

# ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY LA ROTARIANA

July, 2016



Outgoing President Orlando Rivera shows a paperweight with the Rotary logo and the Four Way Test inscribed on it while Luisa Baars pins incoming President Julio Vázquez with the president pin

## New board of directors installed

On a sunny afternoon with a view of Lake Ontario, the RLRC once more celebrated a picnic to thank the outgoing board members and install the new ones. The event hosted by Doug and Hilda Escher has been held at their home for the last six years.

Incoming board members and particularly Julio Vázquez as President inherit a very successful club. The club was chartered on April 23, 2009. Its first President Roberto Burgos led the first steps of the club and set the standards of excellence and commitment that have been followed by subsequent presidents and club members.

The club was the brain child of past District Governor Mike Leone. His idea was born in Pittsburg, PA while searching for a venue for the District Conference that would take place in May, 2009. His idea was to have a Spanish-speaking club. Thus, the Rochester Latino Rotary Club was born. The first organizing meeting took place on December 8, 2008 and in record time the minimum number of 20 members required for chartering a club was met and surpassed as 27 individuals became charter members.

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## New board, continued from page 1

Soon after its inception, it was realized that Spanish could not be the main language given that the club had Latino and non-Latino members who were not fluent in Spanish. At times the meetings have been conducted in both English and Spanish languages depending on the language preferences of the speakers.

The membership is not what defines the club as Latino, but rather the focus of its service projects on Latino communities. The very first project was the raising of funds to help fix the roof of a school in El Sauce, Nicaragua, following the visit by the mayor of El Sauce. Ever since, the club has provided school supplies and scholarships to students in El Sauce.

Soon after, club members visited Mexico responding to an invitation to attend a Project Fair made by DG Vicente Arbezú. Of the 23 projects presented, the club chose to equip the neonatal unit at the Minatitlán Regional Hospital with incubators and related supplies. Within a couple of years the infant mortality went from 40% to 15%. The second project involved providing equipment to a school serving 340 indigenous children, 200 lived in the school the whole year. The school is located in Tuxtepec. Both projects were possible with matching funds from District 7120 and The Rotary Foundation.

In the Dominican Republic, the club has provided funds to purchase seeds and plantain plants for a farm tended by volunteers who then can use the produce for their own sustenance. Another project involved providing funds for University of Rochester students belonging to the Engineers Without Borders club carry out a study to determine the feasibility of providing clean water to a school. This project was done in conjunction with the Rochester Rotary Club and funds allocated by District 7120 via a Simplified Grant.

The local community has received services as well. The focus has been literacy projects, but also providing funds and food staples to deserving families. Food baskets have been distributed at Christmas time and Thanksgiving. School supplies

were provided to students at School No. 17. Bilingual dictionaries are given to students at the Eugenio María de Hostos Charter School. Other projects have included teaching English to Latinos, tutoring students, reading to kindergarten students, and distribution of children books to young mothers and kindergarten students.

Young students have participated in the District Oratorical Contest, three of them placing within the top five finalists. This made them eligible for scholarships from colleges and universities of the area. They have participated in the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy, a program that helps them develop leadership skills. Another program where the club has sponsored students is the Young Entrepreneurs Academy at the University of Rochester. Several events promoting health have been carried out. These have included chats on healthy eating, exercises, yoga, and Zumba.

Club members have hosted District Governors Elect, Friendship Exchange participants, Youth Exchange, and Group Study Exchange teams from countries such as Argentina, Australia, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, India, Ecuador, Mexico, Indonesia, and the Dominican Republic.

To support The Rotary Foundation efforts to eradicate polio, the club has carried out bake sales, garage sales, and donations from members. From what used to be an endemic condition in the world, polio now remains endemic in Pakistan and Afghanistan having been eliminated in every other country.

In order to support all the projects, the club relies on the annual fund raising event where besides celebrating the club anniversary; there is recognition of a Latino distinguished by service above self, dinner, and dance. We urge individuals with a passion for service to join us.

**Photos**



Assistant Governor Paul Minor (bottom) attended the picnic. Top- Julio presents the theme pin to Charol Ríos –Davis (middle)

**Focus on Rotary**

At the end of the Rotary year 20015-16, a report found in the Rotary Foundation website provides the following information:

**We are Rotary**, a membership organization of innovators and problem solvers dedicated to applying sustainable solutions to some of the world’s greatest challenges. Our members raise millions of dollars every year to fight polio and other diseases, grow local economies, promote literacy, and work for peace. We maximize the impact of our resources through the volunteer efforts of our more than 1.2 million members worldwide.

**Where we are\***

- North America and the Caribbean **355,815**
- Central and South America **94,516**
- North Asia (including Japan and Korea) **147,714**
- Australia, Philippines, and Pacific Realm **61,048**

\*Numbers represent Rotary club members

**Who we are**

- 1,207,913** Rotarians
- 35,399** Rotary clubs
- 534** Rotary districts
- 219,029** Rotaractors (ages 18-30)
- 9,523** Rotaract clubs
- 8,937** Rotary Community Corps

**How we help**

**494 (\$25.5M)** District grants funded small-scale, short-term, district-sponsored activities that Rotarians used to address local or international needs -

**1,165 (\$76M)** Global grants supported large international activities that had sustainable, measurable outcomes in Rotary’s areas of focus -

**Number of grants/dollars by areas of focus**

- Disease prevention and treatment: **378 \$27.0M)**
- Water and sanitation: **272 (\$18.9M)**
- Economic and community development: **165 (\$9.2M)**
- Maternal and child health: **93 (\$6.9M)**
- Basic education and literacy: **173 (\$10.3M)**
- Peace and conflict prevention/resolution: **(84 \$3.7M)** (excluding Rotary Peace Centers)

**Services for young leaders**

- Interact for ages 12-18 – **20,364** clubs; **468,372\***
- Rotary Youth Exchange for ages 14-19 – **8,700+\*** from **80** countries
- Rotary Youth Leadership Awards – About **500,000** participate in district –run leadership development programs

\* Indicate number of participants

## Board of Directors

President – Julio Vázquez  
 Immediate Past President – Orlando Rivera  
 President Elect – Dr. Miriam Vázquez  
 Treasurer – Idalia Chang  
 Secretaries – Wim Baars  
     Luisa Baars  
 Club Service Co-Chairs - Aida Veras  
     Charol Ríos-Davis  
 Vocational Service Chair - Dr. Constantino Fernández,  
     Dr. Timothy Malia  
 International Service Chair – Luisa Baars  
 Membership Chair – Orlando Rivera  
 Foundation Chair - Elisa DeJesús  
 Literacy Co-Chairs – Dr. Miriam Vázquez  
     Julio Vázquez  
 Club Webmaster – Orlando Rivera  
     Tera Rivera  
 Bulletin Editor - Luisa Baars  
 Program Chair – Orlando Rivera  
     Julio Vázquez  
 Fund Raising – Dr. Miriam Vázquez  
 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.

## Rotarian Code of Conduct

The following code of conduct has been adopted for the use of Rotarians.

As a Rotarian, I will

1. Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
2. Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
3. Use my professional skills through Rotary to: mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
4. Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians.

