



## Updates on Educational Awardees, JB Resident Award for Global Neurosurgery, Honoring a Donor, Asian Australasian Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery, and Board of Directors 2024

### Updates On Educational Awardees

It is always heart-warming to learn how well NOF's past educational awardees are thriving and how they are making an impact on their communities. We hope to highlight a few of them periodically, starting now!

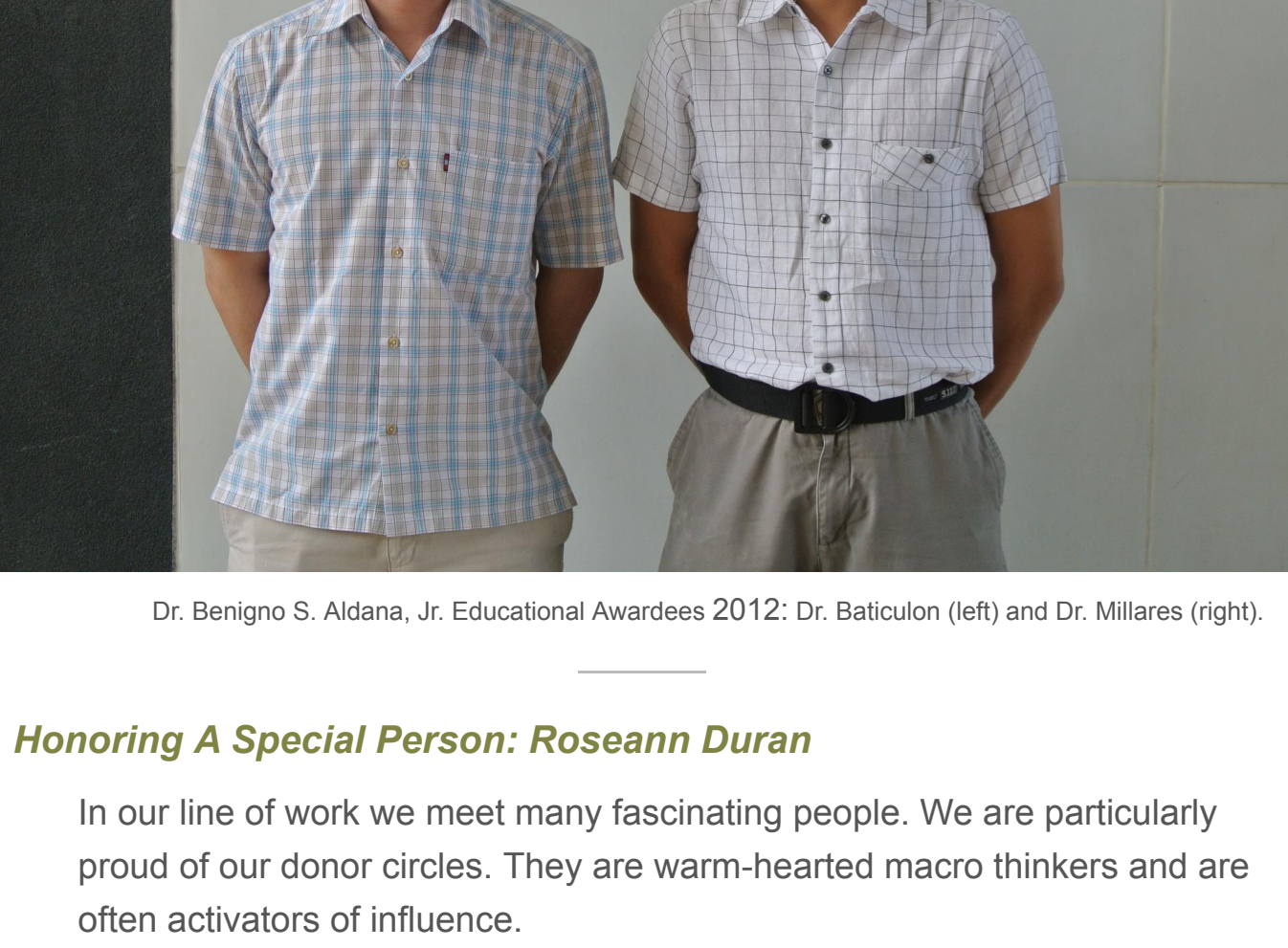
~ Dr. Astri Avianti, Indonesia, 2014: She has kept up with NOF all these years. In 2019, Dr. Avianti spent time in Jacksonville to observe and was the guest of honor at NOF's 10 year anniversary gala. Active in the global neurosurgery circles and a dedicated physician, Dr. Avianti's practice covers adults and pediatrics in the city of Jakarta, Indonesia. Indonesia has a 1:750,000 neurosurgeon/patient ratio wherein many of its provinces do not have neurosurgical coverage at all as the distribution of neurosurgeons is unequal. NOF plans to deliver more hope to this country.

~ Dr. Manilyn Hong, Philippines, 2020: Dr. Hong was in Jacksonville in 2023 for her NOF-TLHF Jacksonville Traveling Fellowship. Immediately after, she set up her practice in her hometown, city of General Santos in Mindanao, where the need for coverage, particularly pediatric neurosurgery, is immense. She covers eight hospitals within her region and she has big dreams for her community. We have no doubt that she will accomplish them. One thing on her list? An ESM. We hear you, Dr. Hong!

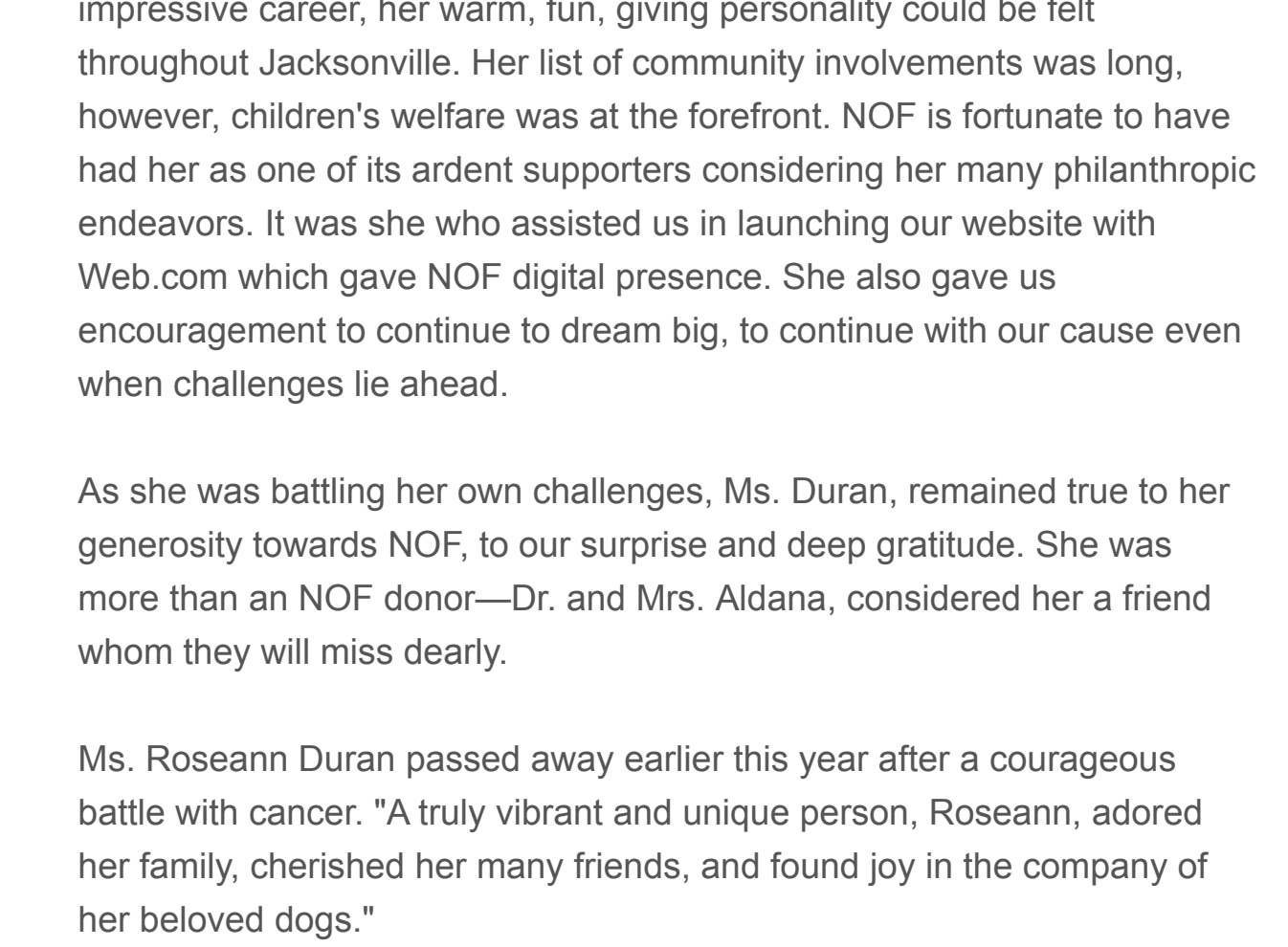
~ Dr. Ronnie Baticulon, Philippines, 2012: In 2012, NOF launched the Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. Educational Fund to help neurosurgical residents with their educational training. The first award was presented to two young doctors from the Philippines. One of whom is Dr. Ronnie Baticulon. Dr. Baticulon would then acquire a second NOF educational award in 2014. Since then, he has become one of the few fellowship trained pediatric neurosurgeon in the Philippines, is active in the global neurosurgery sphere, and more recently, engages in NOF's activities as our philosophies align. Dr. Baticulon is also the author of "Some Days You Can't Save Them All," a collection of his stories from medical school and neurosurgery training and a Philippine national bestseller. You can read a portion of it on [www.neurosurgeryoutreach.org](http://www.neurosurgeryoutreach.org).



Dr. Astri Avianti visits Jacksonville, 2019



Dr. Clerk visits Dr. Manilyn Hong at South Cotabato (southern Philippines) in January 2024



Dr. Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. Educational Awardees 2012: Dr. Baticulon (left) and Dr. Millares (right).

### Honoring A Special Person: Roseann Duran

In our line of work we meet many fascinating people. We are particularly proud of our donor circles. They are warm-hearted macro thinkers and are often activators of influence.

Ms. Roseann Duran was one of those individuals. Aside from her impressive career, her warm, fun, giving personality could be felt throughout Jacksonville. Her list of community involvements was long, however, children's welfare was at the forefront. NOF is fortunate to have had her as one of its ardent supporters considering her many philanthropic endeavors. It was she who assisted us in launching our website with Web.com which gave NOF digital presence. She also gave us encouragement to continue to dream big, to continue with our cause even when challenges lie ahead.

As she was battling her own challenges, Ms. Duran, remained true to her generosity towards NOF, to our surprise and deep gratitude. She was more than an NOF donor—Dr. and Mrs. Aldana, considered her a friend whom they will miss dearly.

Ms. Roseann Duran passed away earlier this year after a courageous battle with cancer. "A truly vibrant and unique person, Roseann, adored her family, cherished her many friends, and found joy in the company of her beloved dogs."



Dr. Philipp and Mrs. Carmina Aldana with Ms. Roseann Duran and former Wolfson President, Mr. Rubin in 2002

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2025

The NOF Board is comprised of many skilled people and not all of them are neurosurgeons! We strive to operate efficiently and smartly in order for NOF to be good stewards of your gifts. In guiding us, the members of our Board of Directors are folks from different sectors and are vital to NOF's organizational integrity. This year, we welcome Mr. Tony Rukab (pictured left) to the team!

Board of Directors 2024-2025:

Dr. Philipp Aldana - NOF Founder & President, Pediatric Neurosurgeon, Wolfson Children's Hospital and University of Florida, Jacksonville, Florida.

Mrs. Carmina Montesa Aldana - NOF Founder & Executive Director, Jacksonville, Florida

Mr. William Barton - Former American Express Executive, Jacksonville, Florida.

Ms. Melanie Boree - Social Work Professional, Jacksonville, Florida.

Dr. Patricia Quebada Clerkin - Pediatric Neurosurgeon, Valley Children's Healthcare, Madera, California.

Dr. Ricardo Hanel - Vascular Neurosurgeon, Baptist Health, Jacksonville, Florida.

Ms. Lindy Minosa - Accounting Professional, Jacksonville, Florida.

Dr. Stephen Pirris - Neurosurgeon, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, Florida.

Dr. Charu Raheja - Founder & CEO, TriageLogic, Jacksonville, Florida.

Mr. Tony Rukab - Commercial Real Estate Developer, Former Surgical Device Executive, Jacksonville, Florida.

Dr. Gary Schumacher - Entrepreneur, Jacksonville, Florida.

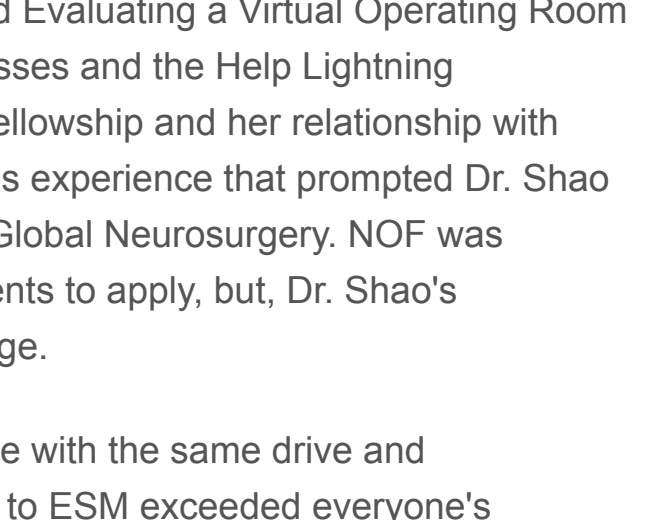
John Sefton - Attorney, Rogers Towers Attorneys-At-Law, Jacksonville, Florida.

Speaking of Board Directorship, a long-time board member, stepped down this year. As much as our hearts are sad, we remain in immense gratitude to his service.



Dr. Gordon Deen, retired neurosurgeon from Mayo Clinic, began his involvement with NOF as an engaged supporter over ten years ago. He joined the board soon after and participated as a medical team member for ESM 2019. Dr. Deen also gave his time in reviewing educational award applications. Some of you may remember him and his sweet wife, Ruth, as the honorary chairs for NOF's high-profile wine dinner, Uno Soiree Avec Margaux, a classy multi-course dinner paired with the wines from Chateau Margaux that took our fundraising efforts to the next level.

Evidently, Dr. Deen epitomizes the ideal board member with his commitment to NOF's mission and growth. However, it is his integrity and charm that wins people over. Adored by all of us in NOF, we will miss Dr. Deen tremendously. Please join us as we wish him a happy retirement with love and good health. Thank you, Dr. Deen for your friendship, memories, and for inspiring us!



Dr. Deen was presented an appreciation plaque for his dedication and service to NOF during the annual board of directors meeting in April 2024.

"...people sometimes come up to me and say the world has so many problems and I am only one person, what can I do to help? And the way you can help is by being a part of an organization like this...we started small...and then attracting interest from people from other parts of the country who want to be involved and this became a greater and greater organization. That's how one person can make a difference...is through an organization." ~ Dr. Gordon Deen

### Educational Award: Asian Australasian Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery (AASPN) Course

The Dr. Benigno S. Aquino, Jr., Educational Fund is NOF's most outreach program presenting much-needed financial assistance to neurosurgical residents from underserved or under-resourced communities. NOF is proud to share that over 140 young doctors have applied for educational awards from different parts of the world; from Peru to Cameroon to Nepal and in between. To date, over 80 of them have benefited. Giving them aid to attend international courses is practical, impactful, and has a ripple-effect to their career. We resumed our assistance to residents to attend the AASPN course, previously known as, Asian Australasian Advsurgery Course for Pediatric Neurosurgery.

This year, AASPN was held in Mumbai, India.

Congratulations to:

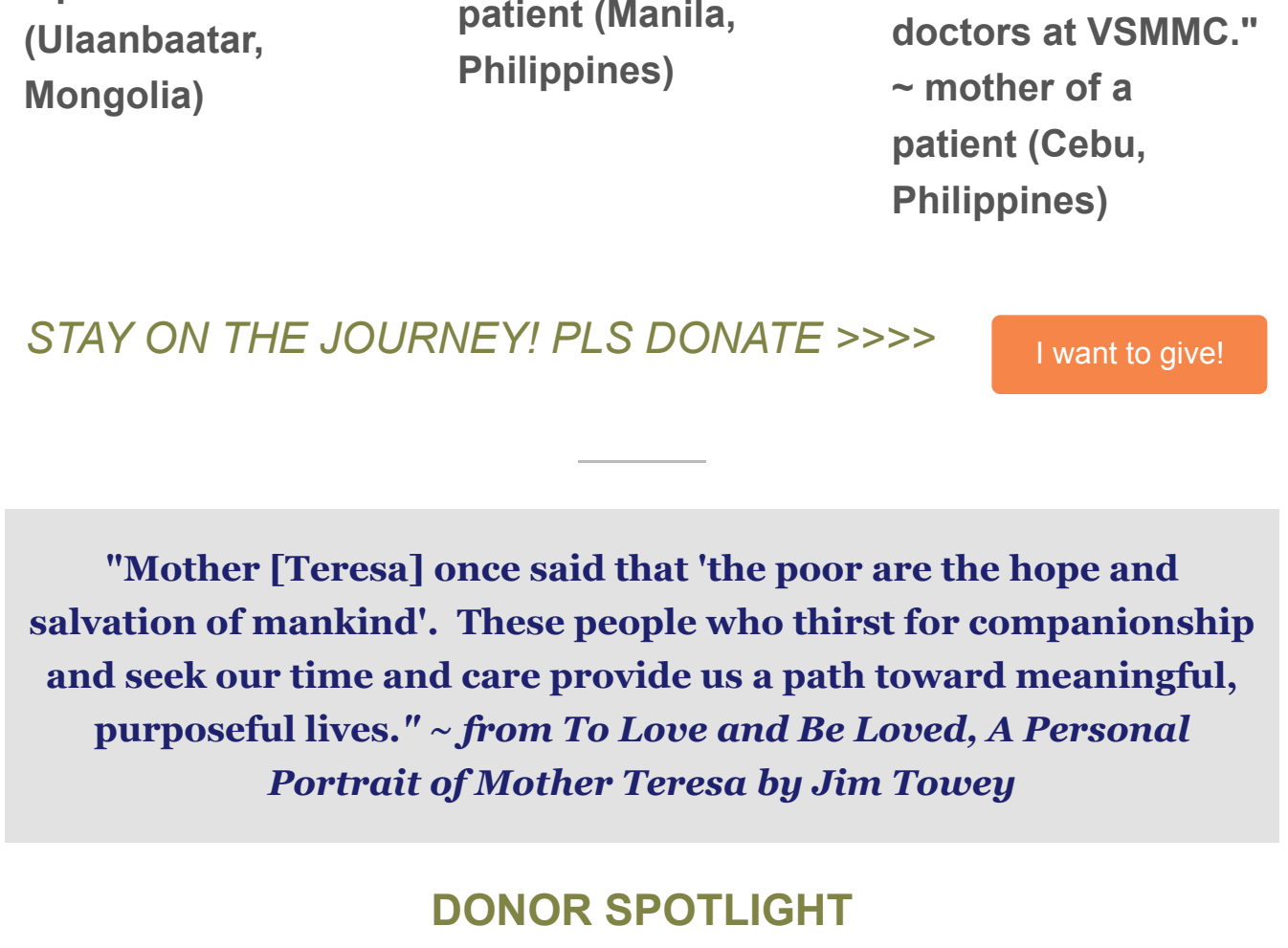
**Dr. Doeur Rvynonyoddom, Cambodia**

**Dr. Supachai Srichantha, Thailand**

**Dr. Yudiastira Wardana, Indonesia**

We hope their experience inspire them to excel beyond, serve their communities with purpose, and impact their patient care.

"...provided an unparalleled platform for learning, collaboration, and networking within the field of Pediatric Neurosurgery. The event was packed with a comprehensive curriculum, expert-led sessions, and interactive sessions offered insightful perspectives and practical knowledge that hopefully I can apply to my practice later. The engaging lectures and case studies facilitated in-depth discussions, encouraging critical thinking and fostering a deeper understanding of complex concepts.....The exchange of ideas, experiences, and perspectives not only enhanced my learning but also forged meaningful connections and collaborations that will extend beyond the duration of the course." ~ Dr. Wardana



Dr. Doeur Rvynonyoddom, Cambodia (left), Dr. Supachai Srichantha, Thailand (center), and Dr. Yudiastira Wardana, Indonesia (right) at the AASPN 2024, Mumbai, India

### JB Resident Award for Global Neurosurgery

This is only the second year when a JB Resident Award for Global Neurosurgery was presented and the awardee joined the ESM 2024 medical team. Following Dr. Ariana Barkley, a dynamic neurosurgeon from New Mexico, is Dr. Belinda Shao, an equally dynamic young neurosurgery resident!

Dr. Belinda Shao is a 5th year neurological surgery resident at Brown University, Rhode Island. She also holds a Masters in Public Health. Her introduction to NOF was by way of Dr. Barkley whose influence inspired Dr. Shao to propose a project for Sanjay Bhatta Global Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellowship: A Telemotorship Between Manila's Neurosurgery Residents and NOF's Neurosurgeons, Establishing and Evaluating a Virtual Operating Room Presence Using Ohana ONE Vuzix Glasses and the Help Lightning Application. Her proposal won her the fellowship and her relationship with NOF's neurosurgeons thrived. It was this experience that prompted Dr. Shao to apply for the JB Resident Award for Global Neurosurgery. NOF was fortunate to have attracted stellar residents to apply, but, Dr. Shao's Telemotorship Project gave her the edge.

Instantaneously, she slipped into the role with the same drive and determination to excel. Her contribution to ESM exceeded everyone's expectation and added a fresh resident perspective. Her passion towards global neurosurgery is evident and she will, no doubt, be a force to be reckoned with. Dr. Shao, however, is also a delight, which makes her a joy to work with that the entire ESM team can vehemently attest to! Read more about Dr. Shao and ESM 2024 in the winter edition of Brainwaves. Meanwhile, please congratulate Dr. Shao for her JB Resident Award for Global Neurosurgery. We are excited to watch her soar in neurosurgery.



JB Resident Award for Global Neurosurgery 2023, Dr. Belinda Shao, 5th year resident from Brown University. Pictured at right during ESM 2024.

### Service, Education, & Support

The barriers to adequate neurosurgical care are many. They are as diverse as the community that face them. A few examples of a barrier is the community's limited infrastructure for folks to physically go to a healthcare facility, conflict, misinformation or inadequate information on neurosurgical diseases and treatments available, and politics. Sometimes it is simply time. Under-resourced public hospitals can be overwhelmed by the influx of patients that they cannot adequately attend to, resulting in the wrenching decisions of allocating health care resources. The need is huge and even complex. In order for NOF to maintain its course, it has to have a bit of flexibility to adjust or pivot depending on the needs of its beneficiary. It, also, has to be innovative. That's when the exciting stuff happens - when our physicians listen and collaborate with our host partners on possibilities to attain their medical goals. The meeting of the minds is inspiring. However, before all of this happens, NOF leans on one of its playbook's core pillars: Borrowed from the principles of diplomacy, we practice skillful communication, building relationships, and gathering of information to fully understand the community we serve. This practice facilitates confidence from our host partners; and eventually, trust. Bottom line, NOF is a relational organization.

### NOF Mentions +

- + For the first time, the work related to NOF programs and volunteers will result in multiple presentation at an international conference. NOF's program to develop surgical capacity remotely via remote, web-based instruction and supervision will be presented on the podium at the annual meeting of the International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery by a neurosurgeon resident from the UP-PGH program in Manila, representing collaborators from NOF from Brown University, University of Florida, University of New Mexico and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and Valley Children's Hospital as well as consultants and residents from UP-PGH. Additionally, NOF's programmatic work in the Philippines as well as the NOF-supported international neurosurgery resident rotation at PGH were chosen as oral poster presentations at the same meeting, which will be held in Toronto, Canada in October this year.
- + NOF-TLHF Educational Awards for Skull-base and Vascular Technique Course and Jacksonville Traveling Fellowship are closed! Winners to be announced soon.
- + You can now find NOF listed as a charity of choice in [Benefity](#). Help your organization fulfill its social impact promise by making employee giving and matching easy!

### Messages from The Journey of Giving



"Thank you so much!" ~ mother of a patient (Aalanbaatar, Mongolia)

"Thank you for treating my wife." ~ husband of a patient (Manila, Philippines)

"So thankful for NOF for the support for my son and doctors at VSMHC." ~ mother of a patient (Cebu, Philippines)

STAY ON THE JOURNEY! PLS DONATE >>>> [I want to give!](#)

"Mother [Teresa] once said that 'the poor are the hope and salvation of mankind'. These people who thirst for companionship and seek our time and care provide us a path toward meaningful, purposeful lives." ~ *From To Love and Be Loved, A Personal Portrait of Mother Teresa by Jim Tawey*

### DONOR SPOTLIGHT



### THANK YOU TO THOSE BEHIND THE SCENES!

Kelsey Garrity (Research & Technology Consultant)  
Lindy Minosa (Treasurer)  
Maria Quilon (Secretary)  
Emily Tally (Educational Coordinator)  
and  
Junior NOFers:  
Carissa Aldana (Social Media Specialist)  
Katrina Aldana (Newsletter Editor)

SPECIAL THANKS TO VOLUNTEER NEUROSURGEONS WHO LEND THEIR TIME TO EVALUATE EDU AWARD APPLICATIONS

Dr. Ariana Barkley  
Dr. Wayne Otuf  
Dr. Eylem Ocak

### Brainy Fact

It is actually a myth that we only use 10% of our brain. We use all of it, even when it sleeps. Neurologists confirm that our brain is always active. Now, to use only 10% of it comes down to you. Your choice!