



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF AKLAN
Kalibo, Aklan

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR

FLORENCIO T. MIRAFLORES
Provincial Governor

July 4, 2016

CHAIRMAN, AWARDS COMMITTEE

Alex Esclamado Memorial Award for Community Service
c/o Minority Media Services, Inc., GBM Bldg.
1580 Bryant Street,
Daly City, CA 94015
U.S.A.

RE: MENDING FACES

Dear Esclamado Award Committee:

As Governor of the Province of Aklan in the Philippines, I would like to extend my endorsement to the nomination of Mending Faces to the Alex Esclamado Memorial Award for Community Service.

Mending Faces is a Colorado based non-profit cleft lip and palate surgery medical mission group who has conducted 4 medical missions over the last 6 years in the Aklan Provincial Hospital in Kalibo. Mending Faces is truly a unique organization that not only provides surgery but has endeavored to become a valuable member of the Aklan Community.

By way of example, over the last 3 years, Mending Faces retained a local liaison who traveled to the remotest parts of the province to ensure that those most in need could learn of the mission. This extraordinary effort did not end there but also involved a willingness to reimburse travel expenses because so many of their patients could not even afford to travel for the free surgery. Other missions come and hang a few posters, do a few surgeries and declare their task done. Mending Faces knew that those most in need of the surgery were also the hardest to find. They worked with our Provincial Health Office, the Kalibo Rotary and others to extend promise of a new life to the remotest barangays and sitios.

Mending Faces has also successfully helped the Provincial Hospital improve its life saving capabilities by providing 3 full sized functioning anesthesia machines, 3 ventilators and fully equipping a brand new Post Anesthesia Care Unit. This is in addition to the \$500,000 in a Project Cure donation of equipment arranged by Mending Faces Officers Donna & Jay LaVigne.

Further, Mending Faces has been a partner with the Rotary Club of Kalibo and now is running a scholarship program for their deserving patients in Aklan.

It is my hope that the committee understand that Mending Faces is not an itinerant mission but an organization that becomes a partner and, more important, a friend to the communities that they serve.

Mending Faces efforts lead to more than 250 new faces and new lives for not only the patients but their families who share the burden of facial deformity.

I cannot more highly recommend an organization that deserves this award than Mending Faces.

Sincerely Submitted,


FLORENCIO T. MIRAFLORES
Provincial Governor