

## Spreading Wide, Bright Smiles to Lagadlarin Citizens

by PE LEAH QUESADA  
RC Makati Premier District

Oral Health Initiatives



Currently, there are 40 women housed in the compound with the aid of 10 social workers.

In partnership with Alabang Town Center and DSWD, the two clubs brought in key instructors to teach the girls basic skills. The program, "Haven Knows", aims to teach the girls of Haven how to make rosaries and cook potato chips. One is for spiritual improvement and the other for physical nourishment.

The surplus rosaries and chips they will make will go to our booth in Alabang Town Center where they will be sold to mall-goers. The proceeds of this will go towards more skills development training and/or improvements to the facilities of Haven for Women."



According to Sensodyne and IPSOS, the pandemic has also affected the oral health of Filipinos, with 77% of Filipinos having sensitive teeth, 42% of Filipinos having stained or yellow teeth, and 34% of Filipinos having cavities during the two-year-long pandemic. Most Filipinos are also hesitant to visit dentists out of fear of catching the virus.

The Rotary Club of Makati Premier District (RCMPD) promoted the importance of oral health during our first Rotary Day of Service (RDS) last February 12, 2022, at Barangay Lagadlarin, Lobo, Batangas. Our club distributed dental kits to Lagadlarin citizens, shared an educational video on managing oral health, and conducted a short question and answer session where Lagadlarin citizens asked their concerns.

### Club donated dental kits to citizens

Our club was represented by **Charflu Puno (Head of Rotary Day of Service)**, **Eric Quiason (Service Committee Chair)**, **Sonie Aguilar (Head of Education and Literacy Subcommittee)**, **Ludeth Cruz (Head of Vocational Services)**, and **Bobet Vera (Fundraising Vice-Chair)**. We distributed dental kits containing toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste to more than 2,000 Lagadlarin residents. Our recipients were very grateful!

### Educating residents using oral health awareness videos

RCMPD presented **Rotary and Rotaract Club snippets of Muntinlupa Central's** digital animation series on oral health to the Lagadlarin community. "Super Pinoy Kid Comics" was created for children, but even adults can learn and apply the good practices on oral health from the video.

The digital animation series has four episodes, each 5-10 minutes long. "Super Pinoy Kid Comics" focuses on the causes and effects of bad oral hygiene and presents solutions for mitigating oral health problems. The video series addresses long-neglected Filipino dental issues.

## Conversations with a dental expert

There is no dentist or dental clinic in Lagadlarin. Our club facilitated an educational session with the residents and the Philippine Dental Association Batangas Provincial Chapter president, . She conducted a short talk and a Q/A (question and answer) session with Lagadlarin citizens regarding their oral health issues and preventative care. Dr. Sebollena answered and provided clear responses to Lagadlarin citizens' questions.

Disease prevention and treatment is one of Rotary's areas of focus. We educated Lagadlarin citizens and barangay health workers about the importance of proper oral health to support this focus area.



Club members Charilu Puno and Sonie Aguilar instruct Lagadlarin barangay health workers about contents of dental health kits

We look forward to many more projects of this kind. Together, let's advocate for oral care and hygiene and change people's lives by teaching them proper oral health practices.

## All Smiles in Haven

by LCP RJ PAGUYO, RC Paranaque Midtown

Oral Health Initiatives



**I**n collaboration with the Rotary Club of Pasay and JCI Alabang, Rotary Club of Paranaque Midtown donated one Dental Chair complete with dental tools to the Haven for Children compound in Muntinlupa City.

Haven for Children is a DSWD compound for children in Need of Special Protection (CNSP) with experiences of physical, psychological, or sexual abuse, neglect, cruelty, emotional maltreatment, substance abuse, and in conflict with the law revealed their pervasive feelings which characterize the children's inner world. There can be anywhere to 60 to 200 children in Haven depending on the season.

Upon conducting the needs analysis of the compound, it was found out, through the OIC of HFC Ms. Nieve Gentelizo, that there was a need for a dental chair for their dental procedures. Currently, the dentist do procedures like tooth extraction and

cleaning on floor mattresses or sofas. This way of doing the procedures is very uncomfortable for the kids as well as their dentist.

Funds were sourced for a used dental chair through the network of our CP Jay Hilario III, who is a dentist by profession. The dental chair is German made and still in perfect working condition. The estimated cost of the chair is around PHP 400,000.

To-date, the chair has already been used to treat the children with a range of various treatments such as: Cleaning, tooth extractions and basic check ups. According to their resident dentist, they are already scheduling cavity filling for those children who need it.

We plan to conduct dental missions in Haven to make our All Smiles in Haven program sustainable for many years to come.