



Highlighter



District Leaders



Michael D. Driebe
District Governor



Gilda Riaz Moshir
District Gov-Elect



Dennis M. Franklin
District Gov-Nominee



Karina D. Anderson
District Gov-Designate



Michael L. Soden
IPDG



Larry Archuleta
Area Governor



Mary Lou Byrne
Area Governor



Lydia L. Carswell
Area Governor



Manuel L. Franco
Area Governor



Edgar O. Garcia-Mora
Area Governor



Dan C. Harley II
Area Governor



Toni Kern
Area Governor



Mack Moore
Area Governor

Debra A.

JUNE 2025

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A Message of Gratitude from Governor Mike Driebe



As this Rotary year draws to a close, I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you—members, club presidents and officers, and leaders from across District 5300—for the remarkable impact you've made on your communities. This year brought unprecedented challenges, particularly the devastating wildfires that affected so many in the Eaton Canyon and Pacific Palisades areas. Yet, in true Rotary spirit, your response was immediate, compassionate, and powerful.

Whether through emergency relief efforts, or programs like RYLA, TLC, the Dan Stover and 4-Way Speech contests, building homes with Corazón, providing meals for the unhoused, clothing and gifts for kids at Christmas, or making a steady hand of support available through gifts to The Rotary Foundation, your actions exemplified what it means to be people of action. Together, we didn't just react—we built by laying the foundation for future service with stronger partnerships, innovations in how we connect, and by reminding our communities that Rotary is always there when it matters most.

This has been a year of resilience and purpose, and I could not be prouder to serve alongside such dedicated Rotarians. You've demonstrated leadership, creativity, and a deep commitment to Service Above Self that will echo for years to come.

As we look ahead to 2025-26, I'm filled with confidence and excitement. The groundwork you've laid this year is already inspiring new ideas and initiatives, and I know your clubs and areas will continue to grow and achieve even greater impact.

Thank you for your service, your heart, and your Rotary spirit. Thank you for demonstrating the Magic of Rotary!

Yours in Rotary,
Mike

DISTRICT NEWS

PDG Sal Briguglio's funeral June 4

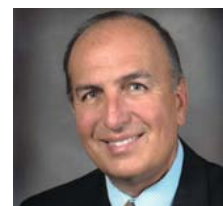
By Tom Novotny, District Administrator

Sal Briguglio joined the Rotary Club of Rancho Cucamonga in 1989 and was District Governor in 2000-2001. He died May 6. We want to inform you of PDG Sal Briguglio's funeral arrangements.

Sal's funeral mass is at St. Peter and St. Paul Catholic Church, 9135 Banyan Street, Rancho Cucamonga 91737-2838 - June 4, 2025 at 10 a.m.

The viewing is at Stone Funeral Home, 355 E 9th Street, Upland 91786 on June 3, 2025, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. including a Rosary at 7 p.m.

Please continue to keep Julie and family members in your thoughts and prayers.





Parsley
Area
Governor



Eric B
Threeton
Area
Governor



Nona Tirre
Miranda
Area
Governor



Isaac Hung
EAG - CA
West



Edward
Abad
EAG -
Antelope
Valley/Victor
Valley



Rae
Kearney
EAG - CA
East



Rebecca
Fritz
EAG -
Nevada



Vicky Ann
Abbott
Assistant
Governor



Mark
Mariscal
Rotary
Foundation
Chair

Events

June 3rd
**District - Growing
Club Membership**

June 4th
**Claremont
Sunrise Shoe
Drive-Used
Adult/Youth
Shoes**

June 5th
**Apple Valley
Concerts in the
Park**

June 6th
**DEMOTION
DINNER -
ALHAMBRA &
MONTEREY PARK**

June 7th
**District-Altadena
Fire Recovery
Event**

June 10th
**Glendora Club
Demotion Dinner**

June 11th
**Claremont
Sunrise Shoe
Drive-Used
Adult/Youth
Shoes**

June 12th
**Apple Valley
Concerts in Park**

June 13th
**Henderson AH
2nd Friday**

District/Clubs Award Ceremony June 7

By Tom Novotny

Governor Mike Driebe is inviting you to the annual end of the year District/Club Awards Ceremony on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at 7 p.m. The ceremony will be on Zoom and should only last an hour. Watch as a club or as an individual, but make sure you watch. Place it on your calendar now.

Here is the Zoom Link for your convenience:

Time: Jun 7, 2025 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82291477477?pwd=kMzwpG3CZi4MzuSQRxIrsHbKbHbA6b.1>

RISE – Rotary Inspired Synergy & Excellence a huge success



Thank you to all the Presidents-Elect and District leadership team who attended the RISE event on May 17, 2025. At this event, I shared my abbreviated vision for 2025-26 with the leadership team using the three focus areas from Governor Mike's Strategic Planning Session from August 2023. Here's a summary!

Our facilitators led discussions related to Public Image, Membership Retention & Communication. Participants were asked to read the book, *Begin with We: the 10 Principles For Building & Sustaining a Culture of Excellence* by Kyle McDowell, and apply the 10 principles to our clubs and work. She is adopting WE's 5, 6 & 7 for the 2025-2026 year: WE 5) We own our own mistakes; WE 6) We pick each other up; and WE 7) We measure ourselves by our outcomes not activity. DGE Gilda's 4 C's – Camaraderie, Collaboration, Communication & Consistency are aligned with the 3 WE's. The Saturday

session was a "Think Tank" as we shared ideas from our own clubs and experiences. As we use our RI theme Unite for Good coupled with Gilda's slogan Honoring Our Legacy & Envisioning Our Future, we are ready to start the new Rotary year on July 1, 2025.

DGE Gilda shared her goals for 2025 – 2026: 15% growth in participation across all District activities such as Rotary Leadership Institute, Social media & website presence, Rotary Essentials, increase in participation in TLC/Ryla, PETS attendance. Gilda shared her vision in membership growth of 15% district wide, meaning that each of our 57 clubs achieve net 5 in growth in the next year. Net 5 can be achieved by being intentional about growth, from inviting to following up to engagement and retention and for clubs to consider sponsoring new club formats such as Rotaract clubs, Companion Clubs, Satellite Clubs and more. Zoot Velasco suggested that clubs host Membership Days. Videos from the RISE event will soon be posted on our district website. To learn more, feel free to reach out to incoming Governor, Gilda Moshir – gildarotary5300@gmail.com or 818-807-6060

Thank you to Victorville Rotarians Dr. Derek King and Alicia Anderson who warmly opened the doors of the Excelsior Charter School Multipurpose Room to us. Thank you to the Area Governors in the High Desert who arranged for such a good turnout, Dan Harley, Barbara Sellon & Edward Abad. Thank you to the facilitators and training leadership team led by PDG Dr. Luciano de Sylva from Walnut Valley, Dr. Stephen McCray from the former Palmdale club and Josh Konrad, current President of the Antelope Valley Club, DGN Dennis Franklin from the Glendora Club, Zoot Velasco, Altadena Rotarian & District Membership Chair, DGND Kari Anderson from the Claremont Sunrise and Roy Barry, from the Upland club who all helped with the pre-planning and facilitation the day of the event.



Round-Up

June 14th
[LV-Southwest Family Bowling Party in Boulder City](#)

June 14th
[Apple Valley Demotion Party](#)

June 17th
[LV After Hours Spread the Word Book Cleaning](#)

June 18th
[Claremont Sunrise](#)

[Backpacks of Hope: Empowering Students 2025](#)

June 18th
[LV After Hours Agassi Birthday Hour](#)

June 19th
[Apple Valley Concerts in the Park](#)

June 21st
[Summerlin-Just One Pop Up](#)

June 21st
[LV Summerlin Debunking Party](#)

June 26th
[Apple Valley Concerts in the Park](#)

June 26th
[Green Valley Annual Debunking and Board Installation](#)

June 27th
[LV Southwest Debunking](#)

June 28th
[Covina Kick-Out](#)

July 3rd
[Glendora Field of Heroes](#)

July 3rd
[District-Growing Club Membership](#)

July 4th
[Claremont Sunrise Freedom 5K Run and 1K Fun Run](#)

July 4th
[La Verne 4th of July Parade](#)

July 4th
[Claremont Dunk Tank](#)

July 4th
[Apple Valley Freedom Festival](#)

July 5th
[Altadena-Take Down Flags on Lake Avenue](#)

July 5th
[Glendora Field of Heroes Opening Ceremony](#)

July 5th
[Altadena Concert](#)

August Rotary Leadership Institute "RLI"

By Dennis Franklin, DGN

If you and your club want to grow, you'll want to take advantage of the RLI training events that are taking place on August 16 in Azusa, California, and August 23 in Las Vegas. Registration is available now using the links on the DACdb calendar or by clicking on the personalized links below.

RLI is leadership development training that provides the foundation of what it means to be a Rotarian. It exposes members to the wide scope of Rotary around the world, builds an overall understanding of the organization, and equips participants with the leadership skills that are necessary to move it forward in our clubs.

Azusa - <https://Registrations.DACdb.com/Register/index.cfm?EventID=77833403>

Las Vegas - <https://Registrations.DACdb.com/Register/index.cfm?EventID=77833431>



Inclusive Leadership: The Future of Rotary

By Gino Reyes, District 5300 Inclusive Leadership Chair

Inclusive leadership is not just a concept—it's a **core principle** that will shape the future of Rotary. As we strive to grow and serve more effectively, we must recognize the value of **every role, every voice, and every perspective** within our clubs and communities.

Rotary thrives when we move from "I" to "We." That shift reminds us that our strength lies in **collaboration**—understanding how all the pieces fit together to create lasting impact. Inclusive leadership invites us to embrace differences, empower others, and lead together with intention and empathy.

To support this vision, I've created the **Rotary Inclusive Leadership Checklist**, outlining **10 essential topics** that help clubs reflect, engage, and grow more inclusively. This year, we will bring these topics to life through **four monthly formats** designed to meet Rotarians where they are:

1. Newsletter Articles
2. Social Media Highlights
3. Podcast Conversations
4. Open Table Discussions and Presentations

Each month we will focus on one of the checklist topics, offering practical ideas and meaningful conversations to help clubs take action.

Inclusive leadership is not about changing who we are—it's about expanding who we include, and ensuring everyone feels empowered to lead and belong.

If you would like me to send Inclusive Leadership Checklist cards to your club, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at Gino@ginosellsvegas.com. I'd be happy to provide them as a resource to support your club's commitment to inclusive practices.

The D5300 Cleft Lip/Palate Project Needs You

By Drexel Smith

Schedule a speaker for your club meeting, make a donation or volunteer for a Mission. Upcoming missions are:

Nagamangala, India - 2 Weeks - December 6 – 21, 2025. Four Non-Medical Volunteer Positions Available

Kampala, Uganda - 2 Weeks - June 7, 2026 - June 21, 2026. Several Non-Medical Volunteer Positions Available

For more information, refer to the [District 5300 website](#) or contact any member of the Project Committee or the Chair: Drexel L. Smith at dls@drexelcg.com.

SuperBuild 2025 – A Day That Changed Lives Forever

By Robin Smith, SuperBuild Chair

Saturday, May 3 began in the early morning darkness at 5:30 AM in Chula Vista, where experienced builders stood shoulder to shoulder with first-timers. Excitement buzzed in the air as instructions were given and we boarded the bus, ready to embark on a life-changing journey to Tecate, Mexico.

After a quick border crossing, we made the switch from our comfortable coach to a rugged school bus—because the roads ahead were anything but smooth. That bumpy ride to the building site was the first real sign: we were entering an experience that would leave a mark on everyone involved.

When we arrived at the build site, the Corazón "blue shirts" were already waiting, joined by local community members ready

Volunteers

July 10th

Apple Valley Concerts in the Park

July 11th

Glendora Movies in the Park

July 12th

Altadena Concert Volunteers

to lend a hand. After meeting the incredible family we would be building for, we quickly organized into teams. Painters began prepping the plywood, and builders got to work on the framework. The energy was electric.

By 9:30 AM, construction was in full swing—and despite a well-earned break for lunch prepared by local residents, we accomplished something extraordinary. **By 4:00 PM, the house was complete.**

Let that sink in: **a complete home, built in just one day.**



This wasn't just any shelter. The home, about 18 by 20 feet, included an asphalt-shingled roof, mesh-protected windows, a locking front door (the family's first), and a sleeping loft for the young daughter. Downstairs featured a partitioned living space, a kitchen corner with built-in shelving, and a full three-quarter bathroom. A rooftop cistern to be added for hot water, and electricity and insulation will soon follow after we leave, making the home not just livable, but safe and sustainable. These homes now cost around \$18,500—reflecting their improved quality and the expanded amenities we're able to offer. Importantly, \$600 of that goes directly toward keeping a child in high school. Many families can't afford the books and uniforms after junior high, but thanks to your support, these children now have a future. Some have even gone on to graduate from college, proof of the long-lasting impact your generosity creates.



For those of us from Nevada, the experience meant arriving the night before and staying a night after. But for our California friends, it can be a day trip: build a home in the morning and be back in your own bed by night. It's an international act of kindness that changes lives in just one day.

This year's SuperBuild was especially meaningful for me, as I pass the baton after 10 years of leading this incredible project. I'm thrilled to hand it off to **George Vieth** of the South Pasadena club and **Chelsea Scheppmann** of Henderson After Hours. With leaders in both California and Nevada, we'll broaden the reach and continue building this legacy of service. A heartfelt thank you goes out to every club that participated—whether by sending volunteers, providing financial support, or both. Special recognition to **Betty Bui** for organizing our post-build dinners the past two years, and to **David Morales** for his invaluable help. This year, approximately 10 clubs contributed, and I want to especially thank the **Las Vegas Club** for funding nearly 75% of this year's build.

Because of your generosity, we already have seed money for one home next year—and with the combined enthusiasm of George and Chelsea, I believe we can build two or even **three** homes in 2026.

Please mark your calendars: May 2, 2026 – SuperBuild returns.

Thank you for your heart, your hands, and your support. Together, we didn't just build a house in a day—we built a future.

P.S. Several clubs that were unable to make the May 3 build, are participating in one on June 7, 2025 in Tijuana.

Bridging Continents to Combat Human Trafficking: D5300's VTT Mission to Perth

By Marilyn Diaz Walker

From March 6 to April 2, 2025, a Vocational Training Team (VTT) from Rotary District 5300 traveled to Perth, Western Australia, to share expertise and build international partnerships in the fight against human trafficking. This dedicated team of professionals – representing law enforcement, survivor advocacy, prosecution, and education – delivered training and engaged in knowledge exchange with a wide range of Australian counterparts.

Their mission spanned Rotary District 9423, with a focus on the Perth metro area. The initiative was made possible through

the generous donation of the late Herb Hezlep, a former Monrovia Rotarian and past Group Study Exchange leader to Perth, whose legacy continues to foster educational exchange between Districts 5300 and 9423.

The team was composed of LAPD Detective Jill Calhoun; lived experience expert Brittianna Robinson of Los Angeles; former prosecutor Russell Smith and his wife Allison Smith, Educational Outreach lead for Our Rescue; and June Haskell, Director of Survivor Engagement at Our Rescue in Utah. Marilyn Diaz Walker, a retired law enforcement professional, led the team.

Throughout their three-week stay, the team delivered presentations to approximately 800 people, including members of law enforcement, prosecutors, survivor organizations, universities, and Rotary clubs. They also spoke at a Rotary District Conference, making lasting impressions on audiences eager to deepen their engagement on this urgent global issue.

"Our Rotary hosts were incredibly generous and organized a packed and purposeful itinerary," Marilyn Walker noted. "We were especially grateful to District 9423 District Governor Patricia Schraven, Rotarians David Uhe, Louise Hancock, and Rebecca Tolstoy, and above all, District Governor Michael Driebe whose vision and leadership made this mission possible."

The team's schedule involved two to three presentations most weekdays, prompting rich dialogue and encouraging ongoing collaboration---especially among academic institutions, survivor services, and prosecutors. By the final week, demand for additional presentations had outpaced the time remaining.

The impact of the VTT was profound. Audiences responded enthusiastically, with many expressing a strong desire to continue the partnerships forged during the visit. Connections with Our Rescue and other entities are already laying the groundwork for future training and joint research initiatives.

In true Rotary spirit, this VTT served as a powerful reminder of what is possible when professionals across the globe unite in service above self – turning shared concern into shared action.



L to R Russell Smith, June Haskell, Brittianna Robinson, Marilyn Walker, Jill Calhoun, and Allison Smith.



District Global Grant Scholar 2025-26

By William L. Payne, Chair, Global Scholars



Annabella Garcia is our District 5300 Global Grant Scholar for 2025-26, departing for the University of Dundee, Scotland, in the fall. Her Area of Focus is *Peace Building and Conflict Resolution*. She is sponsored by PDG Margaret Cooker of the Victorville Club. Her recent biography, should you wish to see the quality of a GGS applicant, [is linked here](#).

Fred Findley, Pasadena Rotary, is processing two other applications for graduates of Claremont-McKenna College; one will receive the Joseph McMullin Foundation Scholarship.

FUNDRAISER INVITATIONS

Antelope Valley Fundraiser June 8

By Joshua Konrad

The month of May came and went as though it never happened at all. On May 24, the Rotary Club of the Antelope Valley held its fellowship at the AV Alta Soccer FC. The home team won, and so did those Rotarians who attended the game. For each ticket sold, \$5 was donated to our upcoming Sunday, **June 8**, fundraiser at the Lazy-T Ranch in Palmdale, California.

Speaking of our fundraiser, if you have not purchased your ticket yet, please reach out to our Treasurer, PP Tina Borzage, tina Borzage@yahoo.com, or Secretary, PP Sharon Freeman, sharon_freeman2000@yahoo.com so you can join the fun!

Kicking Off July 4th at the Boulder City Pancake Breakfast!

By Gino Reyes, District Membership Engagement Chair

Southern Nevada Rotarians

It's time to rally, represent, and radiate Rotary spirit—because Show Up & Show Out is launching this summer, and you're invited to help us start strong!

What is Show Up & Show Out?

It's a new, high-energy series of seasonal Rotary events designed to bring clubs across Southern Nevada together to support one another, build unity, and amplify our collective impact. When we show up in numbers, we strengthen our community presence, uplift each other's work, and show what Rotary is all about—service, connection, and joy.

The Kickoff Event:

Boulder City's Annual Pancake Breakfast

Thursday, July 4th | Morning

Come early, bring your Rotary spirit, and let's start this series with a stack of pancakes and a whole lot of unity!



Whether you're flipping flapjacks, serving smiles, or just showing your Rotary pride—your presence matters. By showing up and showing out, we help make each club's event bigger, better, and more impactful for the communities we serve.

Let's celebrate service.

Let's strengthen our fellowship.

Let's SHOW UP & SHOW OUT!

See you in Boulder City on July 4th!

CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

Claremont Memorial Day Tribute

By President Susie Ilsley, Claremont Rotary

On Memorial Day, Claremont held a moving service at the Oak Park Cemetery for the soldiers who have given their lives for our freedom. It was presented by the City of Claremont, American Legion Keith Powell Post 78 and the Friends of Oak Park Cemetery. The event was very well attended by a broad representation of the community, and included the Mayor of Claremont, Vice Mayor and council members. Scout Troop 402 posted the colors and retired them at the end, and the Claremont High School Concert Band played the National Anthem. Bob Conacher played two pieces on the bagpipes.

Many community organizations made a floral tribute and walked down the aisle to place flowers on the makeshift stage built among the wonderful old Oak Trees for which the cemetery is known. I had the honor of placing the Rotary Club of Claremont's arrangement, made by the California Botanic Garden, on the stage. The morning was a beautiful recognition of our fallen soldiers.



Duarte Women in Rotary---People of Action!

By Lydia Carswell

This article was featured in the May-June 2025 Duarte Chamber of Commerce newsletter, The View. It has been revised slightly here.

In Mid-March, two of our Duarte Rotary members were notified by Senator Susan Rubio's office that they were being recognized as the Senator's Women of the Year. Nine women were recognized from throughout Senatorial District 22 in the following categories: Legacy, Woman of the Year, Education, Community, Military, Business, Volunteer, Non-Profit, and Arts and Culture.

Our two recipients were **Margaret Finlay**, recognized in the area of **Legacy Woman of the Year** and **Lydia Carswell**, **Volunteer Woman of the Year**. Big congratulations to both of these women for living the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self." (Their contributions are included as you "read more", below.)

[Read More](#)



Green Valley Supports Your Perfect Footwear Foundation at Annual Festival

By Val K. Hatley, President

On May 10, 2025, several members of the Rotary Club of Green Valley assisted with registration at the Your Perfect Footwear Foundation festival at the Desert Breeze Soccer Complex in Las Vegas. The Foundation is a nonprofit that celebrates the achievements of underserved youth by providing them with brand new sneakers. Founded by Janea Sizemore, the organization was inspired by her own journey of resilience, ambition and a deep commitment to empowering others. With a focus on positive reinforcement, education, and mentorship, the foundation helps students overcome barriers to achievement and build the confidence needed to thrive in school and beyond.

"Thank you so much for volunteering and being a part of our festival! Your club's presence and energy added so much value to the day, and I'm truly grateful for your support. Coordinating an event of this scale takes a village, and having dedicated partners like you made all the difference. I'm looking forward to more opportunities to collaborate and make an even greater impact together!" Janea Sizemore, Founder and Executive Director, Your Perfect Footwear Foundation.



LV After Hours: 35 Hours, 1,000+ Lives, Infinite Impact

By Linda Bertuzzi

Our members are all about making life better for kids and families—and in just two weeks, we made a difference for over 1,000 lives! We began by teaming up with *Summerlin Rotary* and *The Just One Project* to hand out food to more than 250 families at their monthly pop-up. Just One does amazing work getting food and support to those who need it most.

Next up, we joined forces with *Baby's Bounty* to help distribute diapers to 669 babies. This simple gesture can be a game changer—no diapers means no daycare, and no daycare means no work. It's one of our favorite hands-on events, and we love connecting with the families.

We also kept up our tradition at *Robert Lunt Elementary*, where President Cat Brame read *Clifford Goes to Kindergarten* to the Pre-K kids on the last day of school. Silly voices, giggles, and sweet hugs made our day! Our meeting speakers pay it forward by signing a book throughout the year, and each child receives one of the signed books to keep.

Finally, our members joined *Summerlin Rotary* Friday morning before Memorial Day to help place 7,000 US Flags in Police Memorial Park to prepare a "walk of honor" for our fallen service members. It was another opportunity to support our local families as we prepared a special place for them to honor their loved ones.



Mesquite Opens New Location and Hosts Youth StoryWalk® to Promote Literacy

By Chantile McAllister, Mesquite Public Relations Chair

The Rotary Club of Mesquite is proud to announce the grand opening of its new permanent meeting space! This marks an exciting new chapter for the club, providing a consistent venue for meetings and a central hub to organize community service efforts.

A key feature of the new space is the setup of a used book library to support Rotary's weekly book sales. Proceeds from these sales are reinvested into local programs and initiatives that benefit the Mesquite community. With improved space and organization, the club is now able to expand this program and enhance its outreach and fundraising capacity. The grand opening was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, hosted in partnership with the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce.

In April, the club also hosted a special **Youth StoryWalk®** event in collaboration with local partners. The featured book, *Snow in the Jungle*, provided a bilingual reading experience in English and Spanish. Pages from the story were displayed along a short, accessible trail from the Mesquite Recreation Center to the Community Park behind the Mesquite Library Learning Center, encouraging families to read together outdoors.

The event featured park Storytime sessions, interactive crafts, and free book giveaways, creating a fun and meaningful experience for elementary-aged children and their families.

With a dedicated meeting space and continued community engagement, the Rotary Club of Mesquite remains focused on promoting literacy, education, and lasting positive impact throughout the community.

Nevada Rotary Clubs Unite to Support Odyssey Charter School After Devastating Fires

By Karen Whisenhunt, PP LV Rotary

Long after the media left, Rotarians did not abandon victims of the California Fires. Thanks to a \$20,000 multi-club and district grant administered by the Las Vegas Rotary Club with tremendous support from the Green Valley, Southwest, and Mesquite Rotary Clubs, Rotarians from the Las Vegas Rotary Club recently completed a heartfelt road trip to Pasadena and Altadena, California. Our mission: to deliver take home books and essential supplies to Odyssey Charter School, which suffered the loss of one campus and significant damage to another during the January wildfires.

Nearly 40% of the school's students lost their homes or were displaced due to fire and smoke damage. Several teachers and administrators were also personally affected. Children from Pre-K to grade three are currently attending school in temporary classrooms set up at the Boys and Girls Club in Pasadena. Despite the overwhelming challenges, the school's staff continue to provide a safe, nurturing learning environment.

Rotarians distributed take-home books to 200 children, offering both comfort and a sense of normalcy. One particularly moving moment came when a little girl asked, "Can I have this book? I used to have this book, but it burned down with our house. Now I'll have it again." It's a moment embedded in my heart and mind.

forever.

While the visit highlighted the devastation, it also shined a light on the quiet unsung heroes, teachers and administrators, who are working tirelessly to rebuild not just classrooms, but hope. Their resilience, compassion and love for the children is deeply moving.

Through Rotary's collective efforts, a spark of joy and healing was delivered to a community still recovering, one book, one child, one act of kindness at a time. Although we supplied over \$20,000 in books and supplies, Rotarians got more back than we gave, a truly memorable day.



Rancho Cucamonga concluding a tremendous year on the way to 55!

By Diane O'Neal, Rancho Cucamonga Secretary & Foundation Chair

As the Rotary Club of Rancho Cucamonga inches toward the conclusion to FY 2024-2025, the entire Membership celebrates another tremendous Rotary Year! Our "Signature" events included our very successful Track Meet; our dynamic Girls Empowerment event; the outstanding Club's Winter Wonderland Christmas program; and our joyous "Happy Feet" event! The Club would like to congratulate our Rotary President Rick Gomez who has dedicated the past six years as our outstanding Rotary President! Rick is very excited to pass the reins of our Club Presidency to Aaron Johnson who will continue as another premier President of our Rotary Club that will soon celebrate its 55th Year commemorating Service Above Self.