

# gm

GOVERNOR'S  
MONTHLY  
LETTER



# TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

The Rotary Foundation's Path  
to Sustainable Change

Rotary  
District 3800 

## Featured Articles



### ROTARY CLUB OF SAN JUAN NEOPOLITAN

The First Rotary  
Endowment Fund

**p10**

### ROTARY CLUB OF METRO EAST TAYTAY

The Vision of  
Guro-in-a-Box

**p20**

# WHAT'S INSIDE

**06**

RI PRESIDENT'S  
MESSAGE

**08**

GIVING IN THE PHILIPPINES:  
TRANSFORMING LIVES,  
INSPIRING HOPE

**26**

A PRIVACY-CONSCIOUS  
RI DISTRICT 3800

**28**

THE GOOD SCOOP  
OCTOBER 2025

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 2025-2026**



**UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD**

### ***My dear fellow Rotarians,***

Giving, in Rotary, has always been more than a gesture. It's the way we turn care into action and hope into something real. And each act of giving tells a story, of faith, of kindness, of love in motion. You see it in the clean water that now flows in a village, in the child whose smile speaks louder than words, in the mother who finally feels peace knowing her child is protected, and in the student who discovers new dreams through education. These are the small victories that remind us why we do what we do. I know this to be true because I was fortunately one of those lives touched by the Rotary Foundation.

Years ago, I was part of the Group Study Exchange program, and that experience opened so many doors for me. It gave me opportunities I never imagined, new perspectives, friendships, and lessons that helped shape who I am today.

But more than that, it showed me what Rotary can do. I saw how generosity and service can change lives, including my own. That experience also taught me the joy of giving. It's a special kind of joy, the one that comes from knowing you've made a difference, even in a small way.

And that's what drives me to give back, to pay forward the same kindness that once blessed me. Because I've seen how the Rotary Foundation can change a life.



I've lived the hope it brings, the way it opens doors where none seemed to exist, the way it connects people who would have never met, and the way it turns opportunities into lifelong lessons. I've seen how the Foundation plants seeds of confidence and compassion in people, and how those seeds grow into something much bigger than ourselves.

That's why every time I give, every time I serve, I'm reminded of where it all began for me, with Rotary, with the Foundation, and with the people who believed in what it could do. The Rotary Foundation helps those small acts reach farther. It connects our compassion to a much larger purpose, a movement that continues to touch lives all around the world.

Every peso, every dollar, every contribution becomes part of that bridge between care and change. Our gift to the Rotary Foundation is an investment of human kindness and talent for Doing Good in the world without expecting anything in return. Here in District 3800, we've seen how generosity turns into impact. For the past Rotary years, more than 80% of Rotarians from our District give to the different funds of the Rotary Foundation. But beyond the numbers, what truly defines us is the heart behind every effort. It's in the way our members show up, lead with love, and serve with joy. That's what keeps Rotary strong, and what makes nights like this one so meaningful. So, as we celebrate the Rotary Foundation month, let's also remember, our belief that giving transforms not only the lives of others, but also our own. When we give with purpose, when we give with heart, we become part of something far greater than ourselves.

To all our Rotarians, partners, and friends, thank you for your generosity, your leadership, and your unending commitment to doing good in the world. Let's continue to give wholeheartedly, serve joyfully, and build hope that lasts for generations.

***Because in Rotary, giving isn't just an act, it's our legacy. We unite to celebrate that legacy together.***

In Rotary Service,

**Gina T. Sanchez**

District Governor, RY 2025–2026  
Rotary International District 3800

# Editor's Letter

## TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION'S PATH TO SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

**November is always a meaningful month for us Rotarians. As the season shifts and we prepare for the year's close, our hearts naturally turn to gratitude — for blessings received, lessons learned, and the communities that continue to inspire our service. It is fitting that this same month, we honor The Rotary Foundation, the very heart of Rotary's mission.**

Here in the Philippines, the Foundation's impact is not an abstract idea — it is a lived reality. We see it in children finally reading with confidence, in families gaining access to clean water, in young leaders daring to dream bigger, and in communities rising again after typhoons, reminded that hope is delivered not only through relief goods, but through people who show up and stay.

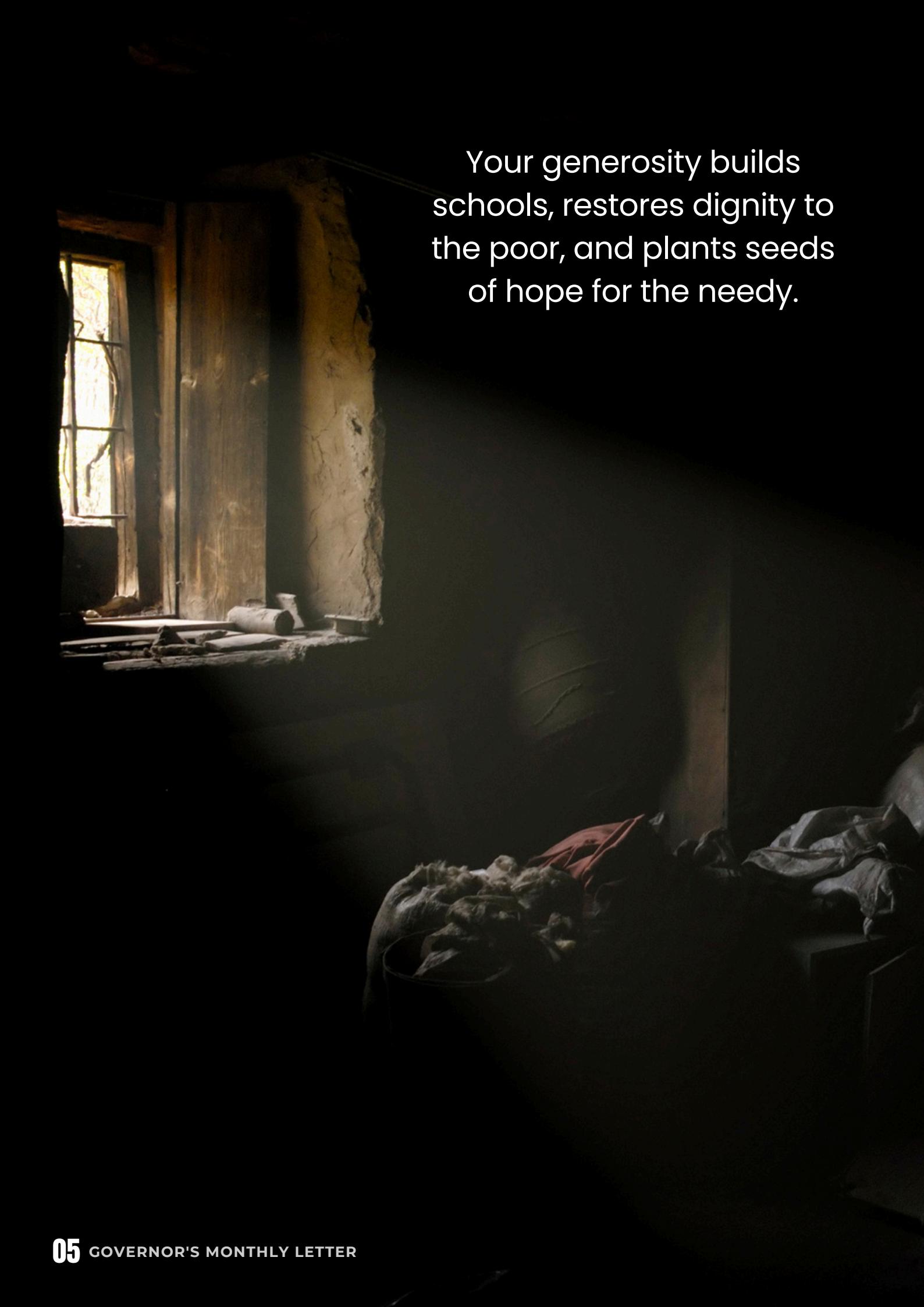
Transformative change in our country rarely happens in grand moments alone. It unfolds in the quiet, steady courage of volunteers traveling far for medical missions... in teachers equipped with better tools... in farmers introduced to sustainable livelihoods... in peacebuilders choosing dialogue over division... **and in every Rotarian who says, "Yes, I will help."**

Each gift to The Rotary Foundation turns that promise into clean water, better health, stronger schools, and empowered communities throughout our nation. As Filipino Rotarians, may we give with hope, serve with purpose, and believe that every act of generosity can transform a life — and inspire countless more.

Capturing your goodness in GML pages,

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

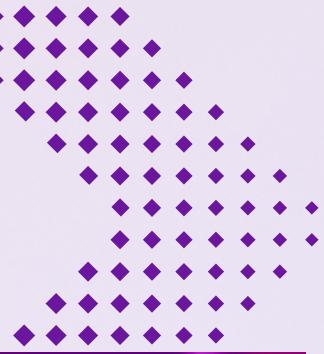




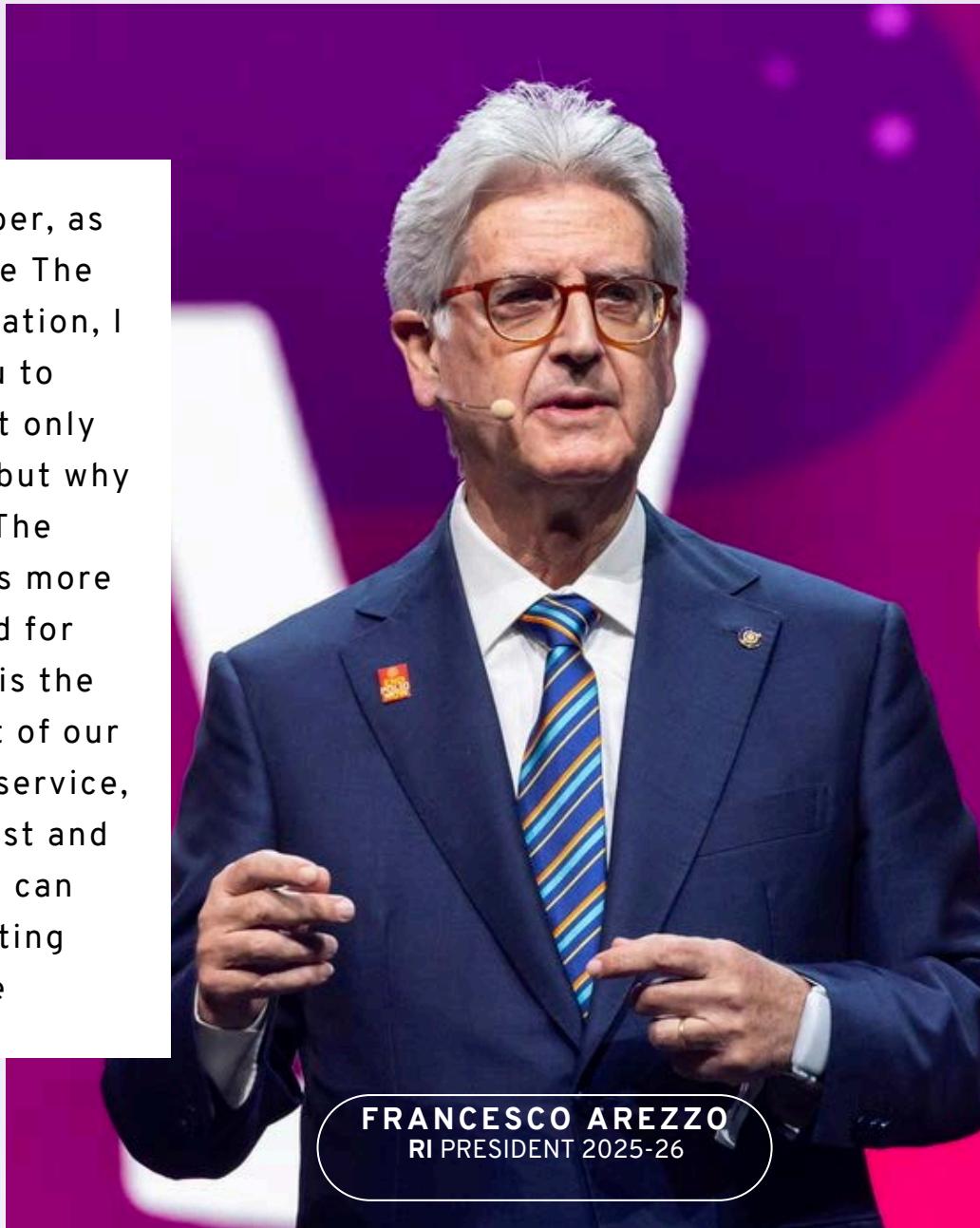
Your generosity builds schools, restores dignity to the poor, and plants seeds of hope for the needy.

# RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 2025



This November, as we celebrate The Rotary Foundation, I invite you to consider not only what we give but why we give. The Foundation is more than a fund for projects. It is the beating heart of our promise that service, rooted in trust and friendship, can create lasting change



**Our Action Plan calls us to increase our impact, and the Foundation is how we make this vision real. Since 1988, Rotary and our partners have immunized nearly 3 billion children against polio. We have committed more than \$2.6 billion to this cause, and last year alone we directed \$146 million toward the final push for eradication. These numbers are significant, but the true impact is not in statistics — it is in the lives of children who will never again fear polio. It is in the hope restored to families and the peace built in communities once defined by disease.**

But polio is only one story among many. Each year, Rotary Peace Centers train new generations of leaders who will transform conflict into dialogue and division into understanding. In 2023-24, nearly 100 new fellows began their studies, continuing a legacy of more than 1,800 peacebuilders from over 140 countries. When we invest in them, we are planting seeds of peace that will bear fruit for decades to come.

The Foundation also touches lives through district and global grants, supporting projects large and small. A clean water well for a rural community, scholarships for young professionals, medical care in the wake of disaster — these are not temporary gestures, but steps toward dignity, resilience, and opportunity. This is how Rotary service becomes lasting impact. And when natural disasters strike, our Foundation allows Rotary to act quickly with disaster response grants.

Our Foundation is not about what we can do alone but what we can do together. Each contribution, no matter its size, joins with others to create a collective act of faith in humanity and in the future.

The last mile of any great journey is always the hardest. We see this in our final steps toward ending polio, in our work for peace, and in every project that seeks to lift people out of despair. Yet every time we give, we declare that our work will continue regardless of the challenge.

This November, let us give with gratitude, with joy, and with hope. Through our Foundation, we Unite for Good, and in doing so, we leave behind not only projects but a legacy of peace, trust, and Service Above Self.



**Francesco Arezzo**

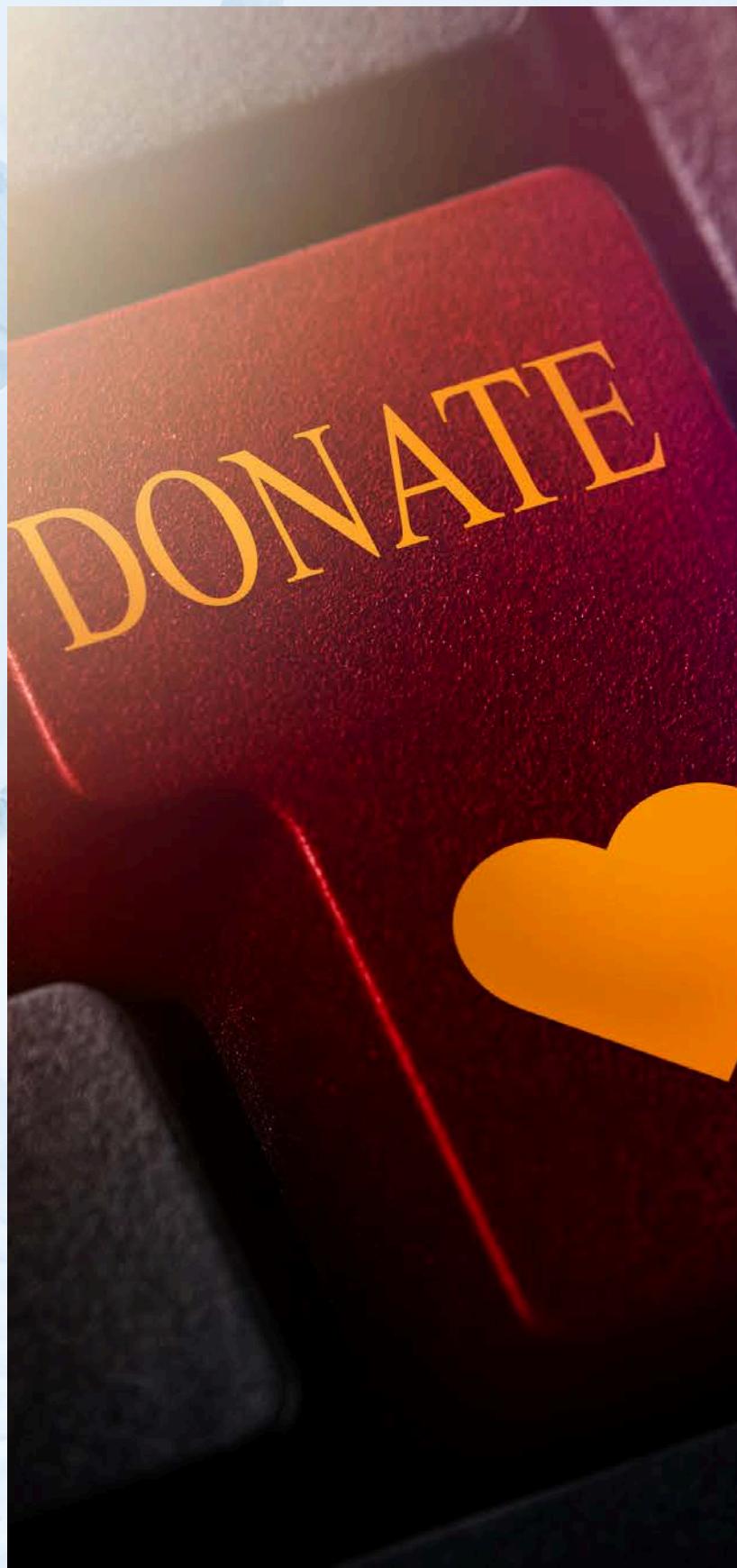
RI President 2025-26

# Yes, I will surely help!

## ***Giving in the Philippines: Transforming Lives, Inspiring Hope***

In the Philippines, giving is more than a tradition — it is a lifeline for millions. Even as the nation progresses, around 15.5% of Filipinos, or over 17 million people, continue to live below the poverty line. Many of these families struggle to access basic necessities, from nutritious food to quality education. Yet, through acts of generosity, Filipinos are helping turn these challenges into opportunities.

The impact of giving is tangible. Contributions to initiatives like The Rotary Foundation help build schools, provide scholarships, and fund community programs that empower children and adults alike. With over 3.8 million Filipino youth out of school, every school built, every classroom equipped, and every child supported represents a brighter future — a chance to break the cycle of poverty.





But giving does more than lift communities; it transforms the giver. Witnessing the growth, resilience, and survival of others creates a profound sense of purpose and fulfillment. It is a joy that comes from knowing that your contribution not only meets immediate needs but also plants seeds of hope, learning, and opportunity for generations to come.

In the spirit of Rotary, each act of giving strengthens our shared mission: to serve humanity, uplift communities, and ensure that hope is never out of reach. When we give, we do more than provide aid — we build futures, inspire dreams, and create a Philippines where everyone can thrive.



**The heart discovers its fullest beauty when it gives without expectation and shares without hesitation.**

# The 1st Rotary Endowment Fund

A legacy of giving  
that will live on  
through  
generations.

**ROTARY CLUB  
OF SAN JUAN  
NEOPOLITAN**

gmi





## The Gift That Outlives Us

The Rotary Club of San Juan Neopolitan, under the leadership of President Michael Manuel Romero, has officially established its first Rotary Endowment Fund—a significant milestone that strengthens the club's long-term commitment to **Doing Good in the World**.





More than 100 years ago, Rotarians laid the foundation for sustainable service by creating The Rotary Foundation, an institution that continues to empower communities across the globe. The newly established San Juan Neopolitan Endowment Fund builds upon this legacy by ensuring that the club's service initiatives will be supported for generations to come.

The Rotary Endowment Fund model preserves every contribution by investing the principal amount and spending only a portion of the earnings. This approach sustains vital Rotary programs such as peace fellowships, education initiatives, and community service projects. Globally, the Endowment helps fund over 200 peace fellow scholarships and has amassed more than \$195 million in named donations.

During the Induction Ceremony of the Rotary Club of San Juan Neopolitan, President Michael Manuel Romero shared a resonant message that continues to guide the club's spirit of giving:

**"Walang mapagbigay na naging mahirap." ("No generous person has ever become poor.")**



This powerful statement captures the essence of the club's decision to establish its Endowment Fund—rooted in the belief that generosity creates lasting abundance and impacts countless lives beyond the present moment.

The creation of the first Endowment Fund of the Rotary Club of San Juan Neopolitan stands as a testament to the club's dedication to sustainability, service, and visionary leadership. It secures a future where the club's impact will continue to grow, ensuring that its programs and humanitarian initiatives remain strong for many years ahead.



ZAINHA MAE  
MONTEZOR  
CONTRIBUTOR

# Health for ALL.



A Medical Mission of Rotary Club of Wack Wack  
and Rotary Club of Lucena Central

OCTOBER 18, 2025

gml

Collaborative Project

# UNITED FOR A CAUSE



Health is a shared responsibility.

This medical mission brings people together to uplift lives through care, compassion, and collective action.



**Barangay Ransohan,  
Lucena**



In the quiet community of Barangay Ransohan, far from the bustling city center of Lucena, the air was filled not just with anticipation—but with hope. For many residents, access to healthcare has long been a challenge. Yet, on this day, compassion arrived in the form of Rotary in action.

Brgy. Ransohan, Lucena City | October 18, 2025 The Rotary Club of Wack Wack (RCWW) and their newest sister club, the Rotary Club of Lucena Central (RCLC), came together in a joint medical mission dedicated to uplifting lives and empowering families.

It was more than a collaboration—it reflected Rotary's enduring belief that healthy communities are the foundation of economic growth and lasting peace.

The Rotary Club of Wack Wack (RCWW) and with its sister club, the Rotary Club of Lucena Central (RCLC), came together in a joint medical mission dedicated to uplifting lives and empowering families. It was more than a collaboration—it reflected Rotary's enduring belief that healthy communities are the foundation.





Led by RCWW President Alvin Sia and RCLC President Alfredo "Jojo" Delos Reyes, the two clubs joined hands with the Rotaract Clubs of Our Lady of Guadalupe College (OLGC) and Lucena Central to serve one of Lucena's most underserved areas.

With the support of the Barangay Council of Ransohan, headed by Chairman Raul Soriano, and in partnership with Unilab Foundation and Maxon Vision Clinic, the mission delivered much-needed healthcare and essential services to 130 residents who often struggle to reach hospitals or clinics in the city.





The event featured a dedicated team of volunteer doctors who gave their expertise with warmth and genuine care:

**Dr. Biane Abigaul Fule – Optometrist**  
**Dr. Audreylyn Galban – Gen. Physician**  
**Dr. Nerissa Orteza – Physician**  
**Dr. Marius Balquiedra – Dentist**  
**Dr. Aileen Balquiedra – Dentist**  
**Dr. Emmanuel Roces – Cosmetic Surgeon**



Throughout the day, residents received free medical consultations, vitamins, and medicines, along with optical checkups and dental care, including free toothbrushes, toothpaste, and fluoride applications for children aged six months to eighteen years.

The success of the medical mission was made possible through the unwavering dedication of all volunteers—from Rotarians and Rotaractors to partners and barangay leaders—each one embodying the Rotary spirit of Service Above Self.



## *the spirit of service above self*

**As the day drew to a close, Barangay Chairman  
Raul Soriano expressed his heartfelt gratitude:**

***"You didn't just bring medicine—you brought hope to our community."***

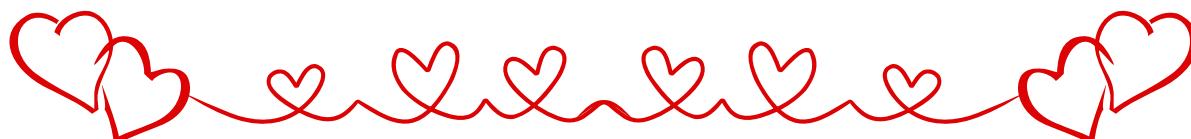
In the golden afternoon light, laughter and smiles replaced worry and pain. The event stood as a shining example of how unity and compassion can transform a simple act of service into a movement for change. Because when communities are healthy, economies thrive. And when Rotary serves, the world becomes a little brighter, stronger, and more humane.

# BRINGING THE FUTURE TO THE MOUNTAINS



**THE VISION OF GURO-IN-A-BOX**

Rotary Club of Metro East Taytay



## **“TECHNOLOGY AND COMPASSION CONVERGE AS RCMET BRINGS THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION TO THE DUMAGAT COMMUNITIES OF REAL, QUEZON.”**



### **At First Glance, It's Just a Box...**

**At first glance, it looks like an ordinary box. But open it, and it becomes a complete classroom powered by technology — a symbol of hope that learning knows no boundaries.**

Under Rotary's Area of Focus on Basic Education and Literacy, the Rotary Club of Metro East Taytay (RCMET) launched the Guro-in-a-Box Project in Barangay Lubayat, Real, Quezon Province. Through the support of the Rotary District 3800 District Grant Program, the project delivers innovation and opportunity to unserved indigenous communities — empowering children to learn even without internet connectivity.

**“THE GURO-IN-A-BOX TRANSFORMS ISOLATED MOUNTAIN VILLAGES INTO HUBS OF DIGITAL LEARNING — PROVING THAT ACCESS SHOULD NEVER DETERMINE A CHILD’S FUTURE.”**

## Technology with a Heart

The Guro-in-a-Box is a self-contained e-learning platform equipped with a local Wi-Fi server, enabling learners to access educational materials using their own smartphones, tablets, or laptops — even without internet access. The unit includes a large touchscreen TV for interactive lessons, making education engaging and visual. Alongside the device, RCMET provided tables, chairs, school supplies, and a printer, creating a complete and functional learning environment.

What makes this system truly inclusive is its design — it doesn't require a full-time teacher. A local facilitator can maintain the box, allowing children to self-learn and explore lessons at their own pace, regardless of traditional classroom limitations.



“At first glance, it’s just a box — but open it, and it becomes a bridge to a brighter tomorrow.”

## A Partnership for Hope

The project was launched at Camp Fury 13, Barangay Lubayat — a mountain community where access to technology and formal education remains limited. Camp Fury 13, led by Coy Soledad, together with Pastora Angelica Abanilla of the Widehills Christian Family Church, partnered with RCMET to open their space as a community learning hub.

Their area now serves as a holding and learning center, where Dumagat and nearby children gather to explore digital lessons, color learning sheets, and experience the joy of interactive education — many for the very first time.

**“The church became the heart of the project — a place where hope, technology, and faith meet to nurture young minds.”**



## Leading Through Innovation

As President of RCMET, I have always believed that technology must serve humanity. Innovation is not just about progress — it is about purpose.

Through the Guro-in-a-Box, RCMET demonstrates how technology can empower education and transform lives, even in the most remote areas. This project reflects my commitment as a technology-driven Rotary leader — one who envisions a future where no child is left behind simply because of geography or circumstance.

Under my leadership, RCMET continues to establish itself as a club of innovation, service, and compassion, embodying Rotary's forward-thinking spirit in District 3800.

## The Impact Beyond the Box

Our beneficiaries — the underserved Dumagat children and nearby communities — welcomed this initiative with open hearts. With over 150 families present during the launch, the event was more than a donation — it was a celebration of opportunity.

For many of the children, it was their first encounter with digital learning. Their smiles and laughter as they touched the screen and watched videos were a powerful reminder that education is the most transformative gift we can give.

Through this project, over 1,000 learners are expected to benefit — gaining access to quality educational content, digital lessons, and the ability to learn at their own pace, even without internet connectivity or formal classrooms.

*"When a child in the mountains learns through Guro-in-a-Box, it's not just a lesson — it's a revolution of hope."*

## Rotary's Vision in Action

With the steadfast support of District Governor Gina Sanchez and the Rotary District 3800 District Grant, the Guro-in-a-Box stands as a shining example of what Rotary can achieve when innovation meets compassion. The project embodies the essence of Rotary's motto, 'Service Above Self,' turning vision into impact and compassion into sustainability.



**In the mountains of Real, Quezon, hope now glows from the screen of a simple box. And inside that glow are the faces of children discovering the joy of learning — proof that technology, when guided by the heart, can truly move mountains.**

## A Vision Realized

The Guro-in-a-Box is not just a project – it's a movement. It reflects what Rotary stands for: service, innovation, and love for humanity.



As a technology-driven president, I am deeply humbled to see how one idea – born from a passion for service – can ripple across communities and light the path for generations to come.

The mountains of Real may be distant, but with every touch on that screen, every spark of curiosity, and every child's smile, the future feels closer than ever. Because the future isn't something we wait for – it's something we bring, together.



**GP DONATO "DON"  
G. SANTIAGO**

**CONTRIBUTOR**

PRIVACY TIP OF THE MONTH  
**THE RIGHT WAY,  
MADE SIMPLE.**

# A PRIVACY-CONSCIOUS RI DISTRICT 3800

*Because Every Rotarian's Privacy Matters.*



## SECURE YOUR FILES.

**"LOCK IT."**

Use password-protected  
folders; restrict access to  
officers who need it.

**Turn on "restricted" sharing in  
Google Drive.**

This control helps prevent unauthorized sharing, accidental forwarding, and unintended access to sensitive or confidential information. By ensuring that documents are accessible only to the right people, organizations can better manage accountability and data ownership. This practice supports strong information security, reduces exposure to data breaches, and reinforces a culture of responsible data handling within the organization.



**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 November issue, the GML features a Rotarian’s spouse, posing an inspiring question:

**How has being part of the Rotary  
community inspired your  
commitment to serving others?**

# MAE MONTALLA- RIZADA



Rotarian's Spouse

## BALANCING GRACE & GRIT

A mother, Rotarian's spouse, a District Governor Elect's Daughter, and nurse-educator embracing a new chapter.

# The Power of Purpose

## ROTARY ROOTS, LIFELONG IMPACT: MAE MONTALLA-RIZADA'S STORY OF SERVICE

**For Rtn. Sps. Mae Montalla-Rizada, the Rotary community has been a constant presence—quietly shaping her values, choices, and sense of purpose. Growing up deeply immersed in Rotary and later becoming a Rotarian's spouse, Mae had a front-row view of Service Above Self lived out in its truest form. Through Rotary, she witnessed how service is not limited to organized projects or public recognition, but is expressed through consistency, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to the well-being of others.**

This early exposure to a life of service profoundly influenced Mae's own journey. Trained as a nurse, she was drawn not only to healing patients, but also to understanding the deeper human side of care. Over time, she realized that her calling extended beyond bedside practice. Teaching became a natural extension of her desire to serve—an opportunity to shape future healthcare professionals who would carry forward both competence and compassion.



Teaching  
IS A WORK OF  
THE  
heart

# THE PRECIOUS MOMENTS



As a nurse educator, Mae approaches the classroom as a space for service. Guided by Rotary's values, she mentors her students to see nursing as a vocation grounded in empathy, dignity, and responsibility. Her goal is not simply to impart knowledge, but to form individuals who understand that true healing begins with heart and character. Through her guidance, students are encouraged to serve patients and communities with integrity and purpose.



***"A life rooted in service creates ripples of impact far beyond what we can see."***

In her journey as Rtn. Sps. Mae, the Rotary spirit lives on beyond meetings and missions. Her story reflects how Rotary's influence reaches far beyond its members—shaping lives, guiding callings, and inspiring service that creates lasting impact. Through education, mentorship, and quiet dedication, Mae continues to embody the Rotary ideal of service in action, ensuring that its legacy is carried forward in the lives of those she teaches.

**Live  
Love  
Teach**



gmr



# 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



REGISTER  
NOW!

The background of the entire page is a dark, textured image of a stack of aged, yellowed, and slightly crumpled paper documents, giving it a historical and official feel.

*give back*

NOVEMBER 2025 ISSUE