



The Foundation of the Rochester Latino Rotary Club was incorporated on July 23, 2014 as a not-for-profit charitable corporation. The purpose of the Foundation is to receive and dispense funds for the charitable service of the Rochester Latino Rotary Club. The club focuses its charitable services to humanitarian projects that address the needs of the Rochester Community and other countries.

**FOUNDATION OF THE ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY CLUB, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



Charol Ríos, Chair



Aida Veras, Chair Elect



Elisa De Jesús, Secretary



Dr. Miriam Vázquez, Treasurer

**ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



Iris Alvarado, President



Julio Vázquez, President-Elect



Luisa Baars, Secretary



Idalia Chang, Treasurer



Sadly, on June 7, 2026, the Rochester Latino Rotary Club lost its founding member, Luisa Baars. She passed peacefully surrounded by her family.

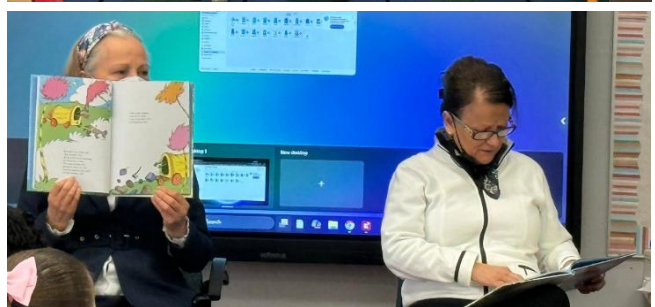
Luisa, we love you, we will miss you and we will carry on your legacy of Rotary "Service Above Self"!

**LITERACY PROJECTS: RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT ROLE LITERACY PLAYS IN IMPROVING LIVES AND EMPOWERING PEOPLE, THE ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY CLUB IS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING UNIVERSAL LITERACY AND EDUCATION INITIATIVES.**

- 1. Rochester Latino Rotary Club College Scholarship:** The Rochester Latino Rotary Club awarded two \$1,000 college scholarships to Yenny Reyes and Angelo Perez, graduates of the Eugenio Maria Hostos Charter School who demonstrated service above self.



- 2. Parents as Reading Partners-Kindergarten Project:** The Rochester Latino Rotary Club members read the book “The Lorax” to 85 kindergarten students. They learned about how trees are important to our environment, people and animals. They collected \$233.00 to help reforest Mt. Hope Cemetery. The Rochester Latino Rotary Club matched the \$233.00 for a total donation of \$466.00

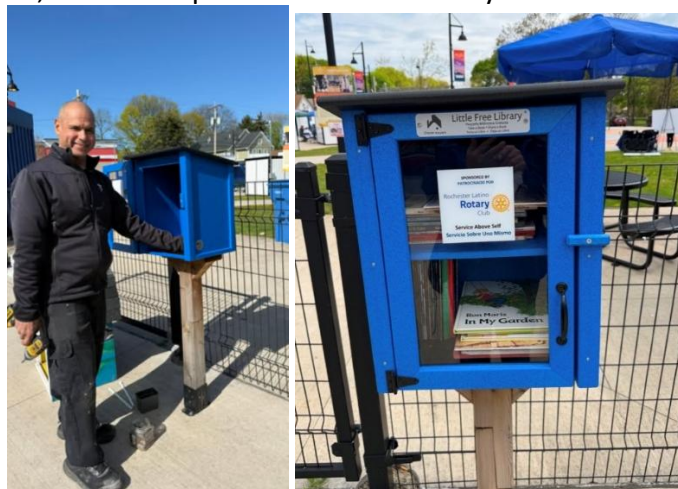


- 3. Storywalk® at El Camino:** The Rochester Latino Rotary Club in partnership with the City of Rochester, Genesee Land Trust and Ibero Development Corporation installed a Storywalk® at El Camino Trail. The purpose of a Storywalk® is to encourage families in our community to spend time together, walking and reading, thus promoting healthy habits and good reading habits. A Storywalk® takes an illustrated children’s book and disassembles it, displaying each page sequentially along a walking path. The

Storywalk® concept was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg Hubbard Library. The club replaces the Storywalk® book monthly or bi-monthly during Spring, Summer and Fall. In April, students from the Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School and Martin Luther King, Jr School #9, joined us for the 2026 StoryWalk reopening featuring the book, Dos Two, written by Henry Padron, a local author.



- 4. Little Library at the International Plaza:** A little library is a free book exchange where people can take a book or share a book. The Rochester Latino Rotary Club members restocked the little library as needed. In the Spring of 2026, the club replaced the Little Library with a newer model.



5. **Essay Contest:** The Rochester Latino Rotary Club sponsors an Essay Contest for middle school students within the City of Rochester. Students are invited to participate by researching and writing about a social justice issue in the Rochester Community. Cash prizes are awarded for first, second and third place. This year's winners were:



First Place Winner: Oriana Reina Lopez  
Second Place Winner: Aaliyah Melendez  
Third Place Winner: Adhan Mancebo Rosario

**COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS: THE ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY CLUB PROVIDES SERVICES TO OUR COMMUNITY AND PEOPLE IN NEED.**

1. **Holidays Meals:** Two holiday meals during Thanksgiving and Easter were provided to our Clinton Ave community. About 80 dinners were served at each event.



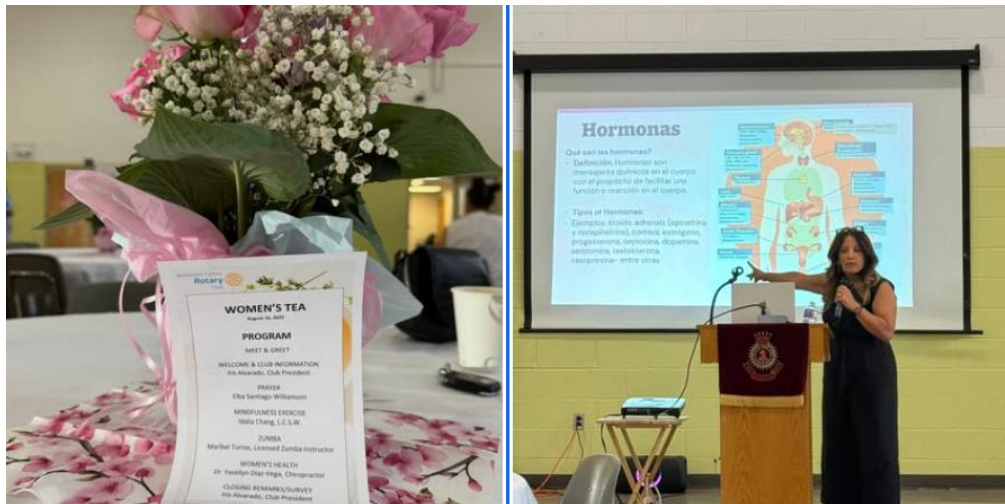
2. **Parranda:** The Rochester Latino Rotary Club sponsored a parranda where music, hot chocolate and hot soup were shared with the community around the Father Tracy Advocacy Center.



3. **Father Tracy Advocacy Center:** The Rochester Latino Rotary Club donated \$500 for supplies to the Father Tracy Advocacy Center to help out with the center’s mission of providing access to addiction treatment, case management and street outreach to the community of North Clinton Avenue.

4. **Hispanic Youth Baseball League:** The Rochester Latino Rotary Club donated \$500 to the Rochester Hispanic Youth Baseball League to help children that need help with registration fees.

**Women’s Tea:** The Rochester Latino Rotary Club sponsors a Women’s Tea where women are invited to share a time of fellowship, food and inspiration. This year, Dr. Yasellyn Diaz-Vega, Chiropractor, shared information on women’s health.



**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: THE ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY CLUB MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE AND FUNDRAISE TO SUPPORT THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION TO HELP FUND HUMANITARIAN HEALTH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY.**

- 1. **Polio Campaign:** To help eradicate polio worldwide, the RLRC sponsored a 50/30/20 raffle and members made donations during meetings. The winning ticket was pulled by the Puerto Rican Festival Queen at the Annual Walk-A-Thon event. The club donated \$815.70 to the End Polio Now Rotary International campaign.



- 2. **Fund Share:** The Rochester Latino Rotary Club donated \$1,000 to the Rotary International Fund Share. Rotary International makes those funds available for clubs that want to collaborate on bigger projects (i.e. clean water projects, educational projects, etc.).

**AWARDS BANQUET: THE ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY CLUB HELD AN AWARDS BANQUET ON JUNE 15, 2026 TO HONOR THE LUISA BAARS AWARD RECIPIENTS, THE YOUTH INSPIRATION AWARD RECIPIENTS AND ALL OTHER CONTESTENT WINNERS.**



Luisa Baars Award Recipients: Lisandra Mandez-Velez, Carmen Dolores Rios, Mary Elizabeth Lugo  
Youth Inspiration in Action Award Recipients: Gianna Torres, Jaylani Martinez

**ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT: THE FOUNDATION OF THE ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY CLUB, INC PLANS AN ANNUAL EVENT THAT WILL GENERATE THE FUNDS NEEDED FOR THE CLUB’S PROJECTS FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR.**

**Fifth Annual Walk-A-Thon:** This year’s event took place on May 16, 2026 at Seneca Park. Thirty-nine participants came out and walked the 5K course. The event generated \$12,380.00. The club is grateful to this year’s sponsors.



**NEW MEMBERS:** The Rochester Latino Rotary Club welcomed four new members for the 2025-2026 rotary year.



### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Foundation's starting balance for the year was \$20,074.02

\$11,432.24 was expended on the 2025-2026 Club projects.

The foundation ended the year with a fund balance of \$8,641.78.

The Fifth Annual Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser generated \$12,380.00 for the 2026-2027 projects.