

## Triple B Care Projects In, Annual Clinic report for 2019

We kicked off 2019 with a three day training programme for two new staff members from the Dr Jeff Montes Rehabilitation Clinic located in Bulacan. The programme was held here on site at Triple B clinic and the two lady physical therapy instructors were happy to stay in our very small office, albeit with a bed each and a little privacy! This January, Dr Jeff Montes became the incoming President of the Philippines Medical Rehab Association! So happy to collaborate with Dr Jeff!

Our regular January Missions with the HOPE International Fdn took place as planned and we were able to present our Burns Prevention Treatment and Education seminars at three of the remote sites for the HOPE Fdn mission in 2019. Thank you HOPE International FDN for always inviting us to be part of your medical missions.

The Burns Prevention Treatment and Education seminars were presented at nine other venues across the length and breadth of Central Luzon. Local venues included the Disaster Management team of Castillejos Municipality and The Subic Bay International Airport. We engaged in Burns and Wound management training days for six hospitals across the region and were given excellent appraisals by the Doctors and nurses attending.

During 2019, we treated ninety four cases, sixty being of burns origin and thirty four being 'other wounds', in particular diabetic foot wounds, puncture wounds and infected toes from pedicures that had 'gone wrong' i.e dirty /rusty equipment and complete removal of cuticles rather than pushing back. The number treat of patients treated at the clinic was less than in 2018; however, the 60 burns cases were all major burns of deep dermal to full thickness origin, and we undertook 433 dressings over the year! Several adults with big burns were referred to us and subsequently our expenditure on the Advancis Medical UK medical grade honey products shot up to almost 480 thousand pesos. Every centavo is well spent and we continue to experience excellent healing with these products which are imported in under medical licence and are FDA registered & approved as a 'medical device'. The medical grade honey does NOT come in a jar from a health food shop!!! The expenditure was in addition to the gifts we were blessed with from Advancis UK, Nottingham, Advancis Australia, QLD and many other medical supplies/equipment sent for us to use from several service groups around the world. It is true to state that well used cliché here: "we couldn't do this without your support" and never more has this been a fact. We are all cogs in a wheel. Evelyn and I deliver a service for the poor and less fortunate for whom provisions by each and everyone of our sponsors plays a super important part both in financial aid and in supplies. We are deeply grateful for the help which each and every one of you gives to us.

### **We really can't do this without you!**

Social media played a big part in the referral of cases this year. Triple B Care Projects Inc has strict privacy laws and doesn't share any of our medical records in any social media platform, however several FB posts by relatives of those with burns had been sent to me by private message and we have done our best to help those referred. Nb we do NOT post graphic pics of the wounds we treat EVER, the pics we take form a vast part of our private medical records. In fact we have over 95,000 pics in our new PC storage. We are happy to welcome JD, a former computer programmer and graphics expert who has helped to sort all those pics into very reasonable order!

We welcomed a new volunteer, ; in Sarah Eggers, a newly licenced RN from Perth W.A. Sarah was a perfect addition to our clinic and we sincerely hope that we can persuade her to come back for a longer period once she has built up some annual leave in her new job! It helped enormously that Sarah is familiar with the Philippines, in fact her father Steve Eggers is on our Board of Trustees!

The role of Triple B Care Projects stepped up with our partners in care from the UK, Germany and Australia.

We welcomed volunteers from Integritas Healthcare, a Charitable organisation from the UK in June and November and our Medical missions with them at one of the prisons we service saw a regular Monday clinic

commence from July onwards. Integritas Health and Triple B Care Projects Inc collaborated on a Safeguarding Policy which will be out of draft form in the coming months.

We had visits from Pastor John and his team from Balimoney, who pledge they will return next year!

Our dental mission guys from Lotus Hilfsprogramme EV, Germany and Sydney NSW, were very much welcomed by local indigent communities and as usual we had our "Audience with Dr Myles" in the clinic on the Saturday prior to his departure back to Australia. In the November mission this year Myles brought his own dental nurse - his wife Carol, who loved the work! It was so good to meet Carol at last! We love YOUR work!!

Ms Pam Worth, our very own Medical Assistant (and much much more) from Ohio was here for almost three weeks in June and then went on to volunteer in a hospital in Vietnam.

**WARNING: Next paragraph not for the squeamish!!!!**

Our deworming programme saw over 400 children and adults given de-worming therapy. About 240 of those were at our twice yearly health and hygiene missions at the Little Voices Christian Academy with whom we have enjoyed an 8 year association. Of the 172 individuals who attended the clinic for deworming, our youngest was 1yr and our oldest recipient of treatment was 52 years and had a positive result of one large ascaris worm. A 22yr old mother of two was shocked that she evacuated 11 large worms after taking the medicine (pyrantel pamoate) but not as shocked as the mother of an eight year old girl who passed 52 full size adult ascaris after the first of the three consecutive treatments. The ascaris can survive for up to two years inside the gut of the host and grow to more than 12 inches in length. "Better out than in" we always say!!

We have made very good use of the Trike ambulance gifted to us by the RSL Members and 4 SBMA businesses namely :Steelfab Asia, Saver 6, Overgaard Asia and ACE Motorcycles. It is such a blessing to be able to ensure that we can assist in the transportation of the children and adults to the clinic for their dressing changes. Thank you so much!!

We were blessed to have a new video made re our work by Alan Kirk of Arkmedia. Alan and his wife Rachael returned to their homeland in Northern Ireland after a 5 year stint as Managers of the Helping Hands CRU in Olongapo, and Alan fitted the filming in in his last day before flying out!! Awesome!! We had a farewell dinner with them the very evening that the big earthquake happened in Zambales and Pampanga!!

Later in the year we were sad to experience the closure of the Olongapo branch of the Helping Hands CRU, though they remain very active in Baguio. Another blow in 2019 was the postponement the ever important ANZ Interplast mission to Benguet, and we hope that a date can be set for a 2020 mission. Its only the second time in 16yrs that the ANZ Interplast mission didn't push through.

In November we hired a 10 seater Grandia Hiace to go to Baguio to retrieve two teenage girls and their families to bring to Triple B for care. They girls had been severely burned a month before, in a freak accident during a science experiment when the supervising teacher poured denatured alcohol onto burning cotton balls in a metal bowl. One girl ran in panic and this caused her clothing to catch alight. Then she was 'fanned' before finally someone actually got her to "stop and drop: and extinguished the flames with a heavy blanket, The other girl had some water poured on her to quell the flames but not the international standard of cooling under running water for 20 mins. Unfortunately the school nurse put toothpaste on the burns - a very common belief here in the Philippines, which sadly causes more infection and delays healing.

The families were able to go home for a period over Christmas but will return in 2020 for some serious scar management. Onward and upward in the new decade of 2020!!

Triple B Care Projects Inc serves the poor and less fortunate with Burns, Cleft lip and palate (Bingot) and Deworming(Bulate). There are just 2 volunteer nursing staff, one p/t office support on site and one 'general duties' person. We have 24/7 contact with the Swinfen Charitable Trust Telemedicine UK and 3 Professors of Burns Surgery in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia. Triple B is a Rotary Australia World Community Service Project (RAWCS) and a SEC registered non-stock-not-for-profit NGO here in the Phillipines, Our web site is [www.triplebcareprojects.org](http://www.triplebcareprojects.org)