

The Water Princess book

As is customary for the club, several members of the Rochester Latino Rotary Club went to the Eugenio María de Hostos Charter School to read to the kindergarten students. This is one of the projects carried out by the Literacy Committee of the club. Books chosen are bilingual in English and Spanish given that the children in the school participate in a dual language curriculum.

Students receive a copy of the books read to take home together with a note to the parents explaining the benefits of reading to their children.

The Water Princess was chosen given that Rotary's theme for the month of March is water and sanitation. It was reported that the children were very engaged during the reading asking relevant questions and commenting on the message delivered by the book.

Members in attendance for the reading were Julio Vázquez, Idalia Chang, Maycanitza Pérez, Miriam Vázquez, and Charol Ríos-Davis.

Club's 9th anniversary

On April 21st the Rochester Latino Rotary Club celebrated its 9th anniversary at the Diplomat Banquet Center. Over 125 persons attended the Masquerade Ball enjoying a nice meal, music, dance, and the raffle of many items and services. There was also a 50/50 raffles with the proceeds going to the Polio Plus Campaign of the Rotary Foundation.

The proceeds from the event go to the Foundation of the Rochester Latino Rotary Club that allows the club to fund service projects locally and abroad.

Although membership in the club is not limited to Latinos, the main beneficiaries of the service projects are Latinos. This is a population that is generally underserved by the programs and projects geared to the general population.



Elisa and Abdiel DeJesús attended the Masquerade ball celebrating nine years of service to the community by the Rochester Latino Rotary club. This event is the main fundraiser of the club, and it helps fund the many projects the club undertakes during the year. By focusing on literacy, the club helps children from kindergarten to high school and beyond.

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Scholarships for college-bound Latino students

Once more the club is joining the Ibero American Action League in its efforts to provide scholarships to college-bound Latino students. As is customary, the club will offer two \$500 scholarships to two students chosen by the Ibero's Scholarship Committee. As specified by the club's selection criteria, students chosen must have shown the characteristics embodied by Rotary's theme of Service Above Self. One of the scholarships targets specifically a student who has shown involvement in educational activities such as helping other students who are struggling in school, promoting literacy, serving as tutors, etc.

The scholarships will be presented at Ibero's gala in June. As in past years, the club has obtained funds from the Rotary District 7120 through the simplified grant program. This is a matching fund that allows clubs to fund several projects to meet their communities' needs.

Grant proposal to bring clean water to Puerto Rico

As is known by almost everyone given the coverage by the media, Puerto Rico suffered a great tragedy by the two hurricanes that hit the island in September. The infrastructure basically collapse when the whole island lost power and access to clean water. The recovery has been very slow, particularly in the small towns and those located far from the San Juan metropolitan area.

To help alleviate the situation, the Rochester Latino rotary Club initiated a Relief Fund for Puerto Rico. The Greece Rotary Club became interested in developing a global grant proposal to be submitted to the Rotary Foundation. The first step was to find a Rotary club on the island that would conduct a needs assessment and provide us with ideas for a service project that could qualify for a global grant.

The San Juan Rotary Club was identified and contacted by us. They agreed to conduct the needs assessment. As a result, they suggested a water project to serve two communities located in the town of Adjuntas. There are many steps involved in carrying out the project. There has to be identification of a contractor to dig and/or improve wells, identification of qualified people to monitor the progress and insure the maintenance of the wells once these are finished. Besides, a budget must be developed with accurate figures for each part of the project: digging, materials, equipment, and so on.

Before submitting the grant proposal to the Rotary Foundation, District 7120 must approve the same. The clubs estimate they will need financial support from both the San Juan and our district. It is anticipated that other clubs in District 7120 would like to contribute to the matching funds that must be raised in order to get a global grant from the Rotary Foundation. It is estimated that the total project will amount to \$100,000.00.

People interested in donating to the Puerto Rico Relief Fund established by the Foundation of the Rochester Latino Rotary Club may do so by sending a check to the Foundation as follows:

Foundation of the Rochester Latino Rotary Club with Puerto Rico Relief Fund on the subject line.

Checks may be sent to: Rochester Latino Rotary Club

P.O. Box 12562

Rochester, NY 14612

Rotary International Convention

The RI Convention will take place on June 23-27 in Toronto, Canada. One of the speakers will be former First Lady Laura Bush. She has been an advocate for literacy and women's rights. She was a teacher at an inner city school in Houston, Texas. She has sponsored several initiatives to promote literacy and advocate for women's health.



Rotary

TAKE ACTION, VISIT: www.latinorotary.com

Photos



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1. Dr. Dr. Edwin Vega Jr. and Dr. Yasellyn Diaz-Vega received the Dr. Constantino Fernández Award
2. Sabrina Nudo and President Elect Jazmin Ruiz pose during the Masquerade Ball
3. Community leaders pose after receiving their awards
4. Wim and Luisa Baars shown with their masks
5. Partial view of attendees to the Masquerade Ball

Rotaract Outstanding Project Award Finalists

Rotaract clubs are creating sustainable, positive change in lives and communities around the world. This year, 470 projects were nominated in 59 countries for the Rotaract Outstanding Project Awards. Rotary recognizes the best local or international service projects that highlight innovation, sustainability, and collaboration aligned with Rotary's areas of focus.

The 2018 Rotaract Outstanding Project Award recognized the [Rotaract Club of Edulink International Campus](#), Western Province, Sri Lanka, for a project that teaches entrepreneurial skills to women with HIV to empower them to earn a living.

The club created the Dream Store online platform, where the women can sell products they make and have their earnings go straight to their bank accounts. After meeting with the women to assess their abilities, the club partnered with local experts and Rotarians to expand the women's skills or teach them new ones. The women also received training in basic business and personal finance.

The club arranged with several leading companies, including the largest gift shop in Sri Lanka, to carry the women's products to ensure they had a customer base. The club hopes it can remove some of the stigma around HIV and AIDS by allowing the women to showcase their talents, giving people a way to support them through commerce, and holding events aimed at educating the public about the disease. "Before, these women were unemployed, because nobody would provide them jobs," says Nipun Peiris, past president of the club. "They had no choice but to beg on the street."

Board of Directors

President – Miriam Vázquez
 Immediate Past President – Julio Vázquez
 President Elect – Dr. Jazmin Ruiz
 Treasurer – Idalia Chang
 Secretaries – Wim Baars
 Luisa Baars
 Club Service Co-Chairs - Aida Veras
 Charol Ríos-Davis
 Vocational Service Chair - Dr. Timothy Malia
 International Service Chair – Luisa Baars
 Membership Chair – Orlando Rivera
 Foundation Chair – Julio Vázquez
 Literacy Co-Chairs – Dr. Miriam Vázquez
 Julio Vázquez
 Club Webmaster – Orlando Rivera
 Tera Rivera
 Bulletin Editor - Luisa Baars
 Program Chair – Orlando Rivera
 Dr. Miriam Vázquez
 Fund Raising – Dr. Miriam Vázquez
 Sergeant-At-Arms - To rotate among directors

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.