the team.

Team Banggi is the first local private initiative to deploy medical and surgical missions in Tacloban City, Leyte. The team was composed of 30 volunteers organized by Dr. Banggi-Cua after typhoon Yolanda struck the provinces of Eastern Visayas in 2013. The team traveled to places such as Samar, Leyte, Capiz, Palawan, Antique, and even as far in the north as Ifugao to render surgical and medical services to our impoverished countrymen.

The team who joined in the mission was composed of three physicians, namely: Dr. Evangeline Banggi-Cua, Dr. Roan Longakit and Dr. Cleo Gevero; three registered nurses: Regine Camille Garcia, Izanor Lyn Javier and Marcos Caratao Jr; and one professor at UP-Visayas, Mr. Emmanuel Leron.

The OA resident members who stepped up to the challenge of providing service in the far flung islands were: Stephanie Grace Lucero, Aizlynn Anne Robledo, Elly Novem Eluna, Allen Rey Alipen, Therese Angela Benite and Louise Cecille del Rosario.

Mixing business with pleasure was not a difficult task for the team as they were surrounded by the pristine waters, powdery white sand, and an abundance of marine biodiversity. This, on top of the majestic Mt. Madja-as, which got its name from the Karay-a term which means high or tall. One can even view this experience as 'wandering with a purpose'. #