



OCTOBER 2025 THE PROFESSIONALS

Downtown Davao
Rotary
Club



**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

RCDD Goes Pink: Championing Awareness, Early Detection, and Hope



UNITE FOR GOOD

UNITE FOR GOOD

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Chair



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The Rotary Foundation
Chair/ International Director



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Pink October Chair



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Christmas Party Chair



ANGELITA M. ANG
Ways & Means Chair



VILMA U. KHO
Area 2 Bowling
Tournament Chair



MARINA B. RUIVIVAR
Club Historian

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Anthony John D. Modiquello

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

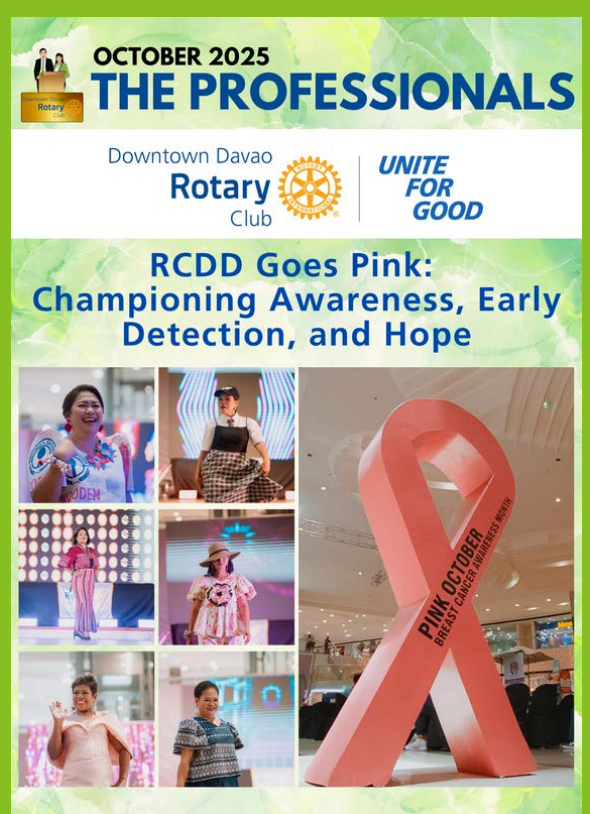
"Rotary International's masterpiece is The Rotary Foundation. ... it is the most generous expression of Rotarian generosity ... it brings help and cooperation to solve the problems that affect mankind."

-Paulo Costa
RI President, 1990–91



ABOUT THE COVER

A powerful Pink October tribute featuring breast cancer warriors in a runway showcase by Davao's talented designers— a celebration of strength, hope, and community awareness.



Editorial Note:



Hope in Motion: A Pink October Reflection by the Rotary Club of Downtown Davao

This year's Pink October celebration at SM City Ecoland, a partnership between the Rotary Club of Downtown Davao and SM Cares, felt different in the best way. I had the privilege of co-hosting the Breast Cancer Awareness Forum, and throughout the program, I kept feeling this quiet sense of gratitude that our club could help create a space where people could learn, reflect, and feel supported.

The forum covered so much: the basics of breast cancer, how it's diagnosed, how it's treated, and the reminder that men can be affected too. But what struck me was how real and personal everything felt. The doctors didn't just talk about medical facts, they talked about choices we can actually make, things we can control, ways we can protect ourselves and the people we love. And hearing that the Philippines has the highest number of breast cancer cases in Southeast Asia... that hit hard. It made the entire program feel even more urgent and necessary.

One of the most moving moments was the fashion show featuring designs from Davao designers, modeled by breast cancer warriors themselves. Watching them walk - strong, joyful, proud - was something I'll remember for a long time. Each woman carried not just a beautiful outfit, but her own story of struggle, survival, and hope. It reminded me of the friends and family we've seen go through this disease... some who bravely continue their fight, and others who fought with everything they had but are no longer with us. Their faces came to mind during the program, their courage, their fears, and the love that surrounded them. Moments like these make you realize how important early detection really is, and how much every screening, every conversation, every reminder matters.

The whole forum felt like a gentle but firm nudge: take care of yourself. Eat better. Move more. Rest. Check when something doesn't feel right. And don't wait. Early detection isn't just prevention, it's a way of giving yourself a future.

We ended the day with a Zumba dance showdown, and it brought such a burst of joy to the whole event, a reminder that health isn't only about caution or fear. It's also about celebrating life, feeling alive, and choosing to show up for ourselves and for others.

As we closed Pink October, I hope we carry the stories we heard and the faces we saw with us. May we continue to support those still fighting, honor those we've lost, and encourage everyone around us to get screened. And may we, as Rotarians, keep doing what we do best, showing up for our community with care, compassion, and action.

Because if there's anything this day has taught us, it's this: awareness can save a life, and love, support, and community can help someone get through the hardest moments of their journey.

The Mission of Rotary International

We provide service to others, promote integrity and advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through our fellowship of business, professionals and community leaders.

The 4-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 & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Core Values

Fellowship, Integrity, Diversity,
Service, Integrity and Leadership

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Corazon L. Costan
President, 2025-2026

Maayong adlaw, my dear fellow Downtowners!

As we welcome the month of October, our hearts also turn pink — a color that carries hope, courage, and compassion for all women and families touched by breast cancer. Pink October is more than a global observance; it is a reminder of the power of early detection, the strength of survivors, and the importance of standing together in love and support.

For us in the Rotary Club of Downtown Davao, Pink October has become a meaningful tradition — a commitment we renew each year with sincerity and purpose. And this year, I am deeply grateful and proud to say that our Pink October activities were truly successful.

This success did not happen by chance. It happened because of your dedication, your time, and your open hearts. And most especially, it happened because of the incredible leadership of our Chairperson, PP Bolyn Puno, who guided every step with passion, patience, and grace.

To our Chairperson — congratulations! Daghang salamat for your hard work, your gentle leadership, and your unwavering commitment. You organized with clarity, served with humility, and inspired us with your example. Your efforts made our Pink October celebration not only impactful but also heartfelt and meaningful.

Our activities — from awareness efforts to community engagements — became powerful reminders that small acts of kindness can bring healing and hope. Seeing our members come together, smiling, supporting, and serving... that is the true spirit of Rotary.

We honor the brave survivors whose stories continue to uplift us, and we remember those who fought courageously but are no longer with us. Their journeys strengthen our resolve to keep advocating, educating, and caring.

Mga ka-Downtowners, as we move through October, let us continue to live the theme “Unite for Good.” Let the success of our Pink October activities be an encouragement for us to keep serving with joy, humility, and compassion.

Daghang salamat, my fellow Rotarians, for your love, your service, and your unwavering Rotary spirit. May God bless our Chairperson, our members, and our beloved Rotary Club of Downtown Davao.



Secretary's Page

By: **MARIA REA LANE L. HORFILLA**

President-Elect / Secretary

Attendance Report

	4 th Regular Meeting	Service Projects	FELLOWSHIP
Members Actual Present	20	14	20
Members with Valid Make-up	0	0	0
Total Attendance	20	14	20
Membership Size	47	47	47
Excused due to health reasons	1	1	1
Net Membership Base	46	46	46
Total Attendance Divided by Net Membership Rate	43.48%	30.43%	43.48%

EARLY BIRDS:

1. Chai Madrid
2. Marina Ruivivar
3. Patmei Ruivivar
4. Rosanna Teruel
5. Litlit Ang

GUESTS:

- Guests of PP Litlit:
1. Lyrose D. Lin
 2. Claire Bersabal

ROTARACTORS:

1. Kenneth Melliza
2. Princess Estrellanes

Activities for the Month

October 6

Pink Walk
Freedom Park to Rizal Park

October 9

Pink Day 2025: Breast Cancer Awareness Forum
SM City Davao, Annex Event Center

October 11

Area 2 Bowling Tournament
SM Lanang Premier Bowling Center

October 15

4th Regular Meeting
Celebration of Life, Fellowship
Cafe Tavera, Tavera St., Davao City



Sunshine and Fellowship

By: **Ethel C. Caceres**

Club Admin



MARIFE C. SALCEDO
October 3



ETHEL C. CACERES
October 5



EDNA C. KO
October 8



ROZANNE C. GAMBOA
October 16



MARIA REA LANE
L. HORFILLA
October 17



LOVELY ANNE
V. REYES
October 23

ROTARY INFORMATION

THE GIFT OF MOTHERS' MILK

Sustained by donations from nursing women, milk banks provide a lifeline to vulnerable newborns

By **Elly Fishman**

The morning Typhoon Haiyan made landfall in 2013, the sky above Manila turned a bruised gray. At the Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in the Philippines' capital city, phones started ringing. Dr. Estrella "Star" Jusi, then head of the hospital's milk bank — one of the first in the country — picked up one call after another about its stores of donated breast milk. The city of Tacloban had been devastated by one of the most powerful typhoons ever recorded. Power was out. Water was scarce. Newborns in the city's neonatal intensive care units, especially the smallest and sickest, were in critical need.

The Department of Health needed donated breast milk fast. Jusi mobilized. She called the country's other milk banks to pool reserves. Coolers were packed and labeled. With roads blocked and commercial flights grounded, she worked with military officials to secure space on an armed forces transport plane.

A neonatologist from Jusi's team volunteered to accompany the frozen milk. Over multiple trips, the milk bank delivered 86 liters of pasteurized donated milk — liquid survival for babies with no other lifeline.

Lifeline for fragile infants

Milk banks exist to meet a need that often goes unspoken: What happens when a mother can't breastfeed her newborn? Maybe the baby came early, too small to latch. Maybe the mother is recovering from surgery, or her milk hasn't come in. Maybe it's the first chaotic week of life, and nothing is going to plan.

Formula can be a safe alternative for healthy, full-term newborns. But for fragile infants, milk donated by nursing women who produce extra to share with other moms is often the safest, most viable option available. Breast milk has been shown to lower the risk of life-threatening conditions, including necrotizing enterocolitis, an intestinal disease common in preterm babies. [The World Health Organization](#) and [UNICEF](#) recommend donated human milk as the preferred feeding option for an infant when a mother's own milk is unavailable, especially for low-birth weight and preterm babies.

Even before the typhoon hit, malnutrition was a critical concern in Tacloban and across the Philippines, especially among premature infants. According to WHO, more than 1 in 4 Philippine children under 5 are stunted, a condition caused by chronic undernutrition that can impair physical and cognitive development. Among low-birth weight and preterm infants, lack of access to breast milk further increases the risk of infections, developmental delays, and death.

"We want to ensure that the babies will be given or will have the best start in life, even if they are premature and sick," Jusi says.

In the last decade, the Philippines has built one of the most robust human milk bank networks in Southeast Asia. What began as a single Rotary club's experiment has grown into a model replicated in 39 hospitals across the archipelago, supported by more than 30 [Rotary Foundation](#) global grants.

The idea took root in 2013, when Renato Cantos, then president of the Rotary Club of Timog-Quezon City,

was searching for a signature project. A fellow Rotarian's wife suggested members visit Fabella Hospital. There, they met Jusi, who had been running a milk bank since 2008. "It was the first time that I heard about a human milk bank," Cantos says.

That year, his club helped secure a global grant to purchase a new pasteurizer, allowing the milk bank to continue operating after its original machine began to fail. Since then, the club has helped establish milk banks in several additional hospitals and supported other area clubs as they've embarked on similar projects. Rotary clubs' support, along with that of private donors and the Department of Health, has helped expand the number of facilities from five to 39. One 2019 master's thesis by a student at De La Salle University in Manila even proposed a standardized Rotary global grant template for milk bank projects.

Modern protocols ensure safety

The concept of milk sharing is centuries old, rooted in the historical practice of wet nursing when women breastfed another person's child. But formal breast milk banks only began to appear in the early 20th century.

The world's first was established in Vienna in 1909, followed shortly after by one in Boston. For decades, milk banking quietly served a niche role in neonatal care, until the AIDS crisis of the 1980s shuttered many programs over fears the virus could be transmitted through donors' milk.

In the decades that followed, renewed research and new safety protocols revived the practice. Milk banks began to adopt standardized methods such as pasteurization that heats milk to a precise temperature for 30 minutes to eliminate pathogens while preserving nutrients. They also implemented rigorous donor screening processes to ensure safety, similar to when people donate blood. These protocols reassured clinicians and public health officials, helping reestablish trust in donated milk as a viable and safe feeding option.

In Western Australia, the Rotary clubs of Belmont and Thornlie, along with Belmont Rotarian Stan Perron, were behind the establishment of the country's first modern milk bank in 2006, decades after informal milk sharing within towns' maternity wards had faded. Similar timelines have played out in countries around the world.

Today, Brazil is widely considered the global leader in milk banking. Two dozen Rotary Foundation global grants have supported some of the 200-plus centers across the country. The Brazilian model, built into the public health system, has inspired similar efforts across Latin America, including in Colombia and Mexico. South Africa has developed a network of milk banks, often tied to hospital-based neonatal units. Still, in most low- and middle-income countries, milk banks remain rare.

North America, too, has seen a rise in milk banking. In the United States and Canada, 11 million ounces of donated breast milk were distributed in 2024 — a 10 percent increase from the previous year, according to the Human Milk Banking Association of North America, which sets guidelines for pasteurized donor milk.

The Mothers' Milk Bank of the Western Great Lakes is one of the more than 30 nonprofit milk banks accredited by the association.

ROTARY INFORMATION

THE GIFT OF MOTHERS' MILK

Sustained by donations from nursing women, milk banks provide a lifeline to vulnerable newborns

By **Elly Fishman**

Co-founded by a former Rotary staff member and supported with donated funds from multiple Rotary clubs over the years, the Chicago-area milk bank serves more than 90 hospitals in Illinois and Wisconsin. The organization has seen explosive growth since it opened its first processing facility in 2015, going from three employees to 25 and moving last year into a new facility, one of only two in North America with a bottling conveyor belt.

Prescreened mothers drop off their milk for donation at “milk depots” throughout the region, where volunteers ship it frozen in insulated containers to the milk bank for processing and pasteurization. “Some of our moms make tons of milk,” explains Susan Urbanski, the milk bank’s program manager. “Nobody wants to see something so precious go to waste.”

Urbanski says that some moms needed donated breast milk when their own babies were first born, but after receiving lactation support, they went on to successfully breastfeed and want to give back. In that way, milk banks don’t replace breastfeeding — they support it. Some moms discover their baby is intolerant to something in their diet. Their milk is still good, just not for their baby. And some moms donate after a loss through bereavement programs like one offered by the Chicago-area milk bank. “That’s a really special part of nonprofit milk banking that sometimes gets overlooked,” Urbanski says. “The goal is to honor the baby’s legacy, to make meaning out of a devastating situation.”

Rotarians help establish new bank

In Christchurch, New Zealand, the idea began with frustration. Yvonne Hiskemuller, a midwife and member of the Rotary Club of Garden City Christchurch, had worked with the milk bank at a hospital in town, but she quickly saw its limits. The service didn’t extend beyond the neonatal intensive care unit, and there was no plan to support mothers once they left the hospital. “It was clear that was never going to happen,” says Hiskemuller. So she turned to Rotary.

Liz Courtney, then a district governor, immediately saw the potential. As a mother of five, including a set of triplets, Courtney knew firsthand the complexity of early feeding. Together, she and Hiskemuller gathered a small group of committed women — Rotarians, lactation experts, other volunteers — and spent the next four years fundraising, navigating bureaucracy, and slowly building a community-run alternative.

The result, launched in 2018, was a community breast milk bank hosted at a different Christchurch hospital, St. George’s. The repository runs on a lean infrastructure: three freezers, a pasteurizer, and a small army of volunteers, many of them Rotarians, midwives, and nurses. But its reach has been immense.

Rotary’s impact

The Rotary Foundation has awarded nearly 100 global grants toward human milk bank projects.

On any given day, the milk bank is a flurry of motion. Donors drop off bags of frozen breast milk, each labeled, tracked, and stored meticulously.

Screening is rigorous, involving questionnaires, blood tests, and freezer logs. Volunteers pasteurize an average of 8 liters per week, a process that takes six to eight hours and requires sterile gowns, temperature checks, and detailed logs.

The recipients are typically newborns in fragile health or born to people who are recovering from surgery or have delayed milk production. One baby, too frail yet for heart surgery, needed milk at home in a rural community about 150 miles north of the Christchurch milk bank. Her doctors believed that if she was fed formula, she wouldn’t survive long enough to reach the operating table. The only option was to feed the baby donated breast milk.

A nurse sent word to the Rotary club-supported milk bank in Christchurch, and the team there said yes immediately, even though the request fell outside the typical service area. A refrigerated truck company, Big Chill, transported the frozen milk free of charge.

Courtney recalls other people who were diagnosed with cancer during their pregnancies, preparing for surgeries when their babies arrived and unable to breastfeed. The milk bank stepped in, providing milk for those critical first days.

Over time, the bank has become a hub not just for milk but for knowledge. With Rotary clubs’ help, a longtime midwife who volunteers at the milk bank got trained as a certified lactation consultant and began offering breastfeeding classes for expectant mothers. The sessions, hosted at St. George’s Hospital, are free and growing.

The milk bank now supports the entire Canterbury region that’s home to Christchurch. As of June, it has provided safe donated breast milk to more than 2,700 babies. And perhaps more importantly, it has changed the way people in the community talk about feeding, need, and new motherhood. “Now that there’s an alternative to formula,” adds Hiskemuller, “there’s been quite a big groundswell of movement to recognize that donor breast milk is a far superior choice.”

An emotional effort

The story of human milk banking, at its core, is a story about people. About the mothers who donate milk they’ll never see consumed. About doctors and midwives who reroute their days to hand-deliver supply. About local volunteers who track every ounce, label every cooler, and field every emergency call.

Perhaps that’s why looking back on the past decade of work in the Philippines can be an emotional experience for Renato Cantos. What began with a grant application has helped transform not just hospitals but a culture. One that treats mothers not merely as patients or providers but as partners. One that sees babies, even the tiniest and sickest, as worthy of care, of investment.

“This was the first project that I did, and continue to do, because of the love for it,” Cantos says, “realizing the impact that it provides to those who are in need.”

This story originally appeared in the November 2025 issue of Rotary magazine.

DISTRICT 3860 UPDATES

Rotary
Zone 10A



*Tri-District Appreciation Visit of
TRF Trustee Chair Holger Knaack
(D3850, D3860, D3870)*

*Regional Rotary Foundation & Membership
Awards Ceremony Rotary Year 2024-25*

"Celebrating Growth, Honoring Generosity"

3:00 PM | October 16, 2025

Lapu-Lapu Ballroom, Bai Hotel, Mandaue City, Cebu

Attire: Business | Registration Fee: Php 3,000.00

**The Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair
Holger Knaack & Spouse Susanne**



The
Rotary
Foundation



**END
POLIO
NOW**

DOWNTOWNERS IN ACTION

PINK WALK 2025: A Step of Hope and Solidarity

What a meaningful morning it was last October 6, 2025! The Rotary Club of Downtown Davao and the Rotaract Club of Downtown Davao Poblacion, together with the Area 2 ABC Clubs and various partner organizations, joined hearts and steps for Breast Cancer Awareness Month through our Pink Walk 2025 — from Freedom Park to Rizal Park.



DOWNTOWNERS IN ACTION

PINK OCTOBER 2025: PINK DAY AT SM CITY DAVAO

Last October 9, 2025, the Rotary Club of Downtown Davao and the Rotaract Club of Downtown Davao Poblacion, together with the Rotary and Rotaract Clubs of Area 2 ABC & E, proudly joined the community in celebrating Pink Day at the SM City Davao Annex Event Center — a day dedicated to awareness, empowerment, and hope in the fight against breast cancer.



COUNCIL OF PAST PRESIDENTS



**PP VILMA U.
KHO**



**PP SYLVIA C.
NAVARRO**



**PP EDNA C.
KO**



**PP ELIZA JOY S.
HILARIO**



**PP MARINA B.
RUIVIVAR**



**PP THELMA S.
CIUDADANO**



**PP ENERIE B.
AQUINO**



**PP MARILYN P.
PUNO**



**PP ROZANNE C.
GAMBOA**



**PP ANGELITA M.
ANG**



**PP JOSEFA P.
ORTIZ**



**PP ETHEL C.
CACERES**



**PP ANDREA G.
DELA CERNA**



**PP ARCHIE FRANCISCO
F. GAMBOA**



**PP MA. GWENDELYN
V. SABSAL**



**IPP ANTHONY JOHN
D. MODIQUELLO**

ROSTER OF MEMBERS AND CLASSIFICATION



ABARCA, THERESE XYZA G.
Rotary ID No.: 11584394
Legal Service



ALNGOG, GIL JOHN "GRETCHEN" M.
Rotary ID No.: 12101363
Beauty & Wellness



ANG, ANGELITA M.
Rotary ID No.: 5462947
Aqua Culture



AQUINO, ENERIE B.
Rotary ID No.: 5261734
Building Leasing



BULABOG, LENIE G.
Rotary ID No.: 12103715
Skin Care & Fitness



CABILLAS, GLORIA O.
Rotary ID No.: 5686886
Engineering/Contractor



CACERES, ETHEL C.
Rotary ID No.: 9349297
Dental Care & Digital Imaging



CIUDADANO, THELMA S.
Rotary ID No.: 6181275
**Auditing/ Business Admin and
Tax Management Service**



COSTAN, CORAZON L.
Rotary ID No.: 2348138
Fruit Farming



CONCEPCION, ANDREA ISABEL
Rotary ID No.: 11584389
Agricultural



DELA CERNA, ANDREA G.
Rotary ID No.: 9712856
Law Enforcement/Operations



DELA CERNA, JOMAR P.
Rotary ID No.: 11278527
Law Enforcement/Investigation



DEÑO, PRINCESS JOANN V.
Rotary ID No.: 11758446
Construction



DIGAL, JASON S.
Rotary ID No.: 11310106
Livestock



DURAN, CYRIL C.
Rotary ID No.: 11547098
Architectural/Engineering



GAMBOA ARCHIE FRANCISCO F.
Rotary ID No.: 10340588
Legal Service



GAMBOA, ROZANNE C.
Rotary ID No.: 5686897
Lending Industry



GEMELO, BELEN D.
Rotary ID No.: 8822868
Industrial Sales & Services



GULANES, JOAN O.
Rotary ID No.: 9524492
Commercial Banking

ROSTER OF MEMBERS AND CLASSIFICATION



HILARIO, ELIZA JOY S.
Rotary ID No.: 5167580
Real State Development



HO, KIM LOUISE N.
Rotary ID No.: 12102241
**Manufacturer &
Industrial Oil Distributor**



HORFILLA, MARIA REA LANE L.
Rotary ID No.: 11844791
Pediatric Dentist



JANOLINO, DIANE R.
Rotary ID No.: 11844796
Architect



KHO, VILMA U.
Rotary ID No.: 2085839
Financing



KO, EDNA C.
Rotary ID No.: 2285202
Scrap Trading & Bailing



KO, PAULINO B.
Rotary ID No.: 10340584
Manufacturing



KONDO, MASAE
Rotary ID No.: 12106203
Business Consultancy



LEYNES, SEAN EMMANUEL C.
Rotary ID No.: 12103404
Resort & Restaurant



LOVITOS, FILOMENA P.
Rotary ID No.: 5167541
Education/ Nursing



MADRID, VIMELLE R.
Rotary ID No.: 11584398
Law Enforcement/Community Affairs



MAGISTRADO, FLORENCE R.
Rotary ID No.: 9826089
Law Enforcement



MANDAGUIO, ROBERT
Rotary ID No.: 0000000
Civil Engineering



MODIQUELLO, ANTHONY JOHN D.
Rotary ID No.: 10950091
Manufacturing & Trucking



MOSQUISA, MARIANE LOUISE G.
Rotary ID No.: 11451539
Real State Management



NAVARRO, SYLVIA C.
Rotary ID No.: 3130927
Financial Consultancy



ORTIZ, JOSEFA P.
Rotary ID No.: 5167581
Agriculture



PADILLA, JOHN RICH G.
Rotary ID No.: 12101500
Resort & Restaurant



PADILLA, NOVEE LOIE RICYL C.
Rotary ID No.: 12101394
Hotel & Restaurant



PUNO, MARILYN P.
Rotary ID No.: 8572169
**Public Health/ General
Dentistry**

ROSTER OF MEMBERS AND CLASSIFICATION



REYES, LOVELY ANNE V.
Rotary ID No.: 12101987
Nurse / Medical Supplier



RUIVIVAR, MARINA B.
Rotary ID No.: 2085900
Private Education



RUIVIVAR, PATRICIA MELIZZA B.
Rotary ID No.: 6142205
Media and Cooperatives



SABSAL, MARIE GWENDELYN V.
Rotary ID No.: 9712869
Physician



SALCEDO, MARIFE
Rotary ID No.: 10734612
*Architectural and
Automotive Glass*



SENCIO, JONAH CAMILLE F.
Rotary ID No.: 11547100
Car Distribution



TERUEL, ROSANNA
Rotary ID No.: 0000000
Advertising



TOLEDO, SHIELA MAE S.
Rotary ID No.: 10383442
General Construction

RCDD HONORARY MEMBERS



CASAYSAY, OSCAR G.
Culture and Arts Manager



EGAWA, CHERRY ANN SARDIDO
Quality Assurance Manager



MAIZ, DERF HANZEL
*Media and Communication
Educator*



NUEZA, SHEILA EMMANUELLE T.
*Project Manager/Business
Process Outsourcing*



O'CONNOR, ROSEMARIE
*Network System
Shareholder*



PARILLA, PABLITO P.
Manpower Agency



SOLITARIO, REYNANTE A.
Educator



ZABALA, RONA
Travel Agency

RCDD'S PROFILE AND HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS: RY 2025-2026

by PDS/PP Marina Bello-Ruivivar, RCDD Club Historian

The commitment to the Rotary motto, SERVICE ABOVE SELF, is now a way of life for every Downtowner as they continue their programs and humanitarian services on the seven (7) Areas of Focus and to serve those who have less in life so they too can enjoy a world that Rotary dreams of.

RCDD prides itself to be consistent in its outstanding performance as a service club working towards excellence without counting the cost. There were challenges along the way especially on financial resources and personal relationships. But undaunted, RCDD survives as it moves forward.

RCDD has been blazing the trail and raising the bar for Rotary clubs in District 3860 since its charter year, receiving awards and recognitions year after year. Its first landmark achievement was when it won its first "Most Outstanding Club and President" awards, in RY 1995-1996, topping all 83 clubs in the district. The most shining moment for the club was when its Centennial Dream Team in RY 1998-1999 won grand slam in all the four major district awards as Most Outstanding Club, President, Secretary and Club Bulletin-The Professionals", besting 93 clubs in the district. It was recorded as the club's glorious historic feat. RCDD has been dubbed as a multi-awarded club through its 32 years of service, to the present

In RY 2011-2012, RCDD was recognized as a 100% Paul Harris Fellow Club, and in RY 2023-2024 as "Promised Club" with all the members contributing to the Endowment Fund with (5) Major Donors. RCDD is consistent to be among the top contributors to the Rotary Foundation (TRF), RCDD is the 2nd club among all districts in the Philippines as a promise club.

RCDD maintains its flagship projects at its Center for Hope, serving the marginal families of Barangays Agdao Centro and Vicente Duterte in Agdao District, Davao City. The humanitarian service projects continue to address the community's needs for the children's welfare and development during their formative years, through a Day Care Center. It also addresses their needs for medical- dental and healthcare as well as livelihood skills training. RCDD has sponsored a Rotary Community Corps (RCC) as a partner-in-service together with some non-government organizations, the Philippine National Police (PNP), other local and International Rotary Clubs, the City Government and Business Organization

RCDD was Chartered on February 23, 1993 as an all-women service club, by then RI President Robert R. Batch. The charter year was one great celebration as the whole Rotary world was then celebrating the 88th Foundation Anniversary of the Rotary International. RCDD became the 29,258th Rotary club worldwide and the 79th club in District 3860 (Visayas and Mindanao). The Club started with twenty-eight (28) women executives with various profession of one classification each.

On its 26th year in RY 2018-2019, RCDD marked another historical milestone when it inducted two distinguished gentlemen to the club membership, Paulino B. Ko, a successful, businessman, and Archie Francisco F. Gamboa, a high-ranking Police General, who then became the Chief of the Philippine National Police, and RCDD's first male club President (2022-2023). This turned RCDD as a mixed club from an all-women club, practicing Rotary's principle of Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness (DEI).

RCDD'S PROFILE AND HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS: RY 2025-2026

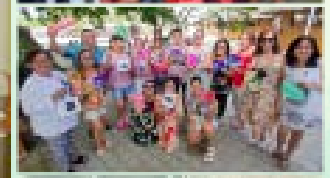
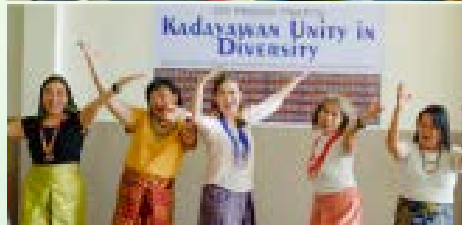
by PDS/PP Marina Bello-Ruivivar, RCDD Club Historian

RY 2023-2024 marked another milestone when another club Past President, Rozanne "Twinkle" C. Gamboa was the District Governor, the second from the club. The first woman District Governor came from the club, Charter President Evelyn "Len" A. Magno (RY 2005-2006).

There is no turning back for RCDD. It has to forge on and get better and better each year in its service to humanity, inspired and motivated by the happy smiles and grateful response from the people it serves, much appreciated than the various awards it receives, annually.

On RCDD's 33rd year, it has 44 strong men and women of various professions and leaders in their own fields of expertise. The Roster of Membership is a balance of Senior-aged group, middle-aged and of the young generation. There are 35 female and 9 male members, under the new leadership of Corazon L. Costan, one of the club's pioneering members.

President Corazon L. Costan hopes to maintain the club's brand of excellence with members dedicated to Rotary's ideal of SERVICE. RCDD will respond to the call of RI President Francisco Arrezto, to "be a force for UNITY in a world increasingly divided by politics, geography and ideology." Through the club's service projects RCDD will bring together people of different religion, age and profession, sharing one vision and mission to UNITE FOR GOOD.



Downtown Davao
Rotary
Club



CLUB ID
29258

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT
3860

CHARTERED YEAR
1993

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