

What is VYLH?

The **Volunteers Youth Leaders for Health – Philippines (VYLH-Phil)** is a network of leaders from different youth organizations based in colleges and universities, and communities in the Philippines. This novel undertaking is part of an international effort to establish the **March of Dimes - Global Network for Maternal and Infant Health (MOD-GNMIH)** participated by youth counterparts in China and Lebanon linked by the common interest of volunteerism and public service, to improve birth outcomes worldwide through **advocacy**.

VYLH-Philippines was organized with the aim of mobilizing the youth towards better health. Currently, the network is doing advocacy and promotional work in their respective schools and communities.



Why should I involve in VYLH?

As a youth, you have the energy to influence more people to promote a better and healthy community by joining NOW!

Involving in VYLH is a unique experience. You will have the chance to work with other youth from other colleges, universities, community youth organizations and health professionals at the national, regional and local level.

Everyone is welcome in VYLH. VYLH-Philippines believes that health is everyone's concern and health promotion is everyone's responsibility.

By being member of the network, you also become a recipient of the services rendered by the network.

By being a health advocate and health educator, you also increase your knowledge about health concerns.

VYLH-Philippines is a network of pro-active, service-oriented, empowering and visionary leaders equipped with knowledge and skills in mobilizing the youth towards a healthy Philippines.



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<http://sites.google.com/site/vylhphilippines/>
[facebook.com/vylhphilippines](https://www.facebook.com/vylhphilippines)

Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health Philippines



empowering the youth for health

VYLH-Philippines and its beginnings

The **VYLH-Philippines** was formally organized in July 2009 during the **1st National Youth Camp** in Tagaytay City through the collaborative effort of the **Institute of Human Genetics of the National Institutes of Health, University of the Philippines-Manila, the Department of Health, and The UPLB Genetics Society**, a student organization from the **University of the Philippines Los Baños**.

Currently, the VYLH-Philippines Network is composed of youth leaders from **73 university-based and 29 community-based organizations***. The network is continuously expanding its coverage to other youth organizations nationwide.

**as of May 2011*

The principles binding the members of VYLH-Philippines

The principles binding the members of VYLH-Philippines are **Leadership, Commitment, Advocacy and Voluntarism**.

VYLH believes that collectively the youth sector can lead in collaboration with other sectors in nation building by working towards a healthy society.

VYLH believes that in order to play a critical role in nation building, unrelenting commitment to humanitarian endeavor that benefits the general public is of utmost importance.

VYLH believes that the network in collaboration with government and non-government health agencies at all levels shall advocate for the health needs of the youth sector and general public towards a healthy future.

VYLH believes that the spirit of volunteerism should be inculcated in the minds of the youth, making them more responsible and concerned citizens.

The activities of VYLH-Philippines

Since its inception in July 2009, the leaders of the VYLH network were doing advocacies and promotional work in their respective schools and communities focusing on the following health concerns:



Increasing awareness among women in their reproductive age on the significance of folic acid supplementation in the prevention of birth defects;



Increasing public awareness in saving babies from mental retardation and death through newborn screening; and



Lobbying public support for the urgent passage of the Rare Disease Act, an act addressing the needs of patients with rare, orphan disorders.

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