



**October 2015**

## **Update on the Apl.de.ap Foundation Grant**

### ***Campaign for Filipino Children***

In 2014 the Knights Templar Eye Foundation board approved and awarded a \$95,000 grant to assist in purchasing a digital imaging system that would be used in a pilot program for the Apl.de.ap Foundation formed by Allan Pineda Lindo better known as Apl.de.ap, a member of the Grammy Award-winning group, The Black Eyed Peas.

The *Campaign for Filipino Children* is an initiative that addresses a critical medical concern in the Philippines, the pediatric eye affliction known as retinopathy of prematurity. At least ten percent of all births in the Philippines involve premature babies, these premature births are the result of the relative deficient nature of prenatal care available to the poor. At least thirty percent of these premature babies develop retinopathy of prematurity, a disease that causes abnormal blood vessel growth in the retina from excessive oxygenation. If the affliction is not treated within 48 hours of diagnosis, these premature babies become permanently blind.

For four pilot hospitals alone, the initiative will train from 6 to 10 medical practitioners from each hospital, a total of 24 to 40, and potentially prevent blindness for 4,380 premature babies each year. In the future, doctors from these pilot hospitals will train their counterparts in other hospitals. The goal is to create the internal capacity in the Philippines to diagnose retinopathy of prematurity and perform needed surgeries within the first 48 hours of diagnosis.



*On October 30, 2015 the Southern Philippine Medical Center (SPMC) located in Davao City was selected by the Apl.de.ap Foundation to be the first pilot hospital to receive the equipment and 34 Sir Knights from Rajah Commandery #20, Grand Commandery of the Philippines, under the direction of Sir Knight Danilo C. Datu Sr., Grand Commander of the Philippines, attended the formal dedication as VIP guests of the Apl.de.ap Foundation.*