

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3780

GOVERNOR'S

MONTHLY LETTER

JANUARY 2026



A NEW YEAR OF SERVICE, A LEGACY OF HOPE

Start 2026 with the inspiring stories of Rotary District 3780—from building homes in Lipa City to protecting our oceans and empowering the next generation.





TOGETHER, WE

FIGHT HUNGER

Hunger affects every community. District Governor Veronica Yu and Rotarians of District 3780 repacked kiddie loot bags for street dwellers this New Year's Eve. This brought nourishment and comfort to those in need. That's what People of Action do. Learn more at Rotary.org.

Rotary



PEOPLE OF ACTION

Editor's Note

A new year always arrives with a quiet promise.

January invites us to pause for a moment—to look back with gratitude and to look forward with renewed purpose. As we turn the pages of a new calendar year, we also turn a new chapter in our shared Rotary journey, carrying with us the lessons, friendships, and service experiences that shaped the months behind us.

The past year reminded us that Rotary is far more than meetings and projects. It is compassion in action, leadership rooted in service, and hope made visible through countless small and great deeds. Across our district, Rotarians have continued to show up for communities in need, for one another, and for causes that uplift lives and inspire change. Each story featured in this issue of our Governor's Newsletter is a testament to that unwavering commitment.

January is also a time of intention. It encourages us to ask meaningful questions: How can we serve better? How can we lead with greater empathy? How can we strengthen our clubs while welcoming new voices and fresh ideas? The answers lie not only in plans and goals, but in our willingness to collaborate, adapt, and act with purpose.

It is both an honor and a privilege for the GML Editorial Team to share the stories of our clubs and members — stories that reflect dedication, resilience, and the enduring spirit of "Service Above Self."

May this first issue of 2026 inspire you to dream boldly, serve joyfully, and continue to make a difference in ways both seen and unseen.

Thank you for being part of this journey and for allowing our District 3780 GML to be a space where your stories, achievements, and aspirations come together.

Wishing you and your loved ones a meaningful, impactful, and hope-filled New Year.

In Rotary Service,

PP Beth Directo
Editor-in-Chief
GML RY 2025 - 2026



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ABOUT THE GML

The Governor's Monthly Letter is the official publication of Rotary International District 3780, Quezon City, Philippines.



The GML is published each month to keep members in our district informed, engaged, and motivated to contribute to Rotary's mission of service and fellowship, as well as to continue to create a positive impact in the communities we serve and the world.



ON THE COVER:
The cover features dedicated Rotarian and Rotaractor volunteers from RID 3780 engaged in a high-stakes emergency response on December 31, providing urgent medical assistance during a life-saving New Year's Eve mission.

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CORRECTION SECTION:

In our previous issue, a placeholder image was mistakenly published in the RC Cosmopolitan Cubao article. The digital edition has been updated with the correct photo. We regret the error and apologize for any confusion.



MESSAGE

from our

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Vocational Service Month | Midyear of Our Rotary Year

January welcomes us to Vocational Service Month, and with it, a meaningful pause in our Rotary journey. We are now at the midyear point of our term half of our Rotary year has been written, and the next chapters are waiting for us to shape with purpose, integrity, and action.

Vocational Service is the heart of what makes Rotary different. It reminds us that our professions are not only a means of livelihood, but powerful tools for service. Every Rotarian carries a skill, a passion, and an expertise that can uplift communities. Whether you are a business owner, a professional, an educator, a health worker, or a public servant, your vocation is your platform to serve, inspire, and lead by example.

At midyear, I invite every club and every Rotarian to pause, reflect, and refocus. Look at the goals you set at the beginning of this term. Celebrate what you have accomplished so far, but more importantly, ask yourselves:

- What still needs to be done?*
- What impact do we want to leave when this Rotary year ends?*



We give not because we must, but because we understand what our giving means to those who have so little and hope for so much.

Veronica Yu



We now have five months left to finish strong. Five months to strengthen our clubs, complete our projects, empower our members, and expand Rotary's public image. Five months to turn plans into action and action into lasting service. Time moves quickly, but when we stay focused, aligned, and united, great things happen.

This month, let us highlight vocational projects, ethical leadership, mentorship, and professional development. Let us show our communities that Rotarians do not only serve with their hands, but also with their minds, values, and integrity. Rotary is not just what we do it is who we are in our professions and in our daily lives.

To all our presidents, officers, and members: thank you for all that you do for our beloved organization. Your commitment, sacrifice, and passion continue to move our district forward. Together, let us stay inspired, stay accountable to our goals, and finish this Rotary year with excellence.

The best part of our term is still ahead. Let us move forward with purpose, service, and unity.

With gratitude and in Rotary Service,

Veronica Yu
 District Governor
 Rotary International District 3780
 RY 2025 - 2026





Message from Rotary International President 2025-26

In a garage outside Salinas, California, young people who are learning to restore classic cars are doing more than developing a skill — they are reclaiming their futures. This training program provides mentorship and, for some, a path away from gang involvement toward meaningful employment. Graduates leave with certifications, practical experience, and hope.

This is what Rotary's Vocational Service Month celebrates each January — the power of bringing together people with unique skills to do good in the world. It reminds us that integrity isn't just about our actions matching our words. Integrity is in everything we do.

The California automotive program has been such a success because it was built on integrity. Members of the Rotary Club of Carmel-by-the-Sea didn't assume they knew what the community needed. They listened. They learned there was a shortage of skilled mechanics as well as a large number of young people lacking job training. They recognized that technical skills alone wouldn't be enough, so they partnered with Rancho Cielo, a nonprofit offering counseling and support services alongside vocational training.

That is The Four-Way Test in action. Those four simple questions help us not judge others but guide us toward genuine, effective service.

Consider our commitment to ending polio. For nearly 40 years, we have promised the world's children we will eliminate this disease. Despite obstacles, we persist, and today we are closer to defeating the virus. Keeping this promise is the very definition of integrity.

The same integrity must drive our vocational service. With 1.2 billion young people in emerging economies reaching working age in the next decade and only 420 million jobs projected, we face a critical gap. Communities long excluded from economic opportunities need our support.

But support doesn't mean imposing our will. It means listening to local needs, building partnerships, and designing projects that communities can sustain themselves.

You have knowledge that can transform lives. Whatever your profession, your expertise combined with Rotary's values creates lasting change. The question isn't whether you have something to offer, it's how you'll use your skills to serve.

This January, I encourage you to ask how your club can address vocational needs in your community. What skills do your members have that could change someone's life? How can your networks open doors for young people? What partnerships can create sustainable jobs?

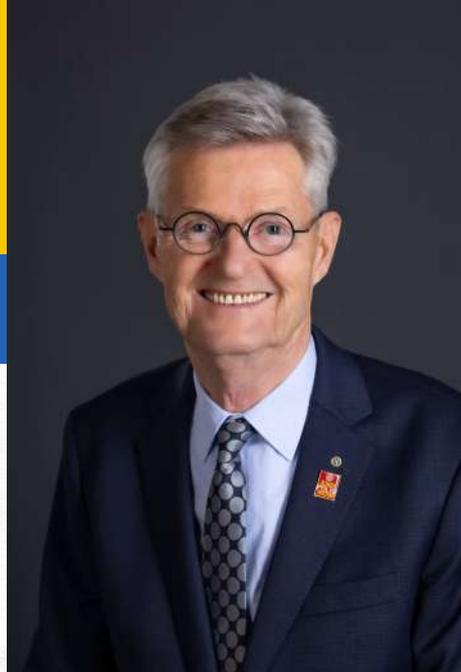
Let integrity guide you. Let The Four-Way Test light your path. And let the young people in California and the multitudes worldwide who need job skills remind you why vocational service matters.

Let us celebrate putting our professional skills to work for humanity with integrity at the heart of everything we do.

Francesco Arezzo
President
Rotary International
RY 2025 – 2026



Message from Trustee Chair 2025-26



When we think of global projects at Rotary, we often think of the cooperation between two clubs or districts that goes into Rotary Foundation global grants. These efforts form the backbone of our international grant activities. Yet we have also seen how larger projects can have even greater impact by attracting significant partners and long-term funding. These initiatives are measurable and visible, attracting yet more partners and new Rotary members who see the work in action.

Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria, one of the Foundation's Programs of Scale, embodies this vision. I asked **Dolapo Lufadeju**, a Rotarian from Nigeria and co-founder of the Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal, and Child Health, to share why this model has been so successful:

Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria, which began in 2022, aims to reduce maternal and neonatal deaths by 25 percent. We focus on training doctors, midwives, nurses, and community health extension workers in emergency obstetrics, neonatal care, respectful maternity practices, and long-acting reversible contraceptives.

The most vital aspect is community engagement. We conduct dialogues with traditional, religious, and youth leaders. We are organizing joint medical outreach and home visitations. State ministries of health are increasingly adopting these approaches as part of their primary health care interventions, using the template and methodologies Rotary developed.

Our electronic data-tracking system allows better monitoring of maternal and child deaths. Notably, our community-based system now tracks maternal deaths during home deliveries, something previously unmeasured.

Most significantly, maternal deaths dropped by 20 percent and neonatal deaths decreased by 28 percent in supported facilities, while postnatal clinic attendance increased by 10 percent.

I am also a member of the action group and have followed this project for over 20 years, long before it was awarded a Programs of Scale grant. In November I observed the dedicated work there of the teams with midwives and health workers.

This evolution shows what's possible when Rotary dedication meets strategic partnerships. The program's success prompted Nigerian philanthropist Sir Emeka Offer to contribute \$5 million, allowing the initiative to expand. Other countries are interested in this model.

Every contribution you make to The Rotary Foundation strengthens its power as a global force for change that channels your generosity into lasting transformation.

Holger Knaack
Trustee Chair
Rotary International
RY 2025 - 2026



RC SACRED HEART SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEERS AND SMILES

BY ROTARY CLUB OF SACRED HEART

The Rotary Club of Sacred Heart, together with the RCC-Katuwang Sa Paglago Organization, shared the true spirit of Christmas through a gift-giving activity held on December 20, 2025, for its adopted community of vulnerable children. The day was filled with smiles, laughter, warm hugs, and hearts brimming with hope and gratitude.



Moments like these remind us that giving, sharing, and caring make Christmas truly magical. The Club extends its heartfelt thanks to all the generous Rotarians who donated gifts and tokens for the children and volunteer teachers. Special recognition also goes to its partner, RCC-Katuwang Sa Paglago, for helping shape a brighter future for these children through holistic learning and education. Mabuhay kayo!

RC ROXAS QC'S FROM OUR HEARTS TO THEIRS: A SPECIAL DAY FOR OUR ELDERS AT THE JOSEFHEIM FOUNDATION

BY ROTARY CLUB OF ROXAS, QC

Last December 15, 2025, UFGP Wilyn Fenete, together with Rtrn. Sarah Joy Librea and volunteers from RC Roxas QC, organized a heartwarming gift-giving and feeding program for abandoned adults and elderly residents at the Josefheim Foundation in Sitio Labong, Bugarin, Halayhayin, Pililla, Rizal.

The event, generously sponsored by Mr. Romulo Manigbas through the initiative of Ms. Melanie De Dios-Magno, aimed to bring joy and comfort to the Foundation's beneficiaries and staff during the holiday season. Volunteers prepared and distributed gifts, hygiene kits, and groceries not only to the abandoned adults and elderly residents but also to the hardworking staff and fellow volunteers.



Participants shared laughter and created lasting memories through singing and dancing, fostering a strong sense of community and joy among everyone present. The event highlighted the importance of compassion, volunteerism, and extending care to society's often-overlooked members. For the elders, it was a day of recognition—of feeling seen and cherished; for the volunteers, it served as a humbling reminder of resilience, hope, and the beauty of giving without expectation.

UFGP Wilyn Fenete and the team expressed their gratitude to all sponsors and volunteers whose support made the program a success, reinforcing the spirit of giving and togetherness that defines the holiday season.





RC ROOSEVELT DELIVERS MAKE-A-WISH CHRISTMAS PROJECT AND CELEBRATES DISTRICT 3780 PHYLA RECOGNITION

BY ROTARY CLUB OF ROOSEVELT

The Rotary Club of Roosevelt closed the year with meaningful service and well-earned recognition, reflecting the true spirit of Rotary in action.

As part of its Christmas initiatives, the Club carried out a Make-A-Wish project at Tahanan ng Pagmamahal Orphanage. The activity emphasized compassion, presence, and genuine connection, fulfilling items from the orphanage's identified wish list and ensuring that the support provided directly addressed the children's needs. Beyond the gifts, Rotarians shared meals, conversations, and moments of joy with the children, creating an atmosphere of warmth and belonging. A heartfelt highlight of the day was an original song performed by the children, titled "Thank You," a sincere expression of gratitude that deeply moved everyone present.

The project also integrated a WASH activity, during which children were taught proper hand hygiene and provided with hygiene kits for daily use, reinforcing healthy habits that extend beyond the celebration.

Alongside this service milestone, the Club proudly celebrates the selection of its nominee, Eugene Dela Cruz, as the Rotary International District 3780 PHYLA Awardee. This recognition honors his leadership, commitment to service, and dedication to Rotary values. His achievement reflects the strength of youth leadership nurtured within the Club and serves as an inspiration for continued service to the community.

Through service and leadership, RC Roosevelt continues to live out Rotary's enduring commitment to Service Above Self.

RC WEST TRIANGLE SHOWCASES SIGNATURE SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT WITH PHILIPPINE WACOAL CORP.

BY ROTARY CLUB OF WEST TRIANGLE

The Rotary Club of West Triangle proudly highlighted one of its signature environmental projects led by Past President Elmira Cadungog, Manager of Philippine Wacoal Corp. The activity was held on August 1, 2025, at the 66th Foundation of Pinaglabanan Elementary School in San Juan City. The initiative focused on promoting sustainability through the recycling of used bras, with Philippine Wacoal Corp. generously supporting the activity to help raise awareness of responsible waste management.

The project aimed to educate students, PTA officers, and parents on the importance of recycling everyday items that often end up in landfills. Participants learned how discarded bras can be collected, processed, and transformed into useful materials, helping reduce textile waste and protect the environment.



The Club will continue conducting information drives and recycling campaigns throughout the year in partnership with Philippine Wacoal Corp. All bra recycle bags delivered to the Club will remain sealed and will be sent directly to GUUN Co. Ltd. in Consolacion, Cebu City, for processing into fluff fuel. This eco-friendly fuel, made from waste plastic, paper, and fiber, serves as an alternative to fossil fuels used by cement producers in Cebu.

Past President Elmira Cadungog's leadership played a vital role in the project's success. With the strong support of Unite For Good President Marc Aviles and all Club members, the initiative reflects Rotary's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable community solutions.





RC SFDM LEADS SEASON OF SERVICE, BRINGING HOPE AND HOLIDAY JOY

BY ROTARY CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO DEL MONTE

True to its commitment to Service Above Self, the Rotary Club of San Francisco Del Monte (RCSFDM) carried out a series of humanitarian activities that brought hope, healing, and holiday joy to communities throughout December 2025.

On December 1, 2025, the Club conducted the second wave of donations for the fire victims of Barangay San Antonio. This activity served as a follow-through assessment of the families' current needs and living conditions. The initiative was led by spouses Past President Doc Manny Po and Rotarian Dra. Nitz Po, together with Club Secretary and Past President Mackie Hermosa, ensuring that assistance reached families most in need.

Continuing its health advocacy, RCSFDM conducted a Vision Screening and Eyeglasses Dispensing activity at Cubao Elementary School on December 3, 2025. A total of 80 prescription eyeglasses were distributed to students. This program earned the Club two school nominations and led to its recognition as one of the Most Outstanding Stakeholders during the 6th Gawad Kaagapay Awards, held on December 18, 2025, at VS Hotel in Quezon City. The Club was represented by Rotarian Dra. Yasmin Meribeles and Rotarian Dra. Annee Escleto.

The season culminated with a Christmas gift-giving activity for nearly 200 children in Barangay San Antonio on December 18, 2025. The event was organized by the Rotary Community Corps in partnership with RCSFDM and led by UFG President Perry Dominguez, RACMA UFG President Lance Sta. Maria, Service Committee Chair Junn Sta. Maria, RCC Vice President Rutchie Valdepeña, and Club Secretary Past President Mackie Hermosa.





RC CUBAO QC MARKS FIVE YEARS OF PROTECTING PAWIKANS AND OUR OCEANS

BY ROTARY CLUB OF CUBAO, Q.C.

On December 21, the Rotary Club of Cubao, led by UFG President Ellen Pastores, celebrated the fifth anniversary of its signature Pawikan Preservation Project in Naic, Cavite. This milestone event, held in collaboration with the Pawikan Patroller Group and PICPA WMMC, focused on the vital protection of marine biodiversity.

The highlight of the initiative was the successful release of approximately 130 hatchlings into the ocean. Prior to the release, participants attended an educational orientation on the sea turtle life cycle and the importance of community-led conservation. This session aimed to foster long-term environmental stewardship among attendees.

Through this annual project, the Club continues its commitment to preserving the environment for future generations.





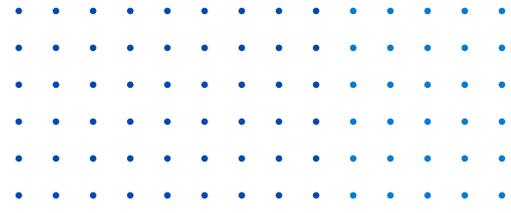
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RC COSMOPOLITAN CUBAO SHARES THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS THROUGH SERVICE, COMPASSION, AND UNITY



BY ROTARY CLUB OF COSMOPOLITAN CUBAO

The Rotary Club of Cosmopolitan Cubao (RCCC) carried out a series of Christmas outreach activities across various communities, reaffirming its commitment to service during the holiday season.

Represented by UFG President Cecyl Aveno, Immediate Past President Benjamin V. Ganapin Jr. and spouse Kate, Rtn. Samuel Fuentes, members of Bisyong Pagnenegosyo, and dedicated youth volunteers, the Club began its outreach on December 6, 2025, with a return visit to Maruglu, Capas, Tarlac. Having previously visited the community on November 8, 2025, the Club returned to share the magic and joy of Christmas with the residents of this vibrant community.

The Christmas initiatives continued with Fiestang Pasko held on December 13 at Sta. Lucia, Novaliches, Quezon City, followed by a community gift-giving outreach in Burdeos, Quezon, on December 16.

On December 17, RCCC visited Living Word United Methodist Church, and on December 18, the Club shared Christmas blessings with the children of Balagtas Children Center. The series of outreach activities culminated on December 21 with a Christmas celebration at KKCF in Mabalacat, Pampanga, where the Club brought joy to children and community members through gifts, free ice cream, games, and fellowship. The event was filled with happiness and laughter, making it a truly joyful day for both the beneficiaries and the Rotarians.

Throughout these activities, RCCC shared the blessings of Christmas by spreading joy, sharing the Word, giving gifts, hosting games, and fostering meaningful fellowship. These initiatives reflected a heartfelt celebration of service, compassion, and unity—truly Service Above Self.



RC WEST FAIRVIEW PASKONG ALAY SAYA A DAY OF CHRISTMAS JOY FOR ONE MOTHER AND ONE CHILD

BY ROTARY CLUB OF WEST FAIRVIEW

In this season of giving, we are reminded that the heart of Rotary shines brightest when we bring hope, joy, and care to families, nurturing both mothers and children in meaningful ways. This month, the Rotary Club of West Fairview embodied this spirit through its signature project, Paskong Alay Saya.



The initiative began with a simple yet heartfelt wish from President-Elect Imelda Quimba, who hoped to “adopt a mother and child for a day” as a Christmas gift. This idea resonated deeply with the club, particularly after recognizing the challenges faced by families in Ruby Street Extension, Creekside, Fairview—an area marked by poverty, limited opportunities, and daily hardships for both mothers and children. After consulting the community leader, Unite for Good President Marc Anthony Bajita and the 16 charter members embraced the vision wholeheartedly. Together, they supported 17 mothers and their children, offering them a special day centered on bonding, joy, and shared experiences.

Club members began the day by sharing breakfast with the mothers and children, setting a warm and welcoming tone for the activity. Inside the indoor playground, members joined the children at play and spent meaningful moments with the mothers—not as benefactors, but as companions—in an afternoon filled with laughter, connection, and genuine joy. After playtime, everyone gathered once more to share a meal before the children received thoughtful gifts and the mothers were given heartfelt tokens—small gestures that created lasting memories and deep emotional impact.



Though the day came to an end, its effects continue to resonate. The mothers left with renewed confidence, the children with unforgettable memories, and the community with a strengthened sense of connection. By making Paskong Alay Saya an annual tradition, the club ensures that hope, care, and the well-being of mothers and children will continue to flourish—year after year.



DISTRICT 3780 ROTABOWL 2025 BOWLING TOGETHER IN UNITY AND SERVICE

BY ROTARY CLUB OF LOYOLA HEIGHTS



The District 3780 Rotabowl Championship, proudly hosted by the Rotary Club of Loyola Heights, enlivened Ever Gotesco Commonwealth in Quezon City on December 14, 2025. The vibrant tournament brought together Rotary clubs from across the district in spirited competition that went beyond bowling, embodying Rotary's enduring motto, Service Above Self.

More than a contest, Rotabowl emphasized unity over victory, showcasing how sport can foster harmony among clubs while uniting members toward a shared purpose. The event served as a powerful catalyst for camaraderie, leadership, and community spirit. District Governor Veronica Yu delivered an inspiring keynote address, underscoring the importance of teamwork, compassionate leadership, and an unwavering commitment to service.

The awarding ceremony celebrated not only the winners but also the dedication, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm of all participants. Trophies, medals, and certificates symbolized the collective achievement and shared pride of the district's Rotarians.

2025 Rotabowl Champions

Class O

- Champion: RC Batasan Hills
- 2nd Place: RC Cubao
- 3rd Place: Life Changing Presidents (LCP)
- 4th Place: RC Quirino
- 5th Place: Transforming Presidents

Class A

- Champion: RC Diliman Silangan
- 2nd Place: RC New Manila East
- 3rd Place: RC Talipapa
- 4th Place: RC Loyola Heights
- 5th Place: Magical Presidents

Class B

- Champion: RC Metro North Centennial
- 2nd Place: RC Midtown Cubao
- 3rd Place: RC Novaliches
- 4th Place: RC Roosevelt
- 5th Place: RC Cubao South

Class C

- Champion: RC New Manila South
- 2nd Place: RC UFG Striker
- 3rd Place: RC UFG Jeju
- 4th Place: The Great Magical Presidents

Rotabowl 2025 proved to be a resounding success, a dynamic celebration that strengthened Rotary bonds, energized active participation, and reaffirmed the transformative power of service through fellowship and friendly competition.



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3780 STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIP WITH QUEZON CITY GOVERNMENT

Rotary International District 3780 recently held a strategic meeting with the Quezon City Government to present a range of development programs aimed at improving the quality of life of QCitizens through education, health, and community support initiatives.

During the meeting, District Governor Veronica Yu formally shared the District's priority projects with Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte. Among the proposed initiatives were the establishment of WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) facilities in public schools, support for zero illiteracy and tutoring programs, the provision of scholarship grants, and the donation of much-needed equipment and supplies for health facilities across the city.

Mayor Belmonte welcomed the proposed programs and expressed the local government's readiness to collaborate with Rotary International District 3780. The partnership aims to expand access to essential services and strengthen existing efforts in education, healthcare, and youth development for the benefit of Quezon City residents.



Also present at the meeting were key city officials, including Assistant City Administrator Atty. Rene Grapilon, Quezon City Health Department Head Dr. Ramona Abarquez, Education Affairs Unit Chief Maricris Veloso, and Youth Development Office Head Lyn Dividina. Their participation underscored the city government's collective commitment to fostering meaningful collaborations with civic organizations such as Rotary to deliver sustainable and impactful community programs.

Through this partnership, Rotary International District 3780 and the Quezon City Government reaffirm their shared vision of service, collaboration, and inclusive development—working together to create lasting positive change in the lives of QCitizens.





TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH: A ROTARIAN'S JOURNEY FOR A POLIO-FREE WORLD

BY RHODA GONZALES

Having been a passionate Rotarian for over twenty-five years—and a devoted world traveler for even longer—November 2025 marked a moment when two lifelong passions converged in a way I had never imagined possible.

Inspired by Past Rotary International Director Jessie Harman's trek to Everest Base Camp, and by Peter Teahen and John Ockenfels' flight around the world to raise awareness for Rotary's End Polio Now campaign, I felt called to contribute in my own way. As a proud citizen of the Philippines—where the global polio eradication initiative began in Makati, Manila, in 1979—I embarked on a journey to Antarctica, carrying with me a powerful symbol of hope. For the first time in history, the End Polio Now banner flew over the frozen continent.

My journey to Antarctica became a mission in itself, taking me across several countries where Rotary's spirit of service thrives. In Ethiopia, I had the privilege of engaging with fellow Rotarians in Addis Ababa during the District 9216 End Polio Now Kite Festival, aptly themed "Fly for a World Free from Polio." From there, my travels continued through Canada, Colombia, Chile, and finally Argentina, where I boarded the M.V. Ushuaia in the world's southernmost city—Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego.

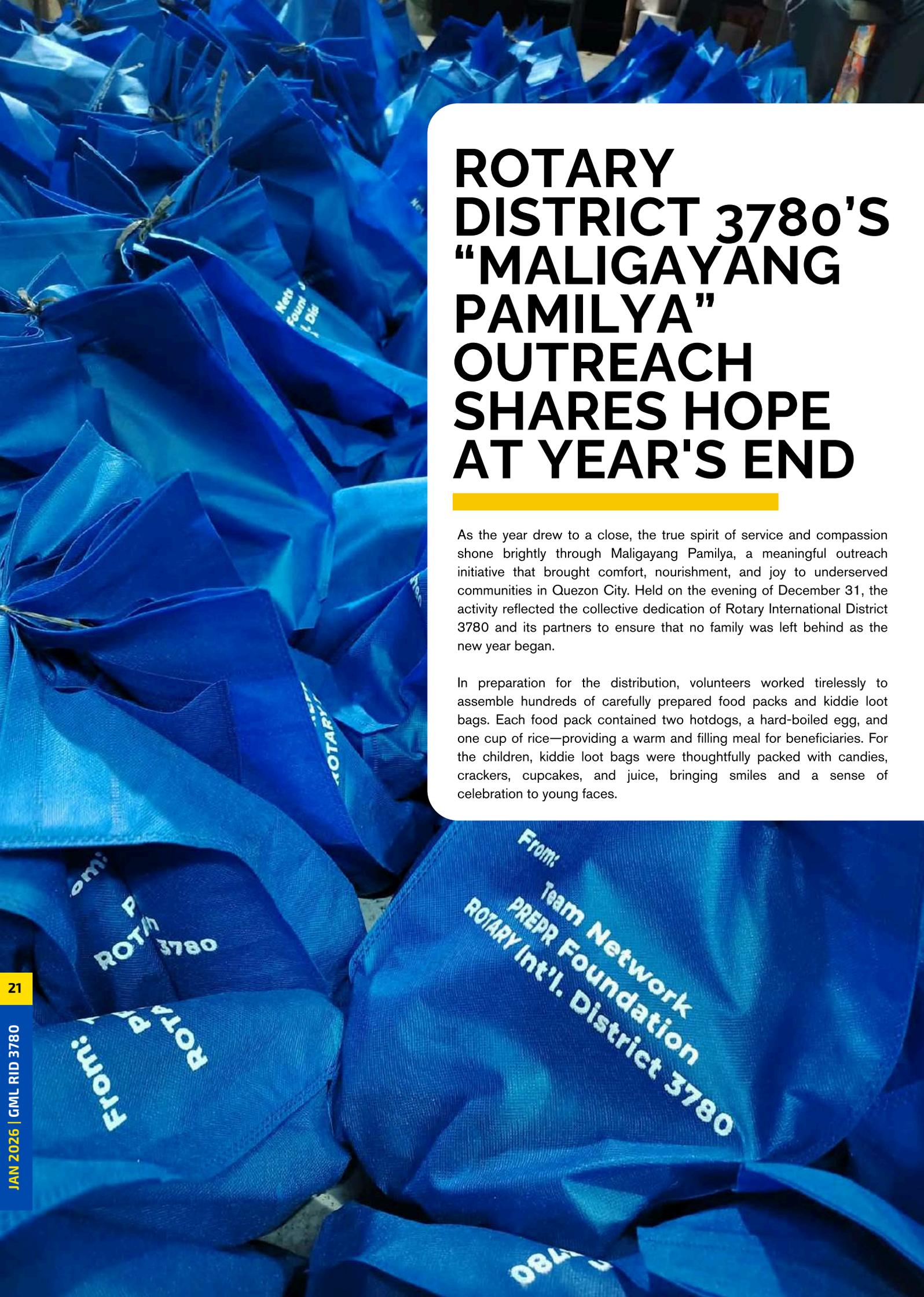


I began my Antarctic voyage filled with anticipation as we sailed through the scenic Beagle Channel. Crossing the legendary Drake Passage was an experience unlike any other. Watching albatrosses glide effortlessly alongside the ship, spotting whales from the deck, and learning from the expedition team through engaging lectures deepened my appreciation of the Southern Ocean and its vital role in sustaining Antarctic life. The first sight of towering icebergs and snow-covered peaks near the South Shetland Islands was surreal, marking my true arrival in the polar world.

Exploring the Antarctic Peninsula and the South Shetland Islands was nothing short of extraordinary. Each day brought landings among bustling penguin colonies, seal-lined beaches, and historic sites once touched by early explorers—all framed by towering glaciers and pristine, untouched wilderness. Sailing through narrow channels like the Lemaire Strait and stepping onto the Antarctic continent itself were moments I will forever cherish. As we eventually turned north and recrossed the Drake Passage, I reflected deeply on the rare privilege of experiencing such raw and fragile beauty.

Returning to Ushuaia, I was proud to have finally set foot on my seventh continent. Yet even more meaningful was knowing that, along the way, I had helped raise awareness for Rotary's *End Polio Now* campaign—reaching not only those I met during my travels, but also more than eleven thousand followers of my social media travel blog.

This journey was never solely about fundraising. Still, I am profoundly grateful to the many generous donors whose support helped raise enough funds to vaccinate approximately three thousand children against polio in recognition of this endeavor. For those who wish to help vaccinate even more children, the platform remains open at www.raise.rotary.org/Rhodora-Gonzales/fundraiser.



ROTARY DISTRICT 3780'S "MALIGAYANG PAMILYA" OUTREACH SHARES HOPE AT YEAR'S END

As the year drew to a close, the true spirit of service and compassion shone brightly through Maligayang Pamilya, a meaningful outreach initiative that brought comfort, nourishment, and joy to underserved communities in Quezon City. Held on the evening of December 31, the activity reflected the collective dedication of Rotary International District 3780 and its partners to ensure that no family was left behind as the new year began.

In preparation for the distribution, volunteers worked tirelessly to assemble hundreds of carefully prepared food packs and kiddie loot bags. Each food pack contained two hotdogs, a hard-boiled egg, and one cup of rice—providing a warm and filling meal for beneficiaries. For the children, kiddie loot bags were thoughtfully packed with candies, crackers, cupcakes, and juice, bringing smiles and a sense of celebration to young faces.

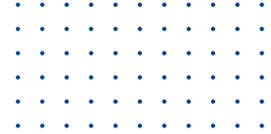


Through the combined efforts of Team Network Inc., PREPR Foundation Inc., the Rotary International District 3780 District Team, District Governor Veronica Yu, several UFG Presidents, the Civil Defense Action Group, the Rotary Club of Cubao, and other generous donors, a total of 500 food packs and 500 kiddie loot bags were successfully distributed.

While the Black Nazarene was being brought out of Quiapo Church at midnight, Rotary District 3780 volunteers were already on the ground in Quezon City, reaching out to street dwellers who often remain unseen during the holidays. Led by District Governor Veronica Yu, the outreach team included UFG Presidents, District Officers, Rotaractors, Team Network Fire and Rescue volunteers, PREPR Foundation members, and fellow Rotarians.



More than an act of charity, Maligayang Pamilya stood as a powerful reminder of Rotary's enduring mission of Service Above Self. Through unity, compassion, and purposeful action, Rotary District 3780 welcomed the new year by bringing hope, dignity, and joy to those who needed it most.





RID 3780'S GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP BRINGS LASTING SHELTER TO LIPA CITY

Rotary's commitment to service and international cooperation was powerfully demonstrated through the ongoing Rotary Homes project in Lipa City—a multi-district humanitarian effort providing safe and dignified housing to families in need.

Recently, Rotary leaders conducted an inspection of the ongoing construction of 45 Rotary Homes, generously donated by District Governor Kim Ok Jung of Rotary International District 3710 (Gwangju, South Korea). The project was made possible through the collaborative efforts of District Governor Veronica Yu of Rotary International District 3780, Past District Governor Gina Sy of RID 3820, and the strong support of Lipa City Mayor Hon. Eric Africa.

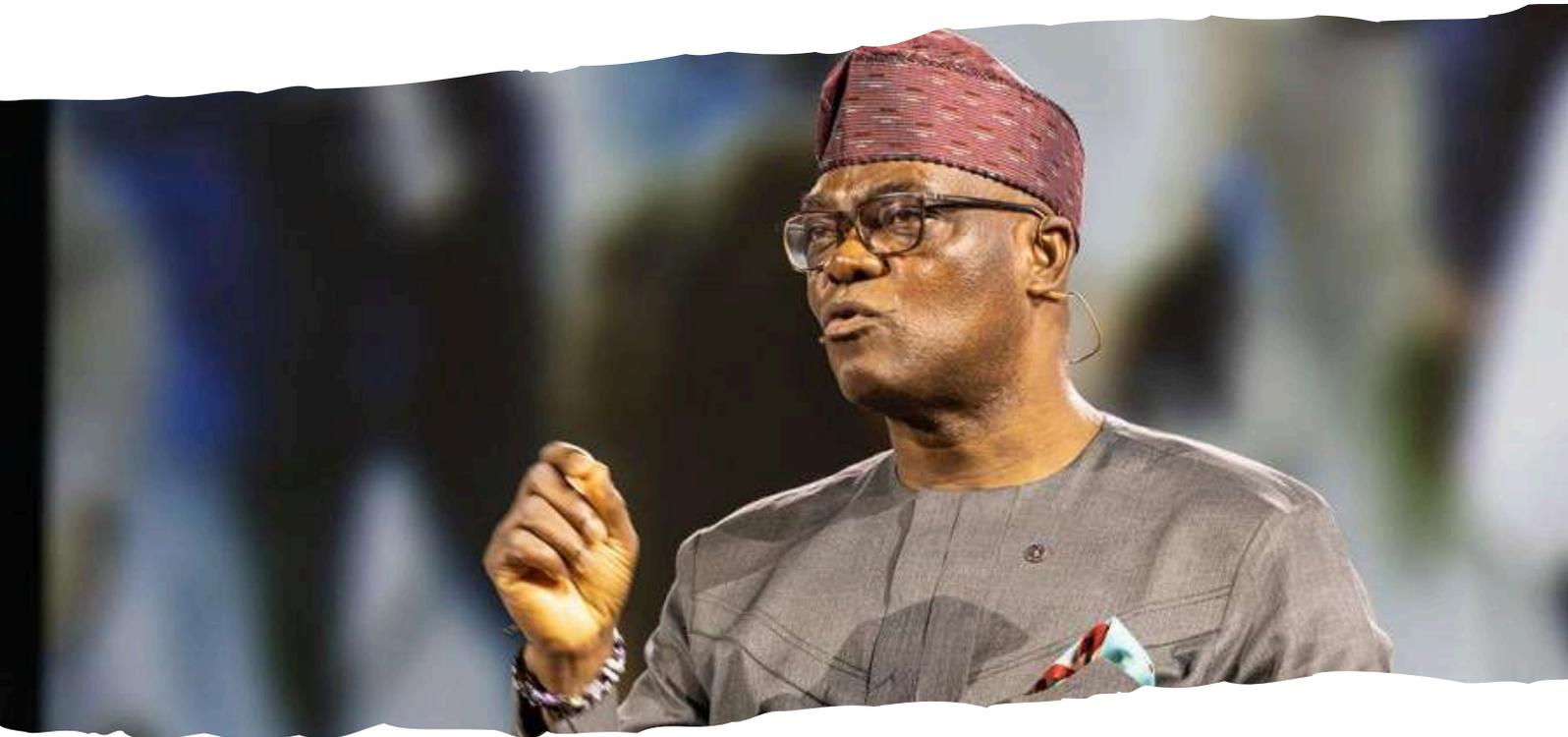
Adding to the significance of the initiative, District Governor Kim Ok Jung, accompanied by his club president and officers, paid a site visit to personally witness the progress of the Rotary Homes project. The delegation also visited Project IGNITE, a Global Grant initiative of the Rotary Club of New Murphy that provides essential support and opportunities for persons with disabilities. The visit offered a deeper understanding of the impact of these projects—initiatives that go beyond infrastructure to transform lives and restore dignity.

The partnership continues to grow. On January 6, 2026, an additional set of Rotary Homes was formally turned over to Mayor Eric Africa, marking a major milestone in the collaboration among Rotary International Districts 3710, 3721, 3661, 3722, and 3590. Through this collective effort, a total of 80 Rotary Homes have now been donated, guided by the leadership of District Governor Veronica Yu of RID 3780, with PDG Gina Sy of RID 3820 serving as District 3780 Adviser.

Looking ahead, Rotary leaders and partners eagerly anticipate the inauguration of 43 Rotary Homes this February, alongside the launch of upcoming service projects that will further strengthen the community.

This remarkable initiative stands as a testament to what global partnerships can achieve—where compassion knows no borders, and service truly builds not just houses, but hope, stability, and a better future for families.





CREATING LASTING IMPACT: ROTARY'S CALL TO CHANGE THE WORLD AND OURSELVES

Rotary International President-elect Olayinka H. Babalola has called on Rotarians around the world to Create Lasting Impact by focusing not only on meaningful service projects, but also on personal growth and a more welcoming Rotary culture.

Speaking at Rotary's International Assembly on 12 January in Orlando, Florida, Babalola reminded members that Rotary's greatest influence often begins within its people.

"Rotary has changed us. It has shaped who we are," he said. "We often talk about changing the world, but we do not think enough about how Rotary transforms us."

A member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria, Babalola shared how his Rotary journey began in Rotaract, where exposure to community service broadened his perspective and deepened his commitment to service. From literacy programs to community development initiatives, he learned that sustainable projects create impact that lasts far beyond immediate results.

"Change is only the beginning," he emphasized. "Impact is what endures."

Babalola highlighted Rotary initiatives that demonstrate long-term impact. In Knysna, South Africa, Rotary empowered local women to establish and manage early childhood education centers, reaching thousands of children and families and ensuring continued learning for generations. In Nigeria, the Together for Healthy Families program—supported by a US\$2 million Rotary Programs of Scale grant—strengthened prenatal care systems, increased community participation, and significantly reduced maternal and neonatal mortality rates.

"These projects earn the trust of communities," Babalola noted. "And when communities trust Rotary, more people want to join."

Beyond service, Babalola urged clubs to reflect on how they welcome new members. Recalling his experience as a Rotaractor once told he needed an invitation to join Rotary, he stressed the importance of openness, respect, and inclusivity.

"You never know whose Rotary journey might begin—or end—based on how you make them feel," he said. Babalola concluded by challenging Rotarians to build on past successes and aim higher.

"When we change ourselves, we change our clubs and communities," he said. "That is how we create lasting impact—around the world and within ourselves."

This article is adapted from an original piece written by Etelka Lehoczky and published on the Rotary International website. The photo used in this publication is also sourced from the same article and website.



RC NEW MURPHY LEADS BINHI AT KALUSUGAN FOR COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL WELLNESS

BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW MURPHY

In support of environmental protection, the Rotary Club of New Murphy Cubao conducted a seed-planting and seed-distribution activity at Demetrio Tuazon Elementary School on December 15, 2025. The initiative was led by UFG President Arden B. Tiong, Community Service Chair Ciriaco Ladera Jr., and the Rotary Community Corps (RCCs).

Seeds were distributed to parents, teachers, and students, and seedlings were planted in the school garden alongside Principal Eloisa Tabon and other faculty members. The seeds and seedlings included a variety of vegetables and medicinal herbs. This activity reflects the Club's commitment to environmental protection, community service, and youth engagement, aligning with Rotary's advocacy.



The Bureau of Plant Industry generously provided the seeds and seedlings at the Club's request. The activity promoted a sense of responsibility in cultivating vegetables and medicinal herbs from garden to table, while also inspiring participants to appreciate the beauty of life.

The Club's partnership with Demetrio Tuazon Elementary School demonstrates how meaningful collaboration can make a significant impact on both the community and the environment.



RC GREATER ANONAS CELEBRATES A SONSHINING CHRISTMAS OF FAITH, SERVICE, AND FELLOWSHIP

BY ROTARY CLUB OF GREATER ANONAS

December was a season of faith, fellowship, and service. As Rotarians celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ—our Savior who gave His life so that all may have the hope of eternal life—the Club was reminded that Rotary’s spirit mirrors this sacrifice through giving, sharing, and serving those in need within our communities.



The month opened with the District 3780 Unite for Good Christmas Party 2025, aptly themed “Legends of Rock,” where Region 3 Rotarians proudly placed First Runner-Up in the Sing and Dance Competition—an event that strengthened camaraderie and genuine concern among members. This was followed by the Club’s annual gift-giving activity at Ephpheta for the Blind, where beneficiaries truly “saw” the kindness of Rotary. Members also joined the District 3780 Interactors’ Christmas Party, with participation from Interactors of Don Quintin Paredes High School, fostering friendship and leadership through games and fellowship. The Club’s Interact President further honed her creativity by joining the PINTAKASI Hair and Make-Up Contest.



Gift-giving activities and Christmas parties were also conducted for the most disadvantaged families of students from Don Quintin Paredes Elementary School and Quirino Elementary School, as well as for teachers of the Club’s adopted school. Joy was shared through games, food, gifts, and raffle prizes. Meanwhile, the RCGA Christmas Party 2025 strengthened fellowship among Club members, reinforcing the belief that service becomes more meaningful when done together.

The Club also proudly recognized UFGP Juliana Yu as a recipient of the Gawad Quintinian 2025 Kabalikat Award, conferred by the Department of Education in recognition of her invaluable support for school programs. Fundraising efforts included an outdoor Christmas Bazaar at Puregold Valenzuela in partnership with Millennium Exhibit. Relief goods were sent to Cebu, and a street gift-giving activity for homeless individuals capped the month.

Indeed, the Rotary Club of Greater Anonas continues to Unite for Good, spreading hope, love, joy, and peace within the communities it serves.



On December 1, 2025, the Rotary Club of Entrepreneurs and Professionals (RCEP) successfully conducted an EarlyAct Orientation, a community service initiative designed to introduce young members to the purpose, values, and objectives of the EarlyAct program. The activity focused on helping children from the Club's partner school, Ramon Magsaysay Elementary School, understand the importance of leadership, responsibility, teamwork, and service within their school community. Through guided discussions and interactive activities, 50 EarlyAct members were oriented on their roles, introduced to the 4-Way Test, and encouraged to embody positive values both inside and outside the classroom.



RC ENTREPRENEURS AND PROFESSIONALS NURTURES YOUNG LEADERS THROUGH EARLYACT ORIENTATION

BY ROTARY CLUB OF ENTREPRENEURS AND PROFESSIONALS



The project underscored RCEP's commitment to youth development by creating a supportive learning environment that nurtures confidence and character formation at an early age. More than an orientation, the activity reflected RCEP's dedication to mentorship, as the Club continues to guide and support its partner school in shaping responsible, service-oriented future leaders through consistent encouragement and positive example.

RC BIAK NA BATO SPREADS HOLIDAY CHEER THROUGH “PAMASKONG HANDOG” IN ADOPTED COMMUNITY

BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF BIAK NA BATO

The Rotary Club of Biak na Bato (RCBNB) successfully concluded its annual gift-giving project, Pamaskong Handog, bringing holiday cheer to its adopted community at Palmera Homes Phase 4 in Quezon City on December 30, 2025. The service initiative, a testament to the club's commitment to community welfare, benefited 100 recipients.

The festive activity was carried out in close partnership with The Sunday Club and the Circle of Wives, demonstrating a unified effort among community-focused organizations. This collaboration ensured the smooth and meaningful distribution of gifts and essential goods to families within the community.

Palmera Homes Phase 4 holds special significance for the Rotary Club of Biak na Bato as one of its officially adopted communities. This designation reflects the club's long-term commitment to providing sustained support and development initiatives beyond seasonal projects.

Pamaskong Handog, which translates to “Christmas Offering,” is a cornerstone of this commitment, aimed at easing the financial burdens of the holiday season while sharing the true spirit of Christmas.

Club President Jojo Ablog emphasized the importance of the project, stating, “Our Pamaskong Handog is more than a gift-giving activity; it is a reaffirmation of our promise to our adopted community in Palmera Homes Phase 4. Working alongside The Sunday Club and the Circle of Wives allows us to extend our reach and ensure that the spirit of generosity touches those who need it most.”

The event concluded with an atmosphere of joy and gratitude, providing a meaningful close to the year for the beneficiaries. Through initiatives such as this, the Rotary Club of Biak na Bato continues to uphold its guiding principle of Service Above Self.





RC LOYOLA HEIGHTS RESTORES HOPE THROUGH SWIFT RELIEF FOR NORTH FAIRVIEW FIRE VICTIMS

BY ROTARY CLUB OF LOYOLA HEIGHTS

In the early hours of December 12, 2025, a devastating fire swept through Barangay North Fairview, Quezon City, leaving more than 140 residents homeless and displacing 45 families. The disaster struck swiftly, destroying homes and creating an urgent need for immediate relief and support.

Responding promptly to the crisis, the Rotary Club of Loyola Heights, led by Unite for Good President Ruel Nicolas, mobilized its members to provide critical aid. The barangay hall served as the evacuation center, where displaced families sought temporary shelter. Rotarians organized feeding activities and distributed essential relief goods, including food and clothing, to help ease the immediate suffering of those affected.

This Disaster Preparedness, Relief, and Recovery initiative not only addressed urgent needs but also reinforced community resilience. The project fostered hope and solidarity, demonstrating the power of collective action in times of crisis.

Beyond immediate assistance, the initiative strengthened community ties and laid the groundwork for sustained disaster preparedness efforts. RC Loyola Heights' swift and compassionate response exemplifies Rotary's spirit of service—offering a beacon of hope to North Fairview's fire victims and inspiring continued support for vulnerable communities.



RC KATIPUNAN CHAMPIONS LUNG HEALTH THROUGH “BAGA KO MAHAL KO” COMMUNITY FORUM

BY ROTARY CLUB OF KATIPUNAN

In a dedicated effort to promote optimal lung health, the Rotary Club of Katipunan, in collaboration with Barangay Matandang Balara in Quezon City, hosted the Baga Ko Mahal Ko Community Forum. The initiative aims to raise awareness among parents of children with disabilities and senior citizens about the importance of regular lung check-ups. By encouraging early detection, the forum seeks to reduce mortality and morbidity associated with lung cancer and other respiratory diseases, which remain among the leading causes of cancer-related deaths in the Philippines.

In partnership with the Lung Health Alliance of the Philippines, the Rotary Club of Katipunan continues to champion this advocacy by emphasizing that lung cancer often presents symptoms only in its advanced stages. Early detection significantly increases the chances of successful treatment and recovery. The community forum served as a vital platform to educate participants about the risks of lung diseases and the importance of proactive health measures, fostering a culture of health awareness and preventive care within the community.





RC BUKLURAN QC PAN DE MARIA FEEDING BONDS SERVICE WITH COMPASSION

BY ROTARY CLUB OF BUKLURAN QC

On December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Rotary Club of Bukluran–Quezon City truly lived up to its name—bukluran, a coming together of hearts—by reaching out to some of the most unseen and weary people in our community.

Outside the Quirino Memorial Medical Center individuals lay on gang chairs and sidewalks, braving the cold night air. They were not homeless by choice. They were mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, children and spouses—keeping watch over loved ones confined inside the hospital.

On this meaningful day, the Rotary Club of Bukluran-QC joined hands with the Knights of Columbus Medalla Milagrosa Council 8254 in celebrating the first anniversary of the Pan de Maria feeding program.

Together, they brought simple breakfast meals and, more importantly, a moment of comfort and human connection.



Many of those who received the food had traveled long distances from provinces such as Cagayan, Albay, and Mindoro. They had left behind their homes, their work, and their own comfort, choosing instead to stay close to family members fighting illness. For many, these were some of the darkest and most uncertain hours of their lives.

As the food was shared, so were smiles, quiet tears, and heartfelt words of gratitude. What seemed like a simple meal became a powerful reminder that they were not alone—that someone saw their struggle and cared enough to reach out.

The act of kindness did not end with the patient watchers. Janitors, security guards, and hospital staff—those who work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep the hospital running—were also included.

In that brief moment outside the hospital walls, compassion took center stage. Through shared food and shared humanity, the Rotarians and the Knights showed that even simple acts of kindness can bring light, hope, and dignity to people enduring life's most difficult trials.

RC PAG-ASA CHRISTMAS CHEERS 2025: EIGHTEEN YEARS OF HOPE IN KANAWAN

BY ROTARY CLUB OF PAG-ASA

On December 14, 2025, the Rotary Club of Pag-asa once again transformed compassion into action as it celebrated Christmas Cheers 2025 with the Kanawan Indigenous Community, an annual tradition rooted in service, dignity, and lasting partnership.

With 28 dedicated volunteers, composed of Rotarians, Rotaractors, and their families and friends, the day unfolded as a joyful tapestry of meaningful activities. Children and community members were welcomed with gift-giving that sparked smiles and laughter, while a feeding program ensured that no one went hungry. A medical mission provided much-needed care and medicines, and Palarong Pambata filled the grounds with games, cheers, and the unmistakable sound of childhood delight.

The impact reached 600 beneficiaries, supported by generous donations of toys, food, medicines, school supplies, and Christmas gifts for the teachers and staff of Kanawan Integrated School. The school also received a 12-inch stereo speaker, an addition that will continue to enrich school activities long after the holidays.

This heartwarming effort was made possible through the collective generosity of partners and sponsors, including the Rotary Club of Sto. Domingo, Rotary Club of Metro Aurora, Oakleaf High School Filipino Club led by Club President Arabella Hilado of Jacksonville, Florida, TGP Johnny So, TGP Jenn Santos, Madame Princess Caunca of London, and Jollibee Subic Bay/Argonaut through GM Zoraida Datu Lopez.

Notably, the spirit of giving began even before Christmas Cheers. A day prior, 170 educational textbooks were donated to Lumil Elementary School, sponsored by The Library Publishing House Inc.

For more than 18 years, the Rotary Club of Pag-asa has relentlessly supported the Kanawan Indigenous Community through its Community Development Program. Christmas Cheers 2025 was not just a celebration, it was a reaffirmation that service, when sustained and sincere, can change lives across generations.



2026 UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

11 – 15

RI ASSEMBLY / RI BOARD MEET

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**2ND QUARTERLY
ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT**

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BASKETBALL LEAGUE LAUNCHING
Host: RC Congressional

19 – 23

MIDYEAR REVIEW REGION 1-5
5pm – 8pm, Rotary Center Cubao

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MIDYEAR REVIEW REGION 6
2pm – 5pm, Rotary Center Cubao

MIDYEAR FELLOWSHIP
68 Don Roces Ave., Q.C.

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INTERACT MIDYEAR REVIEW

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF FILING OF
CANDIDACY FOR DGND**



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