



Spring has sprung and the Florence Nightingale Global Health team has been working hard on projects that help make a difference in the lives of those in need. Keep reading to see what FNGH has been up to and check out our interview with Dr. Kay Danes, FNGH's Strategic Communications and Project Management Director, in this volume of the FNGH Herald!

HEART 2 HEART GRANT UPDATES

In the Philippines, one of the leading causes of death among children is heart disease. With the Heart 2 Heart global grant #2125309, there are three main objectives:

Objective 1: Provide educational training for pregnant mothers through community health workers to reduce the incidence and prevention of children born with heart defects and other diseases.

Objective 2: To have pediatric cardiologists and cardiothoracic surgeons provide life-saving surgical procedures before the child's condition deteriorates resulting in death.

Objective 3: Develop a program where mothers are able to receive free health screenings and educational training about CVD, as well as other preventable diseases.

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The grant, which was submitted by District 3800 and District 7690, was approved by The Rotary Foundation in May 2021 and will help 100 patients, 12 of which will undergo heart surgery. The surgeries began in February and we are working with Philippine Heart Center and National Children's Hospital to make the surgeries possible. The doctors and nurses at the hospitals will be helping with the post-op care that is needed for each of the patients.

During our medical mission in the Philippines later this year, our team and volunteers will be able to collaborate and share medical techniques with the Philippine Medical Team. Plus, expectant mothers will learn about vitamin deficiency, especially folic acid and prenatal care.

We're very excited about the progress that has been made and the lives that have been changed by this global grant!

BALIKBAYAN BOX UPDATES

As the year progresses, more balikbayan boxes (BBB) make the journey across the world to help those in need. Packed full of essential and well-needed items, balikbayan boxes are one way that we help make an impact in communities.

Medical supplies, clothes, diapers, food, children's toys, soap, office supplies, and socks are many of the items included in the BBB that have reached the Philippines this year. And we have even more boxes on the way! Three more BBB were sent towards the end of March.

Additionally, books FNGH donated and sent were distributed to Catarman National High School on March 3rd.



HAPPY SMILING FACES PROJECT UPDATE

The second round of dental services for the PSWD-Home for Children and Adolescents (HCA-Lingap Center) was completed in February. 12 patients were able to receive preventative care, fillings, and extractions, all performed by Dr. Ariel Carandang. The project was funded by the Farash Onnink Family Trust in coordination with FNGH and the Rotary Club of Catarman.



AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. KAY DANES

How did you get started with FNGH? And what made you want to join?

I listened to Florence give a presentation at our Rotary Club about her work in the Philippines and felt an instant connection. She sounded very much like my own parents who were missionaries in the Philippines. Mum and Dad didn't have much themselves but they knew they could make a difference to the lives of those who had far less. They were doing God's work during the 1989 coup d'état which was a very dangerous time to be foreigners in the Phillies. They helped communities in locations that were, in those days, very inaccessible. What they did was to bring hope and help to vulnerable people living in poverty. Working at FNGH is to be part of an organisation that does so much good, and I know my parents are proud that I have followed in their footsteps.



What has been your favorite or most memorable project/s from working with FNGH?

I'm most excited about the 2022 Global Grant that will provide the necessary funding to support local and international pediatric heart surgeries (Hybrid VTT) for children in the Philippines. This was a grant submitted by the Rotary District 3800 and District 7690 and was approved by The Rotary Foundation. Global Grants bring service projects ideas to life. It's really very exciting to be part of a foundation (Rotary) that has provided more than \$86 million in grants to projects like ours, worldwide.

Each of the projects are different, so that brings a lot of variety to the humanitarian work we do. I have a law & justice background, so I am interested in education around human rights. But when you engage in discussions with our other team members it's easy to get caught up in their passions. There are so many interesting elements of the organisation that appeal to me that are not strictly within my area of expertise.

For example, after learning about the shortage of medical diagnostic equipment of the nurses in the Philippines, I've started looking at ways to help procure and deliver professional nurses kits. A friend of mine, Dr. Dan Mealy, also in Australia, has put the word out to the medical fraternity to see if we can secure some donations of quality grade stethoscopes and blood pressure devices, [similar to these kits](#). In total we need about 30 kits = AUS \$2,820.

There are some really generous people out there, so I am hoping they will want to assist our joint health mission. We're happy to give them and their business exposure in our social media advertising and newsletter which is published quarterly. But I think most people agree that these projects are a great investment in the futures of people who will continue to carry forward the goodwill they do in service to humanity. It feels great to give!

Where have you seen the biggest impact in contributing to FNGH?

The biggest impact is an obvious one: every dollar we raise is used to directly support vulnerable communities. We have a strong focus on women and children because often they are the most vulnerable in impoverished communities. We can do so much with so little. Indeed, we can educate and equip whole communities so they have an opportunity to become self-sustaining. We can develop understandings on peace-building, education and environment. We can help build leaders in the community so they can solve issues that are specific to their local villages: develop solutions to bring clean water, sanitation, and hygiene to those villages, or create entrepreneurship so we are not creating dependency. We aim to build long term projects that will continue long after we leave.

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR PROJECTS

Your generous donations help fund the projects we do and they help us gain supplies to pack in our balikbayan boxes. We wouldn't be able to make positive impacts in various communities in places like the Philippines without your support!

Did you know that you can donate to FNGH directly on our website? By visiting [the Shop for a Cause page of our website](#), you can select a specific one of our projects to donate money towards. Whether you'd like to help provide money to purchase wheelchairs for the Benedictine Sisters or sponsor a school pack, every donation helps make a difference in someone's life, no matter the size!

We're seeking medical kits similar to those mentioned in our interview with Dr. Kay Danes! To help supply us with these nursing kits, please [visit our website and donate](#).

Amazon Smile is another great way you can help donate to FNGH. By using [shop.amazon.com](#), Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to FNGH at no cost to you.



Thank You for Your Support!

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