**Opening Remarks**

Maayong Buntag sa inyong tanan.

Maayong Buntag Sen. Loren Legarda…Ms. Dawn Zulueta.

In behalf of the ICANSERVE Foundation, welcome to Silver Linings!

Many thanks for choosing to spend your weekend with us. I know your weekends are priceless. Salamat sa pagbiyahe ninyo mula sa malalayong lugar.

May mga galling sa Manila katulad ng newscaster na si Twink Macaraig. Kahit maaga siyang umalis sa kanyang bahay, muntik na siyang di umabot dahil sa tindi ng traffic sa Manila at dahil sa isang PAL strike, nilakad na lang niya ang airport mula sa kotse niyang mga dalawang kilometro. Si Twink ay katulad sa iba po naming mga bisita na gagawin ang lahat makasama lang kayo.

May sakit po ang anak ni Dawn Zulueta pero naandito siya kasama natin, dahil gaya ni Twink naniniwala siya na mahalaga ang isyung kanser. Lumalala siya at kilangangang sugpuin. Dawn, we will pray for your daughter’s quick and perfect recovery.

May nagbiyaheng mga anim hanggang sa walang oras sa daan gaya ng mga taga Cagayan De Oro.

Mga taga Northern Mindanao Medical Center Cancer Survivors and Support Group Association and Outlive support group led by Dr. Magda Juan.

Cecile Bea ng Tabaco City

Kadughan ng Bacolod led by Dr. Tony Vasquez.

Bosom Care of Bacolod….

(NAME otherGROUPS)

Gusto rin naming pasalamatan ang isang daang barangay health workers ng Davao City. Salamat Mayor Sara sa pag-anyaya sa kanila. Pati na sa mga bisita ni Dawn, scholars of the Kahit Hindi Pasko Foundation (NAME OTHER SPONSORED GROUPS)

Of all the events that the ICANSERVE Foundation stages, Silver Linings is our favorite. It’s because we are in the company of family. And family is where you are loved best.

I am with fellow cancer survivors who live purposeful lives and know what second chances mean.

I am with relatives and friends of cancer patients who know what it’s like to lose someone to cancer and to find meaning in their pain and loss.

Kapiling ko po ngayon ang mga duktor, nurse, midwives, mga barangay health workers, medical students na walang inisip kundi, sana mas maaga nadidiskubre ang breast cancer ng kanilang pasyente dahil may lunas at mas maluwag sa bulsa ang gastusin.

I am in the company of celebrities, media practitioners, pharma companies, big companies and government officials who made our advocacy theirs and committed their influence to magnify our voices.

I am in the company of men and women who want to know more and be a part of the bandwagon of hope.

We also stand as one with those who can’t be with us today but share our aspirations for the cancer community… And for those who have gone ahead.

We at the ICANSERVE Foundation stage Silver Linings every three years to share information. We want every cancer survivor and their loved ones to feel in control and go through the experience with a strategy and a network of support services.

Ginagawa po naming ang Silver Linings para bigyan ng impormasyon, suporta, sigla at pagasa ang mga may kanser.

For those at risk, we want them to find their cancers early, before cancer finds them.

We want to create and fuel circles of support for the cancer survivors and those who care about them.

Simply put, Silver Linings is about saving lives.

And keeping families intact.

Ang layunin po namin ay makasagip ng mas maraming buhay para panatiliing buo ang mga pamilya.

We are about a thousand in this room and perhaps a little less than half are cancer survivors. We are small in number today but we are no longer a minority in this country.

Not even the world.

Cancer along with other non communicable diseases like diabetes, respiratory disease, heart attacks and strokes, is the number one killer accounting for over 60 percent of deaths in the world.

On Monday, the United Nations General Assembly will hold a meeting of global leaders, and heads of state to make cancer along with other non communicable diseases a priority issue. Cancer is no longer a health issue but a developmental one with a major socio-economic impact.

Sa Lunes, magtitipon tipon ang mga pinakamataas na opisyal sa iba’t ibang parte ng mundo, para pag-usapan at gawing prioridad ang isyu ng kanser na nakakasira ng pamumuhay ng tao, ekonomiya ng isang bansa. Hindi lang kalusugan ang naaapektohan.

This is a historical meeting because it is only the second time a health issue is tackled at the highest level. The first was AIDS in the year 2000.

We at the ICANSERVE Foundation believe that survivorship comes with responsibility. And so we promote early breast cancer detection.

We embark on a program called Ating Dibdibin where we teach the local government’s medical team especially the barangay health workers early cancer detection techniques so cancer is found early. It’s something we wish to do in as many cities as we can.

Dawn Zulueta has supported this endeavor along with the barangay health workers of Panabo City in Davao del Norte. We will soon begin in Tagum City and we hope to bring the Ating Dibdibin to Davao City. Nabanggit po namin ito kay Mayor Sara at interesado po siya. Meeting po ulit tayo pagkatapos ng Silver Linings!

There is an urgency for us to tell the women that there is a cure for breast cancer, especially if detected early. In our many interviews to promote Silver Linings here in Davao, the most common reaction was shock when we told the interviewers that yes, there can be a cure for cancer. They still assumed cancer was a death sentence.

Sa mga panayam naming sa radyo at telebisyon, nagugulat ang mga announcer kapag sinasabi naming may lunas ang kanser.

Ang kalaban po dito ay kakulangan sa kaalaman, takot at kakulangan ng pang gastos.

Our biggest enemies in this crusade are ignorance, fear and sadly, finances. Our program Ating Dibdibin tries to deal with these obstacles.

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We admit it’s not easy. We at the ICANSERVE can also be weak especially when someone has a recurrence or passes on. That is why we hold up each other the way family should. We try to feed our faith so we starve our fears. We invite you to be part of this circle that can create ripples. We will only be stronger and more effective if there were more of us.

For those of you attending Silver Linings for the first time, you will meet many cancer survivors at different stages of acceptance, different stages of their treatment or different stages of their new normal, and perhaps their advocacy. It’s enriching to be surrounded by all of them who know that being in the dark for some time has proven to be fertile ground for them to grow with a tunnel vision for seeking the sun, the light.

Later you will also meet, during the finale, a male breast cancer survivor from Cotabato. He’s travelling all the way to share his story of hope. That’s one other thing that surprises the Davao media. That men can get breast cancer. We are very privileged to hear his story.

May makikilala po kayo mamaya. Si Norodin Uka, isang lalakeng may breast cancer. Marahil nasa daan pa siya. Galing siyang Cotabato.Malaki ang aming pasasalamat at pumayag siyang ibahagi ang kanyang kuwento.

If you wish to share our advocacy and spread hope, you don’t have to do something grand. You don’t have to start a support group or a foundation. All you have to do is start with yourself.

Know all you can to stay fit and take charge of your health.

Kung ibig ninyong tumulong, simple lang po ang aming mensahe. Pangalagaan po ninyo ang inyong sarili.

We in ICANSERVE believe there is hope in this life and in the next. In fact, what lies ahead is immensely and immeasurably much better. Knowing that, what is there to fear?

I’d like you to meet the fearless and tireless women of ICANSERVE who work hard at saving lives.

Our board members…LaniEusebio,BibethOrteza, Bettina Osmena, CrisannCeldran, Margie Jorillo, Nikoy De Guzman, Carla Paras-Sison, Lian Chua, Dr. Cecile Montales, Sheila Cruz, VangieKhu, Tina Gutierrez, Bangga Mabanta, Me’anne Solomon…

Lead volunteers in the Visayas, Nelia Navarro, FelyAtienza, LiezelMatondo, Tingting Caballero. In Manila, Veck Arjona, Be Fojas, Leonor Gopuco, Irene Tumaob at lahat ng mga kapatid namin sa Medical City.

Lead volunteers sa Davao City, mga taga Smiles na pinangungunahan ni Doc Honey Abarquez, LynnethSorronda, mga taga Living Hope kasama ni Melina Avila at Gilda Ruyedas. Naandiyan po si Annie Cacho, MaluTolentino, Gatch Gatchalian.

I am very proud of my sisters. They fuel hope.

Today we are full of gratitude to all of you who made Silver Linings possible. It puts a smile in our hearts to last us till the next one.

Loren, Dawn, maraming salamat po sa inyong buong pusong suporta. You have no idea how much your support has made a difference. Sa mga taga Davao, salamat sa inyong mainit na pagtanggap.

Sa mga sponsors, maraming salamat sa halaga na binigay ninyo sa amin. The breast cancer community is forever grateful.(Name the sponsors and say something about them)

Sa lahat ng lumahok, maraming salamat. Sigurado po kami na di kayo magsisisi sa inyong pagpunta.

I hope you learn something you didn’t know before, or start to see something you’ve always known in a different way, or meet someone who will make you want to be a better and healthier person.

Instead of looking for the Silver Linings peeking out of the clouds, be that Silver Lining!

Thank you. Daghang Salamat. God Bless you all!