

## **A New Appeal for Operation Wildfire: The Gift that will keep on giving**

UPMASA has renewed a call for donations to Operation Wildfire.

Conceived in 2012 as a project to renovate the private rooms in PGH to generate more income which in turn would be used to benefit the PGH patients in need of financial assistance, Operation Wildfire is one of the success stories that UPMASAns can be proud of.

In 2021, 5,304 patients received financial aid from the net income of 14,323,166.50 PHP with an average of 2,800.00 PHP per patient.

To date, 87.5% of the pay ward rooms have been renovated. Construction of the remaining 12.5% will start in December 2022. Unfortunately, inflation and delays (Covid for one) have increased the renovation costs by about 20%. There is a shortfall of 53,732.72\$ to complete the remaining rooms on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors.

In addition, PGH (Department of Pay Services) has requested UPMASA to help finance the renovation of the hallways and nursing stations on the 4<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> floors. Total additional cost estimate for the nursing stations and hallways is 9,180,000.00 PHP (166,909.00\$ at 55 PHP to 1 USD). To date, we have pledges for 4,260,000.00 PHP. The remaining amount needed is 4,920,000.00 PHP (89,454.54\$ at 55 PHP per 1 USD).

You can send your donations by Zelle at [nationaltreasury@upmasanational.com](mailto:nationaltreasury@upmasanational.com) or mail a check to UPMASA 2304 Kossuth St Lafayette IN 47904. Your name will be engraved on a plaque if you donate 500\$ or more.

Attached is a brief report of Operation Wildfire from the PGH Department of Pay Services



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### UPMASA OPERATION WILDFIRE PROJECT

Launched during the UPMASA AGC in 2012, the project aimed to renovate private rooms in the Philippine General Hospital to (PGH) attract more paying patients. The project was conceptualized through the efforts of then PGH Director, Dr. Jose C. Gonzales and Dr. Enrique M. Ostrea. This is in consonance with the aim of PGH to utilize its payward to generate revenue for the service (charity) patients. Donors to the project were given naming rights to the rooms in honor of their loved ones.

Renovations started in 2014 when enough funds were generated to start the project. Net income from room and board were allocated as follows: 1) 60% used to subsidize the medical needs (diagnostic examinations) of the indigent patients of the OPD so that their treatment can commence at the soonest possible time; 2) 40% used for the maintenance of the rooms to preserve their condition and prevent them from becoming shabby and decrepit.

With the net income of Php14,323,166.50 in 2021, a total of 5,304 patients were assisted with an average of Php2,800 per patient. Maximum assistance was Php10,000 for MRI and other special diagnostic procedures.

Major reasons for the delay in completion of the project are the ff:

1. Major lockdowns during the Covid pandemic starting March 2020
2. Accommodation of the requests of various celebrating classes (silver/ golden) to have their areas renovated during their jubilee year
3. Borrowed wards to accommodate the renovation of the following units: Central ICU, Hemodialysis Unit, Nursery and NICU

At present, 87.5% of the pay hospital is already renovated. This includes areas of the Operation Wildfire project as well as major donors of the hospital. The last area on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor (SRCB1) will be renovated within the first two weeks of November.

The Department of Pay Patient Services is committed to achieve its mandate of excellent patient care while generating income for the indigent patients of the PGH. We are eternally indebted to the members/ donors of the UPMASA Operation Wildfire project for their generosity and commitment to assist our unfortunate Filipino countrymen who cannot otherwise afford treatment on their own.