

Medical Mission of Mercy sponsored successful fundraising event to help the Philippines

WASHINGTON, DC, Oct. 13 (Special to *PinoyGlobal*) - The gala banquet and ball given by the *Philippine-American Medical Mission of Mercy of Metropolitan Washington, DC, Inc. (Medical Mission of Mercy, U.S.A.)* at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hotel in nearby Alexandria, Virginia, last Saturday, was a huge success. The event to raise funds for the Mercy of Mission's projects in the Philippines is the 7th annual since its founding in February 2001.

Henry M. Balagtas, president of the PAMMMWDC, spearheads the fundraising efforts with assistants from Dr. Joseph M. Arzadon, MD, DDS, Chief Medical Officer, and Dr. Catherine Panlilio Arzadon, MD, Assistant Chief Medical Officer. Other executive officers

who are equally helpful in the annual medical mission project to various provinces in the Philippines are Stephen A. Sadler, executive vice president; Yolanda Azardon, treasurer; Lydia O. Sadler, secretary; Jhett Azardon Epp, auditor/accountant; Thu Aram, Mil Arcega, Sue Suddreth, RN, and Maria Sison Wright, sergeant-at-arms; Shirley H. Panlilio, liaison to the Philippines. The board of directors are Aurelio de la Paz, MD; Tony Aram, MD; Esther Baraquio, RN; Lilia de la Paz, DMD; Teresita Gustilo, RN; Paul Harris, DDS; Hector Mendez, MD; Imelda Miranda, MD; Rudy Ocakpo, CRNA; Celine M. Pico, RN; Marlin Rekow, DDS; Josephine Reyes, MD; Nina Reynoso, RN; Philip Steiner, OD. Parliamentarian is Edilberto Atienza.



V.I.P. Guests at the 7th annual gala

Seated from left Mrs. Emma Benitez Valeriano, Philippine Ambassador to the United States Willy Gaa, guest speaker of the night. Standing are the stalwarts of the *Philippine-American Medical Mission of Mercy of Metropolitan Washington, DC, Inc. (Medical Mission of Mercy, U.S.A.)*, from left Henry M. Balagtas, president of the Medical Mission; Mrs. Mary Balagtas, Dr. Catherine Panlilio Arzadon; assistant chief medical officer of the Mercy of Mission, and Dr. Joseph M. Arzadon, MD, DDS. chief medical officer of the Mission. (*PinoyGlobal Photo*)

Special V.I.P. Guests from New Jersey at the gala banquet and ball given by the Philippine-American Medical Mission of Mercy of Metropolitan Washington, DC, Inc. (Medical Mission of Mercy, U.S.A.)



Seated from left: Zeny Almario, commissioner New Jersey Board of Education; Luz Ricafort, former president of FILAM PAGASA of New Jersey; Ampy Reyes, former president of Maharajah, U.S.A. Standing from left: Engineer Rolly Almario; Jake Reyes of Maharajah, U.S.A.; Henry M. Balagtas, president of the Medical Mission of Mercy and one of the founders of the group; Mary Balagtas, RN, charming wife of Henry Balagtas; Engineer Rene Ricafort of New Jersey; and Nonoy Mendoza of FILIM & PGON. (Photo by PinoyGlobal)

The money raised by the all-volunteer group have so far assisted over 29,000 patients in the Philippines through cleft lip and palate surgery, general and gynecologic surgery, minor surgery, dental services and dentures, ophthalmology and optometry services, adult and pediatric medical outpatient care, and dispensing large volume of medicines... all free to the less fortunate Filipinos in areas where the medical mission go.

"We raise funds to meet the demands of those in dire needs. The Mission of Mercy is a project worthy of supports. We need funds for purchased of portable anesthesia and electrocautery machines, suction, monitors, portable dental unit, dental and medical supplies, surgical/ anesthesia supplies and the much needed medications and vitamins," articulated Henry Balagtas, a Past TOFA Awardee and a Filipino-American community leader in the United States residing in Fort Washington, Maryland. Although a non medical or dental doctor, Balagtas is a renowned spearheader of worthy projects that assist the unfortunate Filipinos in the Philippines. Balagtas is a successful business entrepreneur and a realtor.#



Special Guests of Medical Mission of Mercy Seated from left: Mary Balagtas, Tessie Calderon-Alarcon, Aida J. Mendoza. Standing from left: Pablito Alarcon, Mrs. Ador Carreon, Mrs. Rico Fos, Henry Balagtas, President of Mission of Mercy, Consul Rico Fos of the Philippine Embassy, Emilie G. Dearing, and Claudio "Jun" Pedery. (PinoyGlobal Photo)