

‘Buy a smile for a child’

Written by Administrator
Friday, 30 September 2011 14:09



A child in the Philippines before cleft lip surgery.

BOSTON — A respected Massachusetts-based non-profit organization that dispatches teams of surgeons, anesthesiologists, dentists and nurses to the most remote and underprivileged communities in the Philippines and other Third World countries, has launched a project where Good Samaritans can sponsor one child for \$300 for repair of cleft and other facial deformities.

“Buy A Smile for A Child” was launched recently by the Medical Missions for Children, Inc.

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(MMFC) to benefit more children who need surgical repair of cleft lip and palate deformities, burn injuries, microtia (absence of the outer ear) and head/neck tumors.

MMFC sends 15 to 20 surgical and dental missions each year to the Philippines and other poor regions in Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Peru, Rwanda, Tanzania, Ukraine and China.

Since its inception over 21 years ago, MMFC has provided over 200 missions worldwide and has operated on over 20,000 children and young adults.

MMFC has also provided dental care to over 50,000 patients.

For several years now, MMFC has been sending two annual missions to the Philippines, one to Angeles City, Pampanga and one to Leyte province in the Visayas.

Tracey O'Keefe, a registered nurse at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City and one of the volunteers at MMFC's mission in Angeles City last February, said she has committed to returning to the Philippines annually.

"The Filipinos are the warmest, most hospitable culture of people I have had the pleasure to work with," said O'Keefe, who has been with MMFC for the past five years.

"The city of Angeles, the history and most of all the people have left a lasting impression on me."

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~~Information about the MMEC and how to help a child with a cleft lip and palate can be found on the MMEC website. For more information, please contact the MMEC at info@mmecc.org or visit the MMEC website at www.mmecc.org.~~

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Registered nurse Tracey O'Keefe with a young patient



Children in Angeles City, Pampanga seeking surgery.