

# THE FOUNTAIN

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**CONGRATULATIONS ROTARACT CLUB  
OF CEBU FUENTE**

Cebu Fuente  
**Rotary**  
Club



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**



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Rotary International  
President



**ROZANNE TWINKLE GAMBOA**  
District Governor



**EDWARD VINCENT ANG**  
District Secretary



**ROSEL SUMAYO**  
Assistant Governor Area 1D



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Gov't. Customs - Finance



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**EMMANUEL P. TESALONA**  
Precious Metal Trading



**ARCH. MANUEL L. TORRES JR**  
Roof Manufacturing



**PATRICK L. YARED**  
Resto Bar Management



### Programme



**Hosted by:**  
**JASON ONG**  
Vice-President

### INVOCATION

*Almighty God, who has blessed this earth that it should bring forth whatever is needed for life, we thank you for the food we have shared together. As we have shared this food may we also share together our dedication to serve you, for your way is a way of peace and truth. We pray especially for our leaders in government, more especially for our president and his colleagues. May the events of these days call us to invoke your Spirit, that we all may share in the truth that violence is not a way to settle differences, whether in the affairs of state or in our homes. May this day be a day for seeking your peace. Amen.*

#### PART 1

Call to Order .....	<b>JOSE MARIE PONCE</b> President
Invocation .....	<b>AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATION</b>
Philippine Anthem .....	<b>AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATION</b>
The Rotary Hymn .....	<b>AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATION</b>
Four Way Test and Objects of Rotary .....	<b>RADY ABARINTOS</b> Past President
Introduction of Rotarians   Spouses, Visiting Rotarians   Rotaractors   Guest .....	<b>DR. ALAIN SENERPIDA</b> Past President

#### PART 2

Presentation of Club Achievements .....	<b>JOSE MARIE PONCE</b> President
Open Forum	

#### PART 3

Secretary's Report .....	<b>PATRICK YARED</b> Secretary
Director's Report .....	<b>CLUB DIRECTORS</b>
President's Time .....	<b>JOSE MARIE PONCE</b> President
Other matters	
Adjournment .....	<b>JOSE MARIE PONCE</b> President

...Fellowship Continues...

### Quote for the Week

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela*



# President's Message



PEACEBUILDING AND  
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION  
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,  
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND  
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION  
AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT

Good evening, esteemed RCCF Rotarians,

Dear Fellow RCCF Family,

It is with immense pride and a sense of accomplishment that I address you as the President of the Rotary Club of Cebu Fuente on this momentous occasion, our 7th General Membership Meeting and Club Assembly. This gathering serves as a prelude, a dress rehearsal if you will, for the highly anticipated District Governor's Visit.

This assembly is a unique opportunity for us to come together and reflect upon our collective efforts in promoting Rotary's 7 Areas of Focus. Today, we have the honor of presenting our activities and projects undertaken over the past months to the Assistant Governor of Area 1D, District 3860. We gather to showcase our dedication and commitment to the principles of Rotary, demonstrating our unwavering passion for service and community betterment.

As we stand on the cusp of the District Governor's Visit, we take this moment to highlight the remarkable progress we've made in working towards our shared goals. The 7 Areas of Focus in Rotary represent the cornerstone of our service endeavors, guiding us in our mission to create a lasting impact on the world. These areas are:

1. Peace and Conflict Resolution
2. Disease Prevention and Treatment
3. Water and Sanitation
4. Maternal and Child Health
5. Basic Education and Literacy
6. Economic and Community Development
7. Supporting the Environment

I am thrilled to report that our Rotary Club of Cebu Fuente has tirelessly strived to leave no stone unturned in these areas. We have poured our hearts and efforts into each project, pursuing excellence and relevance in our community service endeavors.

Our club has been an inspiration of hope and support, working to bring about positive change in the lives of countless individuals. From initiatives addressing clean water access to supporting local education and health programs, our members have dedicated themselves to the betterment of society.

In the realm of Disease Prevention and Treatment, our club has organized numerous undertakings, facilitating access to healthcare services and life-saving awareness to the underprivileged communities.

Moreover, our commitment to Basic Education and Literacy has been untiring. We have diligently promoted reading and literacy among children, providing books, learning materials, and educational resources to disadvantaged schools through painting classrooms for a more conducive learning environment. Our efforts in this area have opened new horizons for many young minds.

# President's Message



PEACEBUILDING AND  
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WATER, SANITATION,  
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ENVIRONMENT

As champions of Economic and Community Development, we have fostered entrepreneurship, aiding the less fortunate in securing sustainable livelihoods. We have empowered individuals to become self-sufficient, contributing positively to the growth of their communities.

In supporting the Environment, we have actively participated in mangrove-planting campaigns and ecological awareness initiatives. Our goal is to leave behind a cleaner, greener world for future generations.

Our accomplishments in these areas would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of our club members and the support of our community partners. It is truly heartwarming to witness the impact we have made and continue to make.

As we prepare for the District Governor's Visit, I have no doubt that our Rotary Club of Cebu Fuente will shine brightly, presenting a comprehensive and impressive account of our commitment to Rotary's 7 Areas of Focus. Our achievements, no doubt, serve as a testament to the spirit of Rotary, the essence of service above self.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your steadfast dedication and untiring efforts. Together, we have proven that when we unite under the banner of Rotary, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

Let us look forward to the days ahead with renewed enthusiasm and determination, as we continue to be the change we want to see in our community. We are Rotarians, and together, we will continue to make a lasting difference.

Yours in Rotary service,

**JOSE MARIE "JOMAR" PONCE**  
President, RY 2023-2024  
Rotary Club of Cebu Fuente



Cebu Fuente  
**Rotary**  
Club



**CREATE HOPE**  
in the WORLD

# From Secretary's Desk



**PATRICK L. YARED**  
Secretary, RY 2023 - 2024

## ATTENDANCE

	ROTARY ID #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	5th 08/14	6th 09/04	7th 09/11	8th 09/25
1.	6726464	Abad	Jose Alfonso				
2.	6581939	Abarintos	Conrado	✓	✓	✓	
3.	8794289	Abay-Abay	Emman Reyan	✓	✓	✓	
4.	9330462	Amago IV	Atty. Bernardino	✓	✓		
5.	11227470	Amores	Atty. Ernesto Miguel	✓	✓		
6.	6218949	Amores	Maricel	✓	✓		
7.		Andrino	Atty. Kristine		✓		
8.	3362897	Barba	Richard	✓	✓	✓	
9.	6207695	Baring	Engr. Jesselito	✓			
10.	10954392	Deiparine	Atty. Sydrick Jose Andrei	✓	✓		
11.	11227514	Elendrino	Glenford				
12.	2036342	Espina	Arch. Joseph Michael		✓		
13.	5983997	Filipino	Rogelio				
14.	11614251	Gratones	Regie		✓	✓	
15.	10411469	Icamen	Francis Edhilson		✓		
16.		Honrada	Archt. Jason		✓	✓	
17.	8944393	Jang	Pouly				
18.	3516557	Karamihan	Dave John				
19.	8599266	Kaufmann	Marina				
20.	9804883	Llegunas	Kristoffer	✓	✓	✓	
21.	8794288	Lomanta	Atty. Lolita				
22.	10709899	Ong	Jason	✓	✓	✓	
23.		Papellero	Engr. Lowell		✓	✓	
24.	6726443	Pasion	Ma. Consolacion				
25.	10410040	Ponce	Jose Marie	✓	✓	✓	
26.	8599268	Rimaz	Ma. Dolores	✓	✓		
27.	5476140	San Pedro	Luz Filipinas				
28.	8794286	Senerpida	Dr. Alain				
29.	11103868	Spaller	Herminia		✓		
30.	3264107	Solomon	Mary Anne		✓		
31.	8543450	Sulay	Kendrick				
32.		Tan	Joshua		✓	✓	
33.	9330558	Tesalona	Emmanuel		✓		
34.	5176670	Torres	Arch. Manuel, Jr.	✓	✓	✓	
35.	10410033	Yared	Patrick			✓	
<b>TOTAL ATTENDEES</b>				<b>13</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	

### BIRTHDAYS

September 10 Gingging Lomanta  
September 20 PP Sol Pasion  
September 25 Inday Rimaz

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

September 01 Pres. Jomar & Daryl Ponce  
September 08 PP Rogelio & Rosa Filipino  
September 08 PP Julio & Alicia Gonzalez  
September 20 Atty. Sydrick & Yeni Deiparine





## Peace in practice

**T**he International Day of Peace takes place 21 September. The United Nations General Assembly declared this a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

It is not enough, as people of action, to simply avoid making war. If we are to *Create Hope in the World*, we must aggressively wage peace.

Where can we begin? There are countless armed conflicts around the world, and the global population of displaced people is higher than ever. The opportunities are nearly limitless, but the cycles of violence and hardship seem endless.

My advice is to start small but think big. I look to Rotary members in Pakistan and India for inspiration.

In March 2020, about 50 Rotary members from Pakistan met about 50 Rotary members from India at Kartarpur Sahib, a shrine in Pakistan. The sanctuary honors Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, a religion practiced in both countries. Tensions between the two countries barred many religious pilgrims from India from visiting the shrine. That is, until Pakistan opened a visa-free pathway to them in 2019.

Earlier this year, Rotary members from opposite sides of the border again met at the shrine, this time with about twice as many participants.

Any work toward building peace needs to be brave and bold. What these Rotary members have done is just that. The Pakistani government took an important step toward peace when it admitted Indian pilgrims to the Kartarpur Sahib shrine, but Paki-

stani Rotary members took the next step when they welcomed Rotary members from India as friends and family. That is Positive Peace at work.

These peacebuilders did not stop there. Club representatives at this year's meeting signed twin club certificates to recognize their long-term commitment to continue to learn from each other and to work together on more peacebuilding efforts, and they have held joint meetings via video chat.

The importance of communicating with and learning from another culture cannot be overstated, and Rotary is making it even easier to do so. One way of engaging in cross-cultural dialogue and building relationships across borders is through virtual international exchanges that build on our current programs and make them more accessible.

A virtual exchange uses online platforms to connect people from different parts of the world so they can share their traditions, priorities, values, and more. Virtual exchanges can serve as a window to another part of the world through activities such as teaching a digital cooking class, learning a new language, or even designing service projects with a global impact.

These online chats have the potential to inspire new connections and more respect between societies. Taking that knowledge and using it to better the lives of our fellow human beings is the next step.

Let's see where it takes us.

**R. GORDON R. MCINALLY**

*President, Rotary International*

*Photograph by Monika Lozinska*





## TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

# Create your Rotary moment

**When was your Rotary moment?** It's when you realize that being part of Rotary means more than just showing up for a meeting, when you discover you are part of something that changes the lives of others as it changes yours.

I will never forget the moment when I learned about Daniel, a Haitian child. Rotary Foundation Trustee Greg Podd, who at the time was serving with me on an RI committee, had been trying to get Daniel on a plane for urgent heart surgery through the Gift of Life program. But Daniel couldn't get the visa to travel, and doctors had given him only months to live.

When Greg told me this, I remembered that Gift of Life was operating in Haiti and we could do the surgery there. This was on a Wednesday. Greg helped get ahold of Daniel's medical records. The Gift of Life surgeon I knew — who visited only once or twice every month — happened to be in Haiti. By Thursday, the surgeon had looked over the medical charts and told us that he could repair Daniel's heart but said he was traveling soon. We had to get Daniel to a medical facility by Friday morning.

Daniel and his parents rode 90 minutes on a scooter through the bumpy roads of rural Haiti to get to the facility, and the surgeon successfully performed the procedure. Thankful, Greg and I moved on to other projects.

A few months later, I got an email with a picture of Daniel. I will never forget his smiling face, despite the foot-long scar running down his chest, and what he wrote: "I know you helped me. You saved my life. Thank you."

On behalf of Daniel and countless others, I am passing along that gratitude to all Rotary members who have helped or will help this year.

The beauty of Rotary, especially with The Rotary Foundation, is that we can create these Rotary moments anytime. Just reach out to others in Rotary and discuss our work. Our caring network, our dedicated volunteers, and available resources will take care of the rest.

If two people can make such a difference, imagine what we can accomplish by working together in larger groups through The Rotary Foundation. Picture the impact of clubs within a district joining forces for a Foundation district grant to boost literacy, or two districts from different parts of the world transforming a community through a water, sanitation, and hygiene global grant.

If you haven't discovered your Rotary moment yet, keep searching. Serving Rotary through our Foundation is a great place to find it, and it will change your life.

**BARRY RASSIN**  
*Foundation trustee chair*

## GENERAL OFFICERS OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL, 2023-24

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South Queensferry, Scotland

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**Jeremy S. Hurst**  
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Karachi Karsaz, Pakistan

**Lena J. Mjerskaug**  
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**Anirudha Roy Chowdhury**  
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**Yoshio Sato**  
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**T.N. "Raju" Subramanian**  
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Masan South, Korea

**GENERAL SECRETARY**  
**John Hewko**  
Kyiv, Ukraine

## TRUSTEES OF THE ROTARY FOUNDATION, 2023-24

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**VICE CHAIR**  
**Bharat S. Pandya**  
Borivli, India

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**Jennifer E. Jones**  
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**Holger Knaack**  
Herzogtum Lauenburg-Mölln, Germany

**Hsiu-Ming Lin**  
Taipei Tungteh, Taiwan

**Larry A. Lunsford**  
Kansas City-Plaza, Missouri, USA

**Geeta K. Manek**  
Muthaiga, Kenya

**Aziz Memon**  
Karachi, Pakistan

**Akira Miki**  
Himeji, Japan

**Greg E. Podd**  
Evergreen, Colorado, USA

**Carlos Sandoval Delgado**  
San Nicolás de los Garza, Mexico

**Dennis J. Shore**  
Hawthorn, Australia

**GENERAL SECRETARY**  
**John Hewko**  
Kyiv, Ukraine





# District Governor's Message

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

I am more than half way of my official club visits, and I value each club visit I made. I may have shared some significant Rotary information I personally learned from many trainings I got, but let it be known that I too learned from you the true meaning of what it is to be one in a Family of Rotary, the bonding, friendship and fellowship that can CREATE HOPE IN THE WORLD.

From the onset of my visit, the invaluable support of the assistant governors stood out, ensuring each engagement within the clubs was seamlessly coordinated. Their meticulous attention to details created a foundation for success, evident in the thorough preparations of each club I had the privilege to visit.

It was indeed heartening to interact with club presidents, whose dedication and perseverance in meeting District challenges were both commendable and palpable. Their leadership and team cohesion were evident in the myriad of meaningful projects since July 1 of this year.

The One District, One Activity developed friendship and camaraderie among Rotarians in the area. Celebrations of the Rotary New year with the children brought forth the joyous spirit of the clubs, while the Bloodletting Activity showcased the clubs' commitment to community health. The Brigada Eskwela initiative highlighted their dedication to education, and the mangrove and tree planting activities in September underscored their reverence for the environment

In totality, my visits painted a vivid picture of clubs that are not just community leaders but also passionate change-makers. Their diverse humanitarian service projects demonstrate a holistic approach to community service and growth, leaving me inspired and optimistic about the future undertakings of the district.

This month of September, we focus on the New Generation. Rotary's program on Basic Education and Literacy prepares them well in facing the challenges of the future. We start them young on leadership skills and community service. Rotary's programs on Interact, Rotaract, Youth Exchange and RYLA all build upon the Youth's personal growth and leadership skills of youth and by youth, making them a rich source of future Rotarians. We instill on them Rotary's motto of SERVICE ABOVE SELF at a young age, letting them be familiarized with the ideals of Rotary service.

Here is wishing you all the best in all your undertakings, and know that my Hope Creating Team and I are here to support you all the way.

**ROZANNE TWINKLE C. GAMBOA**  
District Governor, RY 2023-2024  
Rotary International District 3860



# SERVICE ABOVE SELF



## THE FOUR-WAY TEST

**Of the things we think, say, or do:**

- 1.) Is it the truth?
- 2.) Is it fair to all concerned?
- 3.) Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- 4.) Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

## THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

**The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:**

**FIRST.** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

**SECOND.** High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

**THIRD.** The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

**FOURTH.** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

## ROTARIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

**The following code of conduct has been adopted for the use of Rotarians:  
As a Rotarian, I will**

- 1.) Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
- 2.) Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
- 3.) Use my professional skills through Rotary to: mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
- 4.) Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians
- 5.) Help maintain a harassment-free environment in Rotary meetings, events, and activities, report any suspected harassment, and help ensure non-retaliation to those individuals that report harassment.



# CREATE HOPE in the WORLD

When we nurture peace, opportunities,  
and one another, we help heal the  
world and create lasting change.

## Let's create hope by:

- Confronting stigmas, expanding access, and raising awareness about the importance of mental health
- Fostering understanding and strengthening connections through virtual exchanges
- Unlocking the power of girls and women around the world



Learn more at  
[rotary.org/initiatives23-24](http://rotary.org/initiatives23-24)



## 09-11-2023 7th RCCF GMM RY 2023 - 2024



## 09-17-2023 Mangrove Planting Activity



## 09-23-2023 Rotaract Club of Cebu Fuente Annual Induction





## 09-23-2023 Rotaract Club of Cebu Fuente Annual Induction







# Wired for success

To close the digital divide,  
start with the teachers

By **Geoffrey Johnson**

Illustration by **Gwen Keraval**





## It began, in Panama, with a simple backpack drive.

The Rotary Club of Panamá Norte loaded the packs with essential supplies and distributed them to grade schools throughout the country, a classic Rotary service project repeated in communities around the world. In this case, though, it led to something extraordinary — momentous changes in Panama's education system.

The spark that ignited it came from what the Rotary members witnessed while delivering those backpacks about 10 years ago. “One of the things that we saw was the disaster in terms of technology and in terms of the possibility of kids being able to learn with technology,” says club member Enedely Escobar-King. “Most of the time what we found was that all of the computers were destroyed, or they were to be discarded, or that teachers didn't know how to use them.

It was very depressing because we became aware that there was a digital gap between those schools that we were visiting in the countryside and the schools in the city.”

Over the next few years, club members continued to deliver backpacks but also laid the groundwork for a larger project to address the high-tech disaster they had encountered. Specifically, they turned their attention to two grade schools in Veracruz, a *corregimiento* (or township) about 10 miles southwest of Panama City, where the club is based.

With a population of about 20,000, Veracruz was, despite its proximity to Panama City, a remote community that had suffered economically since the decommissioning of nearby U.S. Army, Air Force, and Navy bases in the late 1990s. As the Panama Rotarians discovered, all that was reflected in the condition of the computer classrooms: Students had limited access to the internet, and though there were a few computers, they were, in the Rotarians' words, outdated and in terrible condition.

Working with the Rotary Club of Westchester (Los Angeles), the Panamá Norte club put together a global grant that sought to remedy those deficiencies using \$72,000 from The Rotary Foundation, District 5280 (California), the club itself, and other sources. Among other things, it pro-

vided each school with 30 laptops for students; a smart, interactive whiteboard to digitize classroom presentations and tasks; and all the auxiliary hardware and furniture required for a high-tech, 21st-century classroom.

To ensure the project's success, the grant also provided for extensive training of school staff and community leaders. The training gave teachers the tools and expertise to use the new technologies as well as the skills to develop lesson plans that would engage students.

The club launched the project in 2018, and the new equipment and opportunities for learning were immediately embraced by teachers and students. “I took the children to the interactive classroom to do math and science,” reported one teacher. “The time passed too quickly. The children were so motivated that they had to throw us out of the classroom so that another grade could use it.”

At the end of the 2019 school year, the project had, by all appearances, been a success. One of the schools that participated was even chosen to take part in a countrywide academic competition, a first for the school and, despite failing to win, a laudable achievement.

Yet an unexpected problem arose. “The teachers that we had trained for the interactive classrooms were rotated out,” a regular practice in Panama's public schools, says Escobar-King. “And the teachers that were new didn't have a clue about technology. We had to start all over again and try to train those teachers. When we got that setback, we said, well, let's find a more permanent solution.”

For Escobar-King and the rest of Panamá Norte, class was back in session.



**E**scobar-King — she goes by “Nelly” — joined the Rotary Club of Panamá Norte in 2015 after a long career with UNICEF. “I spent five years in Tanzania, four years in Bolivia, six years in Jamaica, five in Mexico,” says this seasoned traveler, before continuing. “I was in Copenhagen for some time, and I spent long periods of time in India and the Philippines.” Some projects she worked on with UNICEF were related to education, so when she retired and returned to Panama, she knew she wanted to remain involved in that area. “My main thing,” she says, “was that I wanted to make sure that kids learn to read and write properly — and that they understand what they’re reading.”

Escobar-King was motivated, in part, by the dire state of primary education in Panama. In fact, the deteriorating conditions that the Panamá Norte club encountered in the schools they visited were emblematic of the effectiveness of the country’s educational system. Escobar-King points to the results of the exams known as the Programme for International Student Assessment that are conducted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. In the most recent results, Panama ranked 75th in science and 76th in math among 78 countries and geographic areas and 71st (out of 77) in reading.

If that weren’t troubling enough, Escobar-King also references a test that tracks early-stage literacy skills among young students. Of the four levels in which the students might place — with the fourth being the highest — most of Panama’s students



Enedely Escobar-King addresses students in the digital classroom of a participating elementary school.

were landing in the first and second levels, which meant that, at best, they were able to recognize words and letters and, to some extent, were able to read. But, says Escobar-King, “They didn’t understand what they were reading. And if they cannot understand what they are reading, how are they going to do math, how are they going to do science?”

The long-term implications were obvious. Without mastering those basic skills, those students, once grown, would have fewer and less lucrative opportunities in the labor market — and those opportunities would be further diminished by their lack of exposure to and understanding of modern technology. And there was another aspect to the problem that worried Escobar-King: In the future, lacking knowledgeable young adults, how could the world hope to solve ever-increasing environmental challenges or advance the cause of peacebuilding and conflict resolu-

tion? “Education is the basis for all the areas that Rotary wants to deal with,” she insists. “All of them.”

With all that in mind, as well as the unexpected development of the teacher shakeup in Veracruz, the Rotary Club of Panamá Norte posed an important question: “How can we get teachers already trained so that no matter where they are sent, they already have the technological tools they could use?”

The answer turned out to be quite simple: Want to get teachers trained? Go to the teachers’ training school — in this case, the Normal School in Santiago, about 150 miles southwest of Panama City. “It is the main teaching college in Panama,” says Escobar-King, “and it’s going to produce the future teachers of the country. As part of the curriculum, would-be teachers have to teach in a real classroom. So we said, OK, let’s make sure they do it in interactive classrooms.”



The Normal School, the teachers' training school in Santiago, was an integral part of the project.

Working with the Rotary Club of Kansas City-Plaza in Missouri, as well as other clubs in Panama, the Panamá Norte club applied for and received a global grant of more than \$230,000 for what they called the Paul Harris Interactive Digital Classrooms. Six of the classrooms would be installed at the Normal School, and another classroom at each of the two nearby grade schools where the apprentice teachers would do their in-class training.

This time, the grant would again provide the high-tech equipment needed for the classrooms. But the empha-

sis was elsewhere. "The most important component was not just to train the teachers to use the equipment but to teach them innovative methodologies that use the technology to teach the kids in schools," says Escobar-King. "And that's how the principles of this particular project were developed."

From the beginning, the project was a model of collaboration among Rotary members, the Normal School, Panama's ministry of education (Meduca), the Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá, and the Normal School's parent-teacher association.



Lessons learned from the Veracruz experiment were invaluable as the project in Santiago took shape.

Escobar-King also singled out the Basic Education and Literacy Rotary Action Group (whose board she serves on) and The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers. "They are valuable Rotary resources," says Escobar-King, "and we have a very close working relationship with them."

For help in designing the curriculum, the Panamá Norte club turned to the Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá, which put them in touch with Dillian Staine, a professor at the Universidad Latina de Panamá who specializes in, as he puts it, "electronic and didactic technology." Staine designed the curriculum with both the future teachers and the teachers leading the Rotary-sponsored classes in mind, and also served, he says, "as a facilitator, as a teacher-trainer, and as a techno-pedagogical adviser."

Like his collaborators at Panamá Norte, Staine understands the long-term importance of the project. "I believe that our country needs teachers capable of developing educational digital skills," he says. "This will provide better opportunities for students to learn how to use information and communication technologies, which will enable them to participate as responsible citizens and productive professionals in our country."

According to Escobar-King, there were some complaints about the rigor of the course. "It is quite an intense course," she acknowledges. "But we don't want to reduce the quality of the course. We would rather help prospective teachers reach that level of learning."

**N**ot only will the Santiago project enhance the abilities of those teachers at the Normal School but it will have what its creators call a “multiplier effect.” According to the calculations laid out in the global grant, each teacher, once graduated and posted in a school, will have 30 students in a classroom. Over just one year, that means that as many as 2,500 students would be beneficiaries of the project.

What’s more, those newly posted teachers will have the opportunity to train other teachers at their new schools in the innovative digital teaching techniques they learned at the Normal School. And, of course, the Normal School will continue to train other upcoming teachers in the Paul Harris Classrooms, which Meduca has agreed to oversee. Meduca will also conduct annual training sessions on technological methodologies for teachers, who, by participating in the training, earn points that can lead to promotions and scholarships.

After the success of the Paul Harris Classrooms project, members of the Rotary Club of Panamá Norte decided to broaden their reach. They crafted a plan to expand the interactive digital classroom model, and the teacher-learning process that accompanied it, to eight of Panama’s 10 provinces — a plan that would reach 230 schools and involve 7,500 teachers and 112,000 students. To accomplish this, club members set their sights on securing The Rotary Foundation’s 2022-23 Programs of Scale award with its \$2 million grant, a sum that could make their ambitious dream a reality.

In recognition of all its successes so far, the initia-

tive was named a finalist for the Programs of Scale award. While they weren’t selected for the grant, club members remain enthusiastic about expanding the project and are convinced that a continued focus on educating children is essential to Panama’s future.

At press time, Panamá Norte, working with Meduca, the Rotary Club of Las Vegas WON, and other clubs in Pan-

ama, was preparing to submit an application for another global grant. If approved, it would provide funds three times greater than those awarded to the Santiago project and allow the digital interactive classrooms to expand across Panama. “We are very committed to the project,” says Escobar-King.

Panama’s future may well depend on that. ■



Students in the Rotary-sponsored digital classrooms showed a higher level of engagement.

PHOTOGRAPHS: ENEDELSY ESCOBAR-KING

# Hope Creating Theme Song

## Where Hope is Planted

Lyrics by: Cathy Azanza-Dy  
 Music by: Joel Balsamo  
 Arrangement by: TJ Ramos  
 Sung by: Poppert Bernadas

**1**

Melody  $\text{♩} = 88$   $\text{B}$  *mp*  
 Look and you'll find. How you can

Piano  $\text{♩} = 88$   $\text{B}(\text{add}2)$   $\text{E}(\text{add}2)/\text{B}$  *mp*

4  $\text{B}/\text{D}\sharp$   $\text{E}(\text{add}2)$   
 serve our land If truth is left behind, will you make a stand? Days will be bright, when the

8  $\text{D}\sharp(\text{sus}4)$   $\text{D}\sharp/\text{F}\sharp$   $\text{G}\sharp\text{m}(\text{add}2)$   $\text{G}$   $\text{F}\sharp(\text{sus}4)$   $\text{F}\sharp$   
 walls between us fall We will brave the darkest night. Hear us sound the call.

**A**

12  $\text{E}(\text{add}2)$   $\text{B}\text{maj}7/\text{D}\sharp$   $\text{C}\sharp\text{m}7(\text{add}2)$   $\text{C}\sharp\text{m}/\text{F}\sharp$   $\text{E}/\text{F}\sharp$   $\text{B}$   $\text{B}\text{maj}7$   $\text{E}\text{maj}7$   $\text{E}\text{m}6$   
 Turn the page, turn the tide, turn the world to face the light Through Ro-ta-ry, our

17  $\text{B}\text{maj}7/\text{D}\sharp$   $\text{G}\sharp\text{m}7$   $\text{B}9/\text{C}\sharp$   $\text{C}\sharp7(\text{add}2)$   $\text{F}\sharp(\text{sus}4)$   $\text{F}\sharp$   $\text{E}(\text{add}2)$   $\text{B}\text{maj}7/\text{D}\sharp$   
 hopes fly high to where dreams touch the sky. Turn the page, turn the tide,

22  $\text{C}\sharp\text{m}7(\text{add}2)$   $\text{C}\sharp\text{m}/\text{F}\sharp$   $\text{E}/\text{F}\sharp$   $\text{E}\flat/\text{G}$   $\text{E}\flat$   $\text{E}\text{maj}7$   $\text{E}\text{m}6$   $\text{B}\text{maj}7/\text{D}\sharp$   $\text{G}\sharp\text{m}7$   
 turn the world to face the light Through Ro-ta-ry, we all will show. Where

**2**

26  $\text{C}\sharp\text{m}7$   $\text{B}\text{maj}7/\text{D}\sharp$   $\text{E}(\text{add}2)$   $\text{E}/\text{F}\sharp$   $\text{B}$   $\text{E}\flat/\text{B}$   
 hope is plant-ed, love is sure to grow.

**B**

30  $\text{B}$   $\text{B}/\text{D}\sharp$  *mf*  
 Battles may rage, Hiding the voices of the small, We Ro-ta-rians rise as one Giv-ing

33  $\text{E}(\text{add}2)$   $\text{D}\sharp(\text{sus}4)$   $\text{D}\sharp/\text{F}\sharp$   $\text{G}\sharp\text{m}(\text{add}2)$   
 strength and peace to all. Hearts are a-blaze, Spread-ing joy when all seems lost Draw-ing

**C**

36  $\text{G}$   $\text{F}\sharp(\text{sus}4)$   $\text{F}\sharp$   $\text{E}(\text{add}2)$   
 courage from each other For what mat-ters is the cause. Turn the page,

40  $\text{B}\text{maj}7/\text{D}\sharp$   $\text{C}\sharp\text{m}7(\text{add}2)$   $\text{C}\sharp\text{m}/\text{F}\sharp$   $\text{E}/\text{F}\sharp$   $\text{B}$   $\text{B}\text{maj}7$   $\text{E}\text{maj}7$   $\text{E}\text{m}6$   $\text{B}\text{maj}7/\text{D}\sharp$   $\text{G}\sharp\text{m}7$   
 turn the tide, turn the world to face the light Through Ro-ta-ry, our hopes fly high.

45  $\text{B}9/\text{C}\sharp$   $\text{C}\sharp7(\text{add}2)$   $\text{F}\sharp$   $\text{F}\sharp7$   $\text{E}(\text{add}2)$   $\text{B}\text{maj}7/\text{D}\sharp$   
 to where dreams touch the sky. Turn the page, turn the tide,

49  $\text{C}\sharp\text{m}7(\text{add}2)$   $\text{C}\sharp\text{m}/\text{F}\sharp$   $\text{E}/\text{F}\sharp$   $\text{E}\flat/\text{G}$   $\text{E}\flat$   $\text{E}\text{maj}7$   $\text{E}\text{m}6$   $\text{B}\text{maj}7/\text{D}\sharp$   $\text{G}\sharp\text{m}7$   
 turn the world to face the light Through Ro-ta-ry, we all will show. Where

**3**

53  $\text{C}\sharp\text{m}7$   $\text{B}\text{maj}7/\text{D}\sharp$   $\text{E}(\text{add}2)$   $\text{E}/\text{F}\sharp$   $\text{G}$   $\text{G}(\text{sus}4)$   $\text{D}\flat\text{m}/\text{G}$   $\text{G}9$   $\text{F}(\text{add}2)$  *f*  
 hope is plant-ed, love is sure to grow. Turn the page,

58  $\text{C}\text{maj}7/\text{E}$   $\text{D}\flat\text{m}7(\text{add}2)$   $\text{D}\flat\text{m}/\text{G}$   $\text{F}/\text{G}$   $\text{C}$   $\text{C}\text{maj}7$   $\text{F}\text{maj}7$   $\text{F}\text{m}6$   $\text{C}\text{maj}7/\text{E}$   $\text{A}\text{m}7$   
 turn the tide, turn the world to face the light Through Ro-ta-ry, our hopes fly high.

63  $\text{C}9/\text{D}$   $\text{D}7(\text{add}2)$   $\text{G}$   $\text{G}7$   $\text{F}(\text{add}2)$   $\text{C}\text{maj}7/\text{E}$   
 to where dreams touch the sky. Turn the page, turn the tide,

67  $\text{D}\flat\text{m}7(\text{add}2)$   $\text{D}\flat\text{m}/\text{G}$   $\text{F}/\text{G}$   $\text{E}/\text{G}\sharp$   $\text{E}$   $\text{F}\text{maj}7$   $\text{F}\text{m}6$   $\text{C}\text{maj}7/\text{E}$   $\text{A}\text{m}7$   
 turn the world to face the light Through Ro-ta-ry, we all will show. Where

**E**

71  $\text{D}\text{m}7$   $\text{C}\text{maj}7/\text{E}$   $\text{F}(\text{add}2)$   $\text{F}/\text{G}$   $\text{E}/\text{G}\sharp$   $\text{B}\flat\text{m}$   $\text{B}\flat\text{m}(\text{maj}7)$   $\text{C}/\text{D}$   $\text{D}9$   $\text{D}\text{m}7$   $\text{C}\text{maj}7/\text{E}$   $\text{F}$   $\text{F}/\text{G}$   
 hope is plant-ed, love is sure to grow. Where hope is plant-ed,

78 *rit.*  
 love will always grow.  
*rit.*

*fp*

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