



Chris Jones, a member of ATU Local 113, is the recipient of The Rotary Foundation's Paul Harris Fellow Award 2020. The Rotary organization is dedicated to building international relationships, improving lives, and creating a better world by promoting peace; fighting diseases, like polio; providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene; saving mothers and children; supporting education and growing local economies.

Philippines to provide secure housing for people impacted by leprosy. Many of them, although recovered after treatment, were severely deformed by the disease.

Chris has been active in several PCCF relief efforts, including the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan, which devastated Tacloban, Philippines – leaving over 6,000 dead and many missing. Working alongside Samaritan's Purse, an organization with boots on the ground, he helped prepare disaster relief supplies to be airlifted for distribution. He helps PCCF raise funds for their various initiatives by organizing beauty pageants and children's activities at their annual Pinoy Fiesta and Trade Show.



For the Herbie Fund at Sick Kids Hospital, Chris helped retrofit a 40-foot trailer, with four dental chairs and two surgery stations, used in their global outreach program in the Dominican Republic, through Operation Smile. Volunteer medical staff perform cleft and palate reconstructive surgeries for their young patients, helping transform their lives and their families.

At ATU 113, we know Chris for his volunteerism, activism and dynamic personality. In speaking with Chris, we discovered his efforts in humanitarian programs span over 30 years, beginning in the 1990's, with the Pentecostal Church's missions for the poor. Chris said he is most influenced in the decisions he makes everyday by the advice he received from the late Canadian Senator, Tobias Enverga, "A plan without action is a dead plan."

Volunteerism & Humanitarian Efforts

Chris volunteers with the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation, Toronto. Through PCCF's support to ANCOPI International (Answering the Cry Of the Poor,) he helped build row town houses in rural

Chris has always found allies who are willing to help those in need. With support from local Toronto businesses, like JDL Performing Arts and Dependable Door to Door Shipping, a mainframe server and 12 computers were refurbished, shipped and donated to a rural school in San Fernando, Philippines. Chris paid for two years of wi-fi service so the school could start computer classes for its 400+ students. He also donated various audiovisual equipment, such as a projector, screen, DVD player and DVDs, to leaders of a 'barangay' in the Philippines, to help them host local community events, like mobile movie nights.

For his dedication to improving the lives of the people of the Philippines, Chris was invited to the Order of the Knights of Rizal and knighted in Toronto in 2016.

A Unionist to the Core

Chris considers himself an extension of his Union. He continuously brings ATU Local 113 into community events to demonstrate that we, the Brothers and Sisters at ATU 113, support their community's cultural events.

As a member of the TTC Recreation Committee, he has worked alongside the tireless and inspirational Terry Medford, organizing various events for ATU 113 members. With his passion for music, sound technology and bringing people together through cultural events, he helped create the ever-popular BBQ Picnic for members and their families. He reached out to support other community events including Sri Lankan, Indian and Caribbean. Due to his efforts, ATU 113 has had a presence at Toronto's local festivals, including the Caribana Festival, with an ATU 113 Float with a live Steel Band and an exceptional sound system. For the Labour Day Parade, Chris took the lead in organizing the ATU 113 float for over 5 years, winning 3rd place and 1st place as 'Float of the Year'.

Chris worked hard for the Union's campaign to 'Save Our Subway' in 2019, creating awareness and rallying support among members and communities in Toronto.

Personal Statement

"I do this in comradeship. None of what I have done has been accomplished on my own. All this has been possible thanks to years of support from my union, ATU 113.

Through the Knights of Rizal, I learnt an important lesson from Philippines' national hero, José Rizal, "How do you know where you are going if you don't know where you are coming from?" Reflecting on this has opened my mind to how fortunate I have been. Growing up through the union, as my father was a ATU 113 member since 1969, I had many benefits and privileges that others did not. I could participate in self-defence classes and educational programs available to union members. We never had to worry about prescriptions, or dental work.

As union members, we should reflect more on what we have because of our union, instead of squabbling. Let us not forget our history of over a 100 years. The benefits we can take for granted today are things that our former Brothers and Sisters fought very hard for. We should all be championing the cause of our union ATU 113 and defending it when people speak against it or against unions. We should not be complacent.

Because of the union, our 'cup is overflowing', we have the capacity and are in the position to help improve lives. We are the ones who have the choice to reach out and to make a positive impact."

