

# ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY CLUB

## LA ROTARIANA

September - October, 2018

### In Memoriam

With great sadness the RLRC experienced the loss of one of its member on August 16, 2018. The Reverend Laurence Tracy, one of the club's honorary members, passed after a prolonged illness. His influence in the Latino community dated for over 40 years. He felt an affinity for the community since early after being ordained a priest. He learned Spanish and for many years he provided pastoral care to Latinos in Rochester and in neighboring towns, including migrant farm workers.

He was instrumental in the founding of the Ibero American Action League, a human services agency that has served the Latino community since 1960s. During his life, Fr. Tracy, as he was known in the community, received numerous awards for his dedicated service to those in need. Fr. Tracy embodied Rotary's motto of Service Above Self. For his distinguished service, he received the Luisa Baars Service Above Self Award from the RLRC.

In spite of his battle with ALS, Fr. Tracy remained faithful to the ideal of service. One of his last acts was the establishment of the Father Tracy Health & Wellness Center on North Clinton Avenue in Rochester. This center has provided counseling and referral services to Latinos and other members of this community that range from counseling and referral for individuals affected by drug and alcohol issues to homelessness to physical and mental illnesses. This is a place where individuals in need of help are not judged, rather they are treated with kindness and respect for their dignity. Its director, Rudy Rivera, is well known in Rochester for his work in the drug and alcohol field. May you rest in peace dear friend and beloved priest!

### Father Tracy Health and Wellness Center opens in Rochester

By Spectrum News Staff Rochester, published on May 21, 2018

The facility aims to serve the Latino community. Not only does the center connect people with health services, but also social justice services. Rudy Rivera, the steward of the wellness center, says the facility is a convenient solution to some of the neighborhood's problems. "Now people don't simply have to go out of town to figure out where to get. A lot of the addicts are right across the street. They come straight to us and we navigate, with the help of others, to get them into care," Rivera said.



### Fr. Laurence Tracy in later years

Padre Tracy (as he was called the many Latinos he helped) went to grammar school at St. Michael's, and then entered the seminary, first 8 years at St. Andrew's minor seminary, followed by 8 years at St. Bernard's, after which he was ordained a priest on June 4, 1966. while at St. Bernard's, two seminary professors were major influences: Fr. Charles Curran and Fr. Joseph Brennan. as he noted later "I had decided by my third year in seminary that I wanted to work with poor people."

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## World Polio Day held in Philadelphia

The sixth annual World Polio Day was held in Philadelphia on Wednesday, October 24, 2018. Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Ron Burton began the program by noting that Philadelphia is where Rotary announced, at its international convention in 1988, that it doubled its fundraising goal of \$120 million to fight polio and raised \$247 million.

The event, attended by representatives of the five partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) was also seen by thousands of individuals on line. "The moment showed Rotary's strength as an organization capable of tackling the challenge of ending the disease globally and spearheading one of the most ambitious public health initiatives in history, the GPEI. The other partners of the GPEI are the World Health Organization, UNICEF, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation," wrote Ryan Hyland on the Rotary International website.

Thirty years ago when Rotary undertook the initiative to eradicate polio there were 350,000 children affected by the paralyzing condition in one year. Massive vaccination campaigns around the world resulted in a drop of more than 99.9 percent in new cases, to only 20 reported so far this year. Polio, which was endemic in 125 countries in 1988, now remains so in just three: Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan. More than 2.5 billion children have been vaccinated, and more than \$14 billion has been invested in the fight to eradicate the disease worldwide.

Rotary has contributed more than \$1.8 billion to polio eradication since it started its PolioPlus program in 1985. The effort got a boost in August when Rotary announced it would provide an additional \$96.5 million in grants to increase immunizations and surveillance. Most of the funds were allocated to the three countries where polio remains endemic; Afghanistan (\$22.9 million), Nigeria (\$16.1 million), and Pakistan (\$21.7 million). The rest was spread across 12 countries in Africa that are vulnerable to polio.

Rotary has also committed to raising \$50 million a year over a three-year period for eradication activities. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will match up to that amount 2-to-1, which could bring the total as high as \$450 million.

At a local level, Rotary clubs carry out numerous activities to raise funds for this noble undertaking. The Foundation of the Rochester Latino Rotary Club allocates funds in its annual budget to contribute to the initiative. Members also donate money at every meeting specifically collected to fight polio. Besides, the clubs holds 50/50 raffles, garage sales, and even bake sales to support the efforts.

### Polio Facts

- Polio mainly affects children under age 5.
- There is no cure, but polio is preventable with a vaccine.
- Only three countries remain endemic.
- We've reduced cases by 99.9% since 1988.
- Until we end polio forever, every child is at risk.



Minda Dentler: Ironman athlete, polio survivor, and mother reflects on India's success in going more than 6 years without a new polio case.

## Photos



Above left is a group of Rotarians from England who took part in a Friendship Exchange Program. The Rotarians were guests of Rotarians in District 7120. This program allows Rotarians to travel to different countries and experience the culture and family life of those countries. In the summer of 2019, Rotarians from District 7120 will visit England.



Above right, speakers Ayriona Winston (center), Liliana Ruiz (left) from the Office of Constituents Services of the City of Rochester were the guest speakers at the RLRC meeting held on September 5<sup>th</sup>. They have started a project to increase literacy among children and adults visiting local barber shops and beauty salons. The Story Time With Style program encourages parents to read to their children while waiting as well as having children read to their parents. President Jazmin Ruiz presented them with a children book to add to their inventory.



President Jazmin Ruiz poses with Raquel Quiñonez after her induction as the newest member of the RLRC. Welcome Raquel to the Rotary family!



Shannon Kelly (left) and Lori Martinez (center) were guest speakers at the general club meeting in October. Shannon is the Director of Rochester Regional Health's Community Health Worker Program. Lori shared her experience as a Community Health Worker. They emphasized the program has helped Latinos connect with services and obtain the medical care they need. President Jazmin asked then to sign a book the club will donate to the Eugenio María de Hostos Charter School in their name.





Rotary member and polio survivor Ann Lee Hussey has led 30 volunteer trips to participate in polio immunization campaigns in more than 10 countries. Watch her story --->

<https://on.rotary.org/2MEDvP9> #endpolio  
#peopleofaction

She is one of the many volunteers who travel all over the world to vaccinate children to protect them from polio. In some countries, they have to travel to distant places, climbing mountains while carrying heavy coolers with the polio vaccine. In others, there are wars that put their lives at risk. In others there are misconceptions and even resentment when inadvertently the Rotarians are not familiar with the cultural mores.

### **Club Board of Directors**

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

### **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.