

Compassion in Action: Largest CRNA-led Medical Mission Team to the Philippines



The Filipino American Nurse Anesthesiology Society (FANAS) is proud to report the successful completion of our medical mission to NARRA, Palawan, Philippines. This was a landmark initiative that placed CRNAs at the forefront of volunteer healthcare delivery in an underserved rural community. The team was composed of over 100 healthcare professionals, of which 22 were CRNAs.

Mary Jane (MJ) Paras, MS, CRNA has been a pediatric CRNA at BCH for over 10 years. As a Team Leader and FANAS Finance Committee Co-Chair, MJ played an integral role in the planning and execution of this mission. She also provided basic life support training to 80 healthcare workers in the community. Over the course of the week, the mission delivered a broad spectrum of medical and surgical services, blood donation drive, school supplies distribution, and dental services.



FANAS Impact

Medical consultations.....	471
Surgeries/consults.....	174
Dental procedures.....	280
Blood donors.....	170
Circumcisions	70
School outreach	170
Minor procedures	185
CPR class	80
Mental health consults.....	9

Over 1600 lives impacted



The mission also presented an opportunity for our clinical team to practice at the full extent of our scope. Through the generous equipment loans of our sponsors — Verathon and Fujifilm — we were equipped with GlideScope video laryngoscopes and a portable ultrasound machine, enabling first pass intubation success even in resource limited conditions and allowing our team to perform multiple regional anesthesia techniques across a range of procedures. Their support was instrumental in ensuring that patients in NARRA received a standard of anesthetic care consistent with what is delivered in fully resourced surgical settings.

For MJ, this mission carried a deeply personal significance. Having participated in more than ten medical missions throughout her career, she reflects that this inaugural Philippines deployment was the most meaningful one. It gave her the opportunity to serve the country that shaped her identity, values, and roots. From budget oversight and resource coordination to on-the-ground pediatric anesthesia clinical support, her contributions reflected both professional dedication and a profound sense of homecoming.

