FIRST MOBILE BREAST CANCER CLINIC NOW ON THE ROLL

By Raymond G.B. Tr...
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"WE are doing something for the Filipina, and ultimately for our nation. We value your presence here today because we see that you value your health. You want to be strong so that you may keep on caring for the people who rely on your love and support," HARI Foundation, Inc. (HFI), President Ma. Fe Perez-Agudo declared as she addressed the patients and medical staff of the UP-PGH and the UP-PGH Cancer Institute at the first medical mission of the Alagang Breastfriend Mobile Diagnostic Clinic.

The mission benefitted nearly 40 indigent patients in its first run.

The mobile diagnostic clinic, the very first of its kind in the country, will be deployed to underserved communities to impart relevant information about breast cancer and offer free screening for early signs of breast cancer. The customized Hyundai H-350 luxury van is equipped with state-of-the-art mammography and breast ultrasound facilities.

It is HARI Foundation’s flagship wellness campaign for women to take charge of their health and to continue to be a driving force for the betterment of society.

This initiative has become more relevant at a time as the Philippines tops the list of the highest incidence of breast cancer among Asian countries. Department of Health figures state that one out of every 13 Filipinas can develop breast cancer. Early detection is the key to higher survival rates.

“This project was realized just in time with the recent passing of the National Integrated Cancer Control Act and the Universal Health Care Act (UHC),” Director Dr. Gerardo Legaspi said as he cited the program as “a good example for screening and preventive care” that other health institutes could follow.

In tandem with the screening procedures, a lay forum on breast cancer was held by UP-PGH Cancer Institute Chairman, Dr. Jorge Ignacio, whose dream is to provide charity patients the same care that a private hospital, here or abroad, can offer.

The partners in wellness affirmed that this first medical mission is just the beginning of many more journeys of the Alagang Breastfriend Mobile Diagnostic Clinic. “I look forward to have more mobile diagnostic clinics go around the country to touch more lives and so touch base with more women. I believe that the earlier you get to know your state of health, the earlier you can find a solution,” said Ms. Agudo.

Alagang Breastfriend Mobile Diagnostic Clinic was turned over to the UP-PGH, and UP-PGH Cancer Institute formalized the donation of the Hyundai H350 through a deed of donation signing and ceremonial turnover ceremony of the October 25, 2018, in observance of Cancer Awareness Month.