

## Medical Mission Report: Naga City, Philippines

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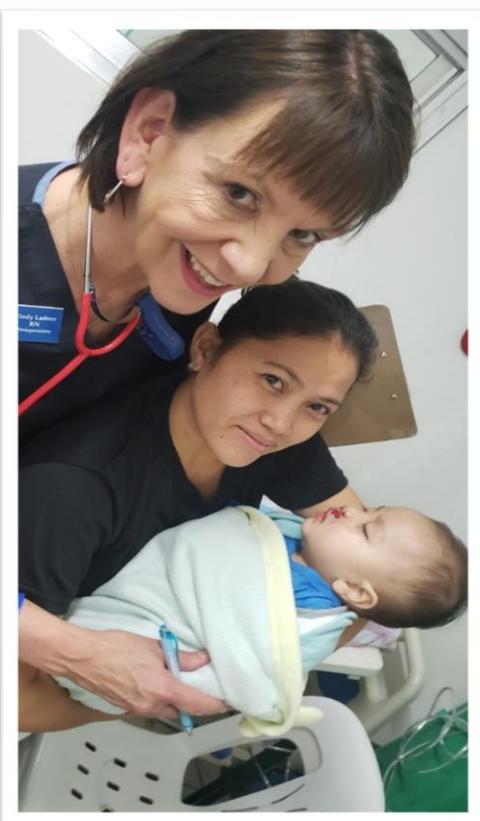
I feel very fortunate to have been a recipient of one of ASPAN's 2019 Scholarship/Award Programs. From February 1-9, 2020, I was honored to be a member of the Uplift Internationale Medical Mission Team "Operation Taghoy 2020" to Naga City, Philippines. This organization has been serving the Philippines since 1989 providing medical care for the underserved population providing surgical care of facial deformities primarily clefts of the lip and palate. Their mission is to serve the Filipino children by '*mending faces through cleft lip and palate repair....one child at a time.*'

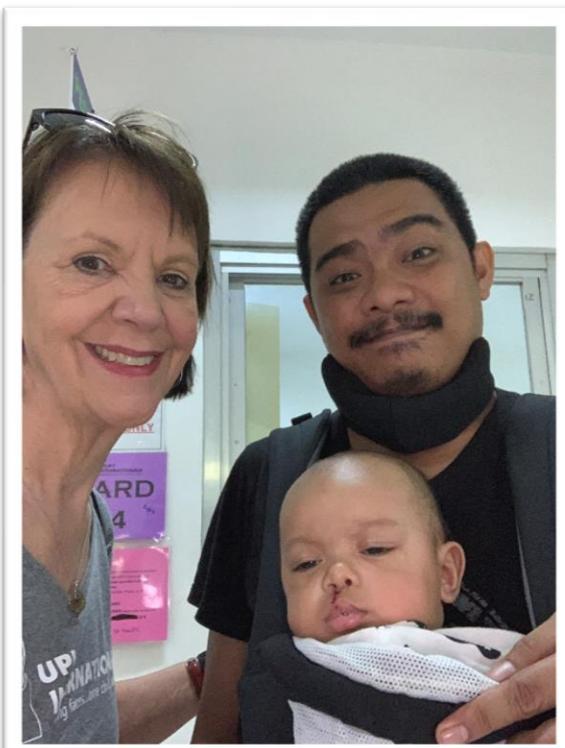
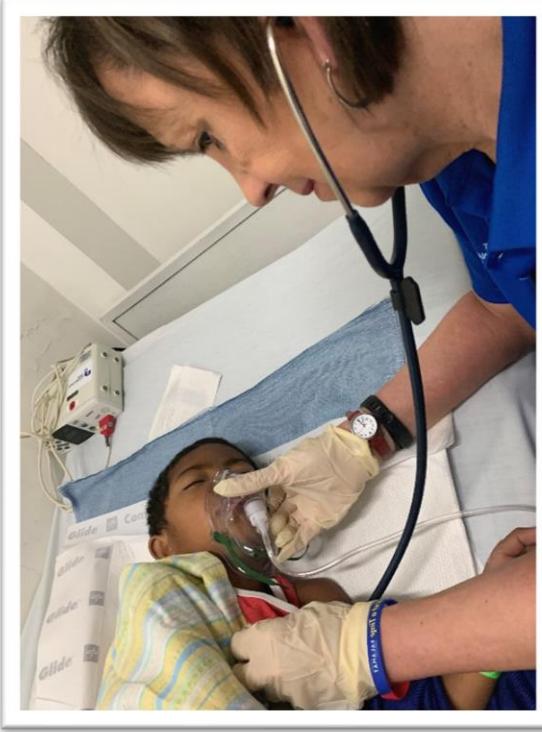
I had always wanted to volunteer and donate my PeriAnesthesia clinical skills and time to a community in need. I had volunteered in many areas locally for medical missions and for community services over the years. In 2019, I went on my first trip with Uplift Internationale to the Philippines. I did not realize how life changing this would be to serve in a third world country. It truly made an impact on me personally and I am so thankful that I have been blessed with skills and knowledge to make a difference to so many families that I wanted to return.

The 2020 team performed eighty-seven surgeries over five days on children and young adults. I was part of the PeriAnesthesia team. The organization was so appreciative that our team had PeriAnesthesia nursing experience and provided the utmost care upholding the ASPAN Standards with minimal supplies and equipment. All of the patients received excellent care and had very good outcomes. We did have a few patients with airway issues that without the care and expertise from a team of PeriAnesthesia nurses the outcome may not have been the same. It was amazing the talent and skills of all the providers on this mission.

Being a part of a medical mission, which changes the lives of so many children was so rewarding. We heard from some of them that they would not attend schooling because of being ostracized for their looks. In the PACU their families would have tears of joy streaming down their faces seeing their children and how beautiful they looked. We were told how much we were impacting the lives of these children. I feel it was me who was impacted to have the privilege to serve them and share my talents. One of the surgeons reminded us of this quote, "*I have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.*" So true...

Please scroll down for photos from my mission.





PeriAnesthesia Team 2020



Photographs courtesy of Cindy Ladner.