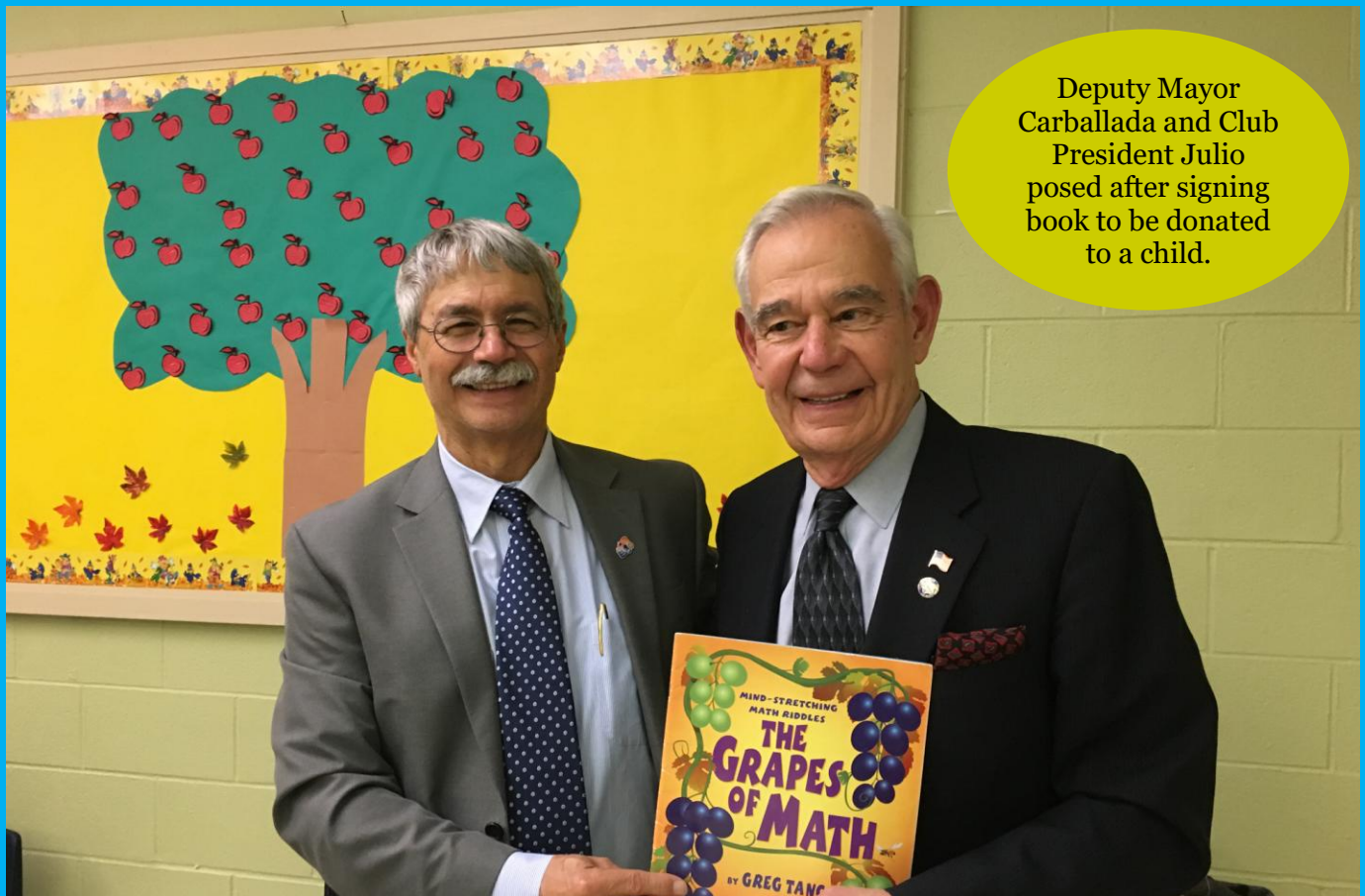


# ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY CLUB LA ROTARIANA

December, 2016



Deputy Mayor Carballada and Club President Julio posed after signing book to be donated to a child.

**Deputy Mayor Carlos Carballada** made his second visit to the club, one when he was Mayor of the City of Rochester, and now as Deputy Mayor. In January, 2011, when acting Mayor Thomas Richards abruptly resigned, the city's neighborhood and business development commissioner, Carlos Carballada, became acting Mayor, thereby giving the City of Rochester its first Hispanic mayor. In a three-week period, the City of Rochester had three mayors.

Carballada had come of out retirement as CEO of the First National Bank of Rochester to become the city's economic development director under Mayor Robert Duffy. A special election was held and Tom Richards became Mayor.

As Deputy Mayor, he is very interested in the education the children receive in the Rochester City Continue on page 2

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## Deputy Mayor Carlos Carballada ...

School District. He expressed his concern for the low graduation rate, particularly among minority students. He congratulated the Eugenio María de Hostos Charter School emphasis on the dual language curriculum since he feels that the earlier a child is taught another language, the easiest it is to master such language.

Reading to the children, talking to them earlier on helps in the development of vocabulary needed to succeed in school, he said. "A child should be exposed to music, the arts, and books to develop into a well-rounded individual," he said. He feels that there is no reason why Latinos are not making contributions to their communities as adults. This may be because they are not being educated properly.

He said that all cities face issues with the education system. Rochester is no exception. It seems the system is organized to protect the jobs of the adults not the children, he added. Some charter schools are doing better than schools in the District. He favors vouchers so that children in failing schools can attend a school that meets their educational needs.

Carballada indicated that he is trying to convince the finance individuals in the city to lease unused buildings to charter schools. Since children learn differently, they need choices in terms of environments where they have a better chance to succeed, he said. For instance, Edison Career and Technical School can offer training programs in much needed trades.

It is important to let the city know when the families are living in substandard housing, he noted. And he would like to be appraised of such situations. There are efforts to work with one block at a time to improve the neighborhoods, he added.

Regarding the Rochester Monroe Antipoverty Initiative, he indicated that an effort is underway to try to revive it. Unfortunately, there are not enough people living in poverty at the table. He stated that the poor today is different from the poor four or five generations ago. Then, if you worked hard, you had a chance. He is not sure if the people at the table understand what poverty is. "If we don't address the issue of education, nothing will improve," he said.

Carballada commented that parents need to become more involved in their children's education. They need to attend the Board of Education meetings, visit the schools, and find out how their children are doing. They need to make sure their children attend school regularly, and seek assistance if lacking

## Community service

Children at the Eugenio María de Hostos Charter School who received bilingual dictionaries wrote eloquent thank you notes to the club. Below are some of the messages:

Translated from Spanish:

Dear Latino Rotary:

Thank you for the dictionary because I have to learn more and I use the dictionary to learn more words. If I go to Walmart, Target or Family Dollar, I bring the dictionary with me, I take it everywhere. I like it very much.

Sincerely,  
Neylianis

In English:

Dear Latino Rotary,

Thank you so much for our bilingual dictionary. We all really love them. They really teach us, and we really appreciate them. They are very helpful, especially when we need to look up a word to see what it means. They are so good; people read them in independent reading!

Thank you again!

Sincerely,  
Samantha

Dear Latino Rotary,

Thank you, gracias for the dictionary and your amazing speech. I wish you a wonderful future and may our spirits be with you! I also hope you will do better and wonderful things in the future.

Sincerely,  
Isabella

Dear Latino Rotary,

Thank you for the Spanish-English dictionary. Now my dad and my twins know Spanish. I'm teaching my grandma English. And she is going to teach me Spanish. And then I am going to Puerto Rico to meet my other family and to New York City. I get to speak to them and understand them. Oh, some of my other family is Spanish.

Sincerely,  
Jayleen

## Photos



Thank you cards from fourth graders who received bilingual dictionaries

## Focus on Rotary

In Nigeria, a university president and Rotary Club fight Boko Haram by educating and feeding victims

By **Frank Bures (summary)**

In her office at the American University of Nigeria, in the town of Yola, Margee Ensign heard the news: Some 170 miles to the north, nearly 300 girls at a boarding school had been roused from sleep and kidnapped at gunpoint by the terrorist group Boko Haram. Margee Ensign, the president of the university, was already struggling with the fallout from Boko Haram's attacks in Nigeria's north, which had sent a flood of refugees into Yola. Together with community leaders, including her fellow Rotarians, she had worked to run feeding programs to keep the refugees – whose number eventually swelled to 400,000 – alive. Rotarians working with the Adamawa Peace Initiative help run the Feed and Read program, which provides a hot meal along with lessons in English and math, and the Peace through Sports program.

After the news of the kidnapping broke in April 2014, a woman who worked for the university told Ensign that her sister had been one of 58 girls who had escaped that night by jumping out of Boko Haram's trucks and running into the bush. Ensign quickly began contacting those girls' families to offer them a place at the university, which also houses a high school. In the end, 27 girls decided to come, and on 30 August – four months after the raid – Ensign prepared to head into the heart of the conflict to pick up the girls. "We were going into dangerous territory," says Lionel Rawlins, the university's security chief. "We were going into Boko Haram's backyard to snatch the girls. The morning before we left, we went to the police and said, 'Are we ready?' And they said, 'We're not going. It's too dangerous up there.' So I went back and told Margee we were on our own. She said, 'If you're up to it, I'm up to it. Let's go get the girls.'"

Ensign, originally from California had come to run the American University of Nigeria (AUN), founded in 2004 by Atiku Abubakar, a former vice president of

Nigeria. He chose Yola because it's in one of the country's poorest, least developed states, with 80 percent unemployment, 75 percent illiteracy, and a "stunting" rate – due to chronic malnutrition – of 47 percent.

Shortly after Ensign arrived in Yola in 2010, she helped charter the AUN chapter of the Rotary Club of Yola. The group decided to focus on identifying and helping vulnerable youth. At that time, Yola had about 2,000 orphans and 40,000 almajiri, children who are sent away by their families to study the Koran. In Yola, those children often gathered outside the university gates to beg. They were potential targets for recruitment by terrorists.

The API's first major program, called Peace through Sports, organized local boys and girls from different religious and ethnic groups into "unity teams" in which they played games and ate meals together. One boy told Ensign: "It was either this program or Boko Haram. There is nothing else here."

Today, back in Yola, the Chibok girls are carrying on. Two have gone home to marry and another dropped out, but 24 remain at AUN. (In October, 21 other girls were released by Boko Haram.) Six of the girls at AUN are enrolled in the university proper, studying subjects like computer science, software engineering, and environmental science. "Education gives me the wings to fly, the power to fight, and the voice to speak," says one of the students. One night the girls came to Ensign's house for dinner. "What struck me was the amount of laughter," she says. "They were just like young women anywhere. They had their phones. They were laughing. They're always in each other's arms. It was a very joyful evening." Yet the war and the problems it has created are never far away. There are sporadic attacks and even suicide bombers in the marketplaces. And the refugees who have returned home have found even less than they had before: no crops growing, no seeds to plant, and no food to eat.

UNICEF is warning that 65,000 people are living in "famine-like conditions" and 4 million are facing severe food shortages. The International Rescue Committee estimates that 5 million people need urgent food assistance. Ensign is afraid that it could become one of the largest famines in history. So the university, the API, and the Rotarians continue to work to meet the community's needs.



Rotarians working with the Adamawa Peace Initiative help run the Feed and Read program, which provides a hot meal along with lessons in English and math.

## Getting to know club members

**Vocational Service Co-Chair Dr. Constantino Fernández** was born in Nicaragua. He earned his Medical Degree at the University of Puebla, Mexico. He completed his Residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, New York and then became a Fellow in Family Planning at Hutzel Hospital at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. In 1976 he was trained in Population Family Planning and Responsible Parenthood, University of Colorado. Dr. Fernández was selected by the Nicaraguan government to participate in a John Hopkins Scholar Program for International Education and Training in Reproductive Health. Recently retires from Strong Memorial Hospital, he is professor emeritus of the Obstetrics and Gynecology. He has received numerous awards for his teaching and clinical services as well as his community involvement.



### Board of Directors

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### 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.