

## EAST AVENUE MEDICAL CENTER COOPERATIVE (EAMCC): A TRUE SUCCESS



\*Photos taken during the CDA Gawad Parangal awarding last Oct. 25, 2019

The East Avenue Medical Center Cooperative (EAMCC) was organized on March 24, 1994 and was chaired back then by Dr. Rodolfo N. Chuanico. When the cooperative started in its early years, the cooperative operated a mini-grocery and provided lending services. In 2009, the Board of Directors, chaired by Ms. Flor P. Burgos, introduced innovations and ventured into other businesses, thereby improving the services to the members and the public who patronize the products and services of the cooperative.

After eighteen years of operation, the EAMC made its services more accessible to the members and the public by opening outlets at the hospital's basement and the parking area. Several loan windows were also introduced. While adopting new approaches, the cooperative did not fail to install a control and sound accounting system to safeguard its assets. To date, EAMCC has made a complete turnaround and has turned out decent profit and services to the delight of the members.

From Php 0.512M in 2006, the Cash of the cooperative ballooned to Php 14.742M in 2018, or an increase of Php 14.230M or 277.93%, and the cooperative's total assets of Php 9.476M in 2006 resulted to Php 39.798M in 2018, or an increase of Php 30.322M or 319.19%.

Due to the excellent performance of the cooperative, the new set of leaders earned the trust and confidence of its members. From Php 6.341M Share Capital in 2006, it went up to Php 23.491M in 2018, or an increase of Php 17.150M or 270.46%.

The innovations, new ventures, and improved services increased by 334.69% or Php 5.714M in the Net Surplus of the cooperative. From a loss of Php 1.707M in 2006, it gained Php 4.007M in 2018.

The cooperative's commendable performance resulted in an increase in its membership for the past three (3) years. In 2018, the members of the cooperative rose to 977, with 750 regular members and 227 associate members, from a total number of 794 in 2016. Membership is composed of government officials and employees of the East Avenue Medical Center. Presently, 72.21% of the total number of employees of the hospital are members of the cooperative.

EAMCC offers a wide variety of products and services that make life easier not just for its members, but also for the patients and their families.

The cooperative's diversified services include canteen operations maintaining a high standard of quality food and service, a water purification station that distributes bottled water to the different departments, its retail outlets and the concessionaires at the food court, and laundry services available to hospital staff, including patients and their families who have no time to go home to do the chore. The members of the cooperative and the public also enjoy the quality and excellent service of the cooperative's Sizzling & Ihaw-Ihaw. But if there is any kind of service that members of the EAMCC benefit the most, it is their easy access to credit when the need for cash arises. Tuition fees and other needs are easily covered with different kinds of windows available at low financing costs.

As its way of giving back and sharing God's favor to the cooperative, EAMCC institutionalized programs and activities for the community and the environment such as the following: a.) Operation Tuli which benefited 200 male children coming from different barangays of Quezon City; b.) annual gift/toy giving and feeding program during holidays where the cooperative was able to reach out to 603 patients and their families in the different children's wards of the hospital; c.) annual proper waste disposal where the cooperative initiated its own Solid Waste Management Program and conducted training for members and personnel with the acquired knowledge applied on the immediate hospital premises; d.) Manila Bay Clean up in celebration of Cooperative Month in October.

In 2016, the dedication and passion in cooperativism of the officers and all the members of the cooperative have been recognized when East Avenue Medical Center Cooperative has been awarded as the CDA Regional (NCR) 3<sup>rd</sup> Most Outstanding Cooperative for Medium Category.

For the last nine (9) years of its twenty-four (24) years of existence, the cooperative has consistently distributed net surplus and countless benefits and privileges to the satisfaction of its members and staff. The Management's dedication in improving the systems of the cooperative, as well as the loyalty, obedience, and hard work of all the employees, not to mention the support of the institution itself, brought them where the East Avenue Medical Center Cooperative is today, one of the most stable and best-managed cooperatives in Metro Manila. Indeed, together, they grow stronger, and together, they go further.