

EDITOR'S NOTE

We are excited to share with our partners, supporters and the public at-large this latest edition of our e-newsletter – the **EPCALM News Online**. We are now on our second year! And this particular issue is filled to the brim with updates on what the EPCALM Foundation has embarked on for the First Quarter of 2024. It has been a pretty busy three months, with activities involving our patients and their family members.

Our activities have been dynamic and diverse, and we are, indeed, in awe of how the LORD has directed us in each and every one of these events. Collaborative endeavors were forged with like-minded organizations, as we continue to strengthen these partnerships to make a better and more meaningful impact on the lives of the people we are committed to serve. There will be more synergies formed up ahead, with the coming months promising worthwhile undertakings, guided by our Real CEO – Jesus!

With this issue, we are featuring a new Section on Page 4 – the **Patient Stories Series** – with the intent to present a more humane dimension in our articles and write-ups. We look forward to sustaining these stories of triumph and hope in the upcoming editions of our e-newsletter. And as always, we would welcome your feedback and comments, with the view to make this platform more personal and interactive.

EPCALM JOINS KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN PH NATIONAL CANCER SUMMIT

For the second year, the EPCALM Foundation attended the Philippine National Cancer Summit, a nationwide collaboration initiative against cancer, last 29 February to 1 March 2024, in Quezon City. This landmark event, which focused on the theme, “Advancing Integrated Cancer Care Systems for the Filipino,” brought together a diverse range of stakeholders from the national and international cancer community to address critical cancer care-related challenges.



Representing the EPCALM Foundation in the two-day Summit were Maria Cristina July Cruz, Co-Director of the Advocacy and Public Awareness Program; Mary Ann Ojeda, Co-Director of the Partnerships and Affiliations Program; Jelyn Levantino, Resident Social Worker; and Mitch Duran, Executive Director.

READ MORE... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/activities-and-updates>

BLOOD CANCER GROUPS IN PH FORM ALLIANCE TO WORK FOR BETTER HEALTH CARE FOR PATIENTS

The Blood Cancer Alliance of the Philippines (BCAP) was officially launched on 1 March 2024 with the recent signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) as a side event during the Philippine National Cancer Summit in Quezon City.

The collaborative partnership will work toward improving the welfare of blood cancer patients in the country, among other priorities. EPCALM Foundation, a founding BCAP member, together with other Alliance members, signed the MOA after the session on “Blood Cancers in Focus: Amplifying Patient Voices, Driving Collaborative Innovation” during the National Cancer Summit. Representing the EPCALM Foundation during the MOA signing was Executive Director Mitch Duran.

READ MORE... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/activities-and-updates>



EPCALM IS NEW MEMBER OF PH ALLIANCE OF PATIENT GROUPS

In a purposive move to be more involved in collaborative work with other patient organizations in the Philippines, the EPCALM Foundation is now a Member of the Philippine Alliance of Patient Organizations (PAPO), a coalition of patient groups advocating universal access to health care and allied services in the country. PAPO seeks to be an active network of patient groups toward empowering patients, and advancing their rights. It forges partnerships with various government agencies, private corporations, and other non-government organizations to build the capacity of patients, and empower them.



READ MORE... https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/epcalm-is-new-member-of-alliance-of-patient-groups-in-ph?postId=9a1e4741-8753-4911-98bc-8955f32c1749&utm_campaign=9910a7a6-4c49-45b9-b7d8-094770af5d8b&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&utm_content=7ddf88ea-ac88-452d-a82d-ea9cd14f2c37&cid=55728c90-1744-4483-9946-bf52cb370bb1

QR CODE LAUNCHED TO LINK PUBLIC TO LEUKEMIA INFO RESOURCES

EPCALM Foundation recently launched **LeukemiaQR**, a web-enabled information tool, which seeks to enhance and heighten public awareness on leukemia. Its main objective is to link the public to vital information resources about leukemia, as it answers frequently asked questions on the disease, such as its common symptoms, treatment options, the diagnosis process, and where to seek help and assistance, among other relevant topics.

This innovative and handy communication tool was jointly developed by EPCALM and student interns from the University of the Philippines-Manila Department of Behavioral Sciences. It directs information user to the allied programs and services of the EPCALM Foundation, among other vital info resources.



READ MORE... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/epcalm-launches-leukemia-qr>

EPCALM REVISITS STRATEGIC PLANS, CONDUCTS TEAM ENHANCEMENT

Taking off from the Strategic Planning Session in November 2023, the EPCALM Team conducted a review of the identified Action Plans, as well as a Team Enhancement Session on 23 March 2024 at The EPCALM House in Quezon City. These activities were designed to ensure that the Action Plans are robust, and the strategic directions lead toward achieving their desired goals. The Action Plans will be regularly monitored in terms of actual implementation, using the Balanced Scorecard approach. This integrated activity was designed to yield multifaceted benefits for Team EPCALM.

READ MORE... https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/epcalm-revisits-strategic-plans-conducts-team-enhancement?postId=dc226769-2121-4aac-9420-87e711680eba&utm_campaign=17705420-5cbb-4c52-a4f2-8cf3bff472ad&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&utm_content=e1b6775c-da30-476a-82f1-587dfd856393&cid=55728c90-1744-4483-9946-bf52cb370bb1

EPCALM ATTENDS FORUM TO ENHANCE CANCER CARE IN PH

In keeping with the observance of National Cancer Awareness Month (February), the EPCALM Foundation joined stakeholders in the cancer community, as well as cancer warriors, in a Forum on “Closing the Gaps in Cancer Care Among Filipinos,” organized by The Medical City on 16 Feb. 2024. The Forum looked into the challenges faced by cancer patients, and explored innovative strategies to enhance cancer care accessibility and quality. Forum resource speakers included Dr. Enrique Tayag, Department of Health Undersecretary; and Carmen Auste, CEO of the Cancer Warriors Foundation Inc.

READ MORE... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/epcalm-joins-forum-to-enhance-cancer-care-in-ph>

EPCALM JOINS FORCES WITH SHISEIDO PH FOR WORLD CANCER DAY 2024

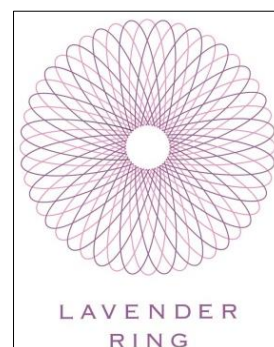
To commemorate World Cancer Day on 4 Feb. 2024, EPCALM Foundation partnered with Shiseido Philippines, through its “Lavender Ring: Makeup and Photos with Smiles” campaign to leverage the power of makeup to encourage the social reintegration of cancer patients and survivors.

The initiative involves local governments, private corporations, patient groups, and medical institutions, and uses the lavender color to represent all cancer types.

Cancer survivors from NGO partners participated in personalized makeup and hairstyling sessions by the Shiseido Creative Team, and Filipino celebrity makeup artists.

Three leukemia survivors from EPCALM Foundation joined the photo-shoot – Dr. Ella Cabanlet, Jolie Ann Festejo, and Mia May Delos Santos. The photos are now on display at www.lavender-ring.com/en.

READ MORE... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/to-commemorate-world-cancer-day-epcalm-partners-with-shiseido-philippines-to-highlight-cancer-survi>



EPCALM, SOCIAL WELFARE GROUPS MOUNT ABSNET CARAVAN

The EPCALM Foundation, together with other social welfare and development agencies (SWDA) in Metro Manila recently conducted a one-day Caravan to raise public awareness on programs and services available for disadvantaged sectors. Organized by the Area-Based Standards Network (ABSNET)-Central Cluster, the fair was held at the Grounds of the Quezon City Hall.

The ABSNET is composed on non-government organizations registered by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in line with its program to institutionalize collaboration with SWDAs. SWDAs act as partners of DSWD in providing quality social welfare services to the poor, vulnerable, and the disadvantaged. Their partnership with local government units (LGU) plays a vital role in ensuring proper and equitable service delivery.

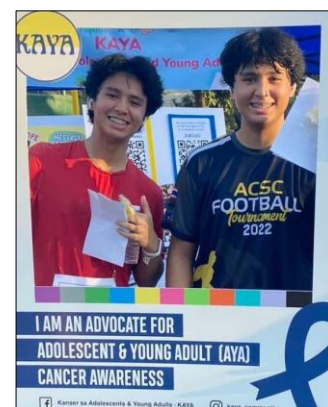
READ MORE... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/epcalm-joins-caravan-of-social-welfare-groups>

EPCALM YOUTH VOLUNTEERS RUN FOR CANCER AWARENESS

Youth volunteers represented the EPCALM Foundation in an early morning Fun Run on 18 Feb. 2024 at the University of the Philippines Academic Oval in Diliman, Quezon City, to heighten cancer awareness. Organized by the Department of Health (DOH), the “Ribbon Run” was in commemoration of Cancer Awareness Month, in collaboration with partner patient organizations, and supporters from the private sector and the general public.

Pre-medicine students, Kurt and Kyle Demerre, are trained youth volunteers of EPCALM; both are student athletes. They represent the newest batch of trained EPCALM youth volunteers. They have participated in various EPCALM events and programs, and are active in its program and advocacy activities for its three Service Arms – Spiritual, Medical, and Resource Development.

READ MORE... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/epcalm-youth-volunteers-run-for-cancer-awareness>



SERVICED PATIENTS, FAMILIES GATHER FOR EPCALM FAMILY HUDDLE

EPCALM-serviced patients and their families gathered anew at the EPCALM House on 24 Feb. 2024 for fellowship, spiritual nourishment and medical updates during the Family Huddle. The activity, which was also live-streamed via Zoom for participants outside Metro Manila, is aimed at providing a venue for patients and their families to meet regularly for mutual support as they go through their leukemia journey.

READ MORE... https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/serviced-patients-families-gather-for-epcalm-huddle?postId=0e6fadb0-f693-4683-9685-cb9f715d97bc&utm_campaign=86016ed1-1b9d-48d8-bb2c-9d6a9c80d86b&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&utm_content=423350a5-651d-4af4-824a-a3ae9838d04a&cid=55728c90-1744-4483-9946-bf52cb370bb1

PATIENT STORIES SERIES

MICHAEL S. MATIAS – His family keeps him going



Like other persons with adult leukemia, his journey was marked with challenging years of chemotherapy treatments, countless hospitalizations, and seemingly endless medical consultations. Thankfully, he now sees the silver lining, so to speak. He is a leukemia survivor! More than a cancer survivor, Michael is a living testament that leukemia is not a death sentence. Indeed, it is curable. His story is proof that through hope, strength, and unconditional support from his family, healing is possible. His journey serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for other cancer and leukemia patients.

READ MORE... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/his-family-keeps-him-going>

GLICERIA C. BUDIONGAN – A mother's quest for complete healing



Nothing will stand in the way of a parent and her desire to give her children a good education. On top of raising her three children, Gliceria was in a battle of her own—overcoming Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML). Although it was difficult to face her illness, she was blessed to have her family and friends to support her, every step of the way. Her journey stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit of a mother, championing not only personal battles but also nurturing her children. Her story is worth celebrating, especially her enduring strength.

READ MORE... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/patient-stories-series-no-2-a-mother-s-quest-for-complete-healing>

RODERICK A. MUGAS – He faithfully pedals onward to wholeness



Roderick was once featured in an online news article, which gained traction because of his demonstrated inner strength and resilience as a pedicab driver in Caloocan City, despite living with CML for four years now. Now at 46, he serves as a pillar to his family of six. He is a valiant warrior. As the sole breadwinner, he tirelessly works every day for his family, starting at 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. Each day, he mounts his pedicab, armed with an unwavering courage and resolve to never give up. He holds on to the fervent hope that one day, his body will conquer cancer, and he will be free from medication once again.

READ MORE... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/patient-stories-series-no-3-he-faithfully-pedals-onward-to-wholeness>

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

As a non-stock, non-profit organization, EPCALM Foundation needs your support for us to help our brothers and sisters who are living with adult leukemia, as well as their families. You can make a difference in their lives as they journey through the disease. Through your genuine act of kindness, we can provide them much-needed resources as they start rebuilding their lives.

To donate, you can either use PayPal (*if you have a PayPal account*) or you may use your debit/ credit card. Thank you very much!

Click this link to Donate:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=P2EX9SYWXGYQY

BPI- St. Luke's QC Branch:

Account Name – EPCALM Adult Leukemia Foundation of the Philippines

Savings Account No. – 3893 0612 57

A DIY BAKING EXPERIENCE FOR EPCALM PATIENTS, VOLUNTEERS

EPCALM patients, their family members, volunteers, and some Social Workers and office staff were treated to a unique do-it-yourself (DIY) baking experience when EPCALM was invited to the soft launch on 13 March 2024 of IDIM (I Did It Myself) DIY Bakery's newest branch at the Annex Building of SM City North EDSA in Quezon City.

The baking experience was prompted by an invitation from Robert Manzano, Marketing Associate of Sucree Coco and Love Inc., the company that acquired a franchise deal in 2019 with IDIM DIY Bakery, the top DIY Bakery in Taiwan, which later brought this baking concept to the Philippines.

READ MORE... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/activities-and-updates>



EPCALM JOINS REUNION OF GRIEF SHARE PARTICIPANTS

Participants from various sessions of GriefShare, a 13-week grief recovery support group, recently gathered at the Fellowship Hall of the Union Church of Manila (UCM) in Makati City for an afternoon of fellowship, group sharing, devotion and other fun activities on 16 March 2024. The reunion was organized by UCM, led by Liza Manayon, UCM Care Coordinator.



Introduced in the Philippines by EPCALM Foundation through a series of Understanding Grief Conferences in Manila about 10 years ago, GriefShare is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. GriefShare's parent ministry is Church Initiative, with Headquarters in Wake Forest, North Carolina, USA. Aside from UCM, the grief resource has also been shared with two other partner churches in Manila – Ellinwood Malate Church, and the National City United Church in Quezon City.

READ MORE... <https://www.epcalmfoundation.org/post/epcalm-joins-reunion-of-griefshare-participants>

About EPCALM

Established on 12 May 2005, and duly 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 allied programs and services to adult leukemia patients and their families. Its three service arms are Spiritual Care, Medical, and Financial – anchored on the Christian 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 articles and updates about the Foundation. Editor: **Mitchell P. Duran**.

The EPCALM House is located at:

No. 23, 13th Street (near corner Victoria Street), Barangay Damayang Lagi, New Manila, Quezon City 1112, Metro Manila, Philippines / Landline: (02) 8727.5012 Hotlines: 0919.955.6149; 0905.928.9896

E-mail: info@epcalmfoundation.org Website: www.epcalmfoundation.org

©2023 EPCALM Adult Leukemia Foundation of the Philippines Inc. All rights reserved.

