

*Elena Agala*



## Helping Others Around the World

**T**he Rotary Club is an International Organization whose volunteers are neighbours, community leaders, and global citizens uniting for the community good.

The members share a passion for both community service and friendship. Their focus includes medical and dental missions and work to eradicate polio. No part of any donation goes to administration fees. The Rotary Volunteers pay their own transportation, lodging, and expenses.

Rotary World Help (RWH) is a nonprofit registered charitable organization that coordinates the shipment of educational, humanitarian, dental, and medical supplies, computers, and sports equipment to countries in need.

The RWH mission is to help communities help themselves. We are a nonreligious, nonpolitical charity run by Rotary Clubs from British Columbia, Canada. As of December 2015, since 1977 we have shipped 339 containers with an estimated value of goods worth \$115.5 million to 59 developing countries around the world. The estimated number of people helped is 10,170,000.

**Our mission is to help communities help themselves.**

On May 26, 2016, Premier Christy Clark witnessed the signing of the agreement between Rotary World Help and the recipient Rotary Club of Manila Metro during the opening of the new British Columbia Trade Office in Manila.

During Typhoon Yolanda, most of the buildings in Tacloban City, Leyte,



*Mercedes Wong*

Philippines, were destroyed. Mercedes Wong and Builders Without Borders – Canada initiated the re-construction of the Bulante Elementary School Stage and Relocation Centre

located on the hectare of land donated 60 years ago by Mercedes' father, Rotarian Daniel S. Bulante. Leyte is Mercedes' hometown.

In case of another disaster, the stage can be used as an emergency shelter. The Rotary Club of Kankabatu, Builders Without Borders Vancouver, Rotary Club of Vancouver Fraserview, and Richmond Sunrise fundraised \$15,000 to rebuild the stage. It will be completed by the end July 2016.



*Elena Agala signing Memorandum of understanding, witnessed by Premier Christy Clark, Manila, Philippines*



*Reconstruction of stage*

While in Tacloban, we inspected Rotary World Help donations of hospital equipment and the two water-well projects sponsored by Rotary Club of Richmond Sunrise.



*1 of 2 donated fire trucks with Mercedes, Elena, Eva, and the Panglao fire chief*

After 3 days, we flew to Panglao, Bohol, to see the donation of two wonderful fire trucks from Fire Fighters Without Borders, in partnership with Rotary World Help and Rotary Club of Langley who sponsored the shipping cost of the fire trucks from Vancouver to Manila.

Our last stop was a visit to meet the Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines Neil Reeder. I briefed the Ambassador about the signing of the agreement with Rotary World Help and Rotary Club of Manila Metro, witnessed by Premier Christy Clark.



*Elena Agala, Past Director, Rotary World; Mercedes Wong, Immediate Past President, Rotary Club of Vancouver Fraserview; Irene Reeder, wife of the Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines; Josie Ang, Past Governor, Rotary Club 3810. Seated, Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines Neil Reeder*

We Canadians and members of Rotary World Help are proud to help the less fortunate people in the Philippines. ▲

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