

April 1, 2026

The Honorable Mayor González III and City Council  
City of San Leandro  
835 E. 14th Street  
San Leandro, CA 94577

**Subject: Commitment of Funds for the Marina Park Fitness Court and Rotary Centennial Monument**

Dear Mayor González and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of the Rotary Club of San Leandro, I am writing to formally confirm our club's enthusiastic partnership with the City of San Leandro on the Marina Park Fitness Court project. Founded in December 1926, the Rotary Club of San Leandro will celebrate its 100th anniversary of service to our community this year. From community beautification projects and clean-ups to providing scholarship support to youth in the community, our club is proud to continue our legacy of impactful local contributions. We're including a summary of our history with this letter.

In that spirit, the Rotary Club of San Leandro is pleased to make a **\$100,000 donation** to the Marina Park Fitness Court Project and the Rotary Club of San Leandro's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary monument.

These funds are designated to support two key elements of this community project: the new **Marina Park Fitness Court** and the installation of a monument with a plaque commemorating the **Rotary Club of San Leandro's 100th Anniversary**. We also look forward to offering input on the project mural, which will be a lovely complement to the monument. (Find attached design ideas for the monument.) We believe this project will greatly enhance the park, promote community health and wellness, and serve as a lasting symbol of our shared dedication to the city.

We understand this letter will be included in the staff reports for an upcoming City Council meeting to formalize our commitment. We would like to attend the City Council meeting to present our donation check. We look forward to our continued collaboration as we move toward the ribbon-cutting in September and our centennial celebrations.

Thank you for your partnership in bringing this wonderful project to life for the residents of San Leandro.

Sincerely,



**Jinnhua Su**  
President, Rotary Club of San Leandro

cc: City Manager, Park & Recreation Director

Attachments: San Leandro Rotary History, Monument Concepts

## San Leandro Rotary 1926-2026

From winning snake races with Rotary Racer at the San Francisco St. Patrick's Day parade to providing essential polio vaccines, building schools worldwide, saving lives in Guatemala, and developing young leaders locally, the Rotary Club of San Leandro has done it all.

Founded in December 1926, the Rotary Club of San Leandro will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2026! Our Rotary friends in Oakland recognized the need for a San Leandro club and supported our charter in 1926. While many things have changed over the years, some remain constant: our dedication to the community, its residents, youth, our members, and our global influence.

### Highlights of our success over the past 100 years:

- **Youth Development:** Nearly 100 years of supporting young people in our community, starting with sponsoring local Boy Scout troops in our early days, expanding to Girl Scout troops, and more recently, continuing support for Interactors in three schools. From our early days, we also committed to the San Leandro Boys Club, now known as the Boys and Girls Club of San Leandro. To this day, our members serve on their Board of Directors, we hold meetings at their facilities, and support their fundraising efforts. Many area Interact youth benefit from their innovative teen programs and activities as well. Our focus has been on nurturing future leaders, providing vital scholarship support to help achieve educational goals, exposing young people to diversity and global exchange, and having fun with a purpose. Our club has taken youth on snow trips for over 15 years, introducing them to new environments and helping them forge new friendships. We have sponsored and attended Interact Fall Leadership conferences, sent youth to RYLA since it began, and more. Members and youth learn from one another through these opportunities.
- **Local and International Community Projects:** As early as 1944, our club has had a profound impact on our local community. In 1944, we donated land and a building to the San Leandro Boys Club, enabling more young community residents to participate in its programs over the years. We also got our hands dirty by renovating multiple community parks and, more recently, by participating in community planting and clean-up projects. But we didn't stop at local work. We've built schools in Mexico and Honduras, and brought clean drinking water systems to those without access. Many members have traveled around the world for service projects, including wheelchair distributions in Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico, as well as polio vaccine initiatives in Africa.

- **Faces of Hope:** For twenty years, the Rotary Club of San Leandro has helped bring smiles to more than 1,250 children in Antigua, Guatemala. The Faces of Hope Project provides life-changing surgeries to Guatemalan children born with cleft lips and/or palates. Children born with a cleft can face many serious challenges, such as difficulty feeding, poor growth and overall development, dental issues, frequent ear infections, hearing loss, and speech problems. Indigenous communities in rural Guatemala have a relatively high rate of cleft lip compared to the global average.
- **Community Programming:** Who doesn't love casting a line and catching a big fish? For over 20 years, starting in 1992, our club, in partnership with Let's Go Fishing, provided more than 200 members of the special needs community, including adults and children, with the opportunity to participate in fishing activities each year. They also enjoyed games, a boat ride, and a delicious BBQ lunch. This program was so successful that it even became an Area project. Another popular initiative was our Dictionary project. Beginning in 2005, every third grader in San Leandro received a free dictionary from our club. The program lasted approximately 10 years.
- **San Leandro Rotary Endowment and Grantmaking:** In 1982, we officially launched our Endowment Fund. Starting at \$0, the San Leandro Rotary Endowment Fund has now grown to nearly \$700K. Earnings are used each year to fund local non-profit organizations that serve San Leandro and its surrounding areas. Thanks to ongoing support from our Endowment, we have awarded thousands of dollars (currently \$ 25,000-\$30,000 annually) over the years and will continue to provide this support in the future. Some partnerships truly stand out, such as the one with the Davis Street Family Resource Center. Not only did we fund the development of a Rotacare Clinic in the 1990s, but we have also expanded to include a Rotadent dental clinic, and we have provided regular program grants. Many members volunteer each year, distributing food, toys, and holiday cheer to those in need.
- **Educate 2 Envision:** This program was designed to address the numerous challenges faced by rural youth in Honduras who wish to continue their education beyond the 6th grade. For these young people, growing up in a remote rural community meant that the nearest secondary school was, on average, 4 hours away on foot, with transportation costs beyond their families' means. This project supports rural youth leaders by providing them with the tools they need to combat poverty through education, community service, and entrepreneurship.
- **Global Exchange:** Our club, over a 20+ year period, hosted multiple Group Study Exchange (GSE) teams from countries such as China, Finland, Austria, Hungary, India, Japan, and more. This program offered a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for business and young professionals to experience our

country's culture and institutions, observe how their professions are practiced abroad, build personal and professional relationships, and exchange ideas. Additionally, through our partnership with the Center for Citizens Initiative, we hosted over 100 Russian professionals over an 11-year span. They received intensive training in their fields and experienced the beauty of the Bay Area during their stay. Finally, in line with our dedication towards youth, we hosted many youth exchange students throughout our history, and several of our members have had the chance to travel abroad.

What does the future hold for the Rotary Club of San Leandro? In short, it will be the same as what we've seen over the past 100 years. Like many clubs, we are working to recruit new members, stay relevant, grow our endowment and financial stability, and continue meaningful projects both locally and internationally. We will continue to prioritize youth, fostering their leadership skills, and supporting them in making the world a better place for everyone.

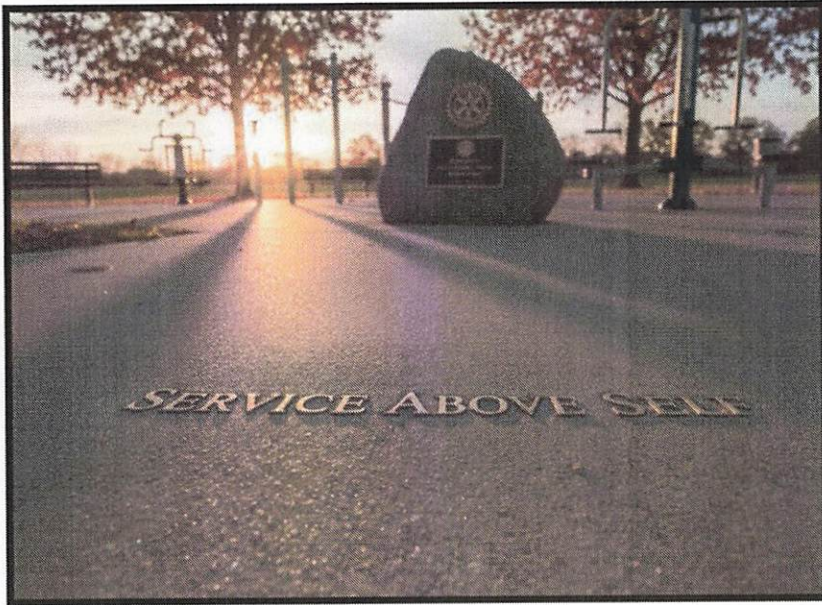
### Detailed timeline of events:

- In 1928, we sponsored our first Boy Scout troop and continued this effort through 1976. From this early date, we recognized the importance of providing leadership opportunities, programming, and academic support to our youngest community members. Other youth efforts included father/son dances at San Leandro High School, speech contests, establishing milk funds at several schools – essential during the depression years – and annual holiday parties and toy drives.
- Starting during World War II (1939-), our club established a 'War Relief Program,' helping support families during these trying times. After the war, our membership increased significantly, allowing us to expand programming and efforts throughout San Leandro.
- In 1944, we donated land and a building to the San Leandro Boys Club and continue to support the San Leandro Boys and Girls Club to this day.
- In 1950, we increased youth programming to include Girl Scout Troops. The 1950s also represented a decade in which we began implementing more successful fundraisers, allowing us to grant larger amounts to local community non-profit organizations. Another key effort was community development and beautification. Our members helped build and rehabilitate many neighborhood parks and buildings. This remains true to the present day, with recent projects including park clean-ups, downtown planting, and the installation of watersaving planters and irrigation systems.
- The late 1950s also marked the start of our scholarship program for students at San Leandro High School, a tradition that continues to this day.
- The late 1950s also marked a decade when we began participating in more International Rotary projects, one of the first of which was support for the Hungarian refugee Project. Our members began traveling for international projects in the 1960s, with projects in Italy, Colombia (involving the donation of medical equipment), and the Philippines (where they donated books to schoolchildren). Today, we remain committed to providing global service and support programs in Guatemala and Honduras on an annual basis.
- In 1975, true to the spirit of Rotary fellowship, our club helped our President by building an accessible bathroom in a home for his younger brother, who was injured in a tragic accident and left wheelchair-bound. Mike was our youngestever president, assuming this crucial role at age 36. We had members with the necessary skills (architect, contractor, lumber business, etc.) to complete this project, ensuring a successful outcome.
- In 1979, we began establishing an Endowment fund for a club, which was officially launched in 1982. Starting at \$0, the San Leandro Rotary Endowment Fund has now grown to nearly \$650K. Earnings are used each year to grant funds to local non-profit organizations. This year also marked the beginning of

our commitment to the Exchange Student programs. From that point on, we hosted students and adult Rotarians from many countries, most notably China, Japan, and Russia. Not only have we welcomed people to California, but many members have traveled around the world, hosted by fellow Rotarians.

- 1979 - while perhaps not your typical milestone, it seems appropriate to mention our Rotary Racer experience. For the 1<sup>st</sup> time, our club entered a snake into the annual San Francisco St. Patrick's Day snake race. Rotary Racer, a 40" Black Racer snake, not only represented us proudly, but won 1<sup>st</sup> prize and a \$1,000 check for our club. Success was so great that Rotary Racer participated in a 2<sup>nd</sup> race that same year in Tahoe. Competing against 80 other snakes, Rotary Racer brought the title home again!
- In 1982, we sponsored youth Interact students at RYLA, the Rotary Youth Leadership Award, and continue to support this initiative each year.
- In 1983, we began construction on a school in Zihuatanejo, Mexico, and completed the project in 1986. Members travelled to Mexico for the school dedication in 1986.
- During the 1988-89 Rotary year, we welcomed our first female member to the club. Since then, many other women have joined, and our club is currently approximately 55% women.
- 1995 marked the completion of the San Leandro 'RotaCare' Clinic. Today, RotaCare Bay Area is a volunteer alliance of medical professionals, organizations, and community members dedicated to providing free primary, quality healthcare services to uninsured families and individuals with limited ability to pay for medical care.
- In 2000-2001, we launched our first Rotary Club of San Leandro website, marking the introduction to the new world of technology. We also celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- In 2001-2002, our club had its first female president.
- In 2005, we expanded our 'Rotacare' Clinic by opening 'Rotadent,' a free dental clinic located at the Davis Street Family Resource Center.
- In 2005, we began supporting Faces of Hope, a project in Antigua, Guatemala, that provides surgeries for babies born with cleft lip or palate. We have continued to support this project annually, helping more than 1,250 patients so far. Each year, members of our club participate in the project, which offers a truly life-changing experience.
- In 2010, Katherine McPhee, runner-up in 'American Idol' Season 5 and now a well-known singer/actress, joined us to honor her grandfather, a long-standing member of our club who was in failing health.
- In 2011, our relationship with Educate 2 Envision in Honduras began. This project is empowering rural youth in Honduras to lead, learn, and transform their communities. We have continued to provide annual funding for this programming.

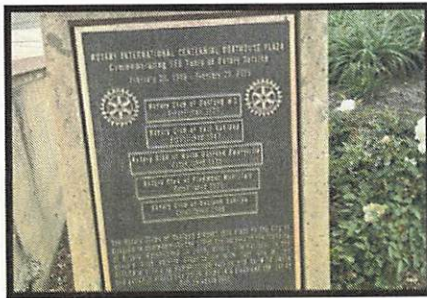
- 2016-2017 marked our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the centennial of the Rotary Foundation, providing many reasons to celebrate! The year featured a wheelchair distribution in Honduras, ongoing support for Faces of Hope and Educate 2 Envision, a playground rebuild at a local park, multiple grant awards, and local service projects, as well as numerous social gatherings for Rotary fellowship.
- 2020, the year of the pandemic! The words for this year were 'adapt, overcome, or pivot.' We all had to learn how to use Zoom, which came with many obstacles and laughter, including one time when we got Zoom-bombed by some very uninvited guests. We also established a COVID fund through our Endowment to support local organizations that were working hard to help our community during these unprecedented times.
- 2025-2026; we're entering into our 100<sup>th</sup> year, with many more adventures and impact to come!



San Leandro Marina Concept (AI Rendering)



Brass Lettering Inlay at Lake Merritt



Brass Plaque at Lake Merritt Boathouse



Brass Lettering Inlay at Lake Merritt Boathouse



3'-4' Height Boulder & Plaque at Berkeley Shoreline Park

Rotary Club of San Leandro  
 Vision Board - April 2026