

## RHEUM FOR KIDS AND TEENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

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Christmas this year is more special because it has been 4 years since we had our face-to-face Christmas party for our patients. It is different when we gather and actually see each other during this special season. We celebrated our annual Christmas party last December 3, 2023 at Jollibee UST Dapitan.



Dr. Christine Bernal, the chief of the Department of Pediatrics, Section of Rheumatology, together with her fellows organized this activity for the benefit of kids with rheumatic diseases. There were games for both the kids and the parents, raffle, prizes, and Christmas baskets prepared for all the participants.



This year, we had 3 generous donors (they are parents of our patients who is diagnosed with SLE) who provided prizes for the games, raffle, and Christmas basket. We had a total of 62 attendees, consisting of our patients together with their guardians. Of the attendees, 28 of which were our patients with different rheumatologic conditions like systemic lupus erythematosus (13), chronic arthritis (13), mixed connective tissue disease (1), and chronic recurrent multifocal osteomyelitis (1).

We set up a registration booth where the kids can choose a Christmas bracelet of their liking to commence a festive mood.



The program started with a heart-felt opening prayer led by one of our patients, followed by a welcoming remark by Dr. Bernal, then we had games prepared by our host, picture taking, brunch, raffle, and gift giving.



Each game prepared were enjoyed both by the kids, teens, and their parents. They were all very competitive and we saw the camaraderie amongst them. Whether each team won or not, in the spirit of Christmas and thanksgiving, all participants were given prizes.

After the games, we gathered to have our photo taken. It is evident that the kids were very happy with how the event turned out.



The much awaited Christmas raffle was special this year. We wanted all kids and teens to be receiving a gift or cash prize. With the help of our donors, we were able to make this happen. The first 6 names picked





were given toys, and other 22 participants were given cash prizes.



At the end of the program, we gave each child a Christmas basket for them to enjoy at home.



Before we ended the activity, Dr. Garcia gave the closing remarks, wishing the kids good health and happiness for the coming year, and reminding them that as their doctors, we will always provide service to them whenever we can.



Each patient has a story of their own, and it is through this season we are able to share our blessings and make them feel that they are special not because of their illness, but because they are strong children who can overcome any obstacle facing their way. This was indeed a celebration of thanksgiving as one Pediatric Rheumatology family.