

SM FOUNDATION



Once an SM Scholar,  
always an SM scholar



We  
Care.

2024 3RD QUARTER



# Table of Contents

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2

Where  
healthcare  
meets  
innovation



12

Fostering  
potentials,  
Illuminating  
paths



3

From scholars  
to agents of  
positive change



14

Alumni  
Homecoming  
2024



4

SM Foundation  
delivers  
healthcare to  
15,000 patients  
in Q3, expanding  
reach for the rest  
of 2024



16

Story of success:  
From scholar to  
Philippine Air  
Force pilot



6

Enhancing  
healthcare  
accessibility



18

Control, Alt,  
Succeed: A  
Cebuana IT  
professional's  
quest to rewrite  
her path



8

Ensuring no  
island left  
behind



20

UST' opens  
Henry Sy Sr.  
Hall, a new hub  
for medical  
simulation and  
research



10

A commitment  
to community  
wellness



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# Where healthcare meets innovation

By Connie Angeles, Executive Director for Health and Medical Programs

At SM Foundation, we understand that healthy communities are the backbone of a thriving society. Good health empowers individuals to pursue their dreams and contributes to the overall growth and resilience of communities. This belief has been the driving force behind our health and wellness efforts for more than 40 years. As we reflect on our journey, we remain committed to evolving our programs. Whether by refining our established initiatives or embracing innovative approaches, we are dedicated to enhancing the

well-being and progress of the communities we serve. By putting the community at the heart of our operations, we have strengthened our medical missions and disaster response with the rollout of SM Foundation's new mobile clinic, which enhances our healthcare delivery capabilities.

Alongside our core initiatives, we've introduced several innovative and sustainable features in our renovated health centers.

Looking ahead, SM Foundation will continue to evaluate and implement innovative

healthcare solutions for our patients and health workers to help improve health outcomes across Filipino communities. In this edition of the SM Foundation newsletter, we hope to inspire you with our initiatives in mobile healthcare, facility enhancements, and digital health solutions. We believe that by collectively promoting social good, we can build a solid foundation for accessible, high-quality healthcare for all!  
*(With Albert Uy, Dr. Bless Bertos, Dalfhen Samson, Roma Hierro, Roland Sagun, Michael Andrei Lumahan)*



In photo: The Polomolok East Community Clinic renovated by SM Foundation

# From scholars to agents of positive change

By Ling Lansang, SAVP for Education Programs-Scholarship

SM Foundation recently concluded the 2024 SM Scholars' Alumni Homecoming. As I had the chance to hear their stories once again, I was deeply moved by how our former SM scholars have flourished in their respective fields of endeavor.

What stands out most is how our SM scholar alumni, who were once wide-eyed students with dreams in their hearts, are achieving professional success and actively spreading social good in their own ways. Their achievements span diverse

sectors and signify the far-reaching impact of educational support on families and communities.

When we see their wonderful accomplishments, we are inspired to intensify our efforts because we know that each scholar we support can make impactful changes.

As we witness the multiplier effect of investing in education – scholars becoming mentors, dreamers becoming achievers – we're reminded that the true measure of our program's

success lies not just in diplomas earned, but in the lives touched and communities we've uplifted together.

In this newsletter, we happily share how the legacy of our founder, Mr. Henry Sy Sr. lives on in every SM scholar who dares to dream and succeed.

*(With Carmen Linda Atayde, Gregorio Baclea-an, Joy Guevara, Ann Racoma, Vaughn Lapid, Cyear De Lara, Lynne Gellio)*



In photo: SM College Scholarship Program alumni reunite at the SM Scholars Homecoming held at the SMX Convention Center Manila.



## SM Foundation delivers healthcare to 15,000 patients expanding reach for the rest of 2024

SM Foundation has demonstrated its ongoing commitment to community health empowerment through *Serbisyong Medikal*, its medical mission program, successfully serving close to 15,000 patients.

The foundation's strategic medical mission has extended its reach across diverse regions of the Philippines, delivering

critical healthcare services to communities that need it most.

Looking ahead, SM Foundation is poised to amplify its program with additional medical missions planned for Q4 and beyond. This strategic expansion aligns with the foundation's core mission of fostering healthier communities through targeted healthcare interventions.

*\*Services provided*

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**840**

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**580**

Calauan, Laguna

**802**

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**753**

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**1567**

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**1411**

SM City Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija

**1159**

SM City Baliwag, Bulacan

**2251**

SM City Puerto Princesa and Concepcion, Palawan

**1069**

SM City Telabastagan, San Fernando, Pampanga

**725**

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Pagadian City

**588**

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**549**

Basey, Samar

**983**

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- SM Center Dagupan
- Sogod, Cebu
- Compostella, Cebu
- Calatrava, Negros Occidental
- Bacolod City, Negros Occidental





**SM Foundation recently turned over its 205th health center, bringing quality community healthcare closer to Filipinos from vulnerable communities in GenSan.**

## Enhancing healthcare accessibility

**SM Foundation transforms South Cotabato health center into a modern, patient-centric facility**

SM Foundation's Health and Medical Programs aim to revitalize health centers and ensure that they adhere to national health standards. It also strives to make healthcare accessible to vulnerable populations and boost health worker morale.

The recent beneficiary of the program is the Baluan Rural Health Unit (RHU), serving over 30,000 residents from various barangays in General Santos City, South Cotabato.

Baluan RHU previously struggled with inadequate facilities. Dr. Roland Basmillo, the RHU head, recalled how their former buildings weren't

equipped to handle the growing population. Patients often waited outside in the sun or rain, and some left without receiving care.

Through the renovation, Dr. Basmillo shared that SM Foundation's programs helped overcome past challenges, bringing healthcare closer to



**The Felicidad T. Sy Wellness Center for the Elderly allots ample seating and modern amenities to improve patient comfort and accommodate more members of the community seeking care.**

the community. The renovated RHU now boasts an efficient layout, improved patient comfort with more seating and modern amenities, and dedicated spaces for examinations, consultations, and breastfeeding.

The SM DigiKonsulta, Mobile Play Cabinet, and Rainwater Catchment facility, unique features of SM Foundation health centers, are also installed here.

The RHU head also highlighted the new animal bite and TB treatment facility, reducing travel for patients. The upgraded Minor Surgical Room enhances emergency

care, crucial due to Baluan's location near a major highway. He emphasized the on-site laboratory and pharmacy as key operational improvements, allowing for immediate diagnostics and medication during consultations.

**“Dito pa lang po sa RHU, maibibigay na po sa kanila agad ang serbisyo. Kasi most of the time ang iniinda ng mga pasyente ay yung pera na gagastusin nila para pumunta doon sa health facility na kung saan namin sila ire-refer. At least sa ngayon, nandito na po mismo, nasa barangay na po nila mismo ang serbisyonang kailangan nila,” he stressed.**

*- Dr. Roland Basmillo,  
Baluan RHU head*

“May nakita akong pasyente kanina at sinabi sa aking, ‘Doc, ang ganda na po ng health center. Magpapa-checkup na talaga ako.’ So sa isang tao pa lang na iyon, makikita mo na yung eagerness na pumunta ng health center na hindi na natatakot o nahihiya,” he shared.



**The new Baluan RHU now houses its own laboratory, making it easier for patients to get diagnostic tests and appropriate medications during their consultations.**



**The RHU features a Mobile Play Cabinet, equipped with various educational toys and resources to facilitate a pleasant healthcare experience for young patients.**





## Ensuring no island is left behind

SM Foundation bridges healthcare gap for isolated communities

The Philippines' 7,100+ islands offer natural beauty but pose challenges for residents in Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs). These areas, numbering over 10,800 as of 2019, according to Department of Health (DOH) data, often lack access to basic healthcare.

The Polomolok East Community Clinic (PECC), one of the recent beneficiaries of the SM Foundation, serves nearly 50,000 people, mostly from GIDAs.

Municipal IP Mandatory Representative Jerome Ante, emphasized PECC's strategic location despite its limited services, given the distance of other centers from these communities.

Recognizing this need, the SM Foundation has focused on improving healthcare accessibility for vulnerable communities, and rehabilitating PECC to enhance its capabilities and service delivery.

The foundation repaired the structure and improved its layout for better efficiency and comfort of patients and health workers.

The facility now boasts specialized areas for Animal Bite and Treatment, TB-Dots, Nebulization, Counseling, and Family Planning. Healthcare workers benefit from an upgraded dental clinic, operation room, conference room, physicians room, and PWD-friendly restroom.

Prioritizing patient comfort and staff efficiency, the renovation introduced new Reception and

**“This revitalized health center is a game-changer for our indigenous communities. With its strategic location and expanded services, it will significantly improve the health and well-being of our people. Mas lalapit na ang healthcare rito sa amin.**

– Jerome Ante  
Municipal IP Mandatory Representative

Admission areas, a Mobile Play Cabinet, Felicidad T. Sy spaces for the Elderly and Children, a Breastfeeding Room, a dedicated pantry, and a Records Room.

Eco-friendly features include energy-efficient appliances, air-purifying paints, local plants, and a Rainwater Catchment System.

With the Mahintana Foundation, a renovated pharmacy now serves the community.

The facility embraces digital healthcare with SM DigiKonsulta, offering teleconsultations and digital patient records. These enhancements aim to meet DOH and PhilHealth

requirements, ensuring sustainable, high-quality healthcare for the community.

“Dati, kulang talaga ang mga tulong sa health center. Pero ngayon, malaki ang maitutulong nito sa aming mga IP, lalo na para sa aming kalusugan,” Polomolok Municipal Tribal Chieftain Danny Sumali said.



**With patient comfort and health workers' ease of working as key considerations in the renovation, the SM Foundation refurbished a vibrant reception and admission areas in Polomolok East Community Clinic.**



**The facility now boasts a specialized area for treatment, giving patients comfort during check-ups and boosting health worker's efficiency.**



**SM Foundation executive director for health and medical programs Connie Angeles with Municipal IP Mandatory Representative Jerome Ante, Polomolok Municipal Tribal Chieftain Danny Sumali (3rd, 4th, and 5th from left) with the rest of the PECC community during the turnover ceremony of the PECC.**





## A commitment to community wellness

At a glance: SM Foundation's Health and Medical Programs

SM Foundation has been at the forefront of providing accessible healthcare to Filipinos through its Serbisong Medikal medical missions and Health Center revitalization programs.

Since its inception in 2001, Serbisong Medikal has conducted countless medical missions across the country, offering free medical consultations, laboratory tests, dental check-ups, medication, and vitamins to over a million patients.

Recognizing the critical role of community health centers in delivering essential healthcare services, the SM Foundation has also been supporting local health facilities since 2002. By providing upgraded equipment and facilities, the Foundation helps these centers meet the accreditation standards set by the national government, ensuring that they can extend medical care to vulnerable communities.







## Fostering potentials, illuminating paths

SM Foundation Education Program welcomes its biggest batch with 1,100+ new scholars

The SM Foundation College Scholarship program welcomed its largest batch yet, awarding over 1,100 new college scholarships on August 18, 2024, at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City.

At the landmark event, Executive Director for Education Programs Linda Atayde emphasized education's role in unlocking opportunities, while the program's SAVP Eleanor Lansang outlined the comprehensive support offered to scholars, including full tuition

coverage, enrichment activities, part-time jobs, and internship opportunities within the SM Group.

SM Foundation Executive Director Debbie Sy encouraged scholars to embrace their potential and spread social good, rekindling the legacy of SM Group founder Henry Sy Sr.

The program has nurtured over 4,000 graduates, embodying Mr. Henry Sy' Sr.'s vision of education as a tool for uplifting families and communities.







## Alumni Homecoming 2024

SM Foundation celebrates the success of over 4000 college alumni

Around 1,000 alumni of the SM Foundation, now excelling in diverse professional fields, reunited at the SM Scholar Alumni Homecoming 2024 at the SMX Manila, Pasay City on Sept. 15, 2024.

The event celebrated the achievements, resilience, and commitment to spreading the

social good of its 4,214 college scholars across the globe.

Founded by SM Group Founder Henry Sy, Sr. in 1993, the SM Foundation College Scholarship Program has provided quality education to deserving students from vulnerable communities.







**Major Edjil Lopez, a proud SM scholar, continues SM Group founder Henry Sy, Sr.'s legacy by imparting his learnings as a scholar to future pilots of the Philippine Air Force.**

## Story of success: From scholar to Philippine Air Force pilot

By Major Edjil Rixon Lopez, PAF and SM Scholar Alumnus

I vividly remember the feeling the first time I flew a Philippine Air Force aircraft. It was a mix of responsibility and pride, knowing that at one point in life, I never thought I would be where I am today. Today, I proudly stand as a member of the Philippine Air Force (PAF).

This journey has taken me from being an Attack Pilot, participating in numerous missions in the Southern part of the Philippines, to my current

role as an Instructor Pilot at the PAF Flying School.

My current role offers a unique sense of fulfillment. Every day, I have the privilege of shaping future pilots, not just in their technical abilities, but in cultivating perseverance, resilience, responsibility, and commitment to excellence and service.

When I guide an aviation student through a challenging

maneuver or help them push past their limits, I'm not just teaching them to fly, it is my goal to help them build the character they'll need throughout their careers.

And no wonder why I have this deep sense of giving back and honing the abilities of aspiring PAF pilots like me—I was once in their shoes, I was once an SM scholar.

I came from a humble family where attaining a college degree was quite a long shot. When I learned about the SM scholarship, I knew I had found the wings that would help me fly. It was one of the moments where my persistence took flight. I did everything I could to submit the requirements and pass the exams—and I did.

SM Foundation gave me a weapon, which I used to change my life. The scholarship gave me further focus on my studies and personal development, as I was able to withstand challenges without the burden of financial issues related to my education.

The education I received equipped me with the knowledge, skills, and mindset necessary to excel in my chosen field. It also instilled in me a determination and relentless pursuit of excellence in service to others—the very lessons I learned during my SM College Scholarship journey.

It's incredibly rewarding to watch these young aviators grow, knowing that the lessons in perseverance will help them navigate the inevitable turbulence in their paths. When I emphasize the importance of responsibility, I'm preparing them for the weight of the decisions they'll make in service to our country. By fostering a commitment to excellence, I'm helping them strive to be the best versions of themselves—both in the cockpit and in life—rooted in a sense of duty

to serve, lead, and inspire those around them.

This process of mentorship feels like a natural extension of my duty to serve. It's as if all my experiences—from my humble beginnings as an SM scholar to my missions as a military pilot—have converged to this point. My journey has allowed me to give back in one of the most meaningful ways possible and helped me ensure that the values and dedication that have

defined my path to success will continue to soar with each new generation of pilots.



**Throwback. SM Scholar alumnus Lopez (second row, third from left) during the 2007 Presentation of SM Scholar Graduates with APC president Tan, other SM scholars from APC, SM Group founder Henry Sy Sr. and SMFI executive director Debbie Sy (seated).**



**Major Lopez revisits his alma mater, Asia Pacific College (APC). Joining Lopez are members of the APC Chairperson Paulino Tan, APC President Teresita Medad, SM Foundation (SMFI) Education Programs Executive Director for Education Programs Linda Atayde, and SMFI SAVP Eleanor Lansang.**





**Darmae M. Tan, a proud alumna of the SM Foundation College Scholarship Program. She is the founder of Cebu-based ventures MYT SoftDev Solutions and ErrandBoy.Ph.**

## Control, Alt, Succeed: A Cebuana IT professional's quest to rewrite her path

By Darmae Tan, SM Scholar Alumna and Founder of MYT SoftDev Solutions and ErrandBoy.Ph

I am Darmae Maningo-Tan, a business owner, a lecturer, a loyal daughter, a devoted wife and mother. But before all that, I started out as a dreamer. The SM Foundation College Scholarship Program gave me a chance to chase my dreams, and today, I hope my story will inspire others to never give up on their hopes and aspirations no matter the odds.

My tatay was a rank-and-file government employee and my mama was a freelance bookkeeper. Our family lived in a bustling urban poor community in Cebu. I am the second of four siblings and the eldest daughter. For as long as I can remember, I envisioned a better life for my

family, which fueled my drive to succeed.

I always viewed education as the key to lifting my family from poverty. But like many Filipino youth, the right to education is, more often than not, a fight. Finances were always the challenge, and scholarships were my lifeline.

I attended a private Catholic elementary school where I had to be top of my class to receive a full tuition waiver. I then applied to a national science high school and a state university high school for a chance at a free secondary education. All through my school years, I would rent second-hand textbooks, or even wake up at

the crack of dawn for some peace and quiet to study. My circumstances never discouraged me from giving my best. I was determined to get a good college education so that I could get a well-paying job to support my family.

Yet despite my dreams, it is ironic that one of the most discouraging points in my life was when I was told that I should not bother with a college degree because I am a woman, and I would eventually just be dependent on my husband. Looking back, I realize that this was probably because my parents could not afford to send me to college. But I refused to let this deter me, and my perseverance landed

me an opportunity for a college education with the University of the Philippines, one of the premier education institutions in the country.

Purely by chance, I saw a poster for the SM Foundation College Scholarship Program and decided to apply. This scholarship transformed my college experience. Without having to be a working student, I was able to join the theaters arts organization, volunteer programs, leadership and business summits, and even the student council – this all helped me to develop my full potential.

### Now, it's my turn to pay it forward

Fast forward to today, I am now an entrepreneur, as well as happily raising my two children with my supportive husband. Twelve years ago, I founded MYT SoftDev Solutions, focused on providing software solutions to businesses, and based on the philosophy of world-class quality software built by Filipinos, for Filipinos. I also founded and currently manage ErrandBoy.Ph, a courier and concierge service that was started during the pandemic to provide regular employment to displaced workers.

My success would not have been possible without the SM Foundation College Scholarship Program. My experience as a recipient of this scholarship shaped my personal and professional values and instilled in me a deep sense of gratitude and purpose. This has been a driving force in my endeavors after graduating college.

Aside from my entrepreneurial work, I am also a lecturer with UP Cebu, teaching Software Engineering and Management of Information Systems courses. I continue to be passionate about the pursuit of knowledge and the value of education, and created an internship program in my company called Module Zero, to mentor younger generations who want to start a career or business in IT.

Through MYT SoftDev Solutions, I was also able to start my own scholarship program, currently providing financial assistance to 12 academic scholars and 10 student athletes. I hope to do for others what the SM Foundation did for me, jumpstarting my journey to success.

When I reflect on my life thus far, I realize that every challenge has helped shape the fulfilling life that I have now. I continue to struggle at times, and I am still far from where I want to be, but I have also reached far beyond what I used to dream of. All of this was possible because the SM Foundation College Scholarship Program gave me a chance, and it is my mission to continue the cycle of paying it forward – to bring positive change to the lives of Filipinos and our community.



**SM Scholars unite. Darmae Tan at the 2024 SM Scholar Alumni Homecoming (center) with her fellow scholarship alumni (first row) P&A Grant Thornton's partner Nikkolai Canceran, ADB consultant Erickson Quijano, (second row) Singapore-based software engineer Jeffry Manhulad, P&G IT director Albert Maquiñana, (third row) Engr. Angelo Tabuac, Dasmariñas City Public Schools District Supervisor Angelo Uy, and Pilipinas Shell CFO Rey Abilo**





The Dominican Province of the Philippines Prior and UST Vice Chancellor Very Rev. Fr. Filemon Dela Cruz, Jr., OP (fifth from left), UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard Ang, OP, PhD (sixth from left), SM Foundation Executive Director Ms. Debbie Sy (eighth from left), Henry Sy Foundation Executive Director Dr. Lydia Echauz (tenth from left), with Fr. Efren Rivera, OP from the Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas, UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery Regent Rev. Fr. Angel Aparicio, OP, UST Facilities Management Office Director Fr. Dexter Austria, OP, UST Secretary-General Fr. Louie Coronel, OP, UST Vice Rector Fr. Isaias Tiongco, OP, JCD, UST FMS Dean Assoc. Prof. Ma. Lourdes D. Maglinao, MD, and AIMM Builders Owner Engr. James Liong, conduct the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new Henry Sy `Sr. Hall. Joining the event are (back row) Henry Sy Foundation trustees and other benefactors of the project.

## UST opens Henry Sy Sr. Hall, a new hub for medical simulation and research

The Henry Sy Foundation and the University of Santo Tomas-Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and its partners inaugurated on September 24, 2024 the UST Henry Sy Sr. Hall, a seven-storey medical education hub. The Henry Sy Sr. Hall houses the Saints

Cosmas and Damian Medical Simulation and Research Center at the University's Manila campus.

The new hub features simulated medical environments, consultation rooms with various fidelity mannequins, control

rooms for case complexity adjustment, and debriefing rooms for real-time observation and assessment, all designed to advance interactive student-centered learning, collaborative research, and interprofessional education.



The new hub includes consultation rooms with various fidelity mannequins, allowing students to develop empathy, adaptability, and resilience, critical skills for their future roles in medicine.



The building is laid out with debriefing rooms for real-time observation and assessment.



The building has cutting-edge technology to help medical students hone their skills and prepare for the high-stakes environment of healthcare.



The new hub features consultation rooms with various fidelity mannequins, allowing students to develop empathy, adaptability, and resilience, critical skills for their future roles in medicine.





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