

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

OF

SPARKS FOR CHANGE. INC.

SPARKS FOR CHANGE, INC. (“SPARKS”) is a volunteer organization composed of professionals, businessmen, entrepreneurs and executives in both the private and public sector, who are joined in their common cause to “spark” positive change in society. Envisioned to be a catalyst to spark needed, positive changes in society, the group motto is *“Change, It Begins With A Spark . . .”*

SPARKS has the primary purpose of “assisting communities attain positive and meaningful change in society through medical, educational and social programs and activities.” The Group believes that the citizenry should be vigilant, well-informed, participative, and have an active role in nation building.

SPARKS has a network in key cities all over the country. Among its principal activities are conducting Medical Programs in selected, needy communities all over the country, and other community assistance programs.

The first medical assistance program of SPARKS was a Medical Mission in Laoag, Ilocos Sur on November 14, 2009. The event was jointly organized with the alumni members of High School Batch '78 of the Holy Spirit Academy of Laoag. The medical mission served a total of 862 patients. There were a total of 16 doctors and medical and dental personnel from the SPARKS Team.

Buoyed by the success of the Laoag Medical Mission, SPARKS organized on its own a Medical Mission in Brgy. UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City on December 13, 2009. The mission served a total of 326 indigent patients, many of them young children. This was followed by a Medical Mission in Sta. Ines, Taytay, Rizal on December 19, 2009, which served 223 patients. Sta. Ines is a remote area and the medical team had to cross a total of 11 rivers to reach the place, which underscored the lack of access of the Sta. Ines residents to adequate medical care.

As word of the SPARKS program spread, the group was swamped with requests for medical outreach programs in various communities, some even coming from the Visayas and Mindanao islands. There was however a limitation on the medical team members, as all participants are volunteers and they were joining the program on their free time. SPARKS thus came up with the criteria for medical mission areas to go to, such as projected effectivity, and availability of counterpart local medical personnel. While logistics (i.e. medicine, food, equipment) were always less than what was required, the members themselves, as well as various individuals and groups, gave timely contributions. A principal partner-donor was a group of Ateneo alumni from HS'77-College'81.

The SPARKS medical outreach program was thus transported to various communities, summarized as follows:

MEDICAL MISSION SUMMARY

	Date	Venue	Numbers of Patients Served	Doctors and Nurses
1	Nov. 14, 2009	Laoag, Ilocos Sur	862	48
2	Dec. 13, 2009	Diliman, Quezon City	326	28
3	Dec. 19, 2009	Sta. Ines, Tanay, Rizal	223	21
4	Jan. 23, 2010	Sto. Niño, Tanay, Rizal	212	18
5	Jan. 24, 2010	PPVC HQ Cubao	255	52
6	Jan. 25, 2010	Sto. Niño Chapel, Commonwealth, QC	155	8
7	Feb. 07, 2010	Santolan, Pasig	331	21
8	Feb. 13, 2010	Tayabas, Quezon	218	27
9	Mar. 7, 2010	Bagong Silangan, QC	410	21
10	Mar. 14, 2010	Sta. Lucia Atrium, Cainta	299	17
11	Mar. 21, 2010	San Roque Village, San Dionisio, Pnqe	307	18
12	Mar. 28, 2010	Payatas, QC	622	35
13	Apr. 11, 2010	Isla Puting Bato, Tondo, Manila	352	20
14	Apr. 17, 2010	Bauan, Batangas	297	26
15	Apr. 25, 2010	Maybunga, Pasig	376	30
16	May 02, 2010	Araneta Center	3000	120
17	Sept. 18, 2010	San Ildefonso, Bulacan	180	12
18	Sept. 25, 2010	Santolan, Pasig	265	15
19	Oct. 1-3, 2010	Masbate, Masbate	7,000	14*
20	Oct. 9, 2010	Alijis, Bacolod City	170	8
21	Oct. 9, 2010	Santolan, Pasig	170	14
22	Oct. 16, 2010	Tañong,, Marikina	120	10
23	Dec. 18, 2010	NEA Road, Quezon City	150	12

* 14-member Sparks Medical Team, but total medical personnel for the Masbate mission is estimated at 160

24	Feb. 6, 2011	Katipunan, QC	225	15
25	March 20, 2011	Brgy Sta. Lucia, Pasig	288	16
26	April 30, 2011	Brgy 870, Pandacan, Manila	267	24
27	July 14, 2011	Bongabon, Or. Mindoro	227	17

SPARKS also provided Standby Medical Assistance Units during major events/activities, to wit:

- a) Feb. 25, 2010, Araneta Coliseum (EDSA Anniversary Celebration)
 - deployed 2 First Aid stations, Araneta Center
- b) May 2, 2010, Araw ng Pagbabago Event
 - deployed 2 ambulance units, 3 mobile teams, People Power Monument, EDSA
- c) May 7, 2010, Quezon City Election Awareness Activity
 - deployed 2 ambulance Units, 3 mobile teams, Quezon City Memorial Circle
- d) May 8-11, 2010, Election Watch, PPVC
 - provided 24-hour standby medical team at the PPVC-Arante Center

Aside from Metro Manila, where the group is based, local SPARKS networks have been established and activated in the following provincial areas: (1) Bansud, Oriental Mindoro; (2) Olongapo City; (3) Bacolod City, Neg. Occ.; (4) Iloilo City; (5) 1st District, Iloilo (6) Antique; (7) Kalibo, Aklan; (8) Roxas, City, Capiz; (9) Cebu City; (10) Davao City; (11) Cagayan De Oro City; and (12) Butuan City. These local group networks are being developed to replicate the community outreach programs of SPARKS. Interest among the members in these local areas in the SPARKS program is high.

In recognition of its efforts and contribution, SPARKS FOR CHANGE was identified by the NINOY AND CORY AQUINO FOUNDATION as one of the “seed organizations” whose activities and programs are good examples of what Filipinos can do as their share in nation-building. The recognition ceremony was held on August 1, 2010 at the St. Benilde Gymnasium, La Salle Greenhills in Mandaluyong City, and was part of the program to honor the legacy of the late President Cory Aquino.

SPARKS was also invited to the Leaders' Summit on August 20-21, 2010 at the Traders' Hotel, Manila, which brought together volunteer groups from all over the country. The Leaders' Summit, which was organized and presided over by DSWD Sec. Dinky Soliman and GSIS Chairperson Karina David, was aimed at mobilizing and seeking the active participation of volunteer groups with track records, to take an active role in nation building. Concrete action plans were formulated during the Summit, and SPARKS was at the forefront in medical outreach programs in the communities. The culmination of the Summit was a visit to Malacañang Palace, where President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino personally thanked the volunteer organizations, including SPARKS, for their important roles and steadfast commitment to nation-building.

Realizing that the group will be more effective in implementing its programs if it is registered as a corporate entity, steps were taken to register SPARKS with the Securities and Exchange Commission. On September 29, 2010, SPARKS FOR CHANGE, INC. was issued a Certificate of Incorporation, signifying its formal registration as a non-profit corporation with the purpose of "assisting communities attain positive and meaningful change in society through medical, educational and social programs and activities."

With the experience gained in the medical outreach program, and aware of the pressing medical needs of depressed communities, SPARKS has included in its medical program the vaccination and treatment of communities against specific diseases, such as Tuberculosis and Hepatitis B. The goal is to achieve a sustainable and measurable effort against specific "dread" diseases.

As the group continues with its community-based outreach programs, SPARKS much welcomes the partnership, assistance and participation of individuals and groups who may share the same goals and advocacies.

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