



**Hispanic Heritage Day**

Elisa DeJesús reported that the Hispanic Heritage Day at the Memorial Art Gallery went well. A total of 15 applications and brochures were distributed. Several people signed a page requesting more information about the club. Luisa mailed it to them afterwards. This event takes place every year during the Hispanic Heritage Month, and it attracts many people who enjoy the presentations by numerous dance groups representing Latino countries. Our club has been participating for several years providing information about the club and its many service projects.

**Paul Haris Award**

Luisa presented Elisa with a Paul Harris Award. Elisa is one of the club’s charter members, has been a president twice, and has always participated in the club’s service projects. She exemplifies Rotary’s motto of Service Above Self. Luisa explained what the Paul Harris Award represents and how individuals can receive it. Every \$1000 donation to the Rotary Foundation is eligible for the award. It can be earned by the individual’s donation, someone donates in the name of someone else living the Rotary principles, or the club can donate for the individual.

**Garage Sale**

On a sunny Saturday day in October the club had a garage sale at Miriam Vázquez house. Many club members donated items that ranged from toys, and clothing to articles for individuals with disabilities. Members were treated with breakfast and lunch provided by Miriam. The sale brought \$315.00 to the club. A bug thank you to the members who so generously donated their time and articles.

**Project Hope**

A new service project was adopted by the club. It consists of donating food staples and personal hygiene projects to Project Hope, a program of St. Michael Church serving the impoverished community in the Clinton Avenue and vicinity. Several members donated over a hundred cans and bags of non-perishable food items and over 50 hygiene items including soap, shampoo, conditioner, and hand lotion.

**Community Thanksgiving Dinner**

Thanksgiving dinner for the community was held on November 21<sup>st</sup> at the Heart and Soul Church. Club members cooked rice, turkey, sweet potato casserole, green salad, and pasta salad. The meal was accompanied by bread and butter, coffee, and cookies. Over 70 individuals participated and expressed their gratitude for the tasty dinner. This year, it was surprising to see three families with young children besides the usual guests including homeless individuals and impoverished individuals. It was a pleasure to see that the abundant meal was totally gone despite the heavy rain that lasted the whole through the whole-time dinner was served.

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**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**

## Voter Registration Drive

In October, the club held a voter registration drive at the Father Laurence Tracy Advocacy Center on N. Clinton Avenue. Elba Williamson, Idalia Chang, and Luisa Baars provided information about the voting system, the party affiliation option, and helped individuals complete the registration forms. Coffee and cookies were served to the individuals who came in to register. Both Hispanic and African Americans were registered, some of them had never voted and did not know about the parties in the US. Others had voted in other states. The League of Women Voters provided the forms.

## Foundation of the Rochester Latino Rotary Club Inc.

Funds for several projects have been encumbered, including scholarships for Hispanic senior students who are college-bound. To qualify, students must submit letters of recommendation, an essay, have at least one Hispanic parent, and be admitted to a college. This project has been going since the beginning of the club.

An international economic/literacy project has been scheduled for Cuernavaca, Mexico. It consists of educating young women in computer skills and life skills to allow them to enter the job market. The club was approved for a \$1,000.00 District Grant. The club will contribute \$1,000.00 and the Rotary clubs of Bloomfield, Rochester Southwest, Cuernavaca, and RLRC member Norma Heym will make donations to complete the required funding for the project.

Another local literacy project is the development of a StoryWalk to be located in El Camino Trail near the N. Clinton Avenue and Conkey Street in Rochester. It consists of large frames containing pages of a children book so that as they walk along the trail, they will read the book. Several organizations have contributed to the project, including Key Bank, M&T Bank, Latino Giving Circle, Burgos Income Tax, and the RLRC.

## Club recognition

District Governor Julie Carney and Rotary Foundation Chair Dave Hannan presented the club with the following banners:

- 1. EVERY ROTARIAN, EVERY YEAR CLUB:** We are one of 3,800 clubs worldwide to attain this status which means that we achieved a minimum Annual Fund contribution of \$100 per capita with every dues paying member contributing \$25 or more to the Annual Fund during the Rotary Year.
- 2. 100% FOUNDATION GIVING CLUB:** We are one of 4,500 clubs worldwide to attain this status which means that we achieved an average of \$100 in per capita giving and 100% participation with every dues-paying member contributing at least \$25 to any gift designation during the Rotary year.

## Election of Board Officers & Committee Chairs for 7/2024-6/2025:

President: Elba Williamson  
President Elect: Iris Alvarado  
Treasurer: Idalia Chang  
Secretary: Aida Veras  
Foundation: Julio Vázquez  
Literacy: Miriam Vázquez

Membership/DEI: Elisa DeJesús  
Service Projects: Norma Heym  
Website Manager: Elizabeth Santiago  
Bulletin Editor: Luisa E, Baars

**Take action: visit: [www.latinorotary.com](http://www.latinorotary.com)**

## Community Parranda

This typical Puerto Rican tradition was held at the Father Tracy Center on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Luis Lespier from the center arranged to have holiday music in Spanish. Five musicians plus our own Julio Vázquez playing the *güiro* entertained the over 50 guests who stopped by to enjoy the music, soup, hot chocolate, and cookies. This event provided the guests an opportunity to get out of the rain and cold to partake of a warm atmosphere and meal.

## Refugee Family Helped

In collaboration with the Ibero American Action League, the club adopted a five-member family including children, parents, and grandmother. Several club members bought toys, clothing, hygiene articles, and household items for the family.

## Photos



DG Jullie Carney and Rotary Foundation Chair Dave Hannan present banners to the club



Voter registration in October



RLRC had a table at the Hispanic Heritage Day at the Memorial Art Gallery



Left to right: Elisa DeJesús, Charol Ríos, Idalia Chang, Elba Williamson, Elizabeth Santiago, and Aida Veras served the Thanksgiving Dinner in November



Musicians offered typical Spanish holidays music for the Parranda held at the Father Tracy Center in December

## THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say, or do

1. Is it the Truth?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

## THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

1. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
2. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
3. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
4. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

### Contact Information:

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Facebook: latinorotary

## Quotes

I raise up my voice- not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard.  
-Malala Yousafzal

A woman with a voice is, by definition, a strong woman.  
-Melinda Gates

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Luisa E. Baars

President Elect: Elba Williamson

Treasurer: Idalia Chang

Secretary: Aida Veras

Rotary Foundation Chair: Julio Vázquez

Membership/Diversity, Equity, Inclusion  
Chair: Elisa DeJesús

Community Service Chair: Norma Heym

Bulletin Editor: Luisa E. Baars



## Rotary International Corner

### Cervical Cancer: A preventable killer

The Rotary Foundation has awarded more than \$10.3 million in global grant funding for cervical cancer projects since 2014, and other Rotary projects, such as an initiative in Alabama, have tackled this issue outside of global grant funding. In addition, \$2 million was awarded to United to End Cervical Cancer in Egypt as part of the third annual Programs of Scale competition. The Foundation awards these grants to evidence-based programs that align with at least one of Rotary's causes and are ready for expansion to create larger-scale change.

**604,127** Number of people diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2020

**116** Global grants awarded to fund cervical cancer projects since 2014

**91%** Share of cervical cancer deaths in low- and middle-income countries, where access to prevention, screening, and treatment is severely limited