

Before a single brick was shipped, Rotary developed friendships and gained buy-in from the community. Rotary was able to leverage an existing profile of Flora and Kawayan to guide the project, including information on race, history, socio-economic conditions, family units, source of livelihood, and means of transportation.

“On our first visit, one of the leaders said that nongovernment organizations and politicians had visited them often, promising to build toilets,” recalls Floren Naguit, project manager and member of the Intramuros Rotary Club. “But none had ever been built.” Until now.

Work began in Flora in early 2018 during the dry season, December through April, when roads are most passable. Together with their international partner, the Rotary Club of Batemans Bay, Australia, the club organized three-person work crews and local volunteers to haul materials by Jeep and carabao-pulled carts up mountain roads and across 26 rivers.

Septic tanks were installed, foundations set, walls and roofs built, tiles laid, toilet bowls inserted, solar lamps added, and use and care signs hung. Construction in Kawayan began after Flora was completed, with the total project dedicated in early 2020.

The project paid local teachers, hired by the government, a small stipend to lead three small workshops for clusters of two to three families, and include education on safe hygiene in their lesson plans to encourage behavior change.

“Behavior change is hard,” says Mark Balla, vice chair of the Water and Sanitation Rotary Action Group, “You’re asking people to do something different from what they were comfortable doing before.” But without it, people can slip back into past habits and toilets can fall into neglect or disrepair.

Perhaps most importantly, Balla stresses the need for patience.

“You are going to get imperfect results. There are no perfect projects,” he said. “We need to understand that we are striving for continual improvement.”

Knowing that monitoring and measurement are critical, the Rotarians performed follow up surveys with the Aeta, asking questions about toilet use and handwashing behavior.

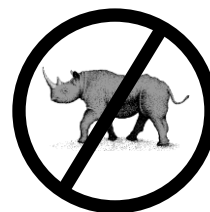
Although visits were suspended in early 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and then from September to December when the rainy season makes roads impassable, they are scheduled to resume in 2021.

# THE EARLY RISER

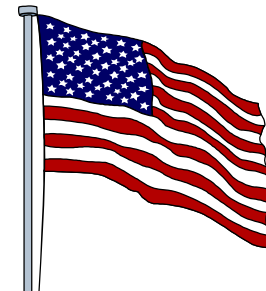
EVERY ROTARIAN  
US \$100  
EVERY YEAR



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DON'T BE A R.I.N.O.  
(Rotarian In Name Only!)



## ROTARY PRAYER

Oh Lord, and giver of all good, we  
thank Thee for our daily food.

May Rotary friends and Rotary  
ways, help to serve Thee all of our  
days.

## THE ROTARY CLUB OF WICHITA FALLS NORTH



2020-21 R.I. Officers - D5790

President of Rotary International: Holger Knaack

District Governor: Roger Paschal

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Secretary: Tom Sheriff ~ Treasurer: Ann Lucas

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Website: [www.wichitafallsnorthrotaryclub.org](http://www.wichitafallsnorthrotaryclub.org)

## ***FUTURE PROGRAM ASSIGNMENTS***

April 2 -----Gary Southard  
April 9 -----Phil Waggoner  
April 16----- Tom Cale  
April 23-----David Collins  
April 30-----Mike Crocker  
May 7 ----- Larry Gunnell  
May 14----- Ajay Kumar  
May 21----- Ann Lucas  
May 28----- Bill Neale  
June 4 ----- Rob Noble  
June 11----- Tom Ostovich  
June 18----- Jeani Secord  
June 25----- Troy Secord

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### ***NEWS FROM OUR LAST "VIRTUAL" MEETING:***

Jeani recorded the minutes for me for last weeks meeting. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Clint presented the Rotary Prayer and Gary presented the Pledges.

Last week's meeting was both a "virtual" and an "in person" format.

The brag bucket was well fed by: Troy and Clint, both bragging on the club. Ann donated \$40.00 for her 40 years as a CPA. Phil bragged on the arrival of his 10<sup>th</sup> grandchild. Gary bragged on his granddaughter and her "track" exploits with Holliday High School.

A birthday was announced for Ajay. It will happen March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mike gave update on the proposed Blood Drive. Hopefully he will find out if it will be on April 3 or 10. He still needs to find out if we can get on base and if they want masks.

Bill gave everyone a soft brush toothbrush.

Tom S had the program. It was an inspirational video of a commencement speech given by Admiral McRaven at the University of Texas in 2014.

Phil won the raffle. He drew the 10 of hearts \$10.00 prize. For quite some time, the club has rolled over \$113.00. I don't know the total amount raised last week. When I found out that amount, we will know what is at stake.

It was great to see everyone in person! (A note from Jeani!)

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### ***NEWS FROM ROTARY INTERNATIONAL:***

Philippine WASH project delivers toilets, hygiene education to villages  
Rotary gets the job done where others failed

In 1991, Mount Pinatubo erupted after 600 years of inactivity and destroyed homes and farms, displacing many indigenous Aeta living in the highlands of central Luzon, Philippines.

While Aeta can refer to several different related ethnic groups, the Aeta here are descendants of Mag-Antsi, who following the eruption, were resettled by the government. Since then, many have returned to their ancestral lands to rebuild and reestablish their communities.

The roughly 43 families in Flora and 79 in nearby Kawayan make a living farming. While Aeta in other areas have been granted title to their ancestral land by the government, these Aeta have seen their lands shrink and their source of livelihood suffer as people from the lowlands staked competing claims during their resettlement years.

Like more than **10 million households in the Philippines**, they lack sanitation facilities. The Philippines government has made progress in extending water to its 109 million inhabitants, but long-term plans to expand sanitation are running behind, especially in rural regions. This reduced access to personal hygiene exposes communities to diseases like diarrhea and cholera, and can lead to decreased school attendance, malnutrition, poor oral health, and fear of violence in women who must practice personal hygiene outdoors, according to a **report by UNICEF**.

1,000 - The number of children who die each day due to preventable water and sanitation-related diarrheal diseases.

892 million – The number of people who continue to practice open defecation. Source: **United Nations**

To combat these problems, the Rotary Club of Intramuros-Manila developed a water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) project that installed 25 toilets in the Aeta communities of Flora and Kawayan and three in Babo. Rotary members made visits to the community to learn about and understand current hygiene practices, willingness to work on the project, and the communities desire for toilets.