

# ROCHESTER LATINO ROTARY CLUB LA ROTARIANA

July, 2017



## The Rotary Foundation celebrated

The Rotary International Convention took place in Atlanta during June 12 – 14. About 40,000 Rotarians from all over the world met to celebrate the achievements of RI through the clubs in terms of serving humanity. This was an opportunity to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rotary Foundation.

The history of the RF began in the 1917 convention when outgoing Rotary president Arch Klumph proposed setting up an endowment “for the purpose of doing good in the world.” That one idea, and an initial contribution of \$26.50, set in motion a powerful force that has transformed millions of lives around the globe.

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## The Rotary Foundation ...

The Rotary Foundation is organized as a public charity operated exclusively for charitable purposes and governed by a Board of Trustees. The operations of Rotary International, a member organization, are overseen by its Board of Directors. The headquarters of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation are in Evanston, Illinois, USA. We have associate foundations in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, India, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

The annual report for the Rotary year 2015-2016 indicates the following: As of July 1, 2017, there were:

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

The same report describes who we are as follows: “**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.”

Rotarians are found in the world regions as indicated below.

North America and the Caribbean – **355,815**  
 Europe - **308,555**  
 South and Southeast Asia (including Asia) - **202,191**  
 North Asia (including Japan and Korea) - **147,714**  
 Central and South America - **94,516**  
 Australia, Philippines, and Pacific Realm - **61,048**  
 Africa and Southwest Asia - **38,074**

The RF provided funds that were used to fund **494** District grants for small-scale, short term, district-sponsored activities that Rotarians used to address local or international needs for a total of **\$25.5M**.

In addition there were **1,165** Global grants that supported large international activities that had sustainable, measurable outcomes in Rotary’s areas of focus for a total of **\$76M**.

## Club benefits from district grants

The RLRC once more was the beneficiary of District Simplified Grants (DSG). As in previous years, the club was able to provide two scholarships to college-bound Latino students, one of those was financed with a DSG, and the other by the Foundation of the Rochester Latino Rotary Club. In addition, another DSG helped fund a computer center at the Eugenio María de Hostos Charter School.

A previous DSG allowed the club to provide backpacks and school supplies to 77 children in the Rochester City School District. Another grant allowed the club to join the Rochester Rotary Club in supporting a charter of Engineers Without Borders at the University of Rochester. Their project consisted of studying the conditions existing in a school in the Dominican Republic regarding clean water. UR students travelled to the Dominican Republic and studied the water quality and possible methods to provide clean water. Afterwards, they were going to design and install the system that would be sustainable over a long period of time.

## Membership drive undertaken

On July 10<sup>th</sup> the club President Dr. Miriam Vázquez hosted a membership drive at her home. Club members and potential members met in a relaxed, informal atmosphere to share information about Rotary in general and the club in particular. A brochure highlighting the club projects over the years was distributed.

Prospective members were able to ask questions and participate in one on one conversations with the members present, as well as enjoy a nice dinner.

Three individuals indicated their interest in becoming members. It is felt that these types of events are an effective way of recruiting members because they can target specific populations to fill whatever gaps in membership exist.



## Photos



Top: Wim and Luisa Baars and (above) Rotarians from India at the Convention

## Focus on Rotary



Above is the logo and theme for the Rotary Year 2017-18. RI President H.S. Riseley reflects on the meaning for both him and Rotary as follows:

“Some years ago, a new acquaintance asked me what should have been a simple question: ‘What is Rotary?’ I opened my mouth to reply and then stopped short with the realization that I simply did not know where to begin. The problem wasn’t that I didn’t know what Rotary was. The problem was that Rotary was — and is — too large and complex to easily define. We are a member-based organization, a club-based organization, and a service-based organization; we are local, regional, and international; we are community members, businesspeople and professionals, working and retired, active in nearly every country in the world. Every one of our 1.2 million members has a unique set of goals, experiences, and priorities; every one of us has a unique understanding of Rotary”.

“To me, Rotary is defined not by who we are, but by what we do — by the potential that Rotary gives us, and the ways we realize that potential in meaningful and lasting service. Rotary has been around for a long time: 112 years. In some ways, we’ve changed tremendously, as we’ve grown, matured, and adapted to the changing needs of our members and communities. In our fundamentals, however, we remain the same: an organization of people with the desire — and through Rotary, the ability — to make a difference in our communities, and the world”.

“We answer the question ‘What is Rotary?’ with our actions, by making a difference through our service. As an organization, we recognize how important it is that the world understands what Rotary is, and what we do. At the same time, we know that it is more important than ever to allow our clubs to define Rotary service for themselves. As Rotarians, we have more flexibility than ever to decide how we want our clubs to meet, work, and grow. We’re focused more than ever on making sure that Rotary reflects the people it serves, with more women and a more diverse membership. And we’re working hard to ensure that Rotary remains the world’s pre-eminent volunteer service organization, by emphasizing long-term planning, sustainable service, and continuity in leadership on every level”.

“In 2017-18, we will answer the question ‘What is Rotary?’ with the theme *Rotary: Making a Difference*. However each of us chooses to serve, we do it because we know our service makes a difference in the lives of others. Whether we are building a new playground or a new school, improving medical care or sanitation, training conflict mediators or midwives, we know that the work we do will change people’s lives — in ways large and small — for the better. Whatever motivation each of us had for joining Rotary, it is the satisfaction we find in Rotary that causes us to remain, the satisfaction of knowing that week by week, year by year, we are part of *Rotary: Making a Difference*.”

Ian H.S. Riseley

President, Rotary International, 2017-18

## Foundation has new leadership



Above are the new leaders of the Foundation of the Rochester Latino Rotary Club. From left to right: Aida Veras, President; Charol Ríos, President Elect; Magaly Rosario, Secretary; Idalia Chang, Treasurer, Ex Officio. They will serve during the 2017-18 Rotary year.

### **Board of Directors**

President – Dr. Miriam Vázquez  
Immediate Past President – Julio Vázquez  
President Elect – Dr. Jasmin Ruiz  
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 – 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

### **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.