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GOVERNOR'S
MONTHLY
LETTER



Featured Articles

Rotary Club of
Binangonan

DREAM ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

p10

Rotary Club of Upper
Eastside Antipolo

TARA! KAPE 2026 PROJECT YAKAP

p14

AIDA

MIKE
Rotary
Barista

OPENING
DOORS,
CREATING
FUTURES

VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH



WHAT'S INSIDE

06

**SKILLS THAT
SHAPE FUTURE**

18

**ABILITY BEDYOND DISABILITY
RC SAN JUAN DEL MONTE**

22

**ROTARY OUTREACH PROGRAM
RC MANDALUYONG BIYAYA**

25

**THE GOOD SCOOP
JANUARY 2026**

WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO

OUR MISSION

To inspire, inform, and connect our community through insightful stories, thoughtful leadership, and a shared commitment to progress, cultivating a sense of unity and empowerment for all.

WHAT WE ASPIRE TO BE

OUR VISION

To inform, inspire, and unite Rotarians across the district by showcasing meaningful stories, impactful projects, and shared achievements. Through purposeful communication, the Governor's Monthly Letter strengthens connections, promotes Rotary values, and drives collective action toward lasting change.



Message from

DISTRICT GOVERNOR
GINA T. SANCHEZ
ROTARY YEAR 2025-26

Dear Fellow Rotarians of District 3800,

January marks Vocational Service Month—a meaningful reminder that our professions are not only a means of livelihood, but also powerful instruments for service. In Rotary International, Vocational Service calls each of us to uphold integrity, demonstrate excellence, and use our talents to uplift others.

Our diverse professions reflect the strength of our Rotary family, and through them, we extend hope, opportunity, and dignity to the communities we serve.



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As we embrace our theme, Unite for Good, we recognize that our individual skills, when united in purpose, create lasting impact. Through continuity in our mission and partnership with one another, we empower livelihoods, mentor the next generation, and contribute to sustainable community development. Let us continue to lead not only with competence, but with compassion.

May our work reflect our values, and may our vocation always be a channel through which service above self comes alive. Together, let us Unite for Good—by serving through our vocation.

In Rotary Service,

Gina T. Sanchez

District Governor, RY 2025–2026

Rotary International District 3800

Editor's Letter

OPENING DOORS

CREATING FUTURES

VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

January, as we celebrate Vocational Service Month, invites us to reflect on the deeper purpose behind our professions. In Rotary, vocation is not merely about the work we do—it is about how we use our skills, expertise, and influence to uplift others and create meaningful opportunities.

This issue centers on the theme “Opening Doors, Creating Futures,” a reminder that our roles extend far beyond our offices and workplaces. **Through vocational service, we become catalysts of change—empowering individuals, supporting livelihoods, and strengthening communities.** Whether by mentoring, creating jobs, sharing knowledge, or fostering ethical practices, each action contributes to building a more inclusive and sustainable future.

In District 3800, we continue to see how Rotarians transform professions into platforms for service. By opening doors for others, we help shape futures that go beyond immediate gains—futures anchored in dignity, opportunity, and hope.

As you go through this issue, may it inspire you to look at your vocation not just as a career, but as a calling—one that has the power to create lasting impact.

Enjoy the read! Carry the thought that every skill shared moves us closer to Uniting for Good.



Capturing your goodness in GML pages,

PP Dee B. Antang
Editor-in-Chief, GML
RY 2025-2026

“When we open doors to opportunity, we don’t just change today—we create futures that last for generations.”



Skills that shape future.

Every January, Rotary celebrates Vocational Service Month—a time to recognize the dignity of work and the power of professions to transform lives. At its core, vocational service is about using one's skills, knowledge, and influence not only for personal success, but for the greater good of society. It is where profession meets purpose, and where service becomes a pathway to opportunity.



In the Philippines, the importance of vocational service is especially relevant. While the country maintains a relatively high employment rate of around **95–96%**, challenges such as underemployment, job mismatch, and fluctuating unemployment levels remain realities for many Filipinos.

Even with approximately 49 million Filipinos employed, a significant number still seek better opportunities, stable income, and meaningful work. This highlights a critical gap—not just in job availability, but in access to quality employment and sustainable livelihoods.



Even with approximately 49 million Filipinos employed, many still seek better opportunities, stable income, and more meaningful work. While the 94.2% employment rate reflects a strong labor market, the infographic reveals a deeper challenge—underemployment at 13.2%, where millions are working but need better pay, more hours, or improved job quality.

With a labor force of around 50.89 million and about 2.96 million unemployed (5.8%), access to jobs remains uneven. The economy is also largely service-driven (63–64%), which may not always guarantee long-term stability for all workers.

These realities highlight a critical gap—not just in job availability, but in access to quality employment and sustainable livelihoods. **While many Filipinos are employed, not all jobs provide fair wages, job security, or opportunities for growth.** This gap points to the need for work that is not only available, but also dignified, stable, and aligned with one’s skills and potential. Addressing this requires a stronger focus on skills development, entrepreneurship, and inclusive opportunities that enable individuals to build long-term, resilient sources of income.

What Is the Most Effective Approach?

The most effective approach to vocational service goes beyond employment—it must be rooted in empowerment and capacity-building. There is a need to create opportunities where they are most needed by:

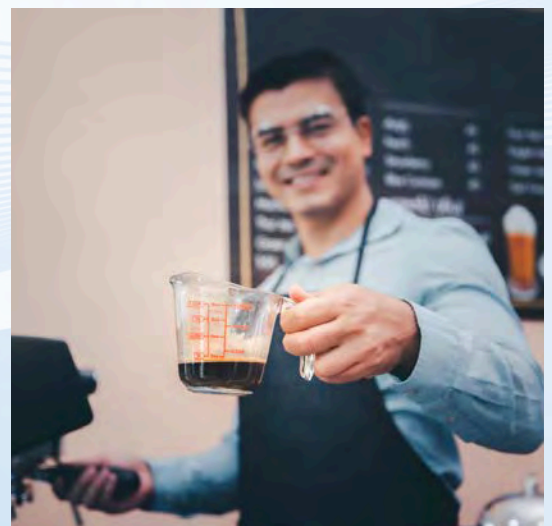
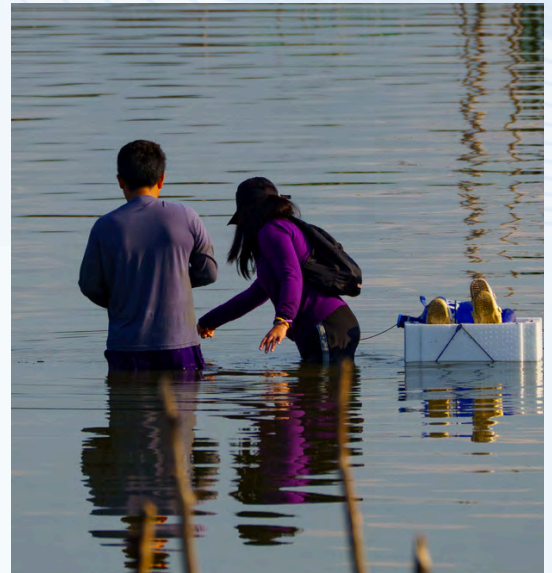
- Mentoring young professionals and guiding career development
- Supporting livelihood programs for underserved communities
- Promoting ethical business practices across industries
- Encouraging continuous skills development to remain relevant

These efforts ensure that individuals are not only given opportunities, but are also equipped to sustain and grow them—opening doors not just to jobs, but to dignity, self-reliance, and hope.

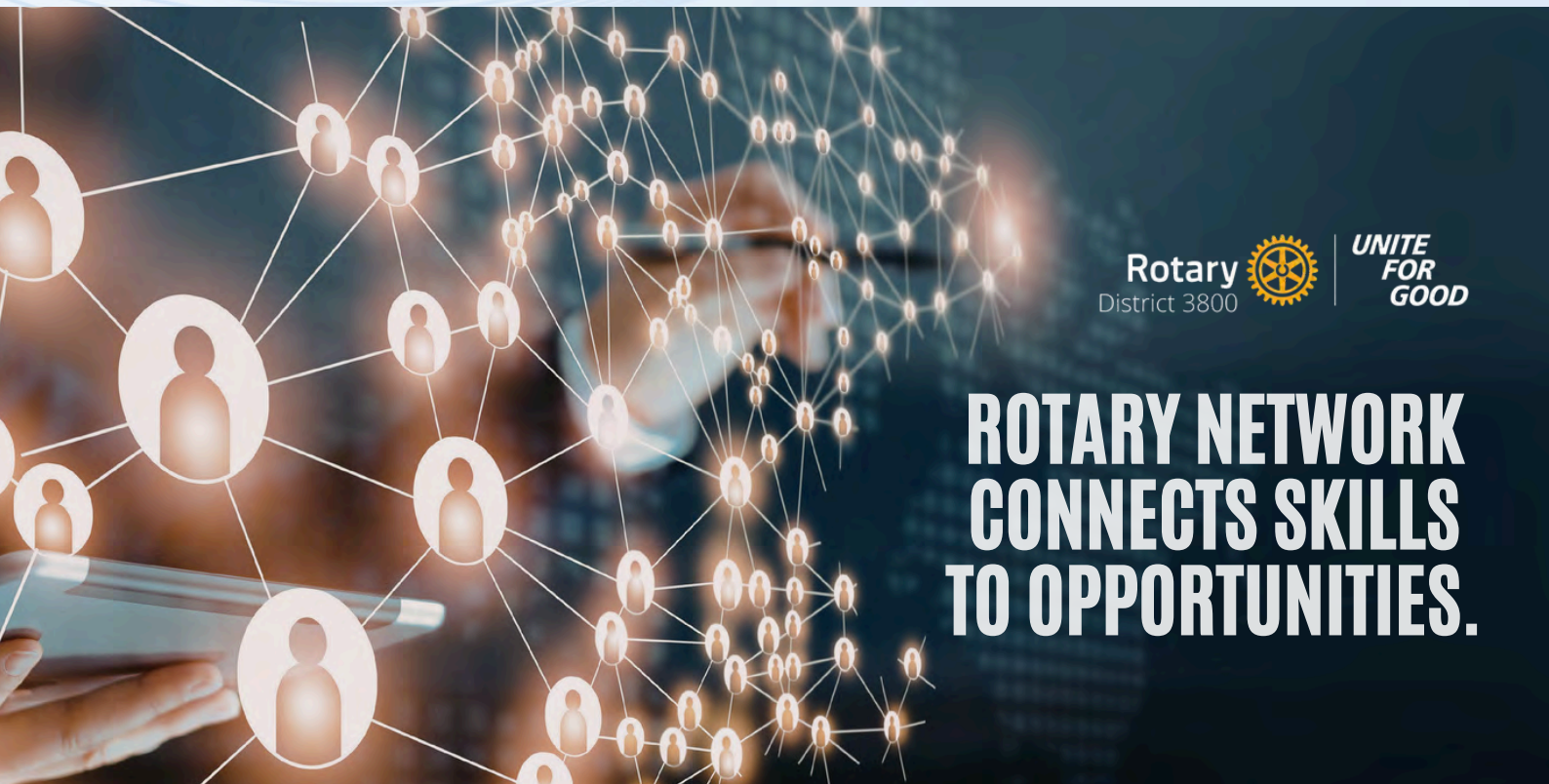
More importantly, vocational service must shift the mindset from charity to sustainability. Instead of temporary assistance, the focus should be on long-term solutions by:

- Providing training and upskilling programs
- Supporting entrepreneurship and small businesses
- Creating job and income-generating opportunities.

This empowers individuals to build stable livelihoods and creates a ripple effect that strengthens entire communities and local economies.



Rotary also fosters collaboration across sectors, bringing together professionals, businesses, educators, government agencies, and local communities to address pressing, real-world challenges in the Philippines. In a country where underemployment remains high and job opportunities are often concentrated in urban centers, aligning skills with available opportunities is critical. Through vocational service, Rotary helps bridge gaps by matching talent to need, supporting programs that equip Filipinos with relevant skills, and connecting micro-entrepreneurs with markets and mentorship.



Rotary
District 3800

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

ROTARY NETWORK CONNECTS SKILLS TO OPPORTUNITIES.

These efforts not only reduce job mismatch and underemployment, but also promote inclusive growth, creating pathways for meaningful work in both rural and urban areas. As we reflect on Vocational Service Month, we are reminded that our professions carry a greater purpose. Each of us has the capacity to influence lives—not just through what we do in our jobs, but through how we choose to serve our communities.

In a society where opportunity is not equally distributed, Rotary acts as a bridge—linking skills to needs, people to possibilities, and potential to tangible change.

Rotary Club of Binangonan

DREAM ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

A milestone program that equips scholars with certified skills in sustainable farming, empowering them toward livelihood, employment, and community development.





Cultivating Skills,
Growing Futures

29 GRADUATES AND SCHOLARS

The Rotary Club of Binangonan proudly celebrates a milestone achievement with the graduation of its first batch of **29 scholars** under the Dream Organic Agriculture Production program, led by Good President Manolito Cartin. Completing 232 hours of intensive training, these graduates embody dedication, perseverance, and a shared vision for sustainable living.

Made possible through the strong partnership with TESDA Binangonan, the program reflects a powerful commitment to skills development, employability, and community empowerment. The scholars were equipped with both knowledge and hands-on experience in key areas such as organic farming practices, production of organic fertilizers and concoctions, cultivation of vegetables, and raising livestock including chickens, hogs, and ruminants.



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Rotary
Club of Binangonan

UNITE FOR GOOD

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION NCII

- ✓ National Certificate
- ✓ Free Training
- ✓ Free Assessment



Congratulations

GRADUATES & SCHOLARS

From Rotary Club of Binangonan

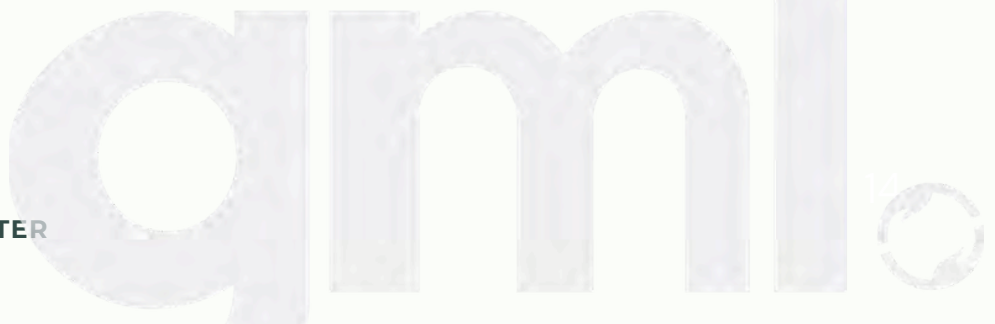
When: January 29, 2026
9:00 AM

Where: TESDA OFFICE
BINANGONAN

232 HOURS TRAINING ONLY. RESERVE YOUR SLOT NOW!
Unlocking the Potential of Your Fields. Learn the following:

						
Introduction to Organic Agriculture	Formulating Organic Fertilizers & Concoctions	Producing Organic Fertilizers	Producing Organic Vegetables	Raising Organic Chickens	Raising Organic Hogs	Raising Organic Ruminants







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This program brings “Service Above Self” to life—planting seeds of empowerment today so that stronger, brighter futures may grow for generations to come.





ROTARY CLUB OF UPPER EASTSIDE ANTIPOLO

TARA! KAPE TAYO 2026

A DEI initiative supporting the immediate needs of the Mangyan Tribe in Brgy. Balite, Arangin, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro

"Yakap"





On August 26, 2024, the Rotary Club of Upper East Side Antipolo (RCUESA) launched Project Yakap, a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiative aimed at supporting the basic and immediate needs of the Mangyan Tribe in Barangay Balite, Arangin, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro. ***In engaging with the community, one key concern identified was the lack of sustainable livelihood opportunities.***

In response, RCUESA entered into a mutually signed agreement to donate 100 coffee tree seedlings, which the community will nurture and propagate. More than a one-time effort, the project ensures continuity—at harvest, RCUESA will purchase all the produce and sell it through the RCUESA Mercato, with all net proceeds returned directly to the community, creating a sustainable cycle of support, empowerment, and shared growth.



The Road Worth Taking

Reaching the project site in Barangay Balite, Arangin, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro was not without challenge. Some remote areas are simply not “Waze-able,” requiring reliance on local knowledge and directions from residents. The team encountered delays after getting lost in vast rice fields, but through constant communication and coordination, they were eventually guided to the site by their local partner.

Despite light drizzles and muddy paths, the team was welcomed by a breathtaking landscape of rolling green hills—now home to newly planted coffee seedlings alongside existing trees. It was a powerful sight, reflecting both effort and promise.



Rolling hills of hope, coffee seedlings thrive.





The project, “Tara Kape Tayo 2026,” successfully planted 1,000 Liberica coffee seedlings across a one-hectare farm, with 20 Mangyan farmers forming the core group tasked to nurture the plantation. With scheduled visits and support from partners, the initiative aims to provide sustainable livelihood, even generating supplemental income before harvest.

The visit also included community engagement activities at Barangay Balite Hall, where children and families gathered for a program that featured storytelling, gift-giving, and play. In line with Rotary’s focus on maternal and child health, essential kits were distributed to mothers and newborns.



What began in 2024 continues as a long-term undertaking—building relationships, strengthening trust, and advancing a shared vision of sustainability for the Mangyan community.

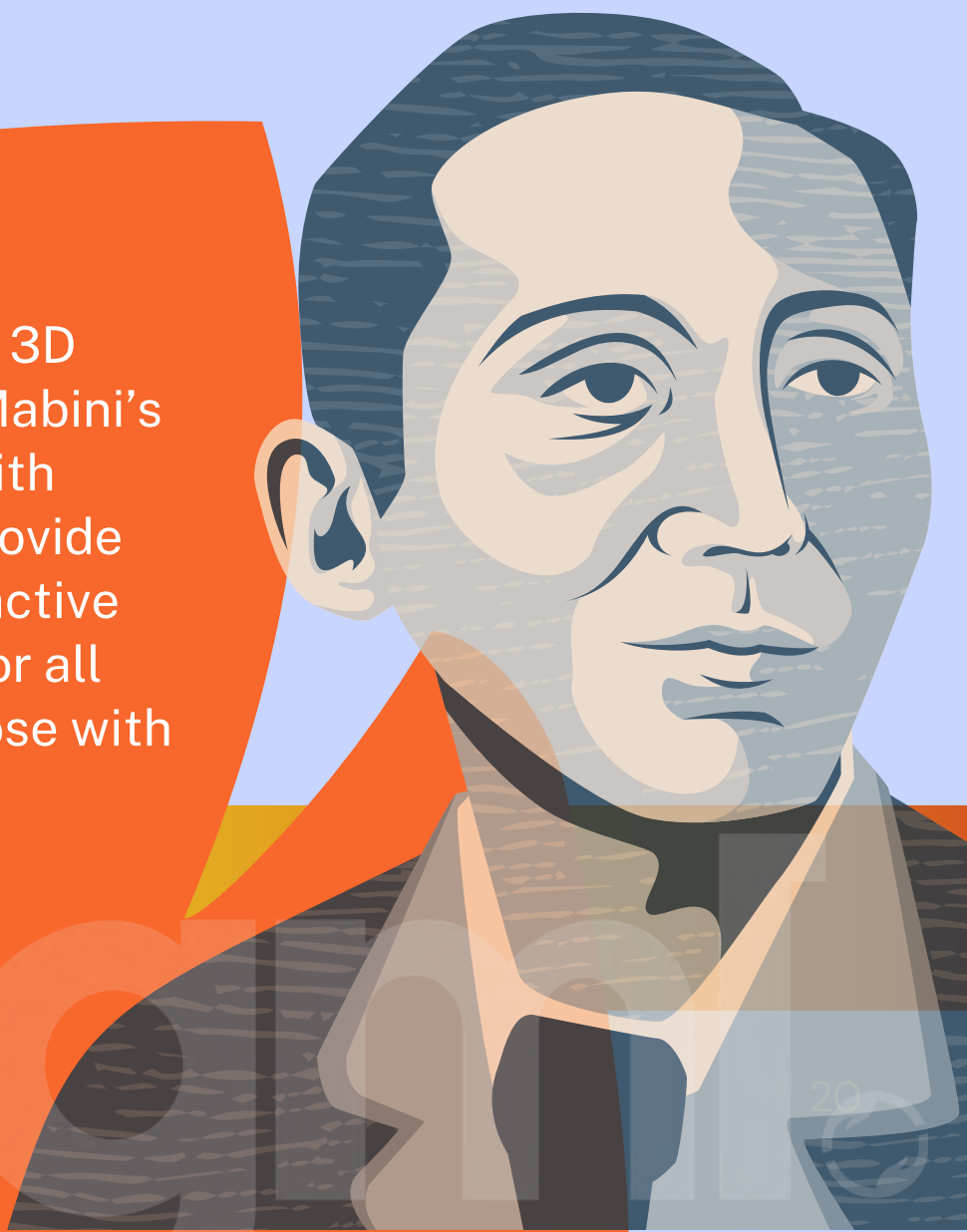




ABILITY BEYOND DISABILITY

Rotary Club of San Juan del Monte

The project features a 3D replica of Apolinario Mabini's historic chair, along with braille materials, to provide an inclusive and interactive museum experience for all learners, including those with visual impairments.





The chair is easy to overlook at first glance. Made of rattan woven in the traditional sulhiya style, it appears modest—functional, even unassuming. Yet this chair once supported one of the most formidable minds of the Philippine Revolution. Designed for Apolinario Mabini, who was rendered paraplegic by polio, it tells a story not of limitation, but of resilience and intellect.





Mind Shaping the Nation

With its gently reclined back, foot support, and rotating armrests that doubled as a writing table, the chair was adapted to Mabini's needs. From it, he drafted documents that would help define the First Philippine Republic. Despite his physical condition, Mabini rose to become its first Prime Minister, shaping the nation's government and laws through the power of his ideas.



His paralysis confined his body, but his mind ranged freely—arguing for independence, democracy, and moral governance, even while in exile. It was this unwavering commitment that earned him the title “Utak ng Rebolusyon.”

Today, Mabini's story unfolds quietly within the Mabini Campus of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Sta. Mesa, Manila. Tucked away from the city's constant motion, the Apolinario Mabini Shrine stands as a space of reflection.

More than a repository of artifacts, it serves as a reminder that leadership is rooted in principle and clarity of thought, not physical strength.

On December 10, 2025, the shrine reopened to the public in a ceremony titled “Ang Pormal na Pagbubukas ng Dambana ni Apolinario Mabini.” The event marked a renewed effort to preserve and share Mabini’s legacy with a wider audience. At a time when questions of leadership, integrity, and nationhood remain pressing, Mabini’s ideals continue to resonate.

The reopened shrine now features restored spaces, newly arranged exhibits, and interpretive displays that offer visitors a more personal understanding of Mabini’s life and philosophy. A key highlight of the revitalization is its inclusive exhibition design.



In partnership with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), the Rotary Club of San Juan del Monte and Touch the Artist’s Vision (TAV) introduced tactile 2D panels and 3D objects, allowing blind and visually impaired visitors to experience the shrine in meaningful ways.

The reopening brought together historians, educators, government representatives, and heritage advocates—each drawn by a shared respect for the country’s past. Their presence underscored the shrine’s role not only as a historical landmark, but as a living space for dialogue and learning.

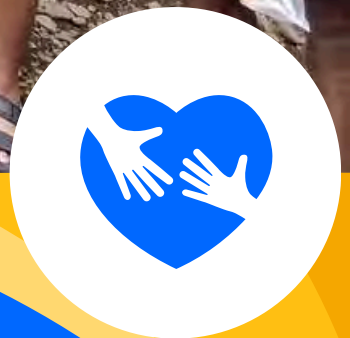
In remembering Apolinario Mabini, the shrine offers a powerful lesson: disability does not define a person.

What endures are ideas, values, and the courage to shape a nation—even from a chair woven of rattan, guided by a mind that refuses to be confined.



Contributor
Shenna Jaye Quitoriano
Rotary Club of San Juan del Monte





Rotary Club of Mandaluyong Biyaya

Time to Care, Time to Share

Rotary Outreach Program at Sitio Dakil,
Cagsiay III, Mauban, Quezon





Tucked within the coastal and mountainous landscape of Sitio Dakil, Cagsiay III in Mauban, Quezon, where access to basic necessities can often be limited, a simple act of generosity created a meaningful impact. On January 31, 2026, the Rotary Club of Mandaluyong Biyaya carried out a Rotary Outreach Program, distributing grocery packs to 50 IP families in the community.

In an area where daily life requires resilience and resourcefulness, each pack symbolized more than just sustenance—it carried compassion, dignity, and hope. The outreach was a reminder that service does not always have to be grand to be significant. Sometimes, it is in the quiet, sincere gestures that the deepest connections are formed.

Through this initiative, the club lived out the true essence of “Service Above Self,” proving that even the simplest acts, when done with heart, can uplift lives and inspire a shared sense of humanity.



PRIVACY TIP OF THE MONTH

THE RIGHT WAY,
MADE SIMPLE.

A PRIVACY-CONSCIOUS RI DISTRICT 3800

Because Every Rotarian's Privacy Matters.

NO CONSENT,



NO POST!

Respecting privacy is the first step in responsible communication. Always secure consent before taking photos, recording videos, or collecting personal information. This protects individuals' rights and ensures ethical practices in all projects and social media posts. By using consent forms, you build trust with participants and prevent potential misunderstandings or legal issues.

INCLUDE CONSENT FORMS IN ALL PROJECTS.



**A Tiny Tip,
Big Impact - from**



PP ANTHONY JAKE V. DURAN

RI District 3800 Data Protection Officer
RY 2025 - 2026



A quick, candid pulse check from across Rotary District 3800!

Each month, the GML tosses out one playful question and gathers real, insightful—and sometimes unexpected—answers on how the “Unite for Good” journey is unfolding.

In this January issue, we feature two good presidents as they share their journey through the “United for Good” Rotary Year

How has your experience as Club President strengthened your commitment to service and inspired you to create a more meaningful impact in your community?



GP VELLIN EVELYN R. DATUIN- COLLADO

Rotary Club of East Rizal

The UFG Experience

“A Unite for Good Rotary Year where goodness through service became a shared mission – transforming personal purpose into collective action that uplifts lives and sustains impact.”



As her term as Club President nears its close, GP Vellin reflects with gratitude and deep fulfillment. More than the distinction of serving a second term, she values the deeper journey it has brought—one marked by purpose-driven leadership, clarity, and meaningful service. For her, every Rotary term carries its own challenges and growth, but this one stood out for its stronger sense of connection, intention, and shared commitment to service.



Leading with Purpose, Partnership, and Heart



A key learning from her leadership is that meaningful service thrives on collaboration. She has seen how strong partnerships with local government units, corporate institutions, fellow club presidents, and district leaders transform ideas into impactful and sustainable action. These collaborations not only strengthened implementation but also expanded the reach and effectiveness of club initiatives.

Among her many accomplishments, the UNITE FOR SIGHT project remains closest to her heart. Initially envisioned as a single activity, it evolved into an ongoing mission implemented across multiple Rotary Clubs and communities. To date, it has served more than **900 patients**, including over 300 cataract and glaucoma operations across 10 communities.

Beyond its scale, the project carries deep personal meaning. Dedicated to her late father, it became a lasting tribute transformed into service for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. For GP Velin, each restored vision represents not just medical care, but renewed dignity, hope, and a continuing legacy of love through service.





GP ANGEL ANGEL GONZALES

Rotary Club of Pasig East



The UFG Experience

“A Unite for Good Rotary Year where leading with encouragement transformed feedback into a culture of kindness, trust, and collective growth.”

Approaching the final stretch of her presidency at the Rotary Club of Pasig East, GP Angel carries a deep sense of fulfillment, gratitude, and quiet pride. Her journey has been both demanding and transformative, shaped by purposeful initiatives, shared victories, and lasting relationships. What began within her club expanded into a wider community, where meaningful connections with fellow Rotarians, partners, and sister clubs strengthened a network built on collaboration, trust, and a shared commitment to service.



Empowering Others, Creating Impact Through Service and Creativity



Leadership, for GP Angel, is about empowering others to rise rather than leading from the front. She learned that trust, delegation, and encouragement create real impact, while recognizing effort builds confidence, kindness, and stronger relationships. This ripple of positivity fosters collaboration, shared growth, and a culture of encouragement within the team, multiplying impact far beyond what one leader can achieve alone.

Her proudest moment was **Palette of Possibilities**, where she merged art and Rotary service to support The Rotary Foundation through exhibitions and creative fundraising. She also values strong partnerships, community projects, and rebuilding efforts at Makabata School Foundation. Above all, her journey reflects “service above self,” strengthened by her partner’s unwavering support.

At the heart of it all was partnership—grounded in the unwavering support of Past President Reinier Lacsamana of the Imagine Rotary Year, where strength, encouragement, and shared purpose as life partners proved that every impactful journey is best walked together in service, trust, and enduring commitment.





BE PART OF THE STORY THAT INSPIRES

An Invitation to Rotarians and Project Partners

The Governor's Monthly Letter (GML) is more than a publication—it's a celebration of service, leadership, and impact. This Rotary Year, we invite YOU to help us bring its pages to life.

Whether you're a passionate Rotarian or a proud Project Partner, your story matters—and the district wants to hear it.

SHARE YOUR ROTARY JOURNEY

Tell us what moved you to serve. What project changed your perspective? What keeps your Rotary heart beating?

GET FEATURED IN THE GML

This is your platform. Showcase your business, organization, or advocacy—especially if it aligns with Rotary's causes and values. Let others know how you're making a difference in your own way.

BUILD NEW CONNECTIONS

Through the GML, your voice reaches over a thousand leaders, change-makers, and future collaborators in District 3800 and beyond. It's the perfect space to grow your network and strengthen your impact.



Let's unite for good—one story, one partnership, one issue at a time.

Connect with us at 3800gml@gmail.com.

We'd love to feature your Rotary story, your business, or your community impact.

BE PART OF THE GML MOVEMENT—WHERE SERVICE MEETS CREATIVITY.



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

TAIPEI, TAIWAN | 13-17 JUNE 2026

Rotary



TAIPEI
2026

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Rotary
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GOVERNOR'S
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JANUARY 2026 ISSUE