



gml

GOVERNOR'S
MONTHLY
LETTER

THE ROTARY CLUB OF
MARIKINA WEST

THE ROTARY CLUB OF
MARIKINA WEST

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PEDRO

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Rotary
District 3800



BUILDING
RESILIENT
COMMUNITIES
THE ROTARY WAY

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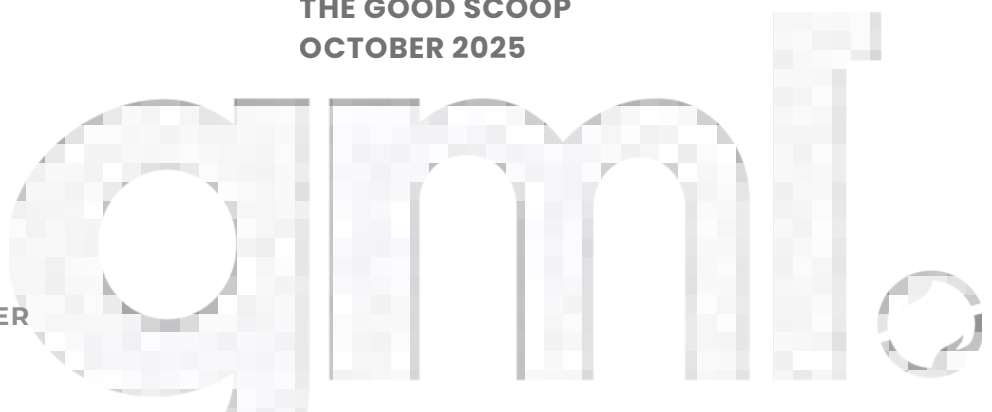
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THE GOOD SCOOP
OCTOBER 2025



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

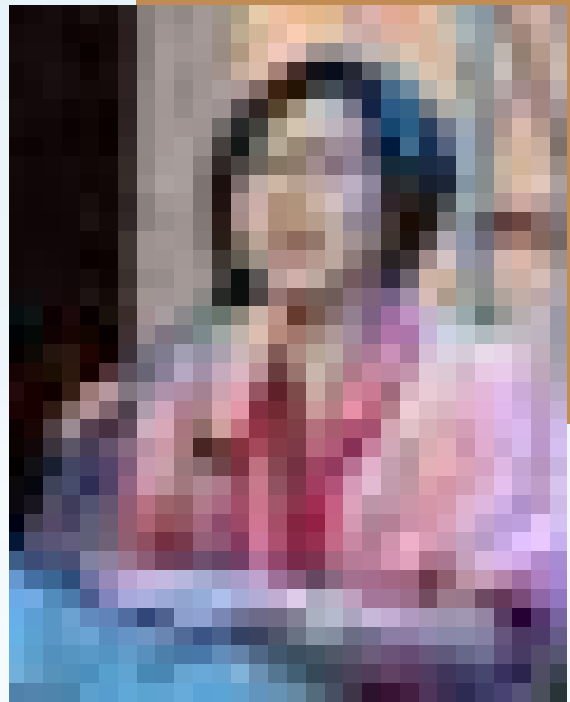
To inform, inspire, and unite Rotarians across the district by showcasing meaningful stories, impactful projects, and shared achievements. Through purposeful communication, the Governor's Monthly Letter strengthens connections, promotes Rotary values, and drives collective action toward lasting change.

Message from

DISTRICT GOVERNOR **GINA T. SANCHEZ**

ROTARY YEAR 2025-2026

My dear fellow Rotarians,



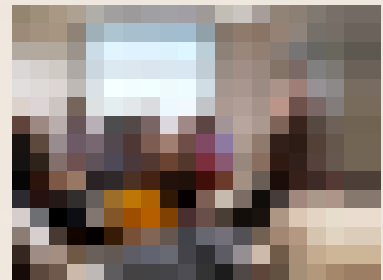
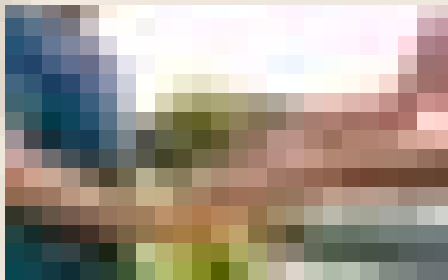
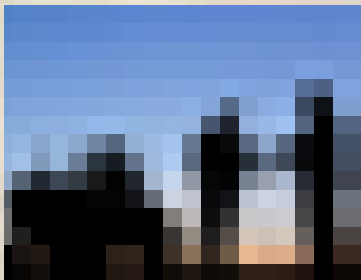
Every October, we celebrate one of Rotary 's key areas of focus– Community Economic Development. This theme calls us to look beyond short-term aid and focus instead on creating lasting, meaningful change. It reminds us that the most powerful form of service is not to give handouts, but to help people build lives of dignity, resilience, and purpose.

Rotary empowers communities by providing tools, training, and opportunities – so that families can lift themselves out of poverty and chart their own future. When we support a livelihood program, mentor young entrepreneurs, or connect local artisans to markets, we are helping build stronger, more self-sufficient communities.



Our work in this area also reflects Rotary's enduring strengths - continuity, innovation, and partnership.

- Continuity, because we sustain programs that grow and evolve with community needs.
- Innovation, because we adapt creative solutions that make our impact sustainable and relevant.
- Partnership, because we recognize that development thrives when we work hand in hand with local leaders, government, and business sectors.



As we create hope in the world, let us continue to champion projects that nurture inclusive growth projects that empower rather than provide, that inspire rather than impose, and that transforms lives through opportunity.

Together, we can build communities that not only survive but thrive - communities strengthened by the spirit of Rotary, grounded in service, and sustained by hope.

In Rotary Service,

Gina T. Sanchez

District Governor, RY 2025-2026

Rotary International District 3800

Editor's Letter

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES THE ROTARY WAY

To every Rotarian and Project Partner who chooses to build rather than wait, to empower rather than pity — you are the architects of resilient communities. And this month, we celebrate you!

Filipinos know what it means to face challenges. Typhoons, floods, crises, and loss — yet through it all, **we rise**. We rebuild homes, reopen shops, and rekindle hope. Not because it's easy, but because resilience flows in our veins.

This is the essence of Rotary — walking alongside communities, not just in recovery, but in growth. When we teach a skill, support a small business, or empower a family, we give more than livelihood. We give dignity. We give courage. We give hope.

Across our district, countless stories of compassion remind us that true development begins in the heart. Every shared skill, every opened opportunity, every extended hand is a seed of change. And in nurturing these seeds, we show the world — and ourselves — that real progress is measured not by wealth, but by how deeply we lift others when they need it most.

This issue of the Governor's Monthly Letter celebrates that very heart — the goodness of Rotarians who serve, rebuild, and inspire. May every story within these pages remind us that resilience grows from compassion, and that together, we build hope — the Rotary way!



Capturing your goodness in GML pages,

PP Dee B. Antang

Editor-in-Chief, GML

RY 2025-2026

Amid the fields and crowded streets,
They battle hunger, chase lost beats.
With weary hands and dreams held tight,
They face each day, devoid of light.

But livelihood is more than aid —
It's skills and tools, securely laid.
To lift them up, not just survive,
We build the means to truly thrive.

DGBA



“
When we lift
a Filipino,
we lift the nation.





In the Philippines, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are the backbone of the economy, comprising 99.5% of all registered businesses and employing over 63% of the workforce. Despite their significance, many MSMEs face challenges such as limited access to financing, inadequate skills, and insufficient infrastructure. These obstacles hinder their growth and impact on the broader economy.



EMPOWERING FILIPINO COMMUNITIES

***Rotary's Role in Strengthening
Employment, MSMEs, and
Livelihood Programs***

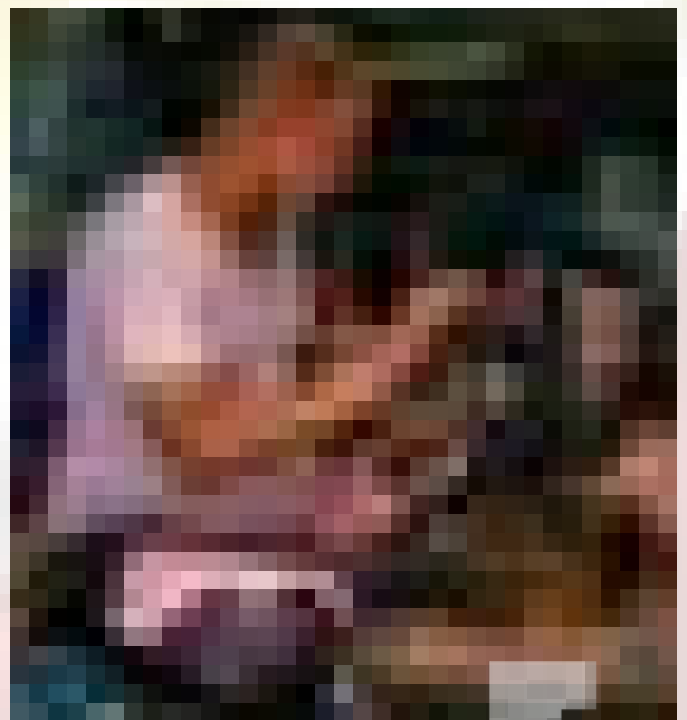
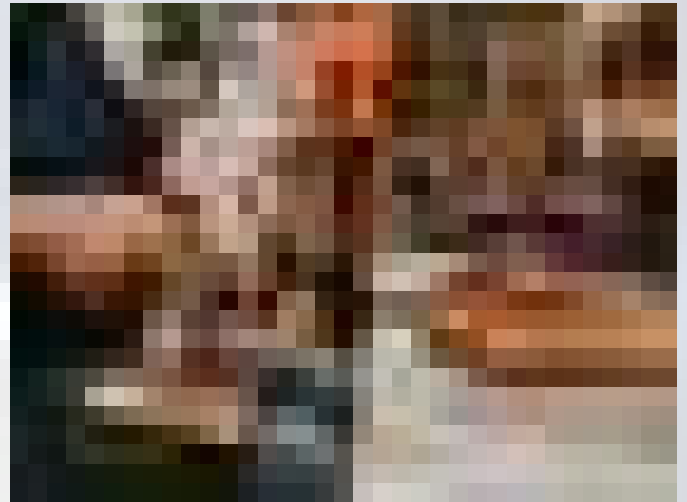
The Need for Support

Access to financing remains a critical issue for MSMEs. While the Magna Carta for MSMEs mandates that banks allocate 10% of their loan portfolios to small businesses, many banks fall short of this requirement. In 2024, banks lent only 4.52% of their total loan portfolio to MSMEs, with micro and small enterprises receiving a mere 1.82%. This gap in financing limits the ability of MSMEs to expand operations, invest in technology, and create jobs.

Many micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the Philippines continue to face barriers that limit their growth. Access to markets, business development services, and capacity-building opportunities remains uneven, especially for rural and community-based entrepreneurs.

While Filipinos are naturally innovative and enterprising, many lack the tools, mentorship, and digital access needed to sustain or scale their ventures. Challenges such as poor infrastructure, limited financing, and insufficient market linkages often prevent promising small businesses from realizing their full potential.

Government initiatives like the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) have helped by providing skills training, seed capital, and basic market connections. Thousands of families have benefited from such programs, gaining a first step toward economic stability. However, the reach and long-term impact of these efforts must expand to meet growing needs. This is where organizations like Rotary can make a transformative difference — by bridging gaps through mentorship, entrepreneurship workshops, and partnerships that connect small enterprises to markets and opportunities. When public and civic efforts come together, sustainable livelihoods flourish, and communities move closer to lasting prosperity.



Collaborative Efforts: Partnering for Progress

Rotary's approach complements the Philippine government's Livelihood Development Assistance Program (LDAP), which provides startup kits and reintegration support for returning overseas Filipino workers. By collaborating with LGUs, NGOs, and agencies like DSWD and TESDA, clubs within District 3800 create a multiplier effect — ensuring that livelihood initiatives are not one-time events, but sustainable ecosystems that nurture growth.



Uniting for Good, Empowering the Filipino Spirit

As we observe Economic and Community Development Month, we are reminded that the work of Rotary is not only about service — it is about building futures. While challenges in employment and economic disparity persist, Rotary's spirit of collaboration and compassion continues to pave the way for a more inclusive and resilient Philippines.

By nurturing MSMEs, supporting livelihood programs, and empowering individuals through training and opportunity, Rotary District 3800 shows that sustainable progress begins with people who care deeply and act decisively.

Together, let us Unite for Good — fostering economic growth, restoring dignity, and building communities that can stand strong on their own.

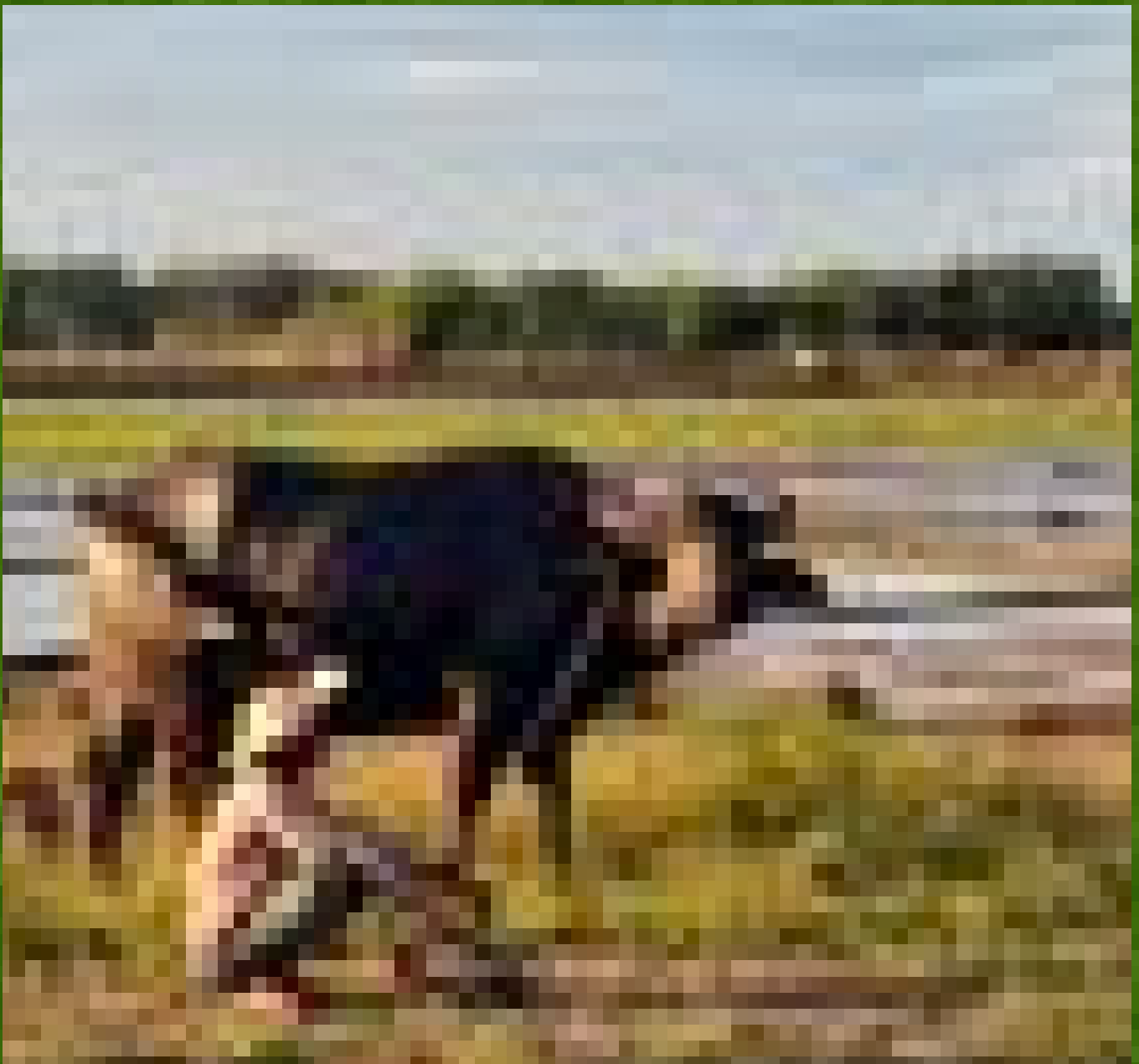
**BECAUSE WHEN WE HELP
A FILIPINO COMMUNITY
RISE, WE LIFT THE
NATION WITH IT.**





THE ROTARY CLUB
OF MARIKINA WEST

KABUHAYAN PARA KAY JUAN, MARIA, AT PEDRO



Sustainable Asset

The Rotary Club of Marikina West empowers rural women farmers by enhancing their financial capabilities.

Livelihood Program



After weeks of coordination with its NGO partner, the Rotary Club of Marikina West (RCMW), led by Good President Kevin Delfino and joined by Club Secretary Bryan Bohol, Immediate Past President Magnum Agpaoa, and Past President Radian Fantone, finally attended the turnover ceremonies for its project ***“Kabuhayan para kay Juan, Maria, at Pedro”*** on September 6, 2025.

RCMW Rotarians traveled 123 kilometers from Dumaguete City to the Municipality of La Libertad, Negros Oriental, a land trip that took approximately three hours. The turnover ceremonies were held in Barangay Manghulyawon.

RURAL RESILIENCE



This is a continuing high-impact project wherein RCMW was able to turnover four (4) carabaos and established two (2) village banks to women farmers. Beneficiaries are women to empower and self-sustain themselves in terms of financial capabilities and not totally rely on their husbands. Carabaos are under the name of the women farmers.

The carabaos were given to women farmers of Barangay Bagtic and pledged to pass on an offspring to other women farmers thereby ensuring sustainability of the project and multiplying the economic impact within the communities.

As regards to the establishment of village banks, seed capital of P20,000 each were given to Bagtic Women's Association and Manghulyawon Women's Association. Both associations would match the seed capital given by RCMW. This would be a revolving fund wherein members of the association may apply for a loan for specific uses only such as buying seeds, farm implements, emergencies with small interests that would be retained by the associations.



As background, this initiative began in Rotary Year 2023–24 under then-President Renny Domingo with the project “Kalabaw para kay Juan at Maria.” Past President Levi Ugsad linked RCMW with his sister, Ms. Nancy U. Estoloso, Executive Director of Tuburan for Rural Women Empowerment and Development, Inc. (Tuburan). In September 2023, ten (10) carabaos were donated to women farmers in Barangays Mandapaton and Mambulod, along with four (4) jetmatic water pumps for Barangay San Jose. In February 2024, RCMW returned to donate eight (8) more carabaos to women farmers in Barangays Mapalasan and Nasunggan.

With this third iteration of this project, RCMW has donated a total of twenty-two (22) carabaos to various women farmers coming from various barangays in La Libertad.

This impactful project was made possible through the generous support of RCMW’s sister club, the Rotary Club of Taipei Tienmou (RI District 3521, Taiwan, R.O.C.), which provided funding for its implementation. RCMW also extends its gratitude to NGO partner Tuburan for its steadfast coordination with the Municipality of La Libertad. RCMW deeply values this meaningful collaboration and looks forward to future joint initiatives.

RCMW website: <https://www.rcmarikinawest.org>

Contributor
PP Radian Fantone
RC Marikina West



**“Empowering women.
Enriching communities.
The Rotary Club of
Marikina West stands
firm in advancing
Rotary’s focus on
community economic
development.”**



ROTARY CLUB OF MALABON CENTRAL

BEE Happier



RC MALABON CENTRAL CLUB MEMBERS

CAVITE STATE UNIVERSITY-B.R.I.T.E.

(Bee Research, Innovation, Trade, and Extension)

Center Head Director & Staff

BARANGAY HARASAN COMMUNITY

with Brgy. Chairman Reynalito Salvacion
and Other Community members

30 SEPTEMBER 2025

Contributor

GP Madonna Grace L. Sibayan

RC Malabon Central



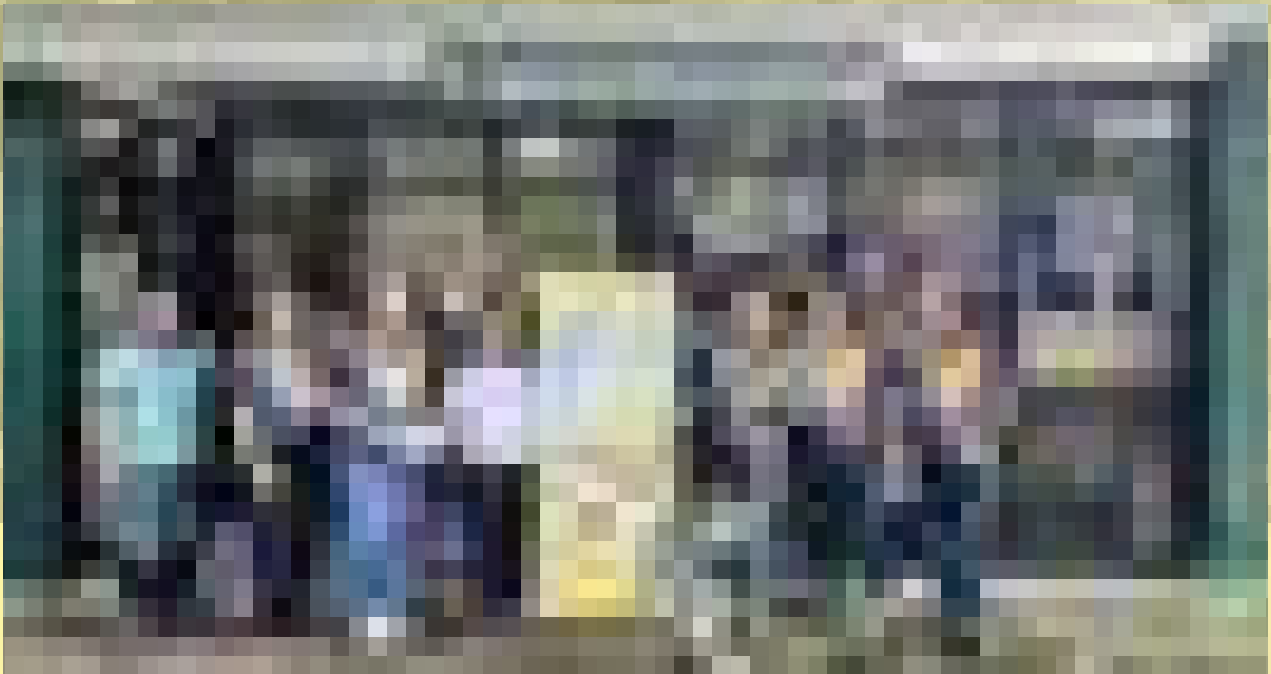
Bee Happier is more than a BEEKEEPING Project, it goes beyond hives and honey — it's a journey of empowerment, partnership, and shared vision.

Spearheaded by the Rotary Club of Malabon Central in collaboration with Cavite State University BRITE Center Director, Michele Bono, and her dedicated team, the initiative took root in Barangay Harasan, Indang, Cavite — a thriving farming community known for its rich harvest of high-value vegetables, fruits, and other crops sold in bustling bagsakan markets. Together, they are nurturing not just bees, but a vision of sustainability where nature, livelihood, and learning bloom side by side.



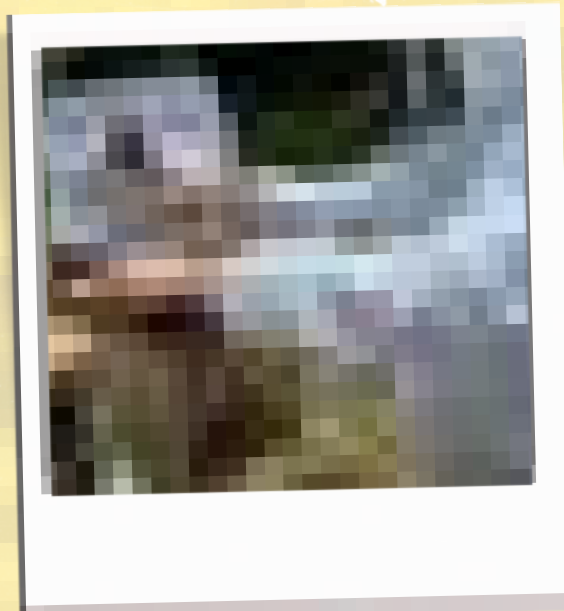
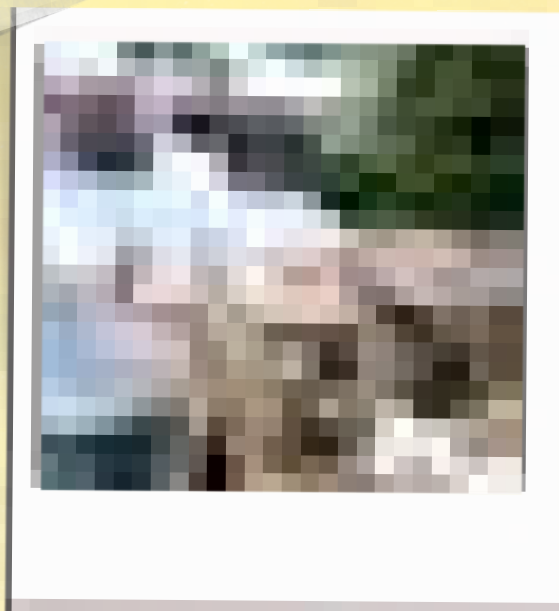
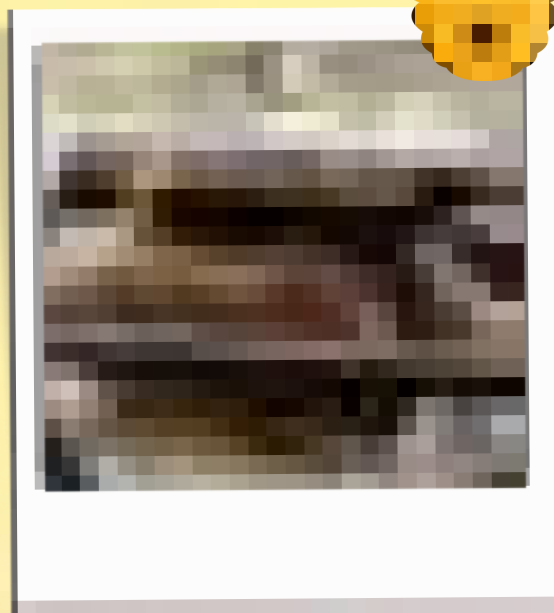
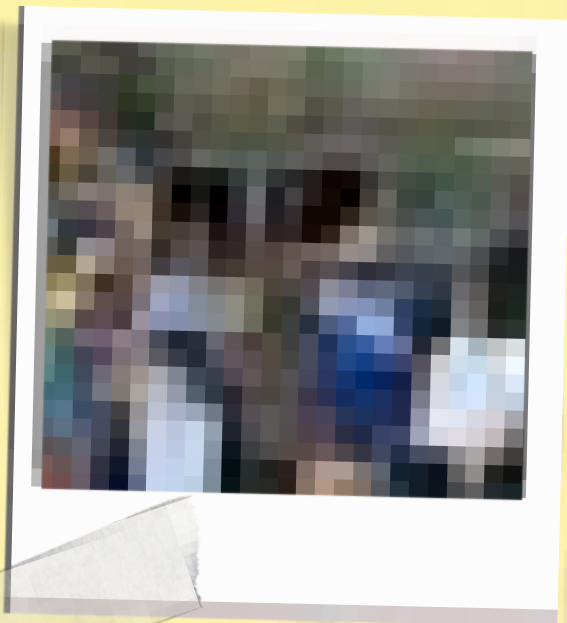
The Rotary Club of Malabon Central (RCMC) brought a buzz of new beginnings to the farmers of Barangay Harasan, Indang, Cavite through the distribution of a stingless beekeeping package — complete with five stingless bee colonies, five hive boxes, one hive tool, and one bee veil. As the project's donor, RCMC aimed to help the community embrace a more sustainable and science-based livelihood.

RCMC & BRITE



Partnering with the BRITE Center of Cavite State University, which will extend its expertise and technology in stingless beekeeping, the initiative seeks to harness the power of these tiny pollinators to enrich the area's abundant crops and vegetables. Beyond producing honey, the project envisions a ripple of positive change — promoting biodiversity conservation, responsible beekeeping, and an additional source of income for the people of Harasan.





This partnership is more than just about bees—it is about building self-sufficiency, promoting environmental awareness, and providing alternative sources of income to strengthen the barangay's local economy. This project also strengthen agro-urban communities through opportunities in beekeeping.


**Bee Happier is a movement
towards a sweeter, more
sustainable future.**

BEES BE WITH YOU!



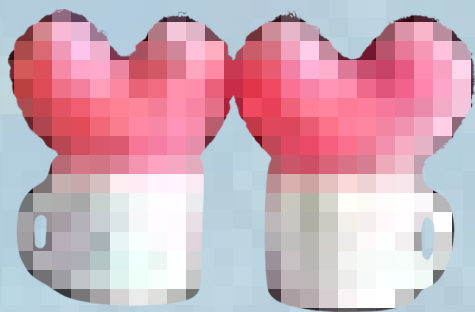


ROTARY CLUB OF UPPER EASTSIDE ANTIPOLO



HOOKED WITH HOOKS





Fueled by happy thoughts.

Like skills and Home skills were priorities that is being taught in our schools in the past. Gardening, carpentry, Cooking, Sewing, crafting like knitting, embroidery and crocheting were popular subjects being taught during elementary and high school years. Little did we know that it will be helpful when faced with challenges and opportunities.

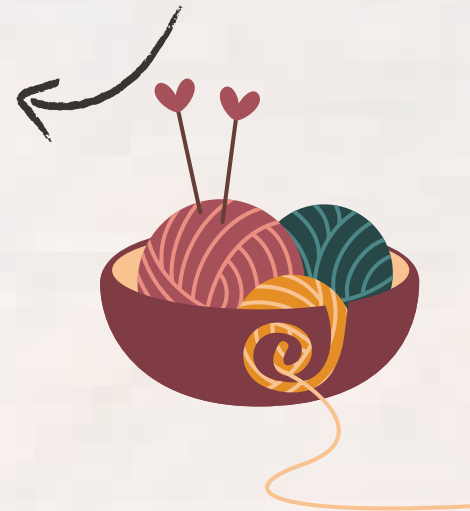


With a group of mothers in our surrounding communities and adopted communities, we formally formed our Rotary Community Corps, namely Assumption Antipolo Mothers' Group RCC, PWD Antipolo, RCC H.O.P.E. (Helping One Person Everyday) and RCC Laiban. Various trainings in gourmet fish preparation, liquid soap making, upcycling and crocheting were offered to them where the mothers can choose where to join and improve their skills.

Our workshops are done at Casa Solis on relaxing Sunday afternoons. The first batch of the crocheting group was mostly attended by our PWD parents and their children. It was a challenge for some at first adjusting to the proper handling of needle hook and looping the yarn in their fingers, until it was a breeze to do a series of chain. From chain to double treble and all patterns taught by our trainor, the laughter and voices slowly subsided and there is quietness and stillness in the air.



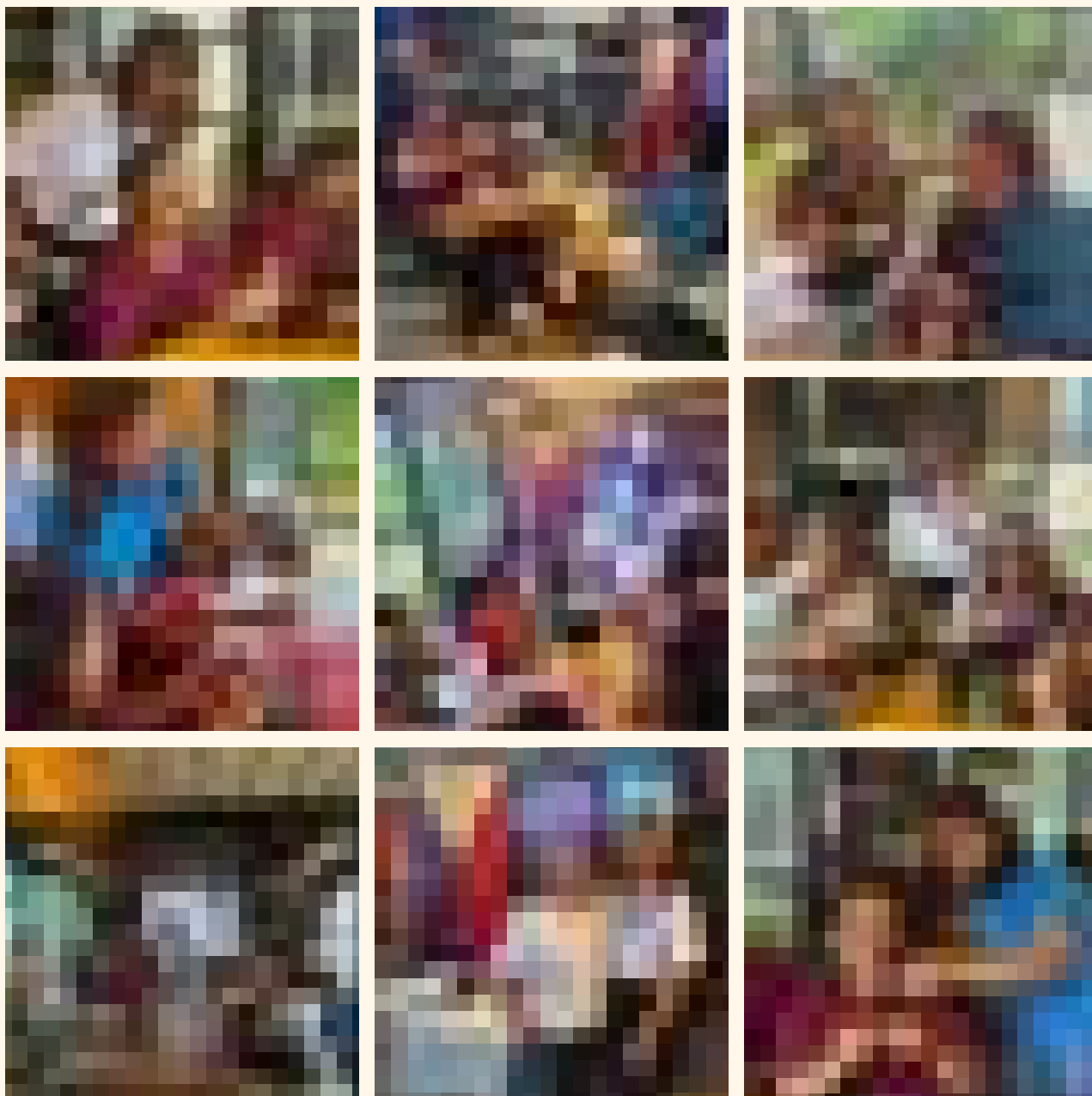
*Bonded by crochet
— where every
stitch connects
hearts and hands.*



This is the reason why I chose crocheting as one activity for our RCC. Some say that it is just a hobby, but to me Crocheting is more than that. Crocheting has been shown to have several mental benefits. It reduces stress and anxiety because of the repetitive motion that can be calming and soothing. Even after a number of trial and error, moods were improved. A sense of pride to first timers showing off their completed 5 petal flowers boosting self-esteem and eager to try more patterns. Being with a couple of other trainees, one increases mindfulness. Focusing on the stitches can help individuals stay present.

After a series of two workshops using the basic spool of cotton blend and polyester yarns, I have invited a friend, Hunny Boehm of HGQ Handicrafts, an exporter and has been in the business for more than 20 years. We were given the opportunity training on the use of raffia, a sustainable material coming from segments of the leaves on the *Raphia Farinifera* palm commonly known as Raffia Palm. Basic knowledge in crocheting is now experimented using an organic material raffia to create accent pieces for bags, shoes and wearable fashionable clothes. A collaboration with local designers have been drafted in preparation for a club project - TRF charity concert and sustainable fashion show on February 23, 2026 showcasing the beauty of our culture and local treasures.

Our sitio nanays are equally excited to participate and to see their creations adding flair and beauty in clothes and accessories to be paraded in the fashion ramp come February 2026.



Not only will their creativity enhanced but also help augment family income. The mothers can now sell their products and create custom orders for clients. Other opportunities will be opened. They can already start teaching crochet classes or form workshops just as what our trainor, Connie have experienced. It was during pandemic that she started creating one simple cellphone bag that caught the eye and interest of her neighbors who started ordering personalized cases and since then she never stopped crocheting. From simple pouch to fashionable beach wears...can you beat that? We might see their products selling at craft fairs or markets.



CROCHET

CROCHET IS THE ART OF CREATING FABRIC BY LOOPING YARN WITH A HOOKED NEEDLE TO CRAFT HANDMADE PIECES WITH CREATIVITY AND CARE..

Contributor
GP Victoria B. Solis
RC Upper Eastside Antipolo



**ROTARY CLUB OF
METRO NORTH CALOOCAN**



TRABAHO MO, SAGOT KO

WHEN COMPASSION BUILDS NEW BEGINNINGS

*Contributor
GP Vickie S. Estella
RC Metro North Caloocan*

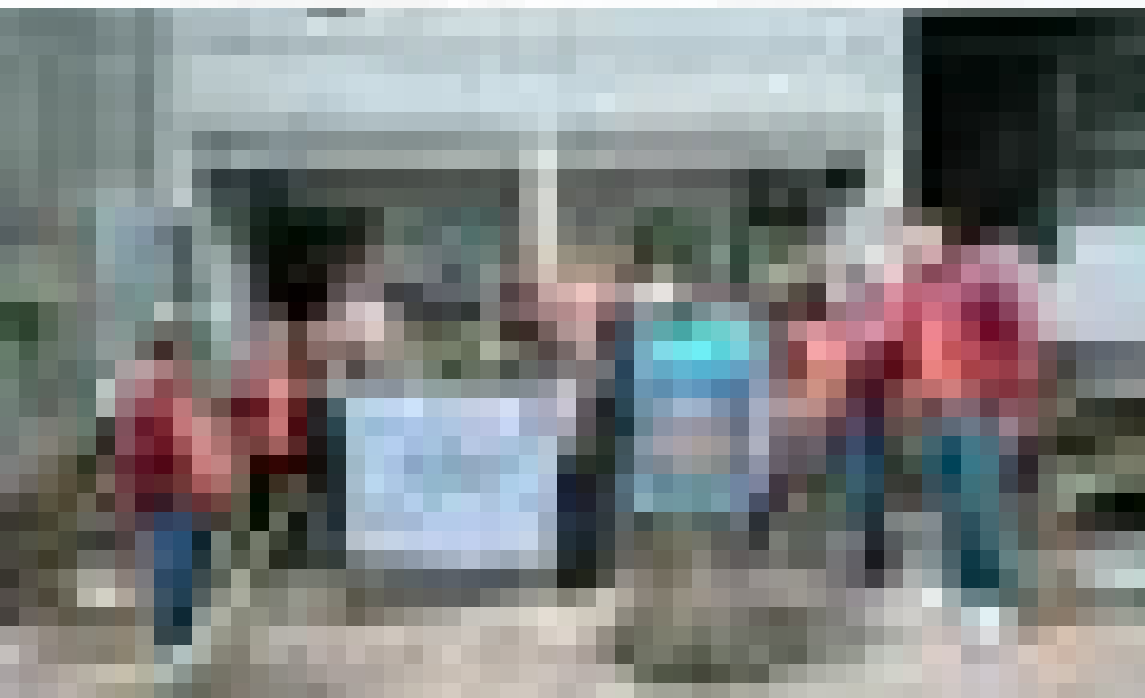


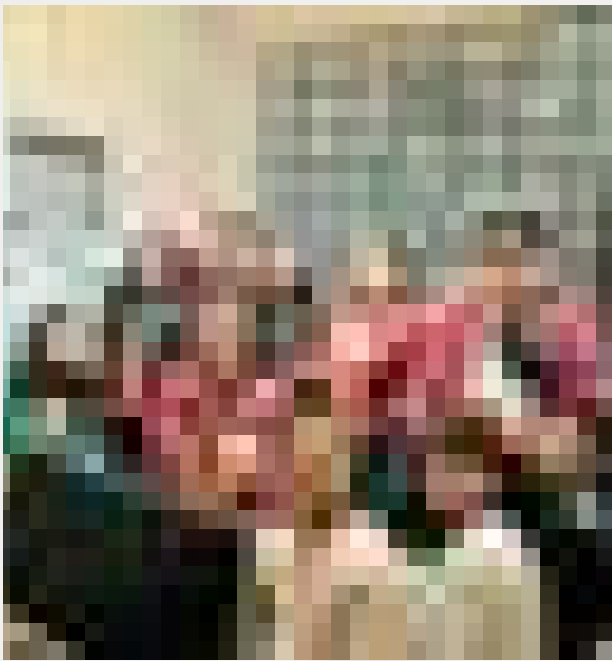
The celebration was meant to be joyful — a warehouse project finally completed after months of hard work. The air was filled with laughter, the clinking of bottles, and the warmth of accomplishment. Among the crowd were the laborers, proud and smiling, their faces glowing with relief.

But as the day wound down, a quiet realization began to take root. The project was done — and so were their jobs. Once the lights went out and the music stopped, many of those same hands that built the structure would have no work to return to the next day. The thought weighed heavily on everyone present.

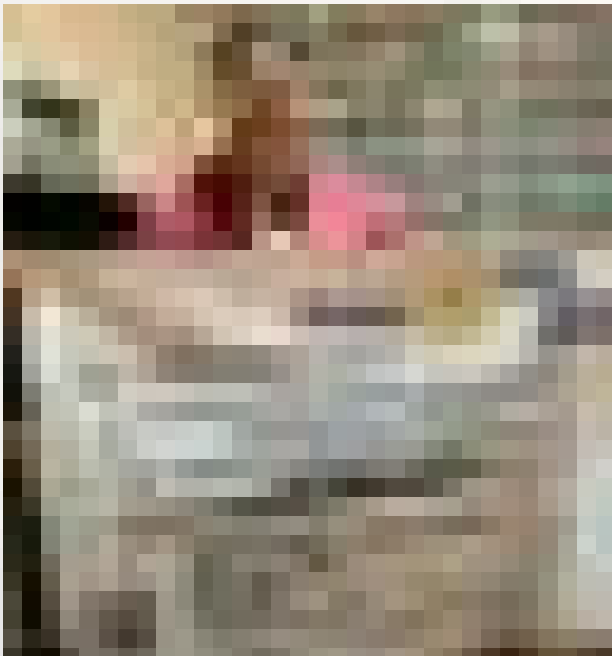
That afternoon, in the heart of Bankers Village 1, Bagumbong, North Caloocan, compassion turned into action. Calls were made to nearby sites, and friends in the construction business were contacted. By the end of the day, twelve workers were offered new employment across five construction projects.

What began as a spontaneous act of kindness soon became a spark that spread across North Caloocan. The following morning, seven more workers appeared, hopeful that someone could help them, too. Through persistence and connections, each one found a place to work. The simple initiative soon evolved into something far greater — a movement called **“Trabaho Mo, Sagot Ko.”**

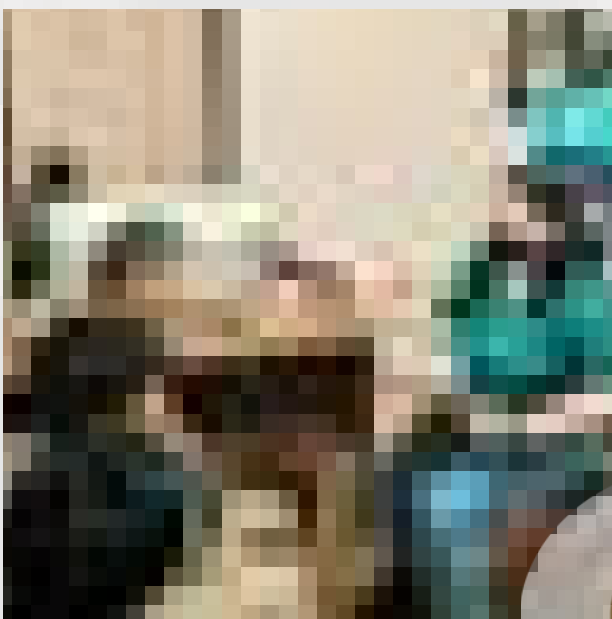




By the first week of September, 43 construction workers had already been employed through this effort. It was then formally launched as a community service project under the Rotary Club of Metro North Caloocan, led by Good President Vickie S. Estella.



Challenges surfaced soon after. Not everyone who sought help came from the same trade. Some were restaurant workers; others were office clerks or college graduates seeking new opportunities. The effort expanded, reaching out to more companies, businesses, and partners who could open their doors to those searching for a second chance.



Behind the movement was a leader whose dedication to livelihood and welfare had long been tested. During the pandemic, President Vickie's food truck and warehouse ventures became a lifeline for small businesses — allowing entrepreneurs to operate safely and flexibly despite restrictions. That same vision of resilience and compassion fueled Trabaho Mo, Sagot Ko — a belief that livelihood is more than just income; it is dignity, stability, and hope.





A Movement of Opportunity

Support poured in from the entire club. VP Gerard Estella led applicant orientations, ensuring each person was properly briefed before deployment. CP Doms Panti, PP Roda Panti, IPP Rod Alfanta, PE Rey Almacha, PN Vicky Almacha, Dir. Yvonne Tejero, Dir. Manny Constantino, and PP Greg Austria lent time and resources to strengthen the network. Members such as Rtn. Atty. Leylann Manuel, Junko Tsuchide, Henry Manuel, Arch. Angel Gianan, Aicel and Gilbert Macale offered connections and even hired qualified referrals themselves.

From a moment of worry grew a movement of opportunity. Trabaho Mo, Sagot Ko is no longer just a project — it has become a living testament to Rotary's spirit of service above self.

**In every handshake, every phone call, and
every new job offered, the story continues —
*one act of kindness at a time.***

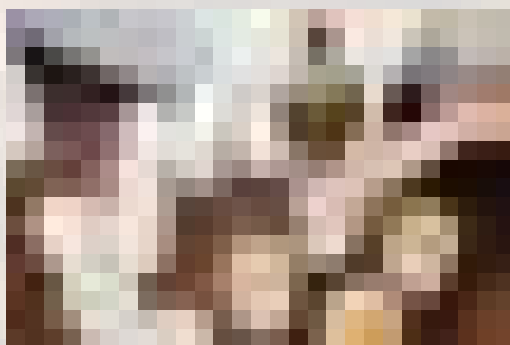
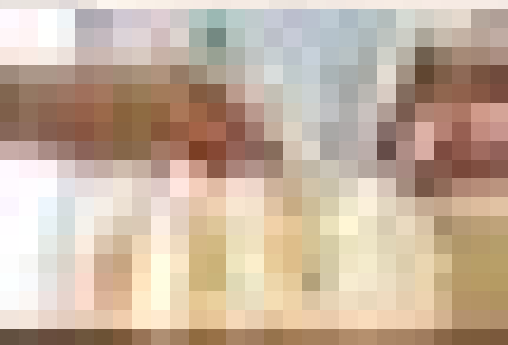
THE SCENTED CANDLE MAKING

MALVAR,
BATANGAS

BRINGING LIGHT AND OPPORTUNITY



ROTARY CLUB OF
SAN JUAN NORTH



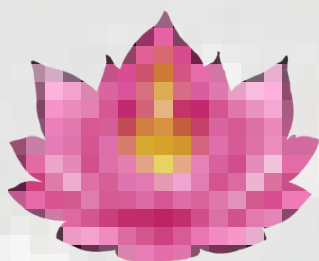
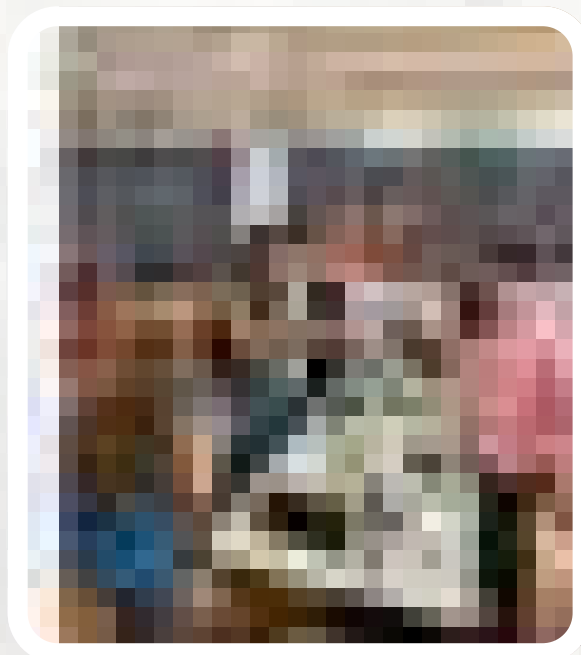
In a remarkable demonstration of community spirit, the Rotary Club of San Juan North led by its Good President Jojo Farcon, in partnership with the ICCP Group Foundation, Inc. and the Municipality of Malvar, Batangas organized a comprehensive candle making seminar aimed to empower single mothers from various barangays by providing them with valuable skills and potential business opportunities.

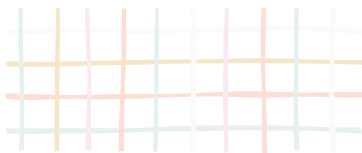


Throughout the workshop, the atmosphere was filled with laughter and camaraderie as participants shared their stories and aspirations. The instructors, experienced in both candle making and entrepreneurship, provided valuable insights that made the process enjoyable and accessible to everyone. This collaborative learning environment fostered a sense of community, helping to build self-confidence and resilience among the mothers. Many participants expressed that they felt inspired to take control of their financial futures.

The event also served to strengthen community ties, as mothers from various barangays united with a shared goal. Local government officials, including the Mayor of Malvar, attended the seminar, highlighting the importance of community support in addressing societal issues. Their presence underscored the collaborative efforts required to uplift the community and enhance the lives of its residents.

As the seminar concluded, participants left not only with their beautifully crafted candles but also with a renewed sense of purpose and direction. Many expressed eagerness to explore the possibility of turning their newfound skills into small businesses, paving the way for economic independence. The Rotary Club of San Juan, in collaboration with the ICCP Group Foundation and local government, remains committed to providing ongoing support and resources for these entrepreneurial endeavors.

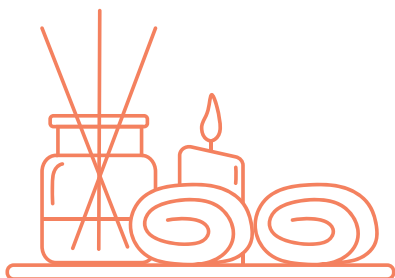




In addition to the immediate skills gained, the seminar instilled a long-term vision of empowerment among the participants. They were encouraged to think creatively about how to market their products and build a customer base. The combination of crafting skills and business knowledge created a foundation for sustainable income generation, setting the stage for future growth.

This scented candle making seminar exemplifies the profound impact of community-based initiatives. By empowering single mothers in Malvar with essential skills in both crafting and business, we are not only lighting the way toward a brighter future for them but also setting a precedent for collaborative efforts in uplifting our communities. Together, we can inspire and create opportunities for all, ensuring that no one is left behind on the path to empowerment and success.

As we reflect on this initiative, it is clear that community engagement can significantly alter lives. The spirit of collaboration and support demonstrated in this seminar serves as a model for future projects, fostering resilience and progress in the heart of Malvar.



Contributor
PP Calvin Javiniar
RC San Juan North

ROTARY ENGAGE

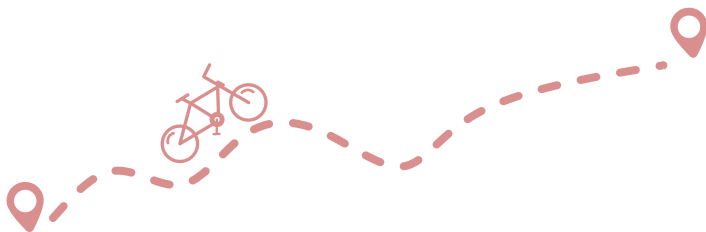
R I D E T O

END POLIO

Rotary Club of Suburban East Rizal



It all began as our collective passion. My husband, Assistant Governor for Zone 5A, Lemuelle Ticman and my sister-in-law, Good President of the Rotary Club of Suburban East Rizal, Loise Ticman-Canson shared my love for cycling. We rode our bikes thrice a week in the morning before we became pre-occupied with our day jobs. Two years in cycling, passion eventually became a source of purpose.



**WHEN HEARTS AND WHEELS ALIGN,
WE RIDE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**



*Contributor
Sp. Rtn. Roxanne Ticman
RC Suburban East Rizal*

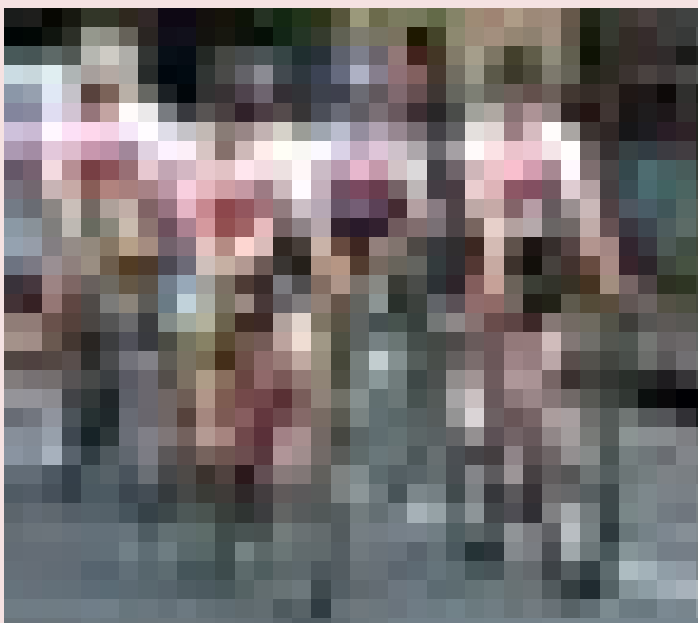


The Rotary Club of Suburban East Rizal kicked off its first Ride to End Polio last October 11 in Antipolo City. A public image campaign to raise awareness of Rotary's work to eradicate Polio, over 60 cyclists joined donning their jerseys that prominently display End Polio Now.

More than 10 different groups and motorists united in this campaign - Monton Philippines, Alcoplus Rubbing Alcohol, Fittitos and Fittitas, Lifecycle Bike Shop, Aspire Pro, Team Bakit List X Row4Boys, Valley Golf Cycling Club, Standard Insurance Cycling Team, Team Pilipinas, Haven of Angels Memorial Chapels, Paceline Cycling Hub, Factor PH Cycling Team, as well as members from Rotary Club of Iron Wheels. There were also individual riders who participated.



In our End Polio jersey (some had End Polio stickers on their helmets or bikes), we took our bikes from Shell Marcos Highway in Cainta to Sumulong Highway with a quick stop at the RC Rizal Premier's Rotary Marker. From there, we went to Daang Bakal Road and concluded the ride in Dulo Cafe in Taktak, Antipolo City where we enjoyed some coffee and chit-chat.



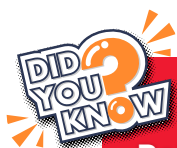
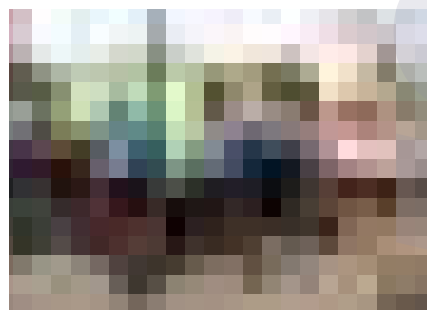
Here, we learned that one of the cyclists, Atty. Butch Marasigan, has a father who survived polio. The very reason he joined the campaign. His father contracted the disease in his mid-twenties prompting him to stop everything until he recovered. After his father's disease, his family has never been the same.

PEDALING WITH PURPOSE

EVERY KILOMETER COUNTS TOWARD A POLIO-FREE WORLD

Polio knows no borders. Without vaccination, it can quickly spread from one person to another or one country to another. The Ride to End Polio is our voice, as cyclists, to call the public to act and eradicate polio now!

As the first organization to envision a polio-free world through mass immunization of children, we believe that Rotary's work is vital, and lending our voice, however small, helps. But this is only the beginning. President Loise Ticman-Canson and the rest of the Rotary Club of Suburban East Rizal plan to launch a series of End Polio rides hoping to raise funds and awareness for End Polio Now.



Polio, or **poliomyelitis**, is a highly contagious viral disease that mainly affects children under five. It can cause permanent paralysis in 1 out of every 200 infections.

There's no cure for polio, but it's 100% preventable through vaccination. Thanks to Rotary and its partners, global polio cases have dropped by over 99% since 1988, from 350,000 annually to fewer than 10 today.

The Philippines was declared polio-free in 2000, but Rotary continues to lead vaccination and awareness efforts to keep every Filipino child safe — **one child, one drop at a time.** 

PRIVACY TIP OF THE MONTH

THE RIGHT WAY,
MADE SIMPLE.

A PRIVACY-CONSCIOUS RI DISTRICT 3800

Because Every Rotarian's Privacy Matters.

ooo

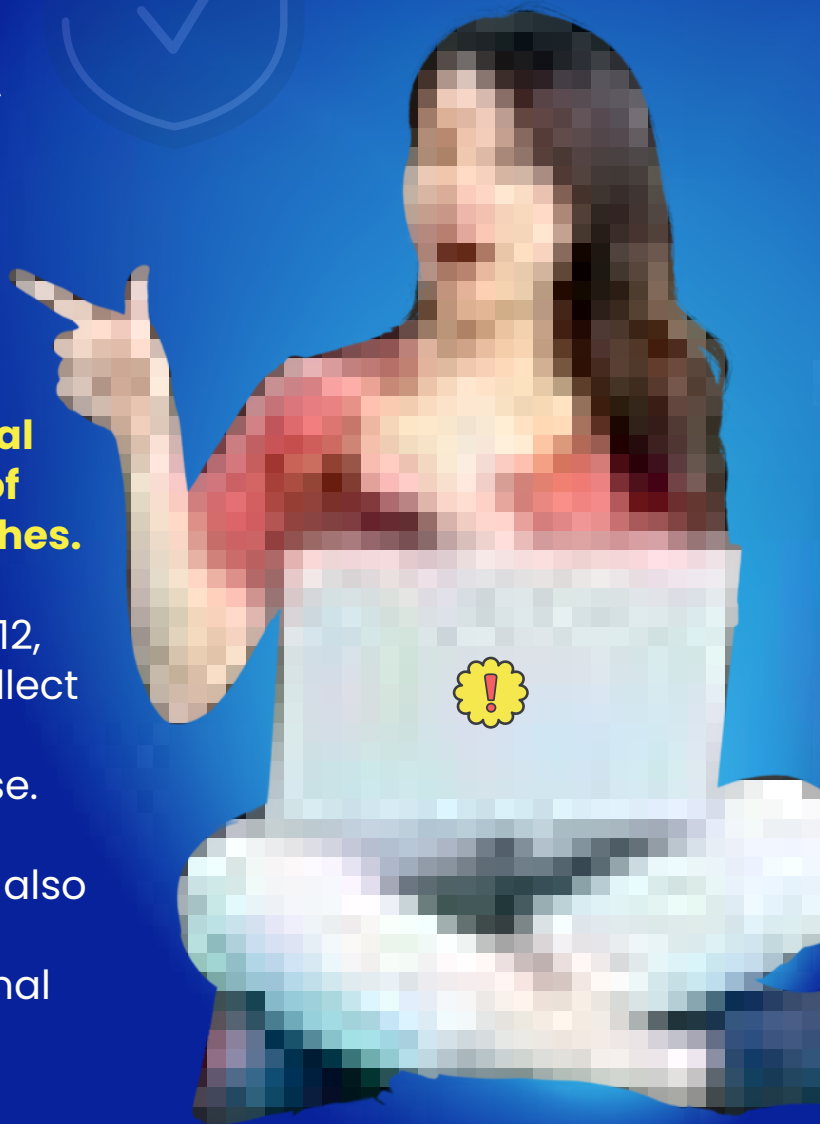
Limit What You Collect

"ONLY WHAT'S NEEDED"

Don't ask for data you
won't use.

**Collecting unnecessary personal
information increases the risk of
data misuse and privacy breaches.**

Under the Data Privacy Act of 2012,
organizations are required to collect
only data that is relevant and
necessary for a declared purpose.
Limiting data collection not only
protects individuals' privacy but also
builds trust — showing that your
organization respects the personal
information entrusted to it.



**A Tiny Tip,
Big Impact – from**



PP ANTHONY JAKE V. DURAN

RI District 3800 Data Protection Officer
RY 2025 - 2026





CRISIS

CHRONICLES

THE PHILIPPINES AND THE ANNUAL TYPHOON CHALLENGE

The Philippines, located along the Pacific “Ring of Fire” and the typhoon-prone northwestern Pacific Basin, experiences an average of 20 tropical cyclones per year, with 6–9 making landfall. The country’s geographical location, warm ocean waters, and prevailing monsoon winds make it highly susceptible to typhoons, floods, and landslides, particularly in the Visayas and Luzon regions.

Why the Philippines is Hit Every Year

The Philippines’ location in the typhoon belt exposes it to frequent Pacific cyclones, and its mountainous terrain worsens flooding and landslides during heavy rains. Climate change further intensifies these storms, making them stronger, wetter, and more destructive each year.

Usual Impacts

Each year, typhoons in the Philippines result in dozens to hundreds of fatalities and displace thousands more, while homes, schools, roads, and bridges often suffer severe damage. Livelihoods in agriculture, fisheries, and small businesses are heavily affected, public health risks rise due to flooding and poor sanitation, and recovery costs can reach billions of pesos, placing a heavy burden on government and local resources.

What Rotary Can Do

Rotary clubs in the Philippines and abroad play a critical role in disaster preparedness, relief, and recovery:

- Immediate Relief: Distribute tents, mattresses, food, water, and hygiene kits to displaced families.
- Community Preparedness: Conduct awareness campaigns on evacuation, first aid, and disaster risk reduction.
- Partnerships: Collaborate with local governments, NGOs, and corporate partners to maximize impact.
- Long-Term Recovery: Help rebuild homes, schools, and community facilities; support livelihoods for affected families.
- Mental Health and Support: Provide psychosocial support for children and adults traumatized by disasters.

Through sustained action and collaboration, Rotary not only provides lifesaving assistance during crises but also strengthens communities’ resilience, ensuring that when the next typhoon comes, Filipinos are better prepared to face it.



ROTARY CLUB OF MANDALUYONG UPTOWN
ROTARY CLUB OF SAN JUAN NORTH

HELPING THE HELPERS

A Partnership Project with the
Rotary Club of Masbate

Rotary Club of Mandaluyong Uptown Extends Help to Masbate through Typhoon Opong Relief



On September 26, 2025, Typhoon Opong (Bualoi) hit Masbate City and nearby towns with strong winds and torrential rains. The storm affected 16,302 families or about 57,113 individuals, and damaged nearly 93,000 houses — 20,000 totally destroyed and 73,000 partially damaged. At least three people died and ten were injured due to falling trees and collapsed structures. Power lines and public facilities were heavily damaged, leading to province-wide outages. The Province of Masbate declared a state of calamity to hasten relief, rehabilitation, and rebuilding efforts.

Contributor
GP Mariel F. Naguimbing
RC Mandaluyong Uptown



In the true spirit of Service Above Self, the Rotary Club of Mandaluyong Uptown joined hands with fellow Rotarians across District 3800 to extend relief to the people of Masbate affected by Typhoon Opong.

Right after the devastation, our club launched a fundraising appeal across the district, calling on other clubs to unite for this cause. The Rotary Club of San Juan North and Rotary Club of Mandaluyong East responded generously, helping pool funds to support recovery efforts. The initial goal was to raise enough resources to provide construction materials such as plywood and galvanized roofing sheets to help rebuild damaged homes. However, due to limited funds gathered, the clubs decided—together with the Rotary Club of Masbate—to channel the support toward urgently needed relief goods instead.

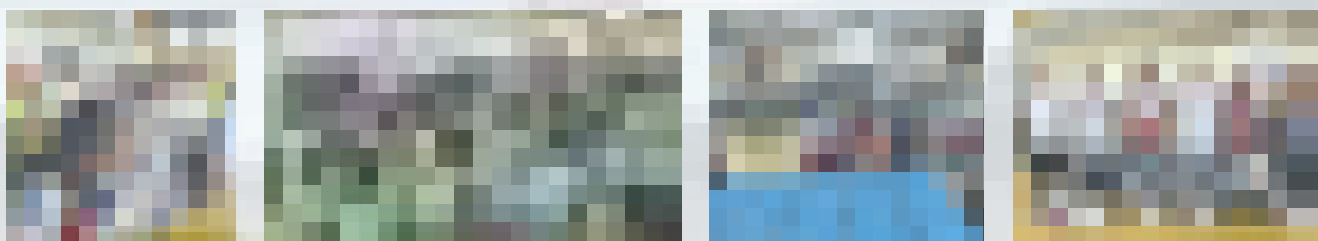




Working in close partnership with and through the Rotary Club of Masbate (our sister club), the funds were integrated into the club's coordinated Post-Opang Disaster Relief Operation, conducted on October 22, 2025. The Rotary Club of Masbate facilitated the logistics and on-ground implementation, ensuring that the aid reached the right beneficiaries efficiently and transparently. The operation focused on recognizing and supporting Masbate's essential workers—garbage collectors, street sweepers, traffic enforcers, and hospital institutional workers—who continued serving the community even as they themselves were victims of the storm.



The relief packages distributed included rice, instant noodles, canned goods, and hygiene items—simple yet vital provisions to sustain those who keep the city clean, safe, and functional.



Through this partnership, Rotary reaffirmed its power to multiply compassion through collective action. Though our contribution began modestly, it became part of something far greater: a testament to how unity across clubs and districts can rebuild hope one community at a time.



Seismic Alert: Strengthening Philippine Resilience

The Philippines is one of the most seismically active countries in the world due to its location along the Pacific “Ring of Fire”, a horseshoe-shaped zone of frequent earthquakes and volcanic activity. The country sits on the convergence of several major tectonic plates, including the Philippine Sea Plate and the Eurasian Plate, making it highly susceptible to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis. Frequent seismic activity has significant impacts on communities, infrastructure, and livelihoods, highlighting the importance of disaster preparedness, resilient building practices, and early warning systems to mitigate risks and save lives.



The Impact: Lives, Livelihoods, and Infrastructure

These quakes aren’t only geological events — they carry deep human and economic consequences. In Cebu’s late-September quake, at least 72 people died and nearly 300 were injured. In Davao Oriental, the double quake of October 10 caused landslides, property damage, and triggered a tsunami warning. The destruction of homes, bridges, and power lines creates ripple effects: displaced families, lost livelihoods, interrupted education, and psychological trauma. Response and relief efforts are often under strain, especially in remote or rural areas.

Rotary can play a vital role in earthquake preparedness, relief, and recovery in the Philippines. Clubs can:

1. Disaster Relief: Provide immediate aid such as food, water, shelter, hygiene kits, and medical supplies to affected communities.
2. Community Preparedness: Conduct earthquake drills, training on first aid, and awareness campaigns on safety measures.
3. Partnerships: Collaborate with local government units, NGOs, and other Rotary clubs to coordinate resources and maximize impact.
4. Rehabilitation and Reconstruction: Support rebuilding of homes, schools, and community facilities, and help restore livelihoods.

By combining resources, expertise, and volunteer efforts, Rotary helps strengthen community resilience and ensures timely support when disasters strike.



ROTARY CLUB OF MALABON CENTRAL

TABANG

A Partnership Project with the
MSY Charitable Foundation
& Mr. Ryan Go

Rotary Club of Malabon Central Brings Tents and Mattresses to Cebu Earthquake Survivors

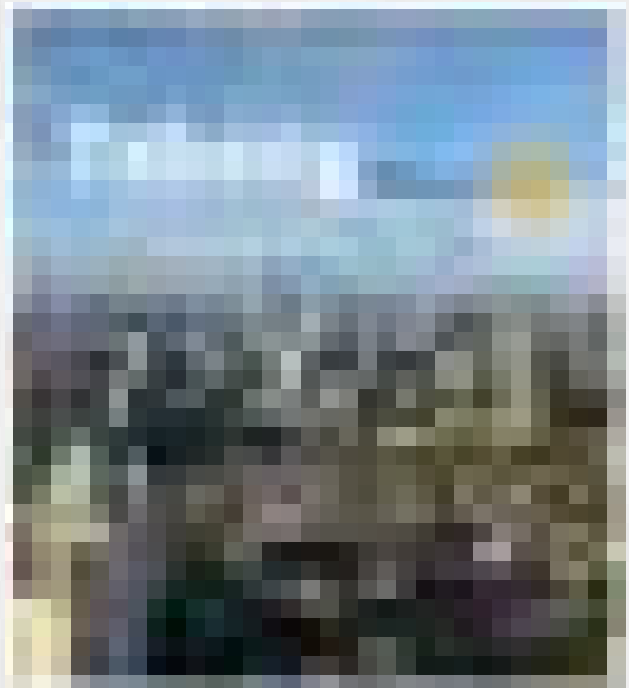


On September 30, 2025, at 9:59 p.m. local time, a 6.9-magnitude earthquake struck northern Cebu, with its epicenter about 19 km northeast of Bogu City at a shallow depth of approximately 5 km. The quake caused widespread destruction, leaving at least 70 people dead and 559 injured. Around 128,294 families—approximately 457,554 individuals—were affected, while 18,154 houses were damaged, including 3,507 completely destroyed. The earthquake triggered over 7,000 aftershocks, with the highest intensity of PEIS VII (“Destructive”) felt in Bogu City, San Remigio, and nearby municipalities, severely impacting communities, infrastructure, and livelihoods.

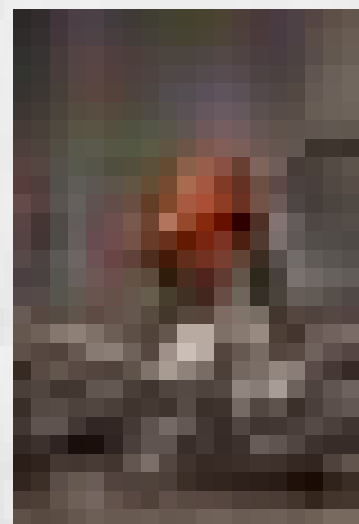
Contributor
Rtn. Leo S. Gonzales
RC Malabon Central

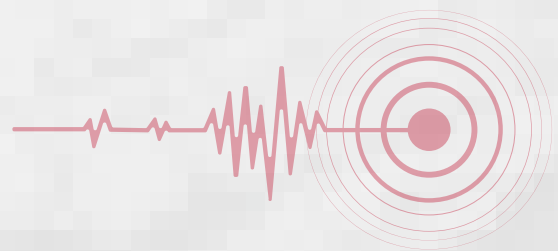


On September 30, 2025, a powerful 6.9-magnitude earthquake struck Cebu, leaving hundreds of families displaced and in urgent need of assistance. In response, the Rotary Club of Malabon Central immediately mobilized a relief initiative to extend help to the affected communities.

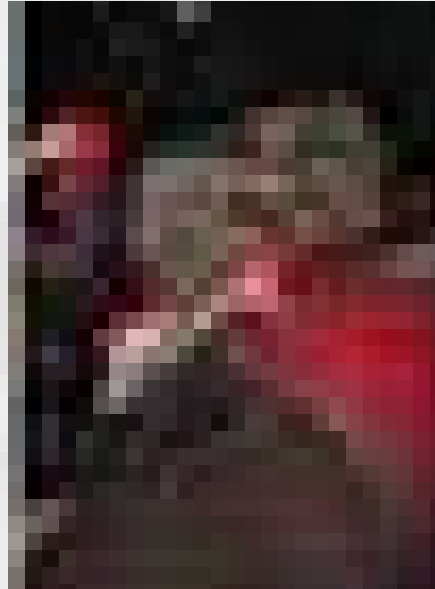


Through the generous partnership with the MSY Charitable Foundation and Mr. Ryan Go, the Club successfully coordinated the distribution of five (5) tents and twenty-three (23) mattresses to families who lost their homes and belongings. These emergency shelters provided temporary refuge and comfort amid the devastation.






Rotarians on the ground also took time to listen to the stories of the survivors—stories of loss, resilience, and faith—reminding everyone that compassion and unity bring light even in the darkest moments.



True to the Rotary spirit of Service Above Self, the Rotary Club of Malabon Central continues to stand in solidarity with the people of Cebu, calling upon fellow Rotarians, partners, and friends to keep extending support as the province rebuilds and recovers.



EPNC/PDG Marilou O. Co.
Vice Governor
Rotary Club of San Juan Del Monte

Rotary 
District 3800

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

TOGETHER, WE END POLIO



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

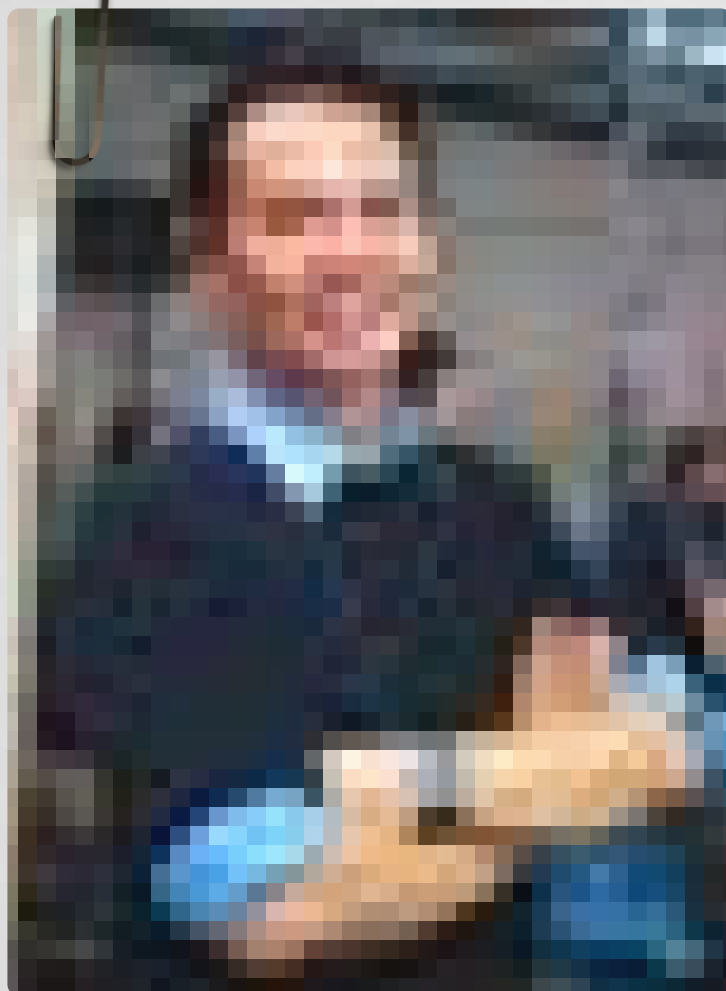
Each month, the GML tosses out one playful question and gathers real, insightful—and sometimes unexpected—answers on how the “Unite for Good” journey is unfolding.

In this October issue, the GML spotlights Rotarians who build and uplift communities, asking one inspiring question.

**In helping communities thrive,
what kind of livelihood project
touches your heart the most?**

PP LOUIE G. DELA CRUZ

ROTARY CLUB OF MANDALUYONG



**“Service is love made visible --
when we give people not just hope,
but the means to live with dignity.”**

**What moves me most are livelihood projects
that change lives from the inside out --where
people not only earn a living but rediscover
their dignity and purpose.**



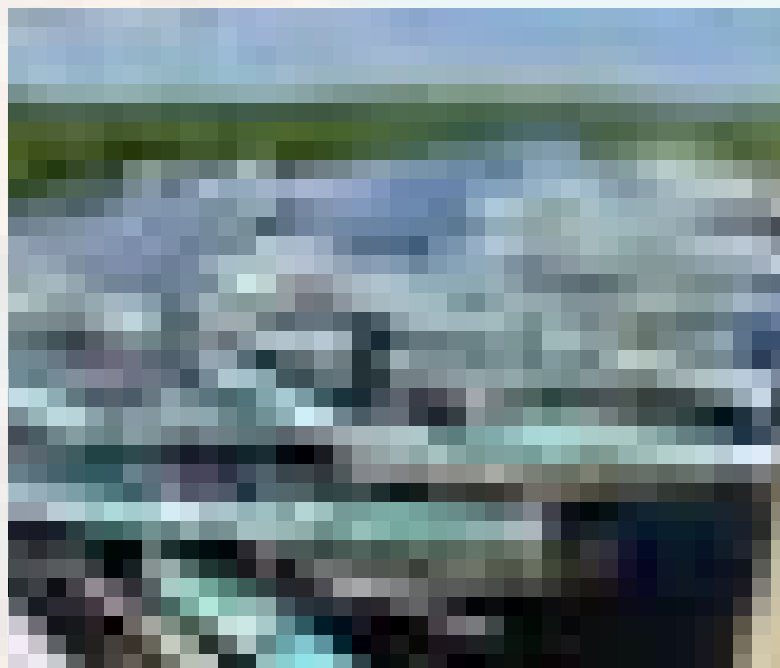


Among my most memorable journeys is with the tribe of Teacher Diday, where I witnessed how education can transform a community. We encouraged young members to dream big, finish college, and return to serve their people. Together, we learned and taught basic farming, helping families grow food, sell their harvests, and sustain themselves with pride. Seeing them lift each other up remains one of my greatest joys.



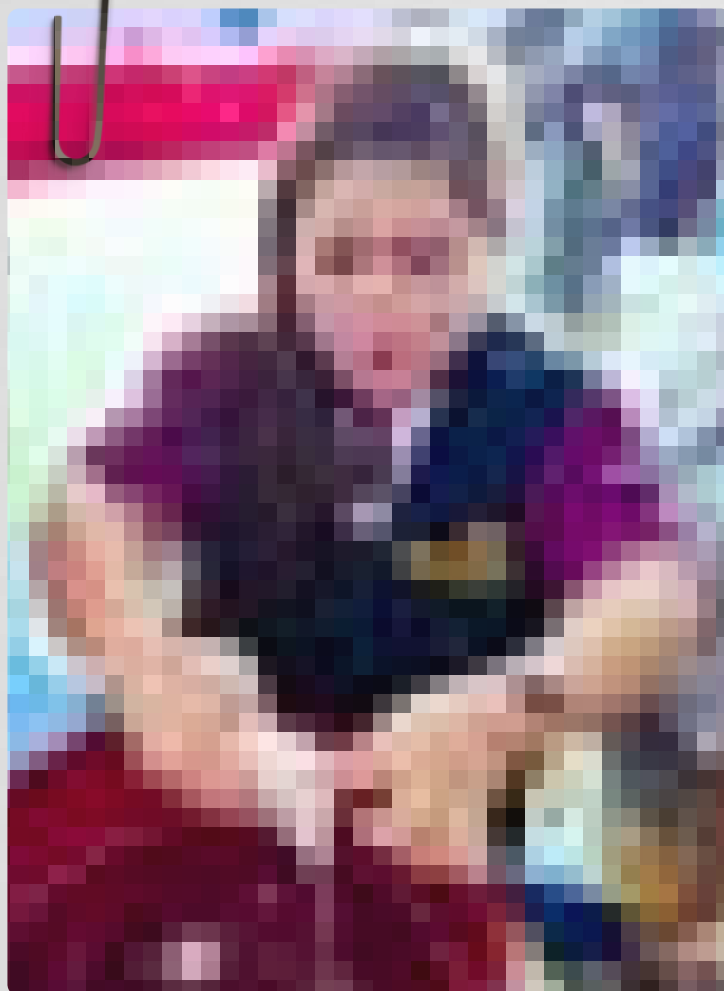
Another initiative close to my heart is in Del Carmen, Siargao, where we turned hope into action by providing 29 fiberglass boats with Honda engines, complete with nets and repair kits. The fishermen didn't just receive boats --they learned how to build and repair them, ensuring their independence and daily sustenance.

These stories remind me why I serve. Empowerment is the best form of charity, and compassion with action is what truly transforms communities.



PP CHERIE G. SANDOVAL

ROTARY CLUB OF RIZAL MIDEAST

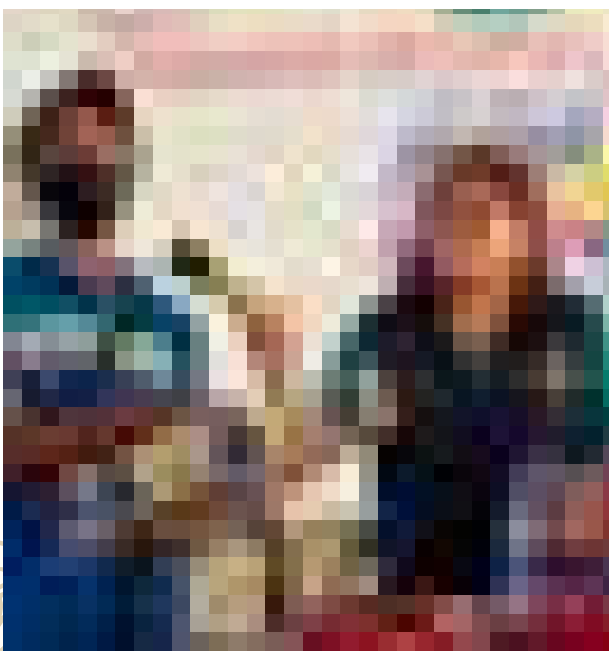


"I CHERISH every livelihood project that helps a family rise, because in every skill learned and dream pursued, a stronger community is born."

The livelihood projects that touch my heart the most are those that breathe hope into tired hands and restore dignity to families who only need one opportunity to rise. Through my duties with the Rotary Club of Rizal Mideast, I've seen how simple skills can open doors to a better life.

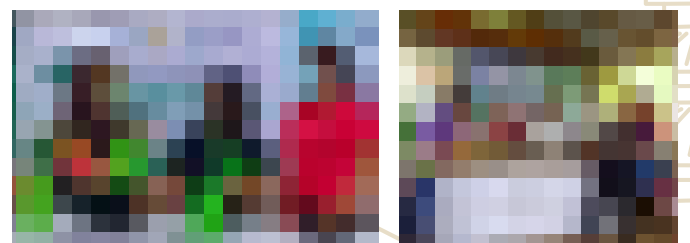


In the mountains of Calawis, Antipolo, we taught mothers how to make “No-Bake Banana Cake.” Their laughter and pride after baking their first batch still warm my heart. Through “Veggies from Mom’s Garden,” we gave seeds that grew into both food and small income. I’ve also watched creativity and resilience bloom through “From Junky to Amazing Beauty,” where women, PWD, and members of the LGBTQ+ community learned to craft bags from used tetra packs, turning waste into works of art.



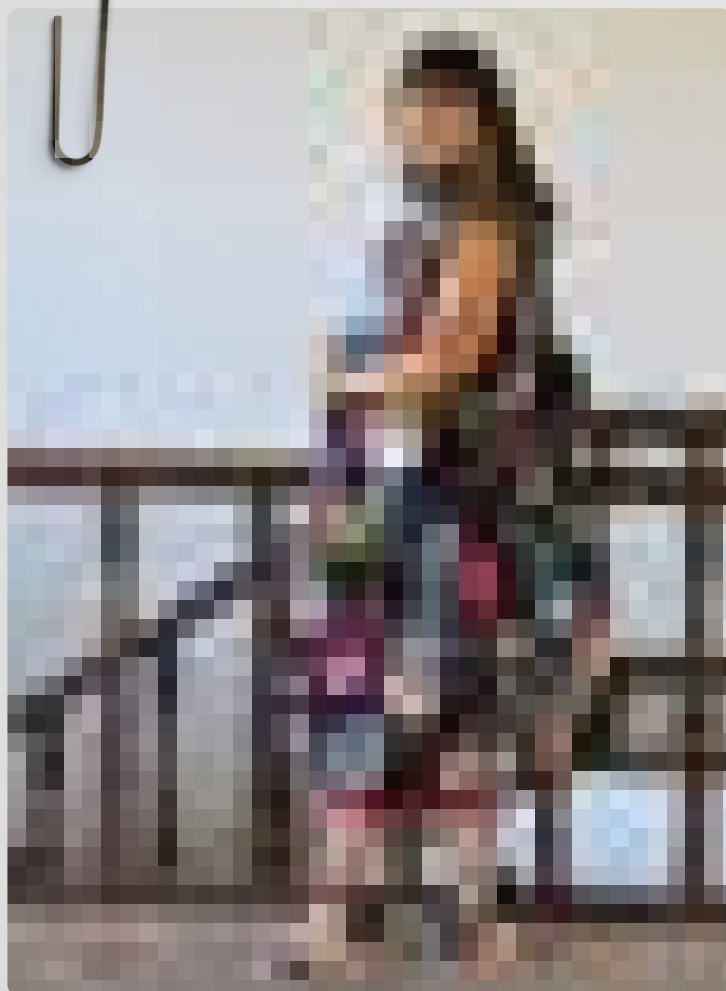
Each project, whether Soap-making, “Kabuhayan Mo, Aalagaan Ko” doormat-weaving, the Water Purifying Station in partnership with RCMH managed by our RCC, or our “Pork for You, Pork for Me” piggery, has one purpose: to empower people to believe that they can.

Project Rise and Learn holds a special place in my heart, because every bread baked by a parent carries the hope of a child who dreams of finishing school and rise to a better life.



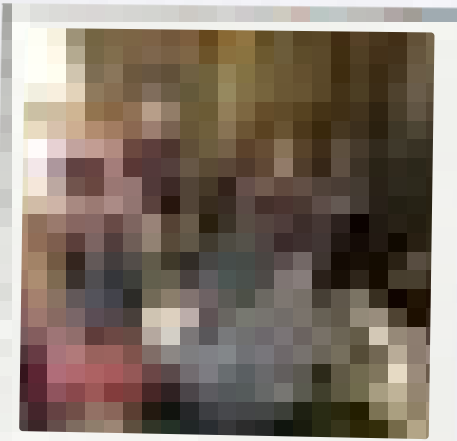
GP VICTORIA BATERINA-SOLIS

ROTARY CLUB OF UPPER EASTSIDE ANTIPOLO



"I believe in the dignity of labor, whether with head or hand; that the world owes no man a living but that it owes every man an opportunity to make a living." - John D.

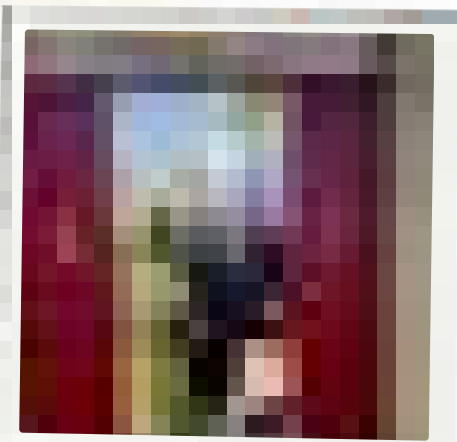
One of my favorite de-stressors is going on road trips to the provinces to look for local manufacturers I've met during exhibits in malls, read about in magazine features, or seen on national TV. I'm always curious to meet the people behind the beautiful pieces or unique products on display.



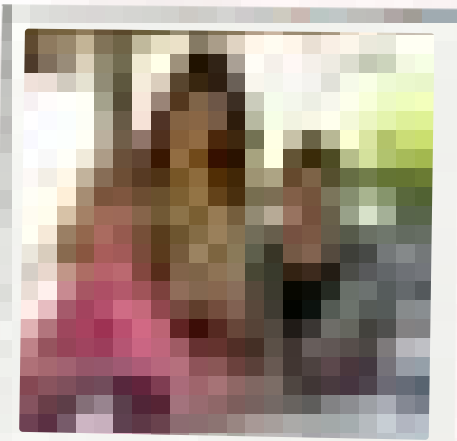
There is always an eagerness to hear their first-hand stories and experience a glimpse of their lives, even in a short visit. I love witnessing how products are handcrafted from raw materials — how, like magic, a beautiful artisan piece comes to life before your eyes. Whether it's the splitting of bamboo, rattan, or raffia leaves delicately woven into nature-inspired baskets, furniture, or home décor, every twist and weave tells a story of skill, patience, and love for the craft.



I am also captivated by the beauty of local weaves that reflect the identity of different tribes across the provinces. Every pattern carries meaning — symbols drawn from nature and life — intricately embedded in every warp and weft. Each handwoven cloth holds its own story, preserving culture and tradition through the intertwined threads. In the South, many weavers even share that their designs are inspired by dreams.



I am grateful that the long journey of our local manufacturers and artisans has finally taken center stage in the market. Across the provinces, local governments, business sectors, and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) have supported micro, small, and medium enterprises. Mall exhibits have opened doors for artisans to showcase and sell their creations. The growing call to “support local, buy local” is helping make these small businesses sustainable and promoting livelihood in communities and provinces.



Through my constant visits to these exhibits, I have built friendships and found meaningful ways to extend support to their communities. The Rotary Club of Upper Eastside Antipolo has partnered with a local bag manufacturer from Sorsogon, through Ms. Hunny Boehm of HGQ Handicrafts, to conduct training sessions for our Rotary Community Corps (RCCs). Slowly but surely, we move forward with one goal — to enhance skills, master the craft, and create sustainable livelihood opportunities.

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

2025



Rotary
District 3800



UNITE
FOR
GOOD

gmi

GOVERNOR'S
MONTHLY
LETTER



OCTOBER 2025 ISSUE