ROTARY CLUB OF KANKABATO - TACLOBAN

VOL. 21 SEPTEMBER EDITION

BALYUAN

E-BULLETIN ISSUE #05





ROTARY CALENDAR

BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY MONTH

Reading open doors. A healthy planet keeps them open.

Lighting the way through literacy

The Reading Cove is our club's proposed literacy project by IPP Al Anthony Casal, a welcoming space where young readers discover the joy of books. This September, we celebrate every child who turns a page and every volunteer who helps open the doors of learning.

Our promise to the environment

Our tree growing activity in Burauen, Leyte is how we turn our promise into action. Every seedling we plant helps restore green spaces and leaves a healthier home for the next generation.

IN THIS ISSUE

- The Reading Cove: Where Every Child Finds a Story
- Growing Hope: Tree Planting in Burauen, Leyte

Kankabato-Tacloban Rotary Club

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

VISION

A united Rotary Club of Kankabato creating lasting impact by empowering communities, inspiring service, and building a better future for all.

MISSION

The Rotary Club of Kankabato is committed to uniting people of action to serve with integrity, strengthen fellowship, support sustainable community projects, develop leaders, and advance Rotary's ideals of "Service Above Self" while creating lasting impact in every community we serve

Kankabato-Tacloban Rotary Club

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CLUB HISTORY

Kankabato is derived from the name of Cankabato Bay, a notable bay located in Tacloban, Philippines. The bay has historically served as an essential hub for trade and transportation in the region. Indigenous peoples originally named the area, and it was later adapted by Spanish colonizers. The bay and its surroundings played a crucial role in the cultural and economic development of Tacloban. Over time, the name evolved into Kankabato, reflecting its deep historical and geographical significance.

The Rotary Club of Kankabato-Tacloban was chartered in the year 2011. Rotarian Antolin Ofonda was elected and served as the Charter President. From 25 pioneering members, the RC Kankabato has now 19 active members, with the current Impact-Building President, Rtn. Albert P. Esperas, for the Rotary Year 2026-27 as the 15th president of the organization. This organization is composed of established professionals and businessmen with diverse characters and background who came together and believed in one goal which is to make a difference. This international organization is a non-profit and non-partisan union. Members of this club are called as rotarians. Also, they sponsor young rotarians called as Rotaractors. These inspiring rotarians believe in the inherent goodness of other people as it results to the ripple effect of kindness in the community. When we show kindness to other people, it creates a chain of reaction which causes kindness to find its way back to us.

Every Rotary Club like the RC of Kankabato-Tacloban is grounded with guiding principles which are Object of Rotary, 4-Way Test and Avenues of Service. These principles have been developed to serve as the bible for every Rotarian as they venture themselves in humanitarian acts of kindness as well as making themselves for another time a servant-leader who aims to uplift the status of the community they belong to. Rotarians of this organization initiate transformational projects not only in the region and national level but also in the international stage.

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Since 2011, the RC Kankabato-Tacloban engages in several projects that are timely and relevant to the needs, issues and concerns of the society. They have conducted several projects such as distribution of school supplies and hygiene kits, bloodletting activities, raising awareness and funding to end Polio and Breast Cancer, and Mangrove and tree-planting activity. This organization also did an adopt-a-school campaign to donate facilities such as handwashing facility, books for their library and repair some old school buildings in Guindapunan Elementary School, Pawing Elementary School Baras Elementary School and Alangalang National High School and JARMS Elementary School. Moreover, donation drives and feeding programs were also conducted to send help to those victims of natural and man-made calamities such as typhoons, earthquakes, landslides, and fires. During pandemic, still the club lends a hand and do an extra mile just to be of help to the community. They have donated essential medical supplies such as medical facemasks, alcohols, vitamins and PPEs to the hospitals in the city and province. These programs may be less extravagant but it is, for the meantime necessary and beneficial.

Because of the successes of their projects, the RC of Kankabato-Tacloban is recognized not only in the local community but also in the national level. They bagged local, district awards and nominations for their community involvement. These sets of awards serve as an inspiration for them to continue to work side by side to execute action and impact through fellowship and service. As long as we are living and part of the continuous cosmic evolution, let us not forget to lend little drops of love to the less privileged. A little act of kindness, charity and generosity creates a magical effect on the heart of a person; hence, we call it as the true evidence of authentic and genuine love. The Rotary Club of Kankabato-Tacloban, as long as it breathes, will continue to shower rays of love to all people around the
globe.

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OLAYINKA H. BABALOLA
President
Rotary International



ARLENE J. ADLAWAN
District Governor
Rotary International District 3860



ERWIN VINCENT ALCALA
Assistant Governor, Area 3B
Rotary International District 3860

IMPACT-BUILDING CLUB OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS RY 2026-27



ALBERT P. ESPERAS, PHF
Club President



MAR ANGELO S. LIM
Club Vice-President



JERICO M. CAHAYAG, PHF
Club Executive Secretary



PP ANIL R. KUMAR, PHF+3
Club Executive Director



ELIAS AYA-AY JR., PHF+3,PPS
Club Executive Director Asst.



PP ANALIZA F. YU, PHS, PPS
Club Treasurer



JO VANILLE C. MERILO
Club Auditor

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PP BRIAN RAY ALVERO, MD1
Club Foundation Chair



IPP AL ANTHONY CASAL, PHF=1, PPS
Club Learning Facilitator



PP ALLAN BARGAMENTO, PHF+4
Club Membership Chair



PHAETOB BERT CARILLO
Club Public Image Chair



PAG ALVIN ALIMANGOHAN, PHS, PPS
Club Service Projects Chair



VERNON JOLBITADO, PHF
Club Young Leaders Contact



PP RODOLFO PADILLO, PHF
DRRM Chair



DINO LEONARD ROMERO
DEI Chair



PDS WALTER DIU, MD1
International Service Director



PAG RALPH L. MARTEL, PHS
Professional Servcie Director



JANICE T. EVITE
Vocational Service Director



LIMMUEL GOLONG
Fellowship Chair

Kankabato-Tacloban Rotary Club

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COUNCIL OF PAST PRESIDENTS



ANTOLIN OFONDA
RY 2011 - 2012
RY 2012 - 2013



HENRY WEECHEE
RY 2013 - 2014



ANIL KUMAR
RY 2014 - 2015



GILBERT TUGADO
RY 2015 - 2016



ERLINDA OBAOB
RY 2016 - 2017



RICKY CHUA
RY 2017 - 2018



ANALIZA YU
RY 2018 - 2019



ALVIN ALIMANGOHAN
RY 2019.- 2020



ALLAN BARGAMENTO
RY 2020 - 2021



SIGMUNDO RIO CATINGUB
RY 2021 - 2022



RODOLFO PADILLO
RY 2022 - 2023



RALPH MARTEL
RY 2023 - 2024



BRIAN RAY V. ALVERO
RY 2024 - 2026



AL ANTHONY F. CASAL
RY 2026-2027

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Olayinka H. Babalola
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL LEADER'S MESSAGE

Dear Family of Rotary,

1.25 Million Is More Than a Number

n President Yinka's September 2026 Newsletter, he talks about our goal of 1.25 million Rotarians by 2030 and why it matters to him. He says that behind every one of those numbers is a person whose life could be changed by this organization, just as mine and yours have been changed by it. He added that Rotary has given Yinka friendships that have lasted decades, a sense of purpose he did not know he was searching for, and something that, in time, came to feel like an extension of his family. He suspects many of you understand this in your own lives, in your own way. There are people in your communities right now who would find real meaning here if only someone thought to ask them. He asks us to tell our story honestly how Rotary changed you, not just about the projects you led or the funds you raised but about the person you became along the way. He encourages us to come together, and Create Lasting Impact, the kind that resounds for generations, and we will need more people standing beside us to help carry our work forward. he wants all of us to find your best year. Then let us be better than our best, together.....

Rotary has always been about people. Not projects, Not numbers. People. Our goal of reaching 1.25 million Rotarians and 125,000 Rotaractors by our 125th anniversary in 2030 is also about people.

bring up this goal again not because I expect the number itself to move you. Numbers rarely do. I bring it up because I worry that a goal this large can begin to feel abstract, distant from the everyday work of our clubs. I do not want that to happen. So let us talk,

once more, about what is truly behind it.

want to offer your club a simple exercise. Look back over the last five to seven years and find your best year. Maybe it was a year new members arrived and more meaningfully, stayed. maybe it was a year your meetings became something members looked forward to, rather than another obligation on a crowded calendar. Find that year. Then I ask you to do better than your best.

This is not a call to outpace the club across town or the district next door. It is never meant to be a competition between Rotary members. it is, instead, an invitation to hold ourselves to our own highest standard - and to rise to meet it again.

Why does this 2030 goal membership goal matter enough to me that I keep returning to it? Because behind every one of those numbers is a person whose life could be changed by this organization, just as mine and yours have been changed by it. Rotary has given me friendships that have lasted decades, a sense of purpose I did not know I was searching for, and something that, in time, came to feel like an extension of my family. I suspect many of you understand this in your own lives, in your own way.

That life-changing experience is what we offer when we invite someone to join us. There are people in your communities right now who would find real meaning here if only someone thought to ask them. So tell them your story. Tell them honestly how Rotary changed you, not just about the projects you led or the funds you raised but about the person you became along the way. Those stories have a way of reaching people when little else does.

If we hope to Create Lasting Impact, the kind that resounds for generations, we will need more people standing beside us to help carry our work forward. Let us come together, not only this month but every month of every year, to make Rotary stronger, more joyful, and more like family it has always been to me.

Find your best year. Then let us be better than our best, together.

Kankabato-Tacloban Rotary Club

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Arlene J. Adlawan
DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S LETTERS

Dear Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors and Partners in Service,

Greetings from your District Governor!

September is Basic Education and Literacy Month, a reminder that every child deserves the chance to read, learn and dream. When a child learns to read, a whole family and community gain new opportunities. I thank every club that has opened its doors to young readers through its literacy projects.

This month also calls us to care for the world we share. Our tree growing and other environmental projects remind us that service is about more than meeting today's needs. It also means leaving a greener, healthier home for the next generation.

encourage every club to see its literacy and environmental projects as one mission: to give the next generation both the knowledge to build a good life and a healthy world to live it in. Let us invite our families, our young people and our partners in the community to join us.

Rotary is at its best when we work together with kindness, with generosity and with joy. Let us encourage one another, welcome new members and share our stories, because each story inspires another club to act.

Let us keep serving with joy, working together and welcoming new friends into our Rotary family. Thank you for all that you do.



Albert P. Esperas
PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors, Partners, and Friends of the Rotary Club of Kankabato,

Warm greetings to everyone, and welcome to this September issue of BALYUAN!

This month, Rotary celebrates Basic Education and Literacy Month, and for our club it is a chance to look back with pride on The Reading Cove - a proposed project of IPP Al Anthony. Every child who picks up a book there, and every volunteer who sits down to read with them, shows what our club believes in: that learning to read opens the door to everything else. I thank all of you who have given your time, your effort and your heart to this project. Your service reaches children and families in ways we may never fully see.

We also keep our commitment to the environment. Our tree growing activity in Burauen, Leyte reminds us that service is also about the future. Every seedling we plant is a promise to the next generation, and I hope more of you will join us in the field and bring your families along.

Our two projects share one purpose: to leave our children both the knowledge to build a good life and a healthy world to live it in.

To our members, thank you for your faithful service and friendship. To those who have not yet joined us in our activities, you are always welcome. There is a place for you in our club, and there is always more good to do together.

Let us continue to serve with joy and kindness, and to share our stories.

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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.

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 and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Kankabato-Tacloban Rotary Club

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Jerico M. Cahayag
SECRETARY'S EXCLUSIVE

SEPTEMBER IN REVIEW

A month-by-month look at where our club showed up in September.

September 2 – FIRST REGULAR MEETING

During our 1st General Membership Meeting, members came together for strategic discussions on the Strategic Planning for Rotary Year 2026–2027, including the breakdown of club dues, membership status, upcoming District activities such as the Vibrant Seminar and Tree Planting, and our proposed Club Banner Projects.



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September 5 – VIBRANT SEMINAR (LeySamBi Leg)

In Rotary, we believe that meaningful service begins with people who never stop learning, growing, and inspiring one another. Every insight gained strengthens our capacity to respond to the needs of our communities, while every connection formed builds a stronger and more vibrant network of service.



September 16 - 2ND FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Our 2nd Fellowship Meeting was a meaningful opportunity for Rotarians to reconnect, exchange ideas, celebrate friendship, and strengthen the spirit of camaraderie that keeps our Club moving forward. Through genuine fellowship, we build stronger relationships—and through stronger relationships, we become more united in our commitment to create lasting impact in our communities.

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September 17 & 24 – PROJECT BIRGHT BITES

The Rotary Club of Kankabato brought nourishment and smiles to the learners of Guindapunan Elementary School through two feeding sessions under Project Bright Bites, promoting better nutrition and brighter futures for every child. Sponsored by: PP Sunny and Rtn. Phaeton
Together, we nourish young minds and create lasting impact!



September 19 - AREA 3B & 3C TREE GROWING ACTIVITY 2026

The activity brought Rotarians and Rotaractors together in a shared commitment to protect, restore, and nurture our environment.
Held on September 19, 2026 at Mahagnao Volcano Natural Park, Burauen, Leyte, the activity was spearheaded by the Rotary Satellite Club of San Juanico–Tacloban Heartland and the Rotary Club of San Juanico–Tacloban, under Rotary's Environmental Support Area of Focus. But planting is only the beginning.



Kankabato-Tacloban Rotary Club

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PP Analiza F. Yu

MONEY MATTERS UPDATES

Dear Rotarians of Kankabato,

Warm greetings from your Treasurer!

As we move into the final stretch before CONVERGENCE, I invite every member to be part of our club's giving to The Rotary Foundation.

The Rotary Foundation turns the generosity of Rotarians around the world into real projects that change lives, including programs in basic education and literacy and in protecting the environment. These are the same causes behind The Reading Cove and our tree growing in Burauen, Leyte.

Any amount from a willing heart matters. No gift is too small. Every contribution brings our club closer to being recognized on TRF Night, but more importantly it helps Rotary reach the people who need it most.

How to give

Message the Treasurer directly on Messenger to make your pledge or arrange your gift. Any officer can also assist you.

Where we stand

As of now, no pledges have been received yet. Be the first to help our club reach its goal.

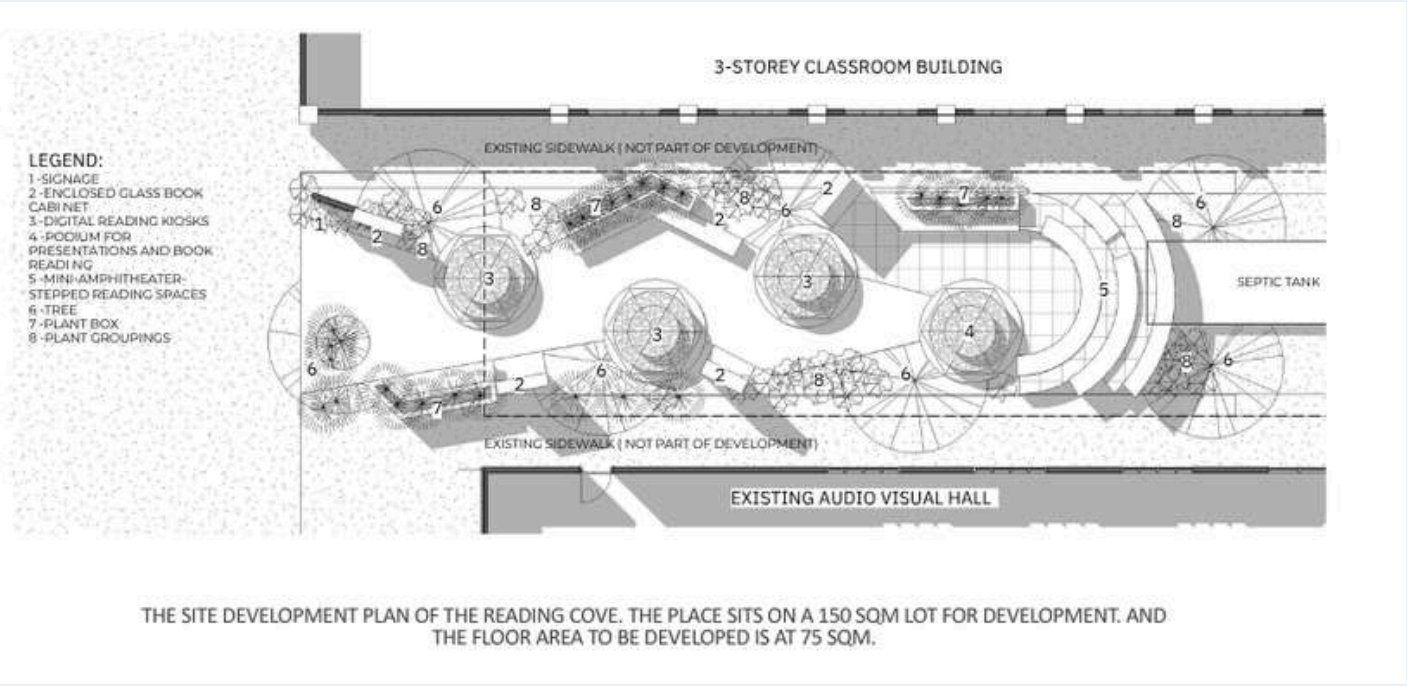
For Rotarians who are not yet PHFs and would like to be recognized, please note that the deadline for the US$500 contribution is October 15, 2026.

Let us finish strong and celebrate together in Davao City.

FEATURED ARTICLE

The Reading Cove: A Place Where Every Child Finds a Story

A proposed literacy project of our club



THE SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF THE READING COVE. THE PLACE SITS ON A 150 SQM LOT FOR DEVELOPMENT. AND THE FLOOR AREA TO BE DEVELOPED IS AT 75 SQM.

Every child deserves a place where books feel close, welcoming and theirs. That is the idea behind The Reading Cove, our club's proposed literacy project and our contribution to Basic Education and Literacy Month.

The idea

"The Reading Cove" is a proposed literacy-focused initiative of Rotary Club of Kankabato-Tacloban, Fukui Ajisai Rotary Club of Japan and United Architects of the Philippines – Metro Tacloban Chapter that aims to establish a dedicated, student-centered reading space at Leyte National High School. Designed to address the growing literacy challenges among learners, this project recognizes that improving reading proficiency requires more than curriculum enhancements—it demands a nurturing and engaging environment where students can develop a genuine love for reading.

Why it matters

Reading is the foundation of all other learning. A child who reads well is better prepared for school and better able to dream of what comes next. By bringing books and reading time closer to children, we hope to build confidence and a lasting habit of reading.

What we are planning

Open reading hours, Reading Buddies, storytelling and book drives, with targets of 500 books, 10 trained teachers and 2 reading activities a month.

How can you help

Donate new or gently used children's books, volunteer as a reading buddy, or share your ideas. To take part, contact our facebook page (Rotary Club of Kankabato) at rotaryclubofkankabatotacloban@gmail.com



THE READING COVE MAIN ENTRANCE IS GREETED WITH A SIGNAGE AND BESIDE IT IS IMMEDIATELY AN OUTDOOR BOOK CABINET WITH GLASS DOORS. THE SPACE IS MEANT TO BE A CONDUCIVE SPACE FOR READING.

THE READING COVE



THE ELEVATED READING PARK AND ITS INVITING AMBIANCE ARE DESIGNED TO ATTRACT MORE READERS AND HELP NORMALIZE READING AS AN ENJOYABLE AND MEANINGFUL DAILY HABIT. AT ITS CORE, THE PROJECT RESPONDS TO A PRESSING NATIONAL CONCERN, AS LITERACY AND READING COMPREHENSION CONTINUE TO BE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES IN THE COUNTRY. THE READING COVE IS ENVISIONED NOT ONLY AS A LEARNING SPACE, BUT ALSO AS A PLACE OF COMFORT, INSPIRATION, AND LASTING MEMORY FOR THE CHILDREN IT SERVES.

THE READING COVE



THE READING COVE WILL HAVE AN OUTDOOR PARK-LIKE AMBIANCE WITH STUDY AND READING AREAS. IT INCORPORATES GREENERIES TO IMPROVE THE COMFORT LEVELS OUTDOOR USING PASSIVE COOLING TECHNIQUES.

THE READING COVE



IT WILL ALSO HAVE A MINI AMPHITHEATRE AS SUGGESTED BY THE OUTDOOR STEPPED SEATING, TO EXPAND CREATIVITY AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING WHILE DOUBLING AS A SPACE FOR PRESENTATIONS, BOOK READING, AND ALTERNATIVE LEARNING DISCUSSIONS.

THE READING COVE

FEATURED ARTICLE

From Planting Today to Protecting Tomorrow

Area 3B & 3C Tree Growing Activity 2026



On September 19, 2026, Rotarians and Rotaractors gathered at Mahagnao Volcano Natural Park in Burauen, Leyte, with a shared purpose: to protect, restore, and nurture our environment.

The Area 3B & 3C Tree Growing Activity 2026 was spearheaded by the Rotary Satellite Club of San Juanico–Tacloban Heartland and the Rotary Club of San Juanico–Tacloban, under Rotary's Environmental Support Area of Focus. Together, members from both clubs and their young partners in Rotaract turned a day of service into a living commitment to the land.

But planting is only the beginning.



Count every seed.

Every seedling represents a measurable contribution to our environment. By knowing exactly how many trees we plant, we turn participation into tangible impact: data that can be measured, shared, and built upon.

Commit to the follow-up.

A tree-growing activity does not end when the last seedling is planted. Its true impact is seen in the months and years that follow. Through regular monitoring and nurturing, we give every planted tree a better chance to survive and thrive.

From planting today to protecting tomorrow, Area 3B & 3C continues to show that meaningful environmental service is not measured only by what we start, but by what we sustain.

Together, let us transform every seed into a story of growth, every tree into a legacy, and every environmental action into lasting impact.



Collective Action, Lasting Impact

What made this activity special was the spirit behind it. Six Rotary clubs, a satellite club, and our Rotaract partners came together as one Area, proving that when we combine our energy, we can do more than any one club could do alone. Environmental service is a long game, and it is best played as a team.



Our Rotaractors deserve special recognition. Their presence on the mountain is a reminder that the work of caring for the environment is passed from one generation of service leaders to the next.

The Road Ahead

From planting today to protecting tomorrow, Area 3B & 3C continues to demonstrate that meaningful environmental service is not measured only by what we start, but by what we sustain. We invite every Rotarian and Rotaractor to remain part of the journey by joining the monitoring and follow-up activities, by sharing what we have learned, and by carrying the same spirit of care into your own clubs and communities.

Together, let us transform every seed into a story of growth, every tree into a legacy, and every environmental action into lasting impact.

Plant with purpose. Measure the impact. Nurture the future.

Kankabato-Tacloban Rotary Club

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MEMBER'S REGISTRY



Name: ALIMANGOHAN, ALVIN M.
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Email: aalimangohan@yahoo.com
Classification: Construction-Residential



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Classification: Construction



Name: AYA-AY JR., ELIAS
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Classification: Retired Personnel



Name: BARGAMENTO, ALLAN L.
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Name: CAHAYAG, JERICO M.
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Name: ESPERAS, ALBERT P.
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Name: EVITE, JANICE T.
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Name: ROMERO, DINO LEONARD C.
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Kankabato-Tacloban Rotary Club

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The Rotary Foundation

Major Donors



BRIAN RAY V. ALVERO, MD1, PPS



WALTER A. DIU, MD1

Paul Harris Society



ALVIN M. ALIMANGOHAN, PHS, PPS



ANALIZA F. YU, PHS, PPS



RALPH L. MARTEL, PHS

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Paul Harris Fellow



ALLAN L. BARGAMENTO, PHF+4



ANIL R. KUMAR, PHF+3



ELIAS F. AYA-AY JR., PHF+3, PPS



AL ANTHONY F. CASAL, PHF+1, PPS



JERICO M. CAHAYAG, PHF



ALBERT P. ESPERAS, PHF



RODOLFO M. PADILLO, PHF



VERNON I. JOLBITADO, PHF

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY



IPP Al Anthony
September 5



VP Mar Angelo
September 7



PP Brian Ray
September 27





Kankabato-Tacloban Rotary Club

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NOTES

Kankabato-Tacloban Rotary Club

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NOTES



BALYUAN:
A Name Rooted in History, Fellowship, and Service

Balyuan is a historic site and cultural symbol in Tacloban City, Leyte, associated with the traditional Balyuan Rites—a commemorative reenactment of the historic exchange between the image of the Santo Niño of Basey and the image of the Nuestra Señora de la Asunción of Tolosa. The tradition recalls the longstanding cultural and religious connections between communities across the San Juanico Strait and has become an important part of Leyte's heritage.

The Rotary Club of Kankabato-Tacloban chose "Balyuan" as the official name of its club bulletin because the word embodies the spirit of coming together, exchange, and unity. Just as the Balyuan tradition brings communities together across the waters, the club seeks to bring Rotarians, partners, and communities together through fellowship and service.

More than a name, Balyuan represents the club's identity: rooted in local heritage, strengthened by fellowship, and united for service. It reminds every Kankabato Rotarian that meaningful impact begins when people come together with a shared purpose.

BALYUAN — Where heritage meets fellowship, and fellowship becomes service.

Kankabato-Tacloban Rotary Club

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