



# People of Action: A Compassionate Chronicle of Community action

## Setting the Scene

The 26th day of 2024 arose on a mild January morning. This noteworthy day left a lasting impression on the community as the Rotary and Rotaract Clubs of Central Surigao, in partnership with the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines - Surigao Chapter organized an amazing People of Action event. This was above and beyond a perfect blend of community service and friendship integrated into the very essence of the barangay

In the forefront stood the charismatic Mr. *Ramon Gotinga*, a figure of influence as the current President of the Rotary Club of Central Surigao, flanked by the esteemed past leaders, Mr. *Antonio Onyx Yu* and Mr. *Joseph Calderon*. The torch of leadership, brimming with passion, was gracefully embraced by Mr. *Nesay Pegoro*, the incoming president, embodying a continuum of dedication to *Service above Self*.

The juxtaposition of the Rotary and Rotaract Club of Central Surigao with the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines - Surigao Chapter tableau of community engagement, each step, each handshake, and every shared smile became a brushstroke, contributing to the masterpiece.

## Exceptional Medical Expertise

Mrs. *Marife Besario*, the chapter program manager of the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines - Surigao Chapter, stood at the forefront of the People of Action event, a vital component that spoke volumes about the commitment to women's health. Mrs. Besario's role embodied Rotary's mantra: Service Above Self, she embodied a profound dedication to the well-being of the women in the city of Surigao. With meticulous care and unwavering expertise, Mrs. Besario seamlessly blended professionalism with compassion, she undeniably crafted an environment where women felt not only attended to but truly cared for.



DOING GOOD EVERYDAY!



# A Dialogue that Encapsulated a Moment of Connection

As the medical mission day arrived, a scene of anticipation unfolded – clients neatly arranged, parents standing by, awaiting their turn for a check that transcended the routine.

In the depth of this fray was a scenario that ensued, "Who will do the vital signs?" questions bore, "*Kuya Nhar, Princess, and Coline*" will do the blood pressure checks" a voice mandated and echoed.

*Princess*, a seasoned president of the Taft National High School Red Cross chapter, and *Kuya Nhar*, a second-year nursing student from Surigao Education Center, were experienced hands, ready for the task. However, in the mix,

*Coline*, a new volunteer, stood as the unexperienced participant, unfamiliar with the basics of blood pressure checking.

In the face of this challenge, *Coline* exhibited a remarkable quality – perseverance. She embraced the opportunity to learn swiftly, navigating the intricacies of blood pressure checks with determination and a willingness to absorb knowledge.

As clients rushed and the pressure intensified, *Coline* found herself in a dynamic learning environment. Mentored by *Kuya Nhar*, and *Princess*, she navigated through the challenges with passion and confidence, ultimately succeeding in conducting successful blood pressure checks.

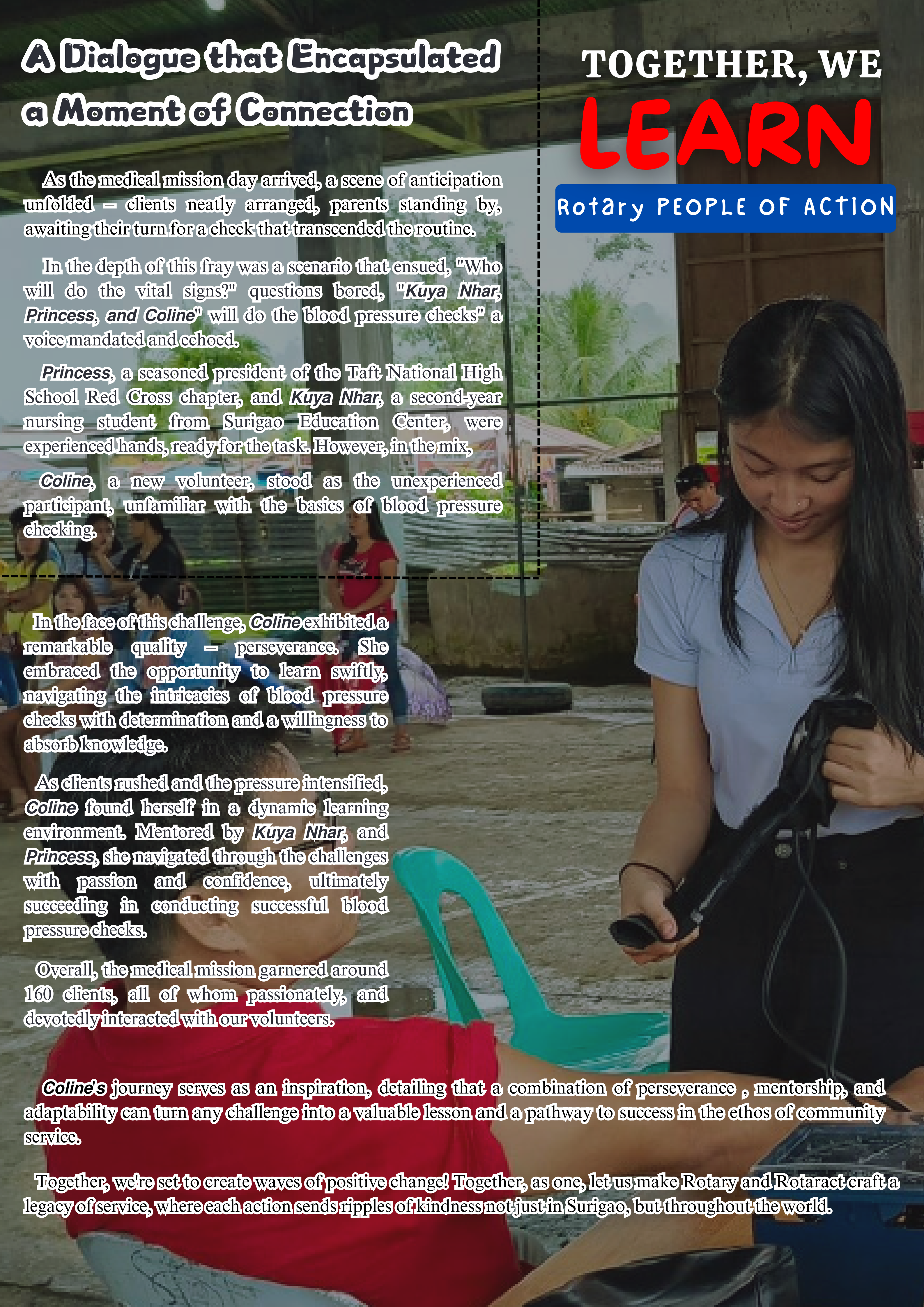
Overall, the medical mission garnered around 160 clients, all of whom passionately, and devotedly interacted with our volunteers.

*Coline's* journey serves as an inspiration, detailing that a combination of perseverance, mentorship, and adaptability can turn any challenge into a valuable lesson and a pathway to success in the ethos of community service.

Together, we're set to create waves of positive change! Together, as one, let us make Rotary and Rotaract craft a legacy of service, where each action sends ripples of kindness not just in Surigao, but throughout the world.

# TOGETHER, WE LEARN

Rotary PEOPLE OF ACTION





# Beyond Healthcare: Combating Illiteracy

**B**eyond the scope of healthcare, the People of Action event gave rise to a literary initiative aimed at addressing the prevalent issue of illiteracy in the Barangay. Rotaractors such as **Gniese Lynch Seclon, Jolly Pasilan, Maria Victoria Madera, Justine Arnold Gamil, Abegale Joria De Leon, and Josemar Cortes** emerged as the guiding lights, championing the cause of empowerment through education.

This visionary initiative went beyond the immediate needs addressed by the medical mission, recognizing the influence that literacy and education hold in shaping the long-term prosperity of the community. The synchronization of healthcare and education became a parol to the commitment of the clubs to a comprehensive, multifaceted strategy for community betterment.

The initiative was born due to the clubs dedication to decrease illiteracy in every project they endeavour. Every project, the Central Clubs vows to promote literacy in everyway they can, recognizing the role of literacy in combating societal issues such as poverty, and violence.

“In our part, we recognize the importance of literacy in combating societal issues that are way to prevalent and spread this days, one of the mechanisms that we deviated was a sort of program or activity on every project we initiate, this project is a pabasa - a program where you polish and further develop the reading capabilities of the children. It is also very important to note that once children, like them are polished in the skill of reading, they too can also enhance their media information literacy skill”

**- Rotaractors from Central Surigao**



# A Trim and a Tale:

## Free Haircuts by Army Regiments

In a heartwarming display of community solidarity, local army regiments extended a compassionate gesture by offering complimentary haircuts to approximately 20 children during the People of Action event. This spontaneous act, rooted in kindness and generosity, not only provided a practical service but also added a unique and heartening dimension to the entire occasion. It served as a powerful illustration of the profound collaborative spirit that thrives within the community.

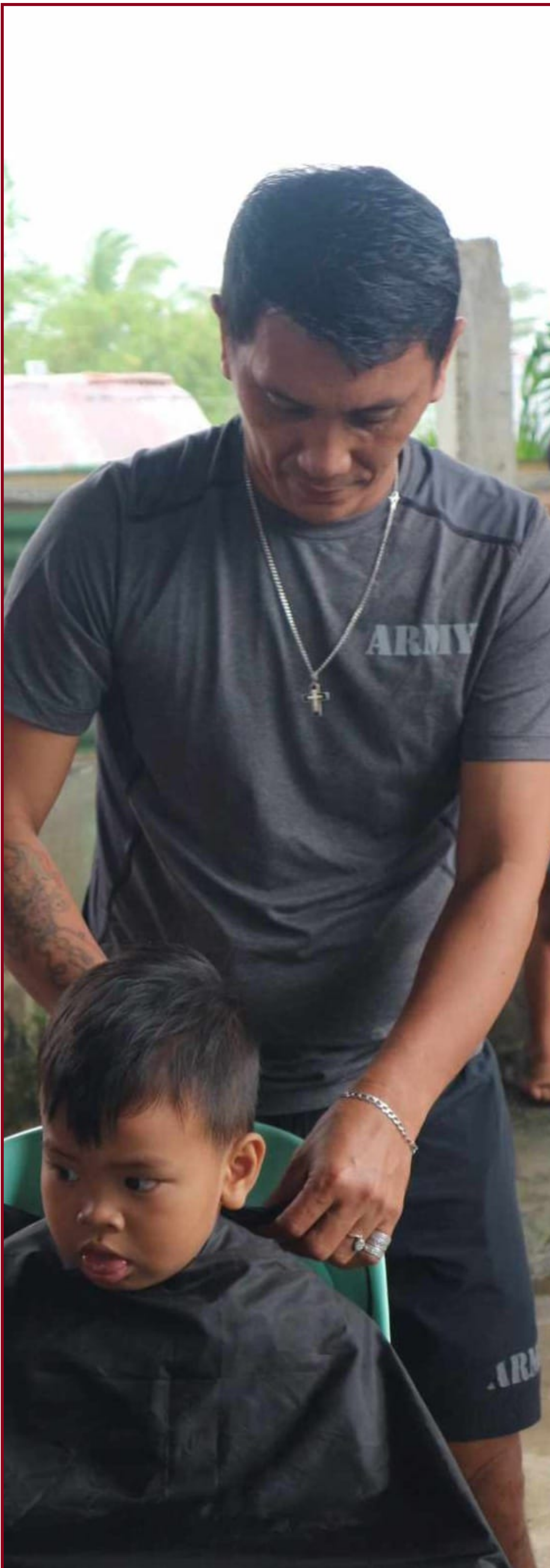
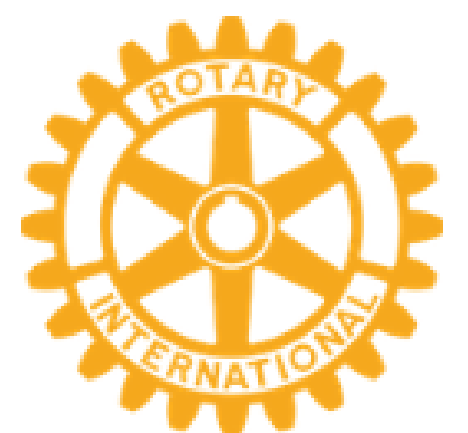
The unexpected offering of free haircuts evolved into something far more, highlighting the community's commitment to collective well-being. It became a poignant expression of shared responsibility, demonstrating community engagement, how every small act contributes significantly to the overall strength and resilience of the whole.

The initiative not only touched the lives of the children receiving the haircuts but also fostered a sense of connection and solidarity among the entire community.

The act served as a reminder that, in community life, even seemingly small gestures can have a profound ripple effect, creating a positive atmosphere and reinforcing the bonds that tie individuals together.

Such displays of kindness reinforce the notion that a community's strength lies not just in its institutions or infrastructure but in the collective goodwill and compassionate actions of its people, highlighting the beauty of shared responsibility and the immeasurable impact of individuals coming together for the greater good.

**Service  
ABOVE Self**



The image shows two women, likely members of the FPOP - Surigao Chapter, standing behind a table. They are wearing blue and yellow zip-up jackets with the FPOP logo. The table in front of them is covered with various boxes of medicine, including Doxycycline, Cefalexin Oneflex, and Paracetamol. The background is slightly blurred, showing an outdoor setting with a building and trees.

## The FPOP - Surigao Chapter

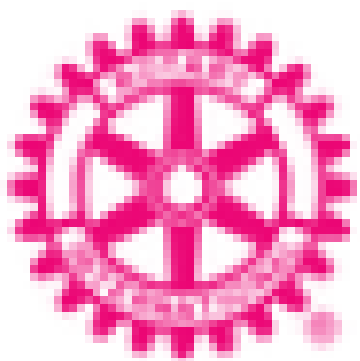
The Family Planning Organization of the Philippines - Surigao chapter has been a stalwart partner for both the Rotary and Rotaract Clubs of Central Surigao in the recent months. FPOP is an organization that advocates for Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights all over the Philippines, locally, the chapter is located at Narciso Street, near Pet Doctors

FPOP - Surigao Chapter and the Rotaract Club of Central Surigao is scheduled to sign their upcoming Memorandum of Agreement on the 23rd of March, 2024 at Villa Gertrudez to solidify their upcoming partnerships and projects

# NUMBERS

# TELL A

# STORY



# **How many?**

The People of Action event yielded significant results, with almost 160 clients benefiting from the medical mission, 30 children positively impacted by the literacy program, and an additional 20 children receiving free haircuts. These achievements, beyond being mere numerical milestones, it painted a vivid and tangible picture of success and positivity in the barangay of Mabini.

However, beyond the quantitative metrics, it is imperative to shine a spotlight on the faces behind these accomplishments, acknowledging the unwavering dedication and hard work of every individual involved. From the Rotarians who provided leadership, to the medical professionals offering crucial services, the leaders spearheading the literacy program, the meticulous registrars ensuring organizational efficiency, and the official photographer capturing the essence of the event—each played a pivotal role. Their collective commitment became the driving force propelling the success of the project, turning aspirations into reality and contributing to the positive changes observed within the community.

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