



epcalm
Adult Leukemia Foundation
of the Philippines

EPCALM News Online



www.epcalmfoundation.org

Passion to Care.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

We are pleased to announce the 'rebirth' of **EPCALM News Online**, covering the first three months of the current Fiscal Year (2025-2026), and other activities in 2024. Our e-publication was put on hold for one year to prioritize various Foundation programs and activities. This quarterly issue provides a comprehensive update on the EPCALM Foundation's recent initiatives.

We have curated a selection of news updates and human-interest stories to keep you informed of our latest efforts, including new ventures for our serviced patients and their family members. Our activities remain dynamic, and we are grateful for the guidance we have received in every endeavor. We continue to strengthen partnerships with like-minded organizations to deepen our impact on those we serve.

In this issue, we feature more Patient Stories, and present them in a more reader-friendly format. Our goal is to bring a more personal dimension to our articles by highlighting stories of triumph and hope.

Looking ahead, we anticipate even more meaningful synergies and worthwhile undertakings in the coming months. As always, we welcome your feedback and comments as we work to make this platform more interactive.

EPCALM CELEBRATES 20 YEARS WITH INAUGURAL HOPE GALA

Celebrating 20 years as the country's only non-profit dedicated to comprehensive adult leukemia support, EPCALM successfully held its inaugural Hope Gala on 2 May 2025 at the Grand Ballroom, Solaire Resort North, Quezon City.

The sold-out dinner concert featured performances by Martin Nievera, Ogie Alcasid, Regine Velasquez, and Top Suzara, hosted by Boy Abunda. During the event, Quezon City Mayor and Honorary Trustee, Joy Belmonte, commended EPCALM's two-decade legacy as a vital lifeline for patients.

Founder and Board Chair, Dr. Eryln Cabanag-Demerre, expressed her gratitude to the sponsors and partners, emphasizing that EPCALM's mission to provide spiritual, medical, and financial assistance continues to grow through collective support.

The evening also presented the EPCALM Board of Trustees, as well as the Honorary Board, including Wellington Soong, Tessa Prieto, Pinky Antonio, Nikki Tang, Ruby Chua, and Linda Ley. All proceeds from the Gala are dedicated to funding the personalized programs EPCALM provides to its leukemia patients and their families.



READ RELATED STORIES... (1) <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/dcaf175c> ; (2) <https://mb.com.ph/2025/4/23/epcalm-foundation-celebrates-20-years-of-supporting-leukemia-patients-with-inaugural-gala> ; (3) <https://peopleasia.ph/foundation-for-adult-leukemia-patients-marks-20-years-with-benefit-dinner-show/>

'BLOOD HEROES' GIVE ALL-OUT SUPPORT TO EPCALM BLOOD DRIVES FOR LEUKEMIA PATIENTS



EPCALM extends its sincere gratitude to everyone who participated in the EPCALM Blood Drive campaigns at St. Luke's Medical Center-Global City (SLMC-GC). This initiative, conducted in partnership with the SLMC-GC Blood Bank and Transfusion Services, and the SLMC-GC Department of Internal Medicine have successfully gathered life-saving blood products for adult leukemia patients.

We specifically thank the uniformed personnel from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Joint Task Force-NCR, Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Navy), the Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Bureau of Fire Protection (National Headquarters and National Capital Region). We also acknowledge the private donors for their vital contributions.

Thank you, too, to the SLMC-GC Hematology Fellows for their educational lectures on blood donation, and to our EPCALM Board and Staff for their leadership in this ongoing mission to ensure safe blood remains available for those in need. The bloodletting campaigns had been conducted on 29 June 2024, 14 December 2024, 12 July 2025, and 31 January 2026.

READ RELATED STORIES... (1) <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/blood-heroes-give-all-out-support-to-epcalm-blood-drive> ; (2) <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/epcalm-blood-donation-drive> ; (3) <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/epcalm-to-conduct-blood-drive-at-slmc-global-city-on-31-jan-2026>

SLMC-GC HONORS EPCALM WITH KABALIKAT AWARD FOR BLOOD CAMPAIGNS

The EPCALM Foundation is honored to be recognized for the second consecutive year as a “Kabalikat Awardee” during the annual Blood Donors Recognition Day on 1 September 2025 at the Henry Sy Sr. Auditorium of St. Luke’s Medical Center-Global City (SLMC-GC) in Taguig City. We also appreciate the Four-Star Award presented to our President and CEO, Engr. Justice Z. Demerre, for his long-standing dedication to blood donation.



The testimonies shared during the program, including EPCALM member, Pastor Fernando Agustin, reinforce our commitment to this life-saving mission. We remain inspired by our partnership with SLMC-GC, and look forward to our continued collective efforts in voluntary blood donation.

READ MORE... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/epcalm-to-conduct-blood-drive-at-slmc-global-city-on-31-jan-2026>

EPCALM PARTNERS WITH GETMEDS FOR BETTER ACCESS TO CHEMO MEDS



The EPCALM Foundation forged a partnership agreement with GetMEDS Philippines, Inc. on 11 June 2025 to enhance access to affordable, quality-assured oncology medications and support systems for our serviced patients.

Through this collaboration, more than 40 adult leukemia patients, primarily those with chronic myelogenous leukemia, have already received life-saving chemotherapy medications for three tranches (June-July, September and December 2025).

GetMEDS Founder and Director Naresh Kumar said their company’s goal extends beyond providing free medications to being an active part of the healing process. EPCALM and GetMEDS remain committed to strengthening patient-centered support and delivering hope to those fighting blood diseases.

READ RELATED STORIES... (1) <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/epcalm-partners-with-getmeds-philippines-for-better-access-to-life-saving-medications> ; (2) <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/epcalm-patients-receive-chemo-drugs-anew-from-getmeds> ; (3) <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/epcalm-patients-receive-free-chemo-drugs-anew-from-getmeds>

MOA SIGNED WITH UCCP-NCUC FOR PATIENTS’ PASTORAL CARE PROGRAMS

The EPCALM Foundation has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines-National City United Church (UCCP-NCUC) on 17 September 2026. This partnership aims to implement EPCALM’s Pastoral Care Ministry Programs under our Spiritual Care Services, which include home and hospital visitations, pastoral counseling, intercessory prayers, and spiritual guidance for patients’ families.



Under this MOA, EPCALM will provide training seminars to equip UCCP-NCUC volunteers. These modules will cover understanding leukemia, the patient’s journey, managing grief, and other essential topics necessary for the efficient delivery of the Spiritual Care program.

READ MORE... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/epcalm-signs-moa-with-uccp-ncuc-for-pastoral-care-programs-for-patients>

SWING FOR HOPE CHARITY GOLF RAISES MEDICAL FUND FOR PATIENTS



The EPCALM Foundation successfully concluded its inaugural “Swing For HOPE” Invitational Golf Tournament held on 29 September 2025, at the Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club in Sta. Rosa City, Laguna. Coinciding with World Leukemia Awareness Month, the event gathered over 100 participants, including EPCALM Goodwill Ambassador, Martin Nievera, OPM icon, Gary Valenciano, and host, Tessa Prieto.

The tournament significantly bolstered the EPCALM Medical Fund, ensuring continued life-saving medications and diagnostic support for adult leukemia patients. EPCALM Founder, Dr. Erlyn Cabanag-Demerre, expressed her deep gratitude for the community’s “Bayanihan” spirit, noting that these proceeds directly ease the financial burdens of treatment.

We congratulate our Overall Champions, Marty Ilagan and Erwin Co, along with all division winners and runners-up. We also extend our sincere thanks to our major sponsors—including Reyes Haircutters, Zenith Medical Equipment Inc., and Philip Stein—as well as all donors and volunteers who made this event a success.

EPCALM remains committed to its 20-year mission as a “Bridge to Life” and looks forward to making “Swing For HOPE” an annual tradition.

READ RELATED STORIES... 1) <https://mb.com.ph/2025/09/19/1st-epcalm-golf-fundraiser-aims-to-establish-medical-fund-for-serviced-leukemia-patients> ; (2) <https://www.abs-cbn.com/lifestyle/2025/9/18/epcalm-to-hold-first-golf-fundraiser-for-leukemia-patients-1857> ; (3) <https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=epcalm+swing+for+hope&mid=A107CCCC95D8D2CB0CDAA107CCCC95D8D2CB0CDA&FORM=VIRE>

MARTIN NIEVERA COMPOSES 'ANTHEM OF HOPE' FOR EPCALM

Music plays a vital role in highlighting an organization's mission and values, ensuring its message remains memorable and impactful. We are honored to share that EPCALM Goodwill Ambassador and "Concert King" Martin Nievera has penned a song specifically for our Foundation. Through his artistry, Martin has created a powerful tool for resilience, opening a path for many to express feelings that are often difficult to process.



Aptly titled "Hold On," this song serves as a profound anthem of hope, faith, and the strength to persevere. With music composed by Marvin Querido, "Hold On" was first performed publicly by Martin during The Hope Gala, EPCALM's 20th-anniversary fundraiser held on 2 May 2025. This special event supported adult leukemia patients and their families.

We invite you to reflect upon the lyrics of this song. We hope that any emotions, thoughts, or realizations it evokes will help enhance your self-awareness and overall well-being.

READ MORE... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/martin-nievera-composed-a-song-for-epcalm-entitled-hold-on-the-hope-gala>

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF BLOOD CANCER PATIENTS



The EPCALM Foundation together with fellow founding members of the Blood Cancer Alliance of the Philippines (BCAP)—MyeSPEAK Foundation Inc., Kanser sa Adolescents and Young Adults Inc., and Lymphoma Awareness Philippines Inc.—has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Philippine College of Hematology and Transfusion Medicine (PCHTM) during its 6th Annual Convention in September 2025.

This partnership, alongside the launch of the "Alam Mo Blood" public awareness campaign, reinforces our shared commitment to improving the quality of life for blood cancer patients through accurate information, early detection, and data-driven advocacy. We look forward to collaborating with PCHTM to enhance the country's cancer control program and elevate standards of care.

READ MORE... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/blood-cancer-alliance-partners-with-pchtm-to-improve-quality-of-life-of-blood-cancer-patients>

PATIENT-CENTERED PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTED IN HEALTHCARE MEETING

The EPCALM Foundation joined healthcare providers, patient group leaders, and advocacy organizations for the Patient Solidarity Day 2025 celebration on 11 December 2025. Organized by the Philippine Association of Patient Organizations (PAPO), the program focused on patient empowerment, equitable access to healthcare, and the vital role patients play in shaping health policies.

A key segment provided guidance on accessing PhilHealth benefits and healthcare packages, while patient testimonies highlighted ongoing challenges regarding affordability, quality of care, and the implementation of health laws.



PAPO concluded the event by reaffirming its commitment to uniting patient groups and enhancing nationwide advocacy. The gathering successfully strengthened collaboration among patients, healthcare professionals, and civil society, ensuring that patients remain at the center of healthcare decision-making.

READ MORE... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/epcalm-joins-patient-solidarity-day-2025>



About EPCALM

Established on 12 May 2005, and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on 29 December 2009, the EPCALM Adult Leukemia Foundation of the Philippines, Inc. is a Christ-centered, non-stock, non-profit organization that provides support programs and services to adult leukemia patients and their families. Its three service arms are: Spiritual Care, Medical, and Financial – anchored on the principle that God is the Hope, the Healer, and the Provider.

EPCALM News Online is the official quarterly public e-newsletter of EPCALM. It contains news articles and updates about the Foundation. Editor: Mitchell P. Duran.

The EPCALM House

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THE PATIENT STORIES SERIES



We believe in the power of real people and honest stories. Our **Patient Stories Series** highlights the importance of lived experiences in helping others feel understood and less alone. Telling these stories is crucial for healing and empowerment. For this issue of the **EPCALM News Online**, we highlight 10 stories of triumph and hope of our serviced adult leukemia patients.

By sharing their journeys, they reclaim their voices and control their own narratives, moving from a place of victimhood to one of resilience. Speaking out challenges the culture of silence, leading to greater awareness and meaningful change.

Furthermore, the Patient Stories foster solidarity and support among fellow patients, providing a sense of validation. On a broader scale, they help reshape societal perceptions and foster a culture of compassion. As a therapeutic tool, storytelling aids in processing trauma, and reorganizes memories to support personal healing.

By sharing these stories, we support individuals, and contribute to a larger movement toward justice and healing for all.

• **NORMA D. MALLARI**—*Connecting with Others*

She draws her strength from fellow patients battling chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML), maintaining a firm determination to emerge victorious. Through her active involvement with a group known as the “CML Warriors,” she and her peers have banded together to support one another throughout their collective journey with leukemia.

Despite her diagnosis in 2012, this community provides her with a profound sense of purpose and meaning.

READ HER FULL STORY... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/she-finds-hope-in-connecting-with-others>

• **RENATO V. ISIDRO**—*Early Detection is Key*

Like most types of cancer, early diagnosis and treatment of leukemia are critical for a successful outcome. However, early symptoms vary depending on the type and are often easily confused with more common illnesses. At 53, he advocates for the importance of regular medical check-ups. Routine screenings allow doctors to identify signs of diseases that patients may not yet be aware of, enabling them to diagnose life-threatening conditions early and mitigate risks. He noted that had he undergone periodic physical examinations, his symptoms for chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) would have been identified much sooner.

READ HIS FULL STORY... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/early-detection-is-key-says-this-leukemia-warrior>

• **DELIA A. QUIROZ**—*Bearing a Torch of Hope*

Throughout her life, she has weathered many storms and overcome numerous challenges, including significant health issues, with resilience and hope. Even before being diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) in 2021, she was already managing multiple comorbidities. Despite these personal struggles, she remains unfazed. She is steadfast and determined, using her family’s circumstances as fuel to move forward. Her top priority is the welfare of her children, whom she considers her most precious blessings and her primary motivation to persevere.

READ HER FULL STORY... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/bearing-a-torch-of-hope-in-her-leukemia-journey>

• **MARY ANA M. ALONZO**—*From Leukemia Patient to Advocate*

Three years ago, she faced a significant health crisis when she was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia (AML). Grateful for the support of the EPCALM Foundation, her primary motivation is to join its advocacy efforts. She aims to provide hope and encouragement to other cancer patients, empowering them to face their own battles. As a caring mother, loving wife, and determined daughter, she offers the optimism she has cultivated throughout her journey as a symbol of hope for others.

READ HER FULL STORY... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/from-leukemia-patient-to-advocate>

• **JOSEPHINE M. OLLER**—*A CML ‘WonderwoMom’*

In 2009, her life changed significantly when she was diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML). Since becoming an EPCALM-serviced patient in January 2020, she has actively participated in its holistic programs designed to support patients throughout their leukemia journey. Despite being the sole breadwinner for her family, she worked daily, even throughout the pandemic years. Now that her children are in college, she is finally able to focus on her personal well-being, and her continued path toward recovery and wholeness.

READ HER FULL STORY... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/a-cml-wonderwo-mom>

• **MICHAEL ANGELO M. GLEE**—*Erasing the Leukemia Stigma*

He has been an EPCALM-serviced patient since 2019, while also being involved as a member of the “CML Warriors” at the Jose B. Lingad Memorial Medical Center in Pampanga. This group of chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) patients organizes walks, runs, and fundraisers to educate the public on early symptoms and treatment, a supportive community for leukemia survivors and caregivers. Through these advocacy efforts, he and his peers aim to increase disease awareness and eliminate the stigma associated with leukemia.

READ HIS FULL STORY... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/public-awareness-on-leukemia-is-key>

• **RACHELLE ANNE C. ESCOTO—*Amid Adversities, Hope Blooms***

She has faced numerous adversities and continues to meet each challenge with firm determination and unwavering faith. These obstacles have not fazed her; instead, they have made her stronger and braver. Diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) in July 2011, she exemplifies the power of resilience and the beauty of the human spirit. EPCALM bears witness to her remarkable journey—a testament to the strength of a woman who continues to bloom with hope despite life's trials.

READ HER FULL STORY... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/hope-blooms-in-her-brave-fight>

• **MICHAEL ELI B. TAN—*Gaining Strength from Fellow Patients***

A 51-year-old post-bone marrow transplantation patient, diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL) in October 2020, he recently shared a powerful insight: "The best empathy and help you can get is from other cancer patients themselves." He noted that because the cancer community understands the unique challenges of this journey, it becomes a vital source of strength fueled by collective support and compassion. Driven by this belief, he seizes every opportunity to extend a helping hand to others. "It's a good opportunity to share myself, through my personal experience, with others in similar situations," he explained.

READ HIS FULL STORY... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/valuable-insights-from-a-leukemia-patient>

• **MICHAEL R. QUINAGUTAN—*There is Always Hope***

In 2019, he was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) while working in the Middle East, prompting his return home. Now 47, he has overcome significant challenges, balancing the demands of medical expenses with the responsibility of supporting his three children. Reflecting on his experience, he shares that leukemia has taught him valuable lessons about resilience. He believes that while life is unpredictable, staying anchored in faith provides the strength to move forward. He encourages his fellow patients to persist in their fight, reminding them that as long as there is life, there is hope.

READ HIS FULL STORY... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/while-there-is-life-there-is-always-hope>

• **ANNABELLE C. RAVENA—*Facing Life With a Smile***

Diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia in July 2019, this mother of three remains an inspiring role model through her infectious zest for life and devotion to her children's future. Her journey, fueled by faith and family, demonstrates that strength and self-discovery can emerge even from the hardships of a life-threatening disease. Her story serves as a powerful reminder for anyone facing adversity that beauty can be found in life's darkest corners.

READ HER FULL STORY... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/facing-life-with-a-smile>

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

As a non-stock, non-profit organization, the EPCALM Foundation relies on your support to assist individuals living with adult leukemia and their families. Your generosity makes a significant difference in their lives as they navigate this disease. Through your kindness, we can provide the essential resources they need to begin rebuilding.

To make a donation, you may use any of the following methods:

- **PayPal: Use your PayPal account or a debit/credit card.**
https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=P2EX9SYWXGYQY
 BPI- St. Luke's QC Branch:
 Account Name – EPCALM Adult Leukemia Foundation of the Philippines Inc.
 Savings Account No. – 3893 0612 57
- **Bank Transfer: Direct fund transfer or check deposit.**
 Bank of the Philippine Islands – St. Luke's QC Branch
 Account Name – EPCALM Adult Leukemia Foundation of the Philippines
 Savings Account No. – 3893 0612 57
**Kindly send us a copy of your Deposit Slip.*
- **GCash: Send your donation directly through the app.**
 0968 691 4102 (Justice Demerre)
**Kindly send us a copy of your GCash Receipt through Viber at 0905.928.9896*



Thank you very much for your support!