

Press Release
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**Megawide Foundation and World Surgical Foundation Philippines
Conduct Free Surgical Services in Surigao del Norte**



Surigao Del Norte, Mindanao – Megawide Corporate Foundation, Inc. (Megawide Foundation), and World Surgical Foundation Philippines (WFSP) conducted a 3-day surgical mission, providing free major and minor surgeries for indigent patients on September 4-5, 2019 at the Surigao Del Norte Provincial Hospital, as well as at the Siargao District Hospital on September 6, 2019. The surgical mission was done in partnership with Sun Life Foundation. A total of 206 patients were given free surgical treatments with an economic value of close to five million pesos.

WFSP aims to help alleviate the surgical healthcare backlog by making high-cost surgeries and state-of-the-art medical equipment available to those who otherwise could not afford them. "Megawide Foundation's vision is to provide underserved Filipino communities with access to First-World solutions. Megawide Foundation, in partnership with WSFP, is committed to improving access to quality



healthcare in Megawide's host communities and underserved communities of the Philippines," said Sheila Lynn Nawata, Megawide Foundation Chief Operating Officer.

"WSF Philippines focuses on specialized surgeries such as pediatric surgery (congenital or inborn defects), imperforate anus, pediatric tumors, pediatric inguinal hernia, cleft lip and palate, undescended testes or hydrocele, Hirschsprung's disease, and hypospadias," said Dr. Marcus Lester Suntay, President of WFSP. "Aside from these, we also have ENT specialists to attend to patients experiencing difficulties in their ear/s and nose, gynecologists to take care of uterine prolapse and myomas, as well as urologists to treat urinary problems including disorders affecting prostate," he said.

The Surigao Del Norte surgical mission helped a total of 145 underserved Surigaonons, with 14 pediatric and 44 adult major surgeries; 69 treated minor cases; as well as a number of fine needle aspiration biopsies and hispathologies. The mission in Siargao on the other hand, helped a total of 61 indigent locals. Megawide Foundation and WFSP held a similar surgical mission in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu in March 2019.

Nawata and Suntay consider this a priority mission, primarily because the CARAGA region is among the poorest regions in the country. "Since Megawide and WFSP believe in providing first-world healthcare to Filipinos, we provide complete care for each patient from start to post operation. We are also planning to give capacity build up for the hospitals included in the mission to create a more sustainable surgical care program," said Dr. Suntay.

The success of the WFSP surgical mission in Surigao and Siargao was made possible through Megawide Foundation; SunLife Foundation; Cebu Pacific Air; the provincial government of Surigao Del Norte; Philippine Information Agency (Presidential Communications Operations Office); San Nicolas College – St. Paul University Surigao; Batch 91; SNC-SPUS Alumni Association; Rotary Club of Surigao Midtown Jewels; and, Surigao Del Norte District Board Member Hon. Edgar Andanar. #



About the Project Partners:

Megawide Corporate Foundation, Inc. (Megawide Foundation) is a non-profit organization dedicated to aiding the public through its various programs and initiatives providing high quality technical education and eco-friendly community building. Among its flagship projects are the Megawide Engineering Excellence Scholarship Program and the Megawide-SKILLS Builder Program. Megawide Foundation is part of the Megawide group. It was incorporated in 2012.

World Surgical Foundation Philippines (WSFP) is the Philippine contingent of US-based World Surgical Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to providing charitable surgical health care to the world's poor and underserved in developing nations regardless of race, color, religion, or creed. WSF has performed over 10,000 free surgeries since October 1997. We have improved health care in many third-world countries, including *Ecuador, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, India, Nigeria, the Philippines, and Thailand.*