6TH ISSUE







DECEMBER 2024



CHILDREN ARE THE MACIC OF CHRISTMAS!

ROTARY CHRISTMAS FIESTA 2024

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL & DISTRICT OFFICERS RY 2024-2025



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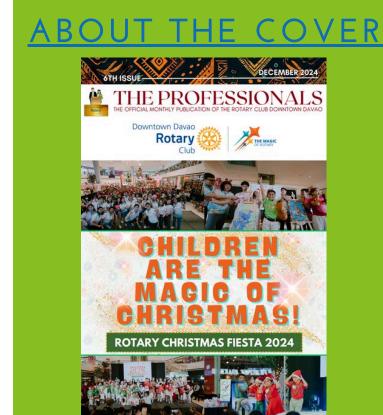
ELIZA JOY S. HILARIO Charter Day Anniversary Chair





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The RCDD celebrated the joy of the season with the Rotary Christmas Fiesta 2024, bringing smiles to learners with disabilities and families through fun activities. heartwarming performances, and the spirit of giving. True to the theme, "Children Are the Magic of Christmas!", the event highlighted the importance of cherishing the little ones who make the holidays special

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of Love!

- Hamilton Wright Mabie





EDITORIAL BOARD



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Kenneth Nomar A. Melliza

Editorial Note:



A Christmas of <u>Service and Fellowship</u>

As we approach the end of the year, Christmas brings us a special chance to reflect on what really matters — the joy of giving, being together, and sharing hope. It's a time to celebrate not just with family and friends, but also with the community around us. For all of us in Rotary, it's a reminder of what we're truly about: service above self.

Throughout the year, Rotary clubs continue to make a real difference in people's lives, whether through projects that bring clean water, educate children, or work towards ending polio. This Christmas season, we're reminded of the many ways Rotary's work is a gift to the world, one that keeps on giving.

One of the most touching moments this season was the *Rotary Christmas Fiesta* hosted by the Rotary Club of Downtown Davao. This year's event focused on celebrating *Children as the Magic of Christmas.* The spotlight was on learners with disabilities, who wowed us with their talents in singing, dancing, and artwork. Their performances reminded us of the incredible potential in every child, and the power of inclusion and support to help them shine.

As we celebrate Christmas, let's remember the real gifts we can offer — not just material things, but our time, kindness, and the love we share with others. May this season inspire us all to keep giving, keep supporting, and continue making a positive difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year to all our Rotary family!

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

 Is it the TRUTH?
 Is it FAIR to all concerned?
 Will it build GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
 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



Anthony John D. Modiquello President, 2024-2025

A pleasant and joyful Christmas to everyone!

It is with great joy and excitement that I welcome you all to the Rotary Christmas Fiesta 2024, hosted by the Rotary Club of Downtown Davao in partnership with SM City Davao and the Department of Education.

This year's theme, "Children are the Magic of Christmas," perfectly encapsulates the spirit of our celebration. This year's theme, "Children are the Magic of Christmas," perfectly encapsulates the spirit of our celebration. We have the privilege of showcasing the creativity and skills of our learners through various performances, including singing, dancing, and art. Each presentation is a testament to their hard work and dedication, and we are excited to cheer them on as they express themselves in wonderful ways.

We believe that every child deserves a chance to shine, and this celebration is dedicated to highlighting the unique gifts that each learner brings to our community. It's a time for us to come together, embrace inclusivity, and foster an environment of love and support. Let us extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the teachers, parents, and volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure our learners have the opportunities they deserve. Your commitment makes a profound impact in their lives.

Likewise, we are honored to have a special performance today by Mr. Arron Villaflor, who is soon to be our Honorary Member, along with the talented Interact Club of Downtown Davao from Davao City National High School. Their dedication and enthusiasm truly embody the magic of this season.

We extend our deepest appreciation to our partners, SM City Davao and the Department of Education - Region XI for their invaluable support in making this event possible.

A heartfelt thank you also goes out to our generous sponsors—Dragon Speed Trucking Corporation, RDL, Vitarich Corp, and Al-ecs 777 Marketing Inc. Your contributions make a significant difference in our celebration.

As we enjoy this event, let's remember that the true spirit of Christmas lies in kindness, compassion, and the joy of giving. Together, we can continue to create a supportive community that uplifts every child, celebrating their uniqueness and potential.

Thank you for being here to celebrate with us. Let's make this a memorable Christmas for our learners with lots of fun, cheers, and love!

Thank you and enjoy the festivities!

Daghang Salamat.



Secretary's Page

By: Princess Joann V. Deño Secretary

Attendance Report	Regular Meeting	Service Projects	FELLOWSHIP
Members Actual Present	29	22	29
Members with Valid Make-up	0	0	0
Total Attendance	29	22	29
Membership Size	46	46	46
Excused due to health reasons	2	2	2
Net Membership Base	44	44	44
Total Attendance Divided by Net Membership Rate	66%	50%	66%

EARLY BIRDS:

- Belen "Belen" D. Gemelo
 Glora "Glo" O. Cabillas
 Corazon L. Costan
 Vilma " Vi" U. Kho
 Edna "Edzz" C. Ko
- GUESTS:
- 1. Carina C. Lim RC Calinan
- 2. Anna Marie Alcorin RC Davao
- 3. Alicia Escol RC Calinan
- 4. Momoka Kondo

ROTARACTORS:

- 1. ADRR Kenneth Nomar Melliza
- 2. Pres. Princess Jenina Estrellanes

Activities for the Month

December 11

The Rotary Christmas Fiesta 2024: "Children are the Magic of Christmas!" The Annex Event Center, SM City Davao

December 8

December 13

RCDD Christmas Party 2024 Garcinia Hall, Ground Floor, Acacia Hotel, Davao City



Sunshine and Fellowship By: Enerie B. Aquino Sunshine & Fellowship Chair



December 23

Jason S. Digal December 28

<text><text>

The Blind Football Uganda league was founded by a member of the Rotary Club of World Disability Advocacy. Courtesy of Blind Football Uganda

Three players kick a soccer ball around the pitch listening for the rattle it makes while it rolls. As they run, they repeat the word "voy" (Spanish for "I'm going") to avoid collision. The players have varying levels of visual impairments, so they wear blackout masks over their eyes to put them on even footing. Behind the goal, a sighted person calls out directions. Suddenly, a player breaks free and kicks the ball toward a corner of the net, where it sails past a sighted goalie.

"The thing I like most about blind football is when I score because our goalies are all sighted," explains Gad Reuben Tumusiime, a member of Strong Spirits, a team in the Blind Football Uganda league. "Blind football is actually a stepping stone to our freedom as disabled people in the country because everyone is surprised when they see us play."

Jagwe Muzafaru, a member of the Rotary Club of World Disability Advocacy, created the football organization in 2021 to give players a sense of independence, raise their profile, and provide them new opportunities. The most recent example of this was a player who was offered an internship at a TV station through his role setting up media for a match.

Muzafaru, who has a visual impairment, fell in love with the sport during the 2016 Paralympics. After college, he volunteered with the Uganda Paralympic Committee before securing equipment from the Tokyo-based International Blind Football Foundation to start his own league, which he administers and coaches. He learned about the Rotary club after a founding member, Ken Masson, discovered his story online and invited him to join. "Being in this club has helped me link to different people in different places of the world," Muzafaru says. "It has been very motivating and makes me feel like I can do more, even outside of Uganda."

Masson was a member of a small Rotary club in Massachusetts for about 30 years when his district formed a task force to address diversity, equity, and inclusion. Before he retired, Masson had worked for a social services agency where he found jobs for people with intellectual disabilities, and he wanted to make sure the district's task force included discussion of helping those with disabilities.

MAKE YOUR CLUB COMMUNICATIONS ACCESSIBLE

Rotary clubs often communicate digitally through their websites, newsletters, or social media accounts. One way you can help make that information accessible to everyone is by following standards from the nonprofit World Wide Web Consortium, built on four key principles:

- 1. **Perceivable**: Users can distinguish content using their senses, which might mean visually or primarily through sound or touch.
 - Provide a text alternative to convey information in charts, images, recordings, and other content that isn't text, allowing conversion to other forms such as braille or speech.
 - Use colors that contrast enough to distinguish the foreground and background.
- 2. **Operable:** Users can control interactive elements, including through assistive technology like voice recognition or screen readers.
 - Make sure people can use a keyboard for controls, forms, or other interactive elements, as some people don't use a standard mouse.
 - Provide enough time for people who need longer to read instructions, type text, or complete other tasks.
- 3. **Understandable:** Users can comprehend content.
 - Use simple language free of undefined abbreviations and jargon, which helps text-to-speech technology.
 - Ensure website navigation and features are consistent and operate predictably.
- 4. **Robust:** Users can choose the technology they prefer to interact online.
- Make sure your content is compatible with current and future technologies, including assistive technologies.

A GLOBAL EFFORT

His reward was being named to lead a district subcommittee on the subject, which called itself the Disabilities Advisers Group and quickly blossomed to more than 80 members. Rotary International staff organized a webinar that drew on the group's work, and the widespread interest motivated the subcommittee to branch out into something more.

The district eagerly chartered the new cause-based Rotary club in 2021. "We've grown rapidly," says Masson. "People want to join the club because of the cause. That's number one to them. Once they join, they realize the importance of Rotary."

The club's main goal is advocacy. One of its two meetings each month is devoted to speakers who share some of their work or experience in this area. The club posts videos of the talks to its Facebook page. Recent presenters have included Grace Ndegwa, of Kenya, who shared her personal journey with spina bifida and Daniel Lubiner, founder and executive director of the TouchPad Pro Foundation, who explained a new device that is making it easier to teach braille.

Occasionally, the club organizes a larger event, such as an online summit in October that brought together educators, parents, and students from around the world to talk about the successes and challenges of inclusive education.

Because members are spread around the globe, the club began dividing into smaller clusters that meet by time zone and language. Members support each other on a wide range of conditions, including some that are less recognized as disabilities.



Players in the Blind Football Uganda league have found new opportunities through the sport. Courtesy of Blind Football Uganda

ROTARY CHRISTMAS FIESTA 2024 CHILDREN ARE THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

On December 11, 2024, the Rotary Club of Downtown Davao hosted a heartwarming celebration, the Rotary Christmas Fiesta 2024, at the SM City Davao Event Center. This year's theme, "Children are the Magic of Christmas," resonated throughout the event, which brought together a total of 100 Learners with Disabilities from District 2, along with 39 dedicated teachers and 64 supportive parents.

The celebration kicked off with an uplifting performance by the Davao Girls' Choir, who enchanted the audience with a 20-minute Christmas repertoire, setting a vibrant tone for the festivities. Children from eight different schools showcased their incredible talents in singing, dancing, and art, demonstrating the creativity and spirit of the season.

A standout moment of the event was a special performance by local celebrity artist Arron Villaflor, who electrified the crowd with an engaging dance number alongside the Interact Club of Downtown Davao from Davao City National High School. In a memorable gesture, Arron was inducted as an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Downtown Davao, an honor witnessed by the children, teachers, and parents present.

The core purpose of the Rotary Christmas Fiesta was to celebrate and uplift Learners with Disabilities, ensuring they felt the joy and magic of Christmas. As a highlight of the celebration, all beneficiaries, teachers, and parents received "Magic Christmas Gift Bags," filled with thoughtful surprises that brought smiles to their faces.

The Rotary Christmas Fiesta 2024 was not only a success in terms of attendance and performances but also in fostering a sense of community and joy among everyone involved. It was a day filled with laughter, talent, and the true spirit of giving, reminding us all that children truly are the magic of Christmas.





ROTARY CHRISTMAS FIESTA 2024 CHILDREN ARE THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS





6th Regular Meeting

DENNTENNERS IN ACTION

The Rotary Club of Downtown Davao came together for a festive and memorable Christmas Pajama Party on December 13, 2024 at the elegant Acacia Hotel Davao. It was an evening filled with joy, laughter, and togetherness as we celebrated the holiday season and reflected on the year's accomplishments. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of our *Mid-Year Accomplishment Report*, showcasing the incredible milestones we've achieved through impactful service projects and meaningful initiatives. But it wasn't all business—the night was also brimming with holiday cheer! From exciting and hilarious *Christmas games* to delightful entertainment, everyone had a blast as we embraced the season of joy and giving.















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 PP A CERNA

PP ARCHIE FRANCISCO F. GAMBOA

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IPP MA. GWENDELYN V. SABSAL

OF MEMBERS AND CLASSIFICATION



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



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



CONCEPCION, ANDREA ISABEL Rotary ID No.: 11584389 Agricultural



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



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



CARLSEN, MARTHA L. Rotary ID No.: 3425919 **Real Estate Leasing**



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



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

GAMBOA ARCHIE FRANCISCO F. Rotary ID No.: 10340588



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

AQUINO, ENERIE B.

Rotary ID No.: 5261734

Building Leasing



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



Legal Service



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



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



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



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



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**

OF MEMBERS AND CLASSIFICATION



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



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



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



PALCONIT, STEPHANIE F. Rotary ID No.: 11278518 Education/University Professor



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



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



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



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

SABSAL, MARIE GWENDELYN V.

Rotary ID No.: 9712869

Physician



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



MADRID, VIMELLEE R. Rotary ID No.: 11584398 Law Enforcement/Community A airs



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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









ALNGOG, GIL JOHN "GRETCHEN" M. Beauty & Wellness



LEYNES, SEAN EMMANUEL C. Resort & Restaurant



BULABOG, LENIE G. Skin Care & Fitness



PADILLA, JOHN RICH Resort & Restaurant



HO, KIM LOUISE N. Manufacturer & Industrial Oil Distributor



PADILLA, NOVEE LOIE RICYL C. Hotel & Restaurant



KONDO, MASAE Business Consultancy



REYES, LOVELY ANNE V. Nurse / Medical Supplier





CASAYSAY, OSCAR G. Culture and Arts Manager



O'CONNOR, ROSEMARIE Network System Shareholder



EGAWA, CHERRY ANN SARDIDO Quality Assurance Manager



PARILLA, PABLITO P. Manpower Agency



MAIZ, DERF HANZEL Media and Communication Educator



SOLITARIO, REYNANTE A. Educator



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



ZABALA, RONA Travel Agency



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 on being consistent in its outstanding performance as a service club working towards excellence without counting the cost. There were challenges, especially regarding financial resources and personal relationships. But undaunted, RCDD survives as it moves on.

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 winning 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 a grand slam in all 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 a multi-awarded club through its 31 years of service.

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

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. Through a daycare center, humanitarian service projects continue to address the community's needs for the welfare and development of children during their formative years. It also addresses their medical-dental, healthcare, and livelihood skills training needs. It has sponsored a Rotary Community Corps (RCC) as a partner-in-service with some non-government organizations, the Philippine National Police (PNP), other local and International Rotary Clubs, and the City Government.

RCDD was Chartered on February 23, 1993, as an all-women service club by RI President Robert R. Batch. The charter year was one grand celebration as the Rotary World celebrated 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 professions 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, then became the Chief of the Philippine National Police and RCDD's first male club President (2022-2023). This turned RCDD into a mixed club from an all-women club, practicing Rotary's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness (DEI) principle.

RCDD'S PROFILE AND HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS: RY 2024-2025

DS/PP Marina Bello-Ruivivar, RCDD Club Historian

RY 2023-2024 marked another milestone when another club's 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 responses from the people it serves, much more worthy than the awards it receives.

This RY 2024-2025, RCDD starts its 32nd year of service and fellowship with 39 strong men and women of various professions and leaders of their fields of specialization. RCDD's Roster of Membership is a balance of a senior-aged group, middle-aged and young generation, five (5) male and 36 female, under the new young leadership of President Anthony John D. Modiquello.

The Rotary Club of Downtown Davao (RCDD) will continue to persevere in God's Grace and guidance, serving and touching other people's lives to make a difference, spreading the "MAGIC OF ROTARY".







CLUB ID 29258

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3860

> CHARTERED YEAR 1993 FE MAG

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