



FACC'S CAROLING AND LANTERN MAKING TO BENEFIT FILIPINO CANCER PATIENTS

👤 Jon Melegrito 🕒 December 30, 2020 📁 Community, Health & Wellness, Lifestyle, Photo Banner, Top Stories 👁️ 426 Views

By EDWARD LOGAN, Co-Founder/Executive President of Filipino American Cancer Care (FACC)

During the holiday season, the Filipino American Cancer Care (FACC), a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, held a virtual special Christmas presentation aired via zoom and live streamed on the Facebook page of the Filipino American Cancer Care. The men and women behind FACC kicked off their December fundraising activities, with caroling on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2020 featuring 30 singing artists from the Philippines and the United States. The program aired every night at 8:00 PM eastern time until Christmas day. Filipinos and Filipino-Americans came together with this virtual Christmas caroling concert with a mission to raise money for cancer beneficiaries. More than 40,000 viewers and followers tuned in during this successful event.

The highlight of the Special Christmas Presentation was the participation of the most popular and followed magician on TikTok Sean Sotaridona of Sean Does Magic. Sean has 17 million followers and counting. He joined TikTok early 2019 and has grown his followers because of his talent in magic and he is currently collaborating with CBS or London UK-base TV network. He performed for an hour doing magic tricks on the FACC Special Christmas Presentation. He donated all the proceeds to FACC to benefit cancer patients in the Philippines and United States.

FACC fundraising includes the Christmas Pinoy Parol/Lantern Making Contest with cash prizes to be awarded for entries with most likes on the FACC FB page. A Parol is a Filipino ornamental lantern in the form of a five-pointed star that is typically displayed during the Christmas season in the Filipino culture. Both initiatives has raised more than \$5,000.00. Furthermore, FACC last October has raised more than \$10,000.00 during their Zumba Pink Party and Virtual Bingo Fundraising events that benefitted three cancer patients in California, New York and Philippines.

FACC is leveraging this great opportunity to conduct fundraising efforts to help more new cancer beneficiaries 1.) Ramona Sanchez, a retired teacher of Bulacan, Philippines (Breast Cancer Patient) 2.) Emelyn Pacifico, a nurse of Augusta, Georgia (Stomach Cancer Patient) 3.) Roberto Santillan, a single father of Mandaluyong, Philippines (Stage 3 Colon Cancer Patient) 4.) Eufemia Buenaflor, a mother who lost her home due to typhoon Rory of Albay, Philippines (Stage 3 Breast Cancer Patient.) Originally, FACC planned to assist 6 beneficiaries for this fundraising efforts but 2 beneficiaries died recently Jimmy Lou from Manila, Philippines (Pancreatic Cancer) and Dennia Jane Donasco, a single mother, of Negros Occidental, Philippines (Lymphoma Cancer).

Lastly, FACC also hosted the “First Children Cancer Christmas Care Bear Toys For Tots Initiative” as part of the education component of the Childhood Cancer Campaign Awareness Advocacy via Virtual Photo Wall Exhibit in the Philippines as well as providing new toys for Christmas to 55 childhood cancer patients and survivors and providing Christmas lunch meals who came from underprivileged families living in the surrounding provincial cities such Dumalag, Capiz and Roxas, Philippines. FACC has partnered with Philippine Red Cross to purchase these brand new care bear toys and were distributed at the St. Anthony College Hospital.

FACC was created in March 7, 2020 and was approved as a 501 (c) (3) non-stock, non-profit, non-political, charitable and all volunteer-based cancer organization in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia dedicated to serving the Fil-Am community. The FACC's primary mission is to C.A.R.E about Filipino, Filipino-Americans and anyone medically underserved in the Philippines and United States by assisting those impacted by cancer. The FACC's vision rest into four (4) major pillars of C.A.R.E. which denotes

COLLECTIVE outreach programs designed to fit our unique culture for our community, ADVOCATE for better comprehensive cancer care during and after/post treatment. RESEARCH tools for cancer patients, survivors, family members, and caregivers regarding financial assistance, and lastly EDUCATE our community on cancer prevention early detection, screening and treatment options.

“With the support of everyone from our volunteers, supporters and donors the spirit of Christmas is brighter for our cancer beneficiaries. I am beyond grateful for the contribution of everyone and the Filipino community for the support on our newly founded cancer organization. Despite the challenges of COVID -19 and other adversities in life, it’s nice to know there are people who never get tired of helping others,” says Josie Moralidad Ziman President/Founder of FACC and a breast cancer survivor.

On his part, Leukemia survivor and FACC Co-Founder and EVP Edward Logan says “cancer cannot be an individual struggle any more than COVID-19. If this pandemic has taught us anything it is that our health and heart is dependent upon our bonds of community and shared obligations of everyone from doctors and nurses to those who help through charitable gift giving.”

FACC's cancer beneficiaries:

To learn more about FACC, please visit: www.filamcancercare.org

