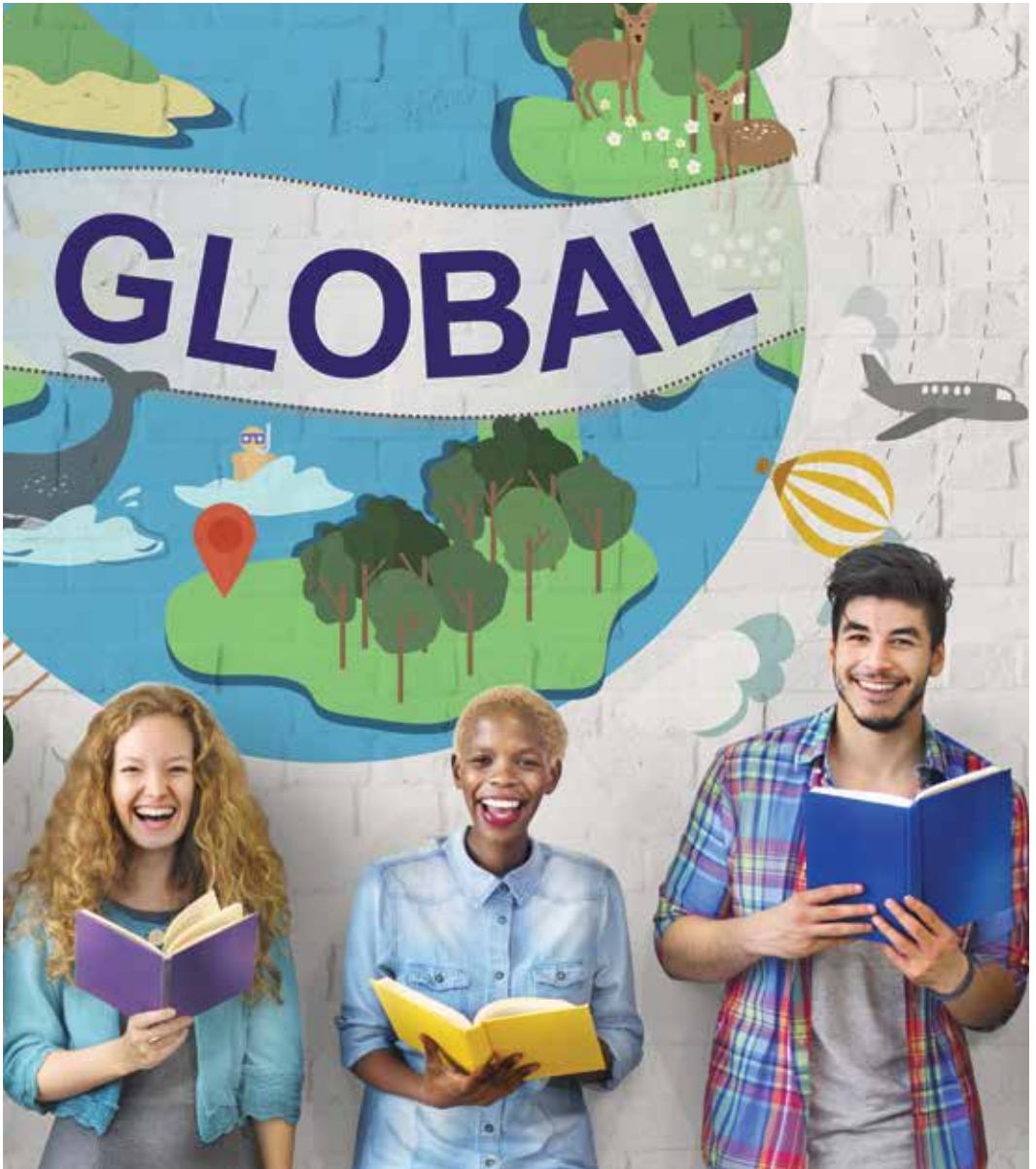


SEPTEMBER 2020

Rotary

AFRICA | south



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Sarah van Heerden
Editor

WELCOME.

In South Africa the Coronavirus infection rate has begun to stabilise and we are starting to get used to the changes that the social distancing and lifestyle adaptations have brought. As the World Health Organisation has stated, we can expect this to continue for at least two years.

This is not bad news. We have been made to embrace a more hygienic way of living, masks and social distancing have impacted on the annual flu infection rates and we have been forced to embrace technology and change. Very few people like change or being forced from the comfort of familiar habits, but this has forced us to rethink, adapt and innovate when it comes to how we do things.

Because of this I and many others are confident that although amazing programmes, such as the Rotary Youth Exchange, ground to a halt, it is not a permanent cancellation - but an opportunity to adapt and grow. This month we take a look at the programme, its history and how it has impacted on many lives. Did you know that comedian and actor Rebel Wilson's career choice was influenced by her Rotary Youth Exchange ... to South Africa?

I will never forget the slow ooze of fear as I listened to the announcement that we would be locked down. The uncertainty, the unknown and the fear of infection chilled me. In the back of my mind I wondered if the world would become something from a dystopian film set ... But I adapted. I tuned out of much of the social media hype, listened to what the professionals had to say, wore my mask and ramped up my hygiene habits. The fear has gone, the confidence of knowing that life goes on - it's different, but so am I and I now know that this too, shall pass.

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

- 1) Is it the TRUTH?
- 2) Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- 3) Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- 4) Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



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President's message

Holger Knaack,
Rotary International President (2020/21)



Dear Rotarians, Rotaractors and friends,

Rotary Youth Exchange - one of the many programmes for youths and young adults that we celebrate this month - was my path into true engagement in Rotary. My wife, Susanne, and I began hosting exchange students soon after I joined. The experience helped me go from simply being a member of my Rotary club to being a true Rotarian. Now Rotary Youth Exchange is a family tradition and a strong one: Over the past 24 years, we have hosted 43 students!

From the start, we loved it so much that, in addition to hosting students in our home, we became involved with the programme by helping to organise student summer camps. During one such camp, I met Christine Lichtin, who was a German high school student at the time and whose father is a past president of my Rotary club. To try something new during this year of embracing change, I am turning this space, normally reserved for the president of Rotary, over to Christine so she can share her story.



My first contact with Rotaract was about 13 years ago, when I was with Susanne and Holger at a barbecue for the summer youth camp. Holger turned to me and said: "Why don't you visit a Rotaract club? You'll meet a lot of great young people who come together to have fun and to make a difference."

A few years later, when I was at Trier University, his words came back to me and I decided to give it a try. That was more than eight years ago and I'm still at it. Once you are in Rotaract, you just don't want to get out. Rotaract has accompanied me everywhere, starting with the Trier club and then on to a club in Bologna, Italy, during the year I studied there. When

I was in Kiel for my master's degree, I got involved with Rotaract there before landing at the Rotaract Club of Hamburg-Alstertal as I began my career. Each of those clubs has its own identity and focus, but all have the same intrinsic motivation.

I am now taking on a senior advisory role in my Rotaract club, which I really enjoy. I carry Rotaract in my heart and it shapes my values, even as my interests evolve. One day, as if she had sensed this evolution, Susanne knocked on my door, wanting to introduce me to a young, modern Rotary club located between Hamburg and Mölln, my hometown. The Rotary E-Club of Hamburg-Connect, which Susanne helped charter, holds e-meetings, all of them very relaxed and personal. With members of different ages, everything just seemed to fit, so I thought, why not try it out? After all, time is precious and should be filled with fun whenever possible; the rest happens by itself.

Now I am in both worlds — a proud member of Rotaract and a Rotarian. And my small personal goal is to build a bridge between these two parallel worlds. All of us have very similar reasons for being part of the Rotary family.

It took some persistence to persuade Christine to become a member of Rotary, but it was well worth the effort. It is our duty to put in this kind of effort with youth programme participants and Rotaractors so we can keep them in the family of Rotary. I hope you were inspired by her story. It's up to each of us to ensure that more young people like Christine can experience the many ways Rotary Opens Opportunities for us.

Holger Knaack



Foundation Trustee Chair

KR (Ravi) Ravindran

In late 1914, Europe was divided by hundreds of miles of trenches. British and French forces on one side were within shouting distance of German troops on the other. The pope made a plea for a Christmas truce, but the shooting continued.

Then, on Christmas Eve, soldiers from behind British lines heard an unexpected sound — not gunfire but singing. Next, they heard a single voice shout out, “English soldier, merry Christmas!” followed by “English soldier, come out to join us!” Both sides cautiously emerged over the parapet into the no man’s land between the trenches. Before long, the soldiers realised that it was a real truce. They fraternised, singing Christmas carols, exchanging souvenirs and whiskey, and even taking up a friendly soccer match.

The cease-fire continued only two days before the troops returned to their trenches, resuming bloodshed for nearly four long years. But the story of the Christmas truce reminds us that peace is possible, if we choose to accept it. If peace can last a few days, could it not also last months or years? And how do we prevent conflict in the first place?

In his Nobel Peace Prize lecture in 1964, American civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. said, “We must concentrate not merely on the negative expulsion of war, but on the positive affirmation of peace.”

With Positive Peace, our society’s structures, policies and everyday attitudes and actions promote justice at all levels, sustaining a peaceful coexistence. It’s an answer to the calls for justice and peace we have heard on the streets in protests from Minneapolis to Paris this year.

Positive Peace, studied at our Rotary Peace Centres around the world, is not just an academic idea for the Rotary Peace Fellows. Through Rotary’s partnership with the Institute for Economics and Peace, the Rotary Positive Peace Academy offers free training to every Rotary member on how to wage Positive Peace in every project we do at the grassroots level, including Foundation grants.

Positive Peace resonates at all levels of The Rotary Foundation. Our literacy projects help children gain equal access to literacy, so opposing sides on an issue can understand each other better. Through our Foundation grants that provide clean water, communities gain stability, as more children stay in school rather than fetching water for hours on end.

Our role as civil society leaders who wage Positive Peace will continue to expand, not only through partnerships and more grants, but also through our hearts, minds and hands as we offer our gifts to make the world a better place.

Rotary at a glance

Rotary clubs: 36 235

Members: 1 186 144

Rotaract clubs: 10 750

Members: 203 537

Interact clubs: 15 001

Members: 345 023

RCCs: 11 244

As at 17 August 2020

▲ Increase



▼ Decrease



Convention Countdown
12-16 June 2021

Refreshing pauses



Find Project Partners

Thousands of Rotary and Rotaract clubs have shared their projects on Rotary Showcase since it launched in 2012. Now Rotary has added new features that make this online tool even more useful.

Your club can now post proposed projects and seek partners for those projects. You can share project details, ask for financial or other support and connect with other clubs. Potential partners can search Rotary Showcase to find proposed projects to join and contact project creators directly.

Learn more at my.rotary.org



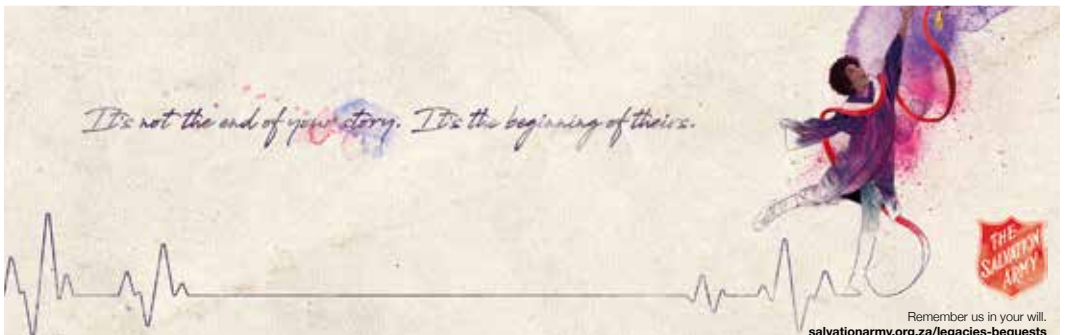
When you're in Taipei for the Rotary International Convention, 12-16 June, you'll find that the energy of the city never wanes. But should you need to re-energise, step out and explore two of Taipei's best ways to enjoy a break: bubble tea and coffee.

Taiwan is known as the birthplace of bubble tea (also known as *boba*), that delicious concoction of milk, tea, and flavourful "pearls" - tapioca balls - that fit through an extra-large straw. Put them together and you have a sweet treat with a fun element of slurping up those chewy pearls. Bubble tea shops around Taipei offer a variety of flavours, with many creating their own variations, so it's worth stopping at more than one.

Taipei's coffee scene is equally vibrant. One of the pioneers in the coffee boom is Jie-He Lugo and you'll find his Lugo Caf  s, known for their rich dark roasts, at places such as the Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts and the National Theatre and Concert Hall. The iconic Taipei 101 tower, meanwhile, is home to a location of IMPCT Coffee, which emphasises ethical sourcing of coffee beans. Yaboo, another recent entrant in the coffee game, favours a lighter roast for a different flavour profile.

Whether you go for a playful bubble tea, an intense dark roast coffee, or a lighter, fruitier blend, your experience is more than just a way to enjoy a hot or cold drink; it's a chance to sample the local culture.

Learn more and register at convention.rotary.org.





Public Image

**WITH ROTARY REGIONAL PUBLIC IMAGE
COORDINATOR LEE-ANN SHEARING**

Welcome to September! It's Basic Education and Literacy month in the Rotary calendar and Spring has arrived! As always after winter, it is a time of renewal, fresh hope and awakening. What better topic to share then, than Elevating Rotaract?

As many of you are aware, at the 2019 Council on Legislation, it was agreed that the definition of membership in Rotary International be expanded to include both Rotary and Rotaract clubs. This means that Rotaract clubs and Rotaractors are now viewed as members of Rotary International rather than as programme participants.

At the October 2019 Rotary International Board meeting it was further decided that the following goals and regulations be set concerning elevating Rotaract:

- Increase the number of Rotaractors reported to Rotary by 100 percent by 2022
- Increase the number of reported Rotaractors who join Rotary clubs by 20 percent by 2022
- Increase the number of reported Rotaractors to 1 million by 2029
- Rotaract clubs will be able to establish a new club with or without a sponsor.
- Rotaract clubs will be able to choose other Rotaract clubs as their sponsors.
- Rotaract clubs will be open to all young adults

at least 18 years old.

JANUARY 2020 Clarification: The Board agrees that a Rotaract club may, but is not required to, establish upper age limits, provided that the club (in accordance with its bylaws) obtains the concurrence of its members and the sponsor club(s) (if applicable).

But what does this mean for Rotary clubs and Rotarians? How can we assist with elevating Rotaract clubs and Rotaractors?

Firstly, share this important news with your clubs and members so that they understand the changes that have been made. Talk to district leaders to find out if they have a strategic plan to further include Rotaract and Rotaractors into district affairs. Then, if you have not already done so, start collaborating and meeting with Rotaract clubs and Rotaractors. Begin the vital conversations that are necessary to advance the profile of Rotaract. Teach them about My Rotary accounts which will allow them access to new products, services and important information from Rotary. Guide them as to best practices for reporting, include them wholly in a Global Grant from the initial community assessment through to application, progress, to project completion and final reporting.

In doing so you will be giving Rotaract clubs an opportunity to be either the international or host

sponsor of a Global Grant beginning 1 July 2022, because they will have previously partnered with a Rotary club on a Global Grant. The Grants Centre will allow Rotaract clubs to be formally recognised as a donor or partner on a Global Grant application.

Bear in mind, that this teaching and guiding is not a one-way street! We can learn so much from Rotaractors especially in the field of technology, creative design and the way they dive head-first into projects with energy, passion and enthusiasm more quickly than most Rotary clubs do.

If you are not already partnering with a Rotaract club perhaps you should look at ways of promoting the charter of a new club?

My Rotaract Club of Harare West has initiated monthly “All Africa Rotaract” virtual meetings on the first Friday of each month where different topics that are suggested by Rotaractors are discussed. I attended the July and August meetings and left the meetings feeling invigorated at the work they are doing, as well as the important and difficult conversations they are not afraid to address. If you would like to attend any of these monthly meetings, please feel free to get in touch with me and I will send you log in details.

Get involved with Rotaract and Rotaractors – we can learn from one another, discover new and exciting opportunities - and maybe even rejuvenate ourselves in the process!

2019/20 Regional Public Image Awards Winners

Best Club Facebook Page

Winner: Rotary Club of Johannesburg (D9400)

Highly Commended: Rotary Clubs of Hibiscus Coast (D9370), Johannesburg New Dawn (D9400) and Middelberg (D9400)

Good Effort: Rotary Clubs of East London (D9370), Harare Central (D9210), Hoedspruit (D9400) and Port Elizabeth Sunrise (D9370).

Best Club Website

Winner: Rotary Club of Hoedspruit (D9400)

Highly Commended: Rotary Clubs of Claremont and Johannesburg New Dawn

Best Photograph of a Club Project (multiple entries accepted)

Highly Commended: Rotary Clubs of Centurion (D9400), East London (D9370), Hibiscus Coast (D9370), Hibiscus Coast (D9370), Middleberg (D9400) and

Msasa (D9210)

Good Effort: Rotary Anns of Chatsworth (D9370), Rotary Clubs of Chitungwiza (D9210), Harare Central (D9210), Krugersdorp (D9400), Lilongwe Lingadzi (D9210) and Lilongwe (D9210)

Best Photograph - Rotary Moment

Winner: Rotary Club of Hibiscus Coast (D9370)

Highly Commended: Rotary Club of Westville (D9370)

Good Effort: Rotary Club of East London (D9370)

Best Photograph - Club Event

Highly Commended: Rotary Clubs of Bwaila (D9210) and Hibiscus Coast (D9370).

Best Individual My Rotary Story

Winner: Sue Boertje (Westville, D9370)

Good effort: Stella Kasirye (Bwaila, D9210)

Highly Commended: Colleen

Deiner (Middelberg, D9400), Wilma Lig (Hibiscus Coast, D9370) and Vani Govender (Chatsworth D9370)

Best Use of People of Action Materials

Good effort: Rotary Clubs of Hibiscus Coast (D9370) and Harare Central (D9210)

Best Publicity in Traditional Media

Winner: Rotary Club of Lilongwe (D9210)

Highly Commended: Bwaila (D9210), Hibiscus Coast (D9370), Hoedspruit (D9400) and Pietersberg 100 (D9400)

Good Effort: Rotary Clubs of Chitungwiza (D9210) and Hibiscus Coast (D9370)

Special Recognition

Rotary Club of Kimberley South (D9370) for its YouTube video “What is Rotary”

Rotary E-Club South Africa One (D9370) for its presentation Team 2020 and the Australian Community Corps projects in South Africa



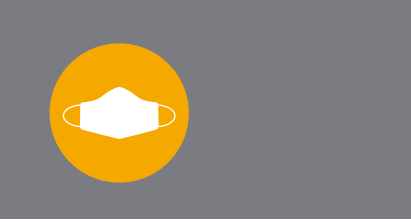
ROTARY FACE MASK & HAND SANITIZER GUIDELINES



These guidelines are for clubs and their members who are interested in buying, designing, donating, or selling face masks, including Rotary-branded face masks, and buying, producing, donating, and selling hand sanitizer.

During this global pandemic, we need to be sensitive while meeting the needs of the community. Distributing face masks or hand sanitizer to the public that feature large or conspicuous Rotary logos may be seen as capitalizing on this health crisis to raise money or promote membership. For that reason, we'd like any face masks or hand sanitizer distributed or sold to the public by clubs to have a discreet design. If the design includes the Masterbrand Signature, Mark of Excellence, or another Rotary logo, the logo must be small and unobtrusive. Face masks designed specifically for club members' personal use may have a larger and more prominent Rotary logo.

There has been a renewed focus on proper hand washing and sanitizing practices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We know that many clubs have been donating and providing hand sanitizer as part of their community response. We encourage clubs to continue to share information from **Rotary's water, sanitation, and hygiene initiatives** to help keep people safe.



ROTARY FACE MASKS

BUYING OR DESIGNING FACE MASKS

Licensed vendors have begun to sell approved Rotary-branded face masks. Some licensees can also help clubs create their own designs. **See a current list of licensed vendors worldwide.**

If you want to produce your own face mask design or have a face mask design manufactured or produced by an unlicensed vendor, submit a **release request** along with a sample design of the face mask.

When creating a custom design, include your club or program logo. (This is required if these face masks will be sold to the public and for certain donations, see below.) Visit **brandcenter.rotary.org** to create your club logo. If you decide to include your club or program logo, remember that it must be small and unobtrusive. Your custom design will be reviewed and, if approved, Rotary will grant authorization for production.

Questions about buying or designing a Rotary-branded face mask can be sent to **rilicensingservices@rotary.org**.

DONATING FACE MASKS TO THE COMMUNITY

If you are donating face masks to the public, consider using Rotary branding on the packaging instead of on the face mask itself. If the face mask is Rotary-branded, it should have a discreet design. If the design includes a Rotary logo, the logo must be small and unobtrusive.

You can obtain face masks from a **licensed vendor** or obtain permission to create custom-designed face masks through a **release request**. If your club wants to donate Rotary-branded face masks to the public, donated face masks must include a club logo or program logo unless you are donating stock masks purchased from a licensed vendor.

SELLING FACE MASKS TO THE COMMUNITY

If your club wants to sell Rotary-branded face masks to the public, it may do so on a limited basis through 30 June 2021. The face masks must be custom-designed to include your club logo or program logo. We would suggest your club give away the face masks in exchange for a donation to show #RotaryCares. Clubs do not need a license to sell face masks, as long as they use their club logo or program logo and the design has also been approved by RI through a **release request**.

All face masks offered for sale should include a disclaimer on the promotional materials such as: "Cloth face coverings are intended for personal use only. They are not intended for medical use and are not a replacement for medical-grade personal protective equipment."



Rotary Face Mask and Hand Sanitizer Guidelines



ROTARY HAND SANITIZER

BUYING OR PRODUCING HAND SANITIZER

You may purchase hand sanitizer from licensed vendors. **See a current list of licensed vendors worldwide.** If you want to produce your own hand sanitizer or engage an unlicensed vendor to produce hand sanitizer with your club or program logo, you must abide by all applicable local, national, and international regulations and guidance, including labeling guidance and guidance or regulations adopted on a temporary basis during the COVID-19 pandemic. You must submit a **release request** along with a sample design. Nonbranded hand sanitizer is not subject to Rotary International review.

Questions about buying or producing hand sanitizer can be sent to rilicensingservices@rotary.org.

DONATING AND SELLING HAND SANITIZER TO THE COMMUNITY

If you want to donate or sell hand sanitizer with Rotary branding, you must include a discreet club or program logo, unless your donations were purchased from a **licensed vendor**.

While we don't encourage selling hand sanitizer, if your club chooses to do so, we would suggest your club provide it in exchange for a donation. Clubs do not need a license to sell hand sanitizer, and may sell on a limited basis through 30 June 2021, as long as they use their club logo or program logo and the design has also been approved by RI through a **release request**.

All hand sanitizer, alcohol-based or non-alcohol-based, offered for sale or donation must comply with all applicable local, national, and international regulations and guidance, including labeling guidance. Don't use statements like "effective at eliminating over 99.9 percent of germs and bacteria" or "kills flu or coronavirus" in conjunction with your distribution or sale.

INSURANCE AND RISK MITIGATION

The U.S. Rotary Club & District general liability policy is not intended to address the unique needs of clubs or districts that are selling, manufacturing, designing, or distributing face masks or hand sanitizer. This may also apply to club insurance policies outside of the United States. Any club or district that is engaged in the manufacturing or distribution of hand sanitizer or face masks should obtain separate product liability insurance to protect its interests.

Additionally, all clubs and districts should:

- Review contracts with vendors to ensure they do not assume risks or responsibilities beyond their control. For example, the seller of a product should not agree to assume responsibility for claims arising out of the manufacturing or design of a product.
- The indemnity provision in a vendor contract should spread the risk of loss to the parties who are actually responsible for that loss. Contracts with vendors should also include a provision requiring that all parties maintain adequate insurance.
- We recommend you consult an attorney to draft or review any vendor contracts.

50%

Global ad spending dedicated to digital media in 2019

HANDBOOK

How to create a People of Action ad

What's the best way to explain what Rotary is? Showing what Rotarians do in their own communities: A strong public image helps Rotary clubs find new members, enhance community participation in Rotary projects, and increase donations to The Rotary Foundation. Recognizing Rotarians as people of action is the cornerstone of Rotary's public image, and with resources provided by Rotary, you can create effective ads that focus on the work your own club is doing. Here's a step-by-step guide.

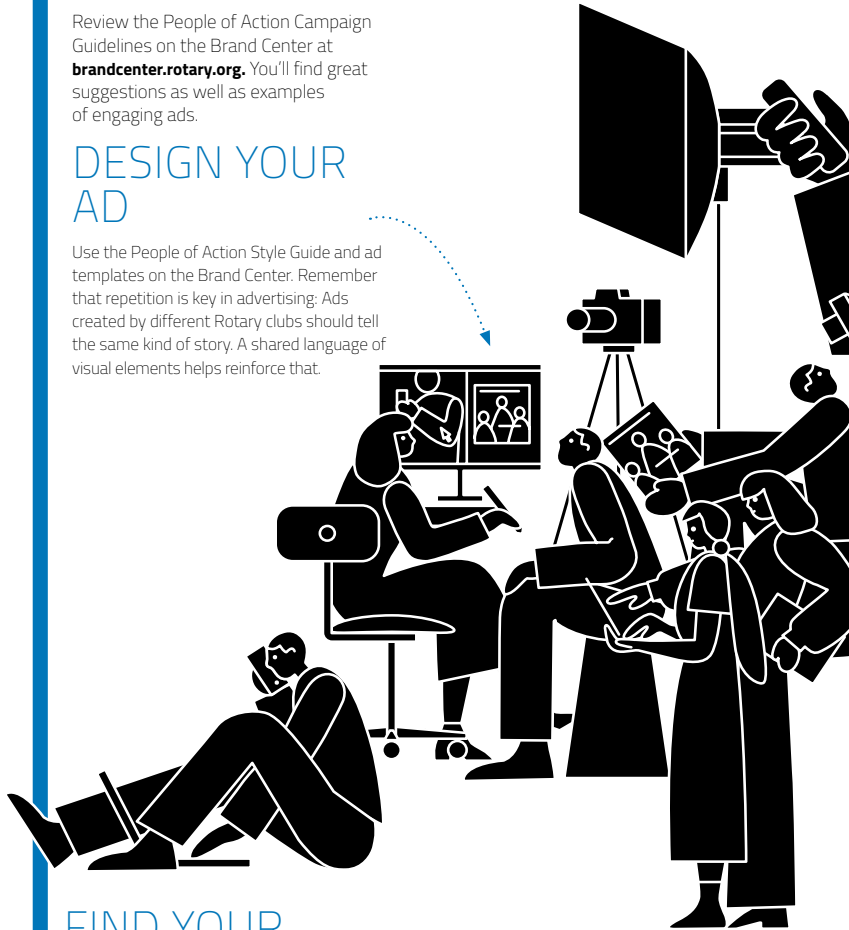


BEFORE YOU START

Review the People of Action Campaign Guidelines on the Brand Center at brandcenter.rotary.org. You'll find great suggestions as well as examples of engaging ads.

DESIGN YOUR AD

Use the People of Action Style Guide and ad templates on the Brand Center. Remember that repetition is key in advertising: Ads created by different Rotary clubs should tell the same kind of story. A shared language of visual elements helps reinforce that.



FIND YOUR STORY

Think about a project or event your club carried out and ask yourself some basic questions:

- **What was the impetus for the project?**
- **What were the key moments along the way?**
- **What impact did it have?**

How many people did you help, how many miles of riverbank did you clean up, how many doses of polio vaccine did you fund?

WRITE YOUR STORY

Pick the best verb from Rotary's approved list to finish the headline "Together, We ...": Connect. Empower. End Polio. Fight Hunger. Inspire. Learn. Mentor. Promote Peace. Save Lives. Transform. This keeps the Rotary brand consistent wherever you see it.

Summarize your People of Action story into a few short sentences. Include information about how people can learn more about your club, support your cause, or join you at an upcoming event.

Illustration by James Graham

MEASURE, ANALYZE, AND DO IT AGAIN

What results did you expect from your ad? Assess how well it worked, and next time you'll be even more successful.

POST, SHARE, GET AD SPACE

Social media is a great way to spread the word about your club and about Rotary. You can boost posts and videos with paid promotion to widen your audience. Even without spending money, your club members can post your ad on their own social media networks.

Consider buying an ad in your home-town newspaper or magazine, or on a local radio or TV station.

If your club sponsors a local event, a People of Action ad can help promote it.

84 billion
Dollars spent on social media advertising
in 2019

USE STRONG PHOTOS

Look at your photos objectively; try to see them the way others will. For an inspiring ad, you'll want to show people with happy and engaging facial expressions. Try to show the diversity of your club in age, ethnicity, and gender. The best photos are not staged, but show genuine moments of Rotarians at work or interacting with others.

Get signed, written permission from everyone in the photographs. Remember that not everyone working on a project or benefiting from it may want their photo taken or used.

RULES OF COPYWRITING

- ▶ **Short is sweet.** Your project has a rich backstory, and a lot of people pitched in, but too many names and details will muddy your message.
- ▶ **Write like Hemingway.** People scan ads quickly. Too much information may deter them instead of drawing them in. Use short, energetic sentences with people as the subject and active verbs.
- ▶ **Call to action.** Effective ads compel the reader to do something. Tell the audience what to do next — and how to do it. In print ads, websites and email addresses must be short and easy to remember.

ELEMENTS OF A PEOPLE OF ACTION PHOTO

- ▶ Photo that fits the shape of your ad: horizontal or vertical
- ▶ Photo that accommodates the "Together, We ..." text in the center
- ▶ Plenty of space for headline and copy
- ▶ Well-lit space
- ▶ Balanced color (not too much white)
- ▶ Simple background



Opportunity

**GOVERNORS' COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
SECRETARY (2019-21) PATRICK COLEMAN**

As we think about Basic Education and Literacy during the time of pandemic, it does seem unusual that schools are closed, children are at home and many are simply walking through town with nothing to do. Those who are fortunate enough to have an internet connection or parents who are teachers are advancing in their education. Others are not so fortunate.

What can Rotarians do to help in this time?

Perhaps we can take advantage of this time when children are not at school to improve the infrastructure at schools.

Have you walked into the toilets at a basic school, perhaps one in a rural area? Would you want your children or grandchildren to use that facility when they needed to use the toilet? Is there a place for students to wash their hands? Is the area surrounding the toilet clean and sanitary? Go ahead, take a deep breath. Does that smell remind you of roses and lavender? (Probably not.)

Maybe this is the time to make a difference

Several years ago we took a group of Interactors from a school in town out to a village where we were handing over a water project and borehole. The Interactors from town were appalled at the toilet situation in the school. One of them said, "I would never use that toilet in my life!" Sometimes people living in town don't realise the challenges of living away from running water, proper sanitation and other things that we take for granted.

Here's a thought: When is the last time that you walked through a school to see what was necessary or what would enhance the educational atmosphere in that institution? Why not take advantage of the opportunity to visit a school where there are no pupils at this time to make it a better place for both learners and educators when they return?

The Rotary Club of Luanshya (D9210), my club, did just this at the Nsobe Community School about an hour from our town. The school was started several years ago and has grown steadily because of the vision of the founder and director as well as the quality of education. They started with just a few grades and have added a grade each year. Recently a high school section was built.

Several years ago, our club helped them with a basic pit latrines toilet block and a water well, but as the school grew so did the needs. We decided to construct waterborne toilets at the high school section. This was not an inexpensive project, but it was obvious that the needs of the older children, especially the girls, were not being met by pit latrines.

Partnering with the Rotary Club of Prestonwood (D5810, Texas) and The Rotary Foundation, modern waterborne toilets with showers and hand washing stations were constructed. The director of the school was so thrilled with the quality of the construction that she invited community leaders to come for the handover of the toilet block. The representative from the Ministry of Education and

the District Administrator for the district were both amazed that such a modern facility could be built at a rural community school. They commented that even people in their private homes did not have such a modern facility.

These are the kinds of things that Rotarians can do when we take advantage of opportunities and begin to think “outside the box.” In most cases people think that pit latrines are considered to be “good enough” for village people. We didn’t think so.

We considered the situation and decided that if Rotary is going to be identified with the project, then the project needs to be of the best possible quality. After all, our name is on the sign that is attached to the side of the building! Every time a student, a teacher or a parent sees that sign they will think about the quality of Rotary workmanship.

The quality of Rotary projects is only known by the quality of the workmanship that we do. We wear the Rotary pin declaring the quality of our lifestyle. The Four-Way Test is our promise to the world of how we will conduct ourselves in our

community.

- We value our integrity.
- We will not lie.
- We will not cheat anybody any time for any purpose.
- We will build positive relationships throughout our community and around the world.

We will strive to benefit everybody regardless of their economic status or any other limitation that society or a community might place upon their lives.

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Peacebuilders

**AFRICA ROTARY COMMUNITY MEDIATION
PROJECT CHAIR: GRANT DALY**

Conflict is all around us. In their landmark book on mediation, *Getting to Yes*, the authors point out that the more democratic society is, the more conflict is likely to be encountered. Anticipating and resolving conflicting interests strengthens democracy and as such, should satisfy all points of the Four-Way Test.

Rotary International's focus on peace-building is gaining momentum in Districts 9400, 9370 and 9350 with the launch of a project to train peace mediators. A steering committee to facilitate the Africa Rotary Community Mediation project (ARCoM) is being led by PDG Grant Daly. The committee comprises DG Annemarie Mostert, Dr Martin Rupiya of Accord, Prof. Dries Velthuisen of UNISA, Siham Boda, Tom Bergmann-Harris, Bruce Steele-Gray, Marion Spence, Shereen Hunter and Les Morison. Also on the committee are Prabha Sankaranyaran and Martin Scott who represent the project partner Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI), a USA-based organisation with a strong global track-record in mediation training.

Drawing on Dr Rupiya and Prof. Velthuisen's vast knowledge of African dispute practices and MBBI's international stature, ARCoM's steering committee is crafting a unique African community mediation course. The course will create a number of trained community-embedded mediators who will receive an internationally recognised accreditation from MBBI. "We intend to build on existing community methods and structures so that communities can better govern themselves," explained Daly.

The project is to be funded by a combination of Global Grants and district funding. Made up of online and in-person training sessions that

are expected to commence in January 2021, the vision is to present the programme as one that is well under way at the Centennial of Rotary in Africa celebration in Johannesburg. Rotary International President Holger Knaack will be attending the event in April 2021.

The course attendees will be made up of 30 percent Rotarians, who will have to fund themselves, and 70 percent non-Rotarians, for whom funding will be available through a combination of Global Grant and district funding. Clubs will be asked to find people in their communities who are considered suitable candidates.

Club presidents are asked to motivate their members and interview them so you can put forward to the steering committee your club's suitable Rotarian and non-Rotarian candidates. Ideally, the committee wishes to receive two non-Rotarian nominations for every Rotarian nominated. It's envisaged that a long-term relationship with feed-back and ongoing post-qualification support at club level will be formed.

Many Rotarians have responded to the previous letters and publications, but now the hunt is on for the non-Rotarians who will benefit their communities by attending the course. They could be members of youth, women, church, charity, sport or school groups. Application forms for Rotarian and Non-Rotarian applicants will be made available shortly.

For more information, please contact Les Morison at ljmorison@gmail.com or one of the steering committee members.

Peace Projects

ROTARY PEACE FELLOW PATRICIA SHAFER



Peacemaking is stopping bullets; peacekeeping is negotiating. Peacebuilding, meanwhile, is creating an environment of security and conditions of well-being through access to things like health care, education and water. That's what Patricia Shafer, a Rotary Peace Fellow and member of the Rotary Club of Charlotte (D7680, USA) teaches to high school and university students as executive director of NewGen Peacebuilders. She is also senior fellow for peace education at the Alliance for Peacebuilding. Recently, Shafer built on her peace fellowship by becoming one of the first Rotary Positive Peace activators, a role that will connect her with Rotarians who want to build peace through their projects and help their communities do the same. By 2022, 150 Rotary Positive Peace activators will be trained in six regions of the globe through the strategic partnership between Rotary and the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).

What is Positive Peace?

Dr. Johan Galtung [a Norwegian sociologist who is considered the "father of peace studies"], in his original premise of Positive Peace, promoted the idea that we're trained to think of peace as reducing or minimising violence - as taking away the bad. But if you want sustainable peace, you have to work on promoting the good: creating the conditions of well-being for all. The IEP's Pillars of Positive Peace is a framework of eight factors that research shows work together to make for more peaceful societies. All eight pillars matter - it's a systemic view - but the IEP advises focusing on which one or two may be the weakest. A focus there can be a basis for the design of a peace project.

What is a Positive Peace activator?

There are 26 Positive Peace activators in North America and a group of 30 will be trained in Latin America. Many are Rotary Peace Fellows. Some are Rotarians. Some are IEP ambassadors. I'm all three. Positive Peace activators are charged with equipping people with an understanding of Positive Peace and of

the IEP's eight pillars and teaching them to put those concepts to work. We do this through presentations at Rotary clubs and conferences, incorporating the Positive Peace framework into other peacebuilding work and, in my case, co-designing a series of training summits that Rotarians can offer to their local communities in 2021.

Why did you become a Positive Peace activator?

Rotary has a peacebuilding history that goes back to 1914 and has established a very clear footprint in peace education with the Rotary Peace Fellows programme, which has more than 1 300 members in its alumni network. Another big opportunity is for Rotarians to connect with local communities about peacebuilding and to employ a common framework and a common language and way of thinking about peace.

How can Rotarians get involved?

One thing that's easy to do is to learn about the IEP's Positive Peace framework through the free Rotary Positive Peace Academy. Training workshops, whether virtual or in person, can teach you how to apply the eight Pillars of Positive Peace to projects you are already working on. If you're working on education and literacy or water and sanitation, how do you look at those through the eight pillars? It's transformative to look at projects that way. It's how you go from doing good service projects to being activators for Positive Peace. Over the past few months, every community on this planet has been touched by the COVID-19 pandemic. It's put tremendous stress on every community. Now, in the United States, we're also seeing the impact of discord over issues of racial equity. One premise of the eight Pillars of Positive Peace is that they create a stronger, more resilient community that can face crises when they occur.

Enrol in the Rotary Positive Peace Academy at rotarypositivepeace.org.

Rotary



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Rotary Moments

THE POWERFUL MOMENT YOU TRANSITION FROM A ROTARY CLUB MEMBER TO A ROTARIAN



Colleen Deiner
Rotary Club of Middelburg
District 9400

My Rotary moment happened when I heard of Dignity Dreams at a district conference.

Our family has lived on a farm in a rural area for 38 years and were part of the Rural foundation.

We had a farm school and an excellent pre-school run by a fantastic teacher who runs an ECD site in the area. The staff were well looked after;

there were many outings for the children and competitions between different farms.

Until that day, I had never for one moment thought that our children would not have sanitary pads and miss school regularly.

This hit me like a lightning bolt!

We have such poverty in our land, but more

than poverty we have gender inequality. We live in a patriarchal heteronormative society, in which young black women bear the brunt of the oppression and injustices. We need to start here if we want equality in our country.

My husband Charles and I travelled to Canada to report on a joint project between the Rotary Clubs of Grand Bend and Middelburg.

I spoke to the clubs about the dire need for sanitary pads in needy communities and explained that many families cannot afford them. As a result, the education of girls is negatively affected as they miss school days every month.

The response and empathy was overwhelming. Soon, the Canadian women took action and sent beautiful bags with washable pads, panties and crocheted wash cloths. I am happy to say that we have distributed over 1 000 bags to young girls and women.

This is the magic of networking that is changing lives!

Indian Philosopher, Mahatma Gandhi, said it best. "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."



Vani Govender
Rotary Club of Chatsworth
District 9370

Eight months after joining Rotary, I found myself on a journey through the villages and streets of Agra and Delhi, India. I was part of a twenty member Rotary delegation from South Africa to India which had been invited to participate in an extra special Polio National Immunisation Day (NID) project in November 2010. It was held specifically to coincide with the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of Indian indentured labourers in South Africa.

It was my first trip abroad and I was visiting my motherland, India, to assist in Rotary's plans to wipe Polio from the face of the Earth. The next

ten days saw me on an unforgettable, magical, highly emotional, life-changing, humbling, scary and phenomenal Rotary journey.

Each day I had a front row seat of the sheer power of our Rotary world. The first NID session began in a rural community that was part of the poverty-stricken city of Agra. I was wearing my brand-new End Polio Now jacket and anxiously awaited the arrival of the children and babies who were to be vaccinated that morning. A little white box contained the precious vials of polio drops that were ready for me to dispense. My camera was fully charged and ready to capture the

priceless moments which were about to unfold. I mean, how difficult could this immunisation session be?

Within the next 30 minutes, my life literally changed as the first group of elderly women clad in traditional sarees made their way to our makeshift clinic under a Rotary gazebo. I instantly froze as a woman in front of me revealed a naked two-week old baby girl covered in one of the filthiest pieces of cloth I had ever seen.

A wave of mixed emotions consumed me as I stood dumbstruck at the sight before me with burning tears streaming down my face. A fellow club member brought me back to my senses when he yanked me aside and scolded me; telling me to pull myself together. After all I was here to represent Rotary while helping the less fortunate, restoring hope and dignity and unexpectedly, discovering my true purpose in life.

I composed myself and that day, I immunised 20 babies and children against polio. At the end of that day, as I took a long hot shower in my hotel room, I realised that I was right where I belonged on this mind-blowing humanitarian journey via Rotary. I was not just helping those around me,

but I was helping define who I really was and my ultimate purpose here on Earth. I was on a trip of self-realisation in every sense of the word.

I wasn't in India to cry – I was there to stop others from crying - to put an end to the tears of those suffering around me!

As each day drew to a close, I was in awe at the sheer power and beauty of Rotary from the networking meetings, fairy tale shopping trips, heavenly meals, mesmerising cultural lessons, to the new friendships and bonds that had been formed among the Rotarians.

At the end of that trip as I stood at the entrance of the majestic Taj Mahal, I marvelled at the endless opportunities that Rotary had presented to me in a short space of time. I was now sure, beyond any shadow of doubt, that I had found my true calling in life and that Mahatma Gandhi had so much wisdom and insight with that one quotation, for I had definitely found myself during that trip.

Ten years later I am a proud and dedicated Rotarian who continues to serve her community and country at large. And I will always declare that “I live for Rotary” as Rotary has given me a new lease on life.

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DIGITAL adaptation

During the time of this global pandemic, we have been forced to re-access how we engage as Rotarians. This was overwhelming for some clubs, but for the Rotary E-Club of Greater Cape Town, it was business as usual says PDG Lynette Stassen (D9350)

When District 9350 chartered its E-Club in 2019, many clubs were sceptical about a club run using virtual technology without face-to-face interactions and fellowship. However, time has shown that the greatest advantage of this club model is that it allows Rotary to be more inclusive and engage people who want to be part of Rotary, but who have family duties, busy schedules or are unable to travel.

THE POWER OF VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP:

The power of fellowship through virtual meetings was best illustrated when 100 Rotarians from about 10 countries and 30 districts met at the E-Club of Greater Cape Town's virtual induction. The guests were seated at five tables of 20 people each during the dinner break and all met 'eye-to-eye' on the screen. Not only did it create a personal atmosphere, but it allowed for energetic discussions. Most valuable, many new and lasting friendships were made. Alaska will see Rotarians flocking to the delightful Rotarian who invited all to visit!

The breakout rooms were not easy to plan and coordinate, but it was worth the effort and a huge success - a fantastic way to achieve fellowship!

GAME-CHANGERS FOR ENGAGING FUN:

Below are some practical game-changers that can help to create a fun and engaging evening to assist you when planning your virtual meetings.

INVITES:

Invite people who have positively impacted your club. You could reach out personally or create an interesting WhatsApp invite for more direct communication. Zoom allows you to reach up to 1 000 people. Invite numbers that are manageable

and relevant to your activities. It is not about how many guests attend, what matters is how enjoyable it was.

PARTICIPATION:

Seeing 100 new faces on a screen can intimidate the best of us. It is good to set expectations and ground rules on member participation so that everyone is encouraged to participate with protocols and etiquette. It can be as subtle as raising your hand to speak or reaching out to the chair to discuss a point. It can include a dress code or a theme; some information on the flow and timing of the session and of course the purpose of the get-together.

Very important: do not allow anyone to take a disproportionate part of the time, or even worse carry on with their own personal agenda. Respect all your guests and treat them equally.

TECHNOLOGY:

Make it easy to join your meetings. Zoom is a popular platform and gives a 20 percent discount to Rotarians through the Rotary Global rewards programme. It is easy to sign up and join and has a variety of functions that can keep members engaged and connected during a meeting or special occasion.

Zoom offers an add-on that allows for smaller 'breakout rooms' within a meeting. This is similar to seating people at a table during an event. It allows your guests to be part of the main session and at allocated times, break away into smaller groups to create a more intimate setting and feel.

Ideally, you do not want a meeting that lasts for longer than 90 minutes, otherwise people can get digital fatigue. Be sure to break your sessions

into chunks with a different activity every 15 or so minutes. Examples of activities are polls, speaker changes, ice-breakers or breakout rooms.

ICE-BREAKERS (ESPECIALLY FOR ROTARIANS):

Rotary is a special place and I have yet to meet a Rotarian who has not changed or been positively affected by our organisation. Use their stories as icebreakers and go around the virtual room to connect with members. Rotarians are amazing and special citizens of the world. It is fascinating to get to know them better. It can be serious (legacies left behind) or it can be light-hearted (what are you afraid of?). Above all, create an atmosphere of

engagement, a connection and openness.

VIRTUAL FUTURE IS OUR NEW NORMAL:

Virtual engagement with your members is starting to become a lifesaver to many Rotary clubs in decline. Using technology to connect around the world with your sponsors, friends and other Rotarians opens doors to huge opportunities in our Rotary world. With a click-through you become part of your global 1.2 million-strong Rotary family - those neighbours, friends and leaders who unite to take action and create lasting change.

Embrace the change; just click and enjoy unprecedented fellowship.



THE VALUE of volunteering

Volunteering is at the heart of the Rotary experience. Whether that means working with clubs in other countries to dig wells or equip schools or mentoring students and organising events in their own communities, Rotarians give a great deal of their time - and that time is valuable. But exactly how much time do Rotarians give as volunteers? And how much is it worth?

Rotarians see clearly the impact of their work on the communities they serve, but statistics that outline the economic value of their time have not been available - and that information is crucial to understanding the value of the work of Rotary International as a whole. So in 2017, Rotary turned to researchers at the Johns Hopkins Centre for Civil Society Studies (CCSS) for their expertise.

“Volunteer organisations are facing increasing pressure to prove their impact and quantify their social outcomes. What we haven’t had until now is solid data to prove the scale and economic value of our members’ collective volunteer service,” notes RI General Secretary and Chief Executive Officer John Hewko. “We approached Johns Hopkins after we learned about their systematic method to measure the amount and value of volunteer service.”

After extensive work to develop a statistical model for an accurate survey sample and to craft the survey questions, the CCSS and Rotary sent the survey to a carefully selected, statistically representative group of Rotarians worldwide. It asked respondents to provide information about each time they had participated in volunteer

activities organised by Rotary over the previous four weeks.

After collecting the data and crunching the numbers, the CCSS issued a report called “The Scope and Scale of Rotary Volunteering” in December 2019. Here are some highlights.

Rotarians volunteer at least 47 million hours per year

Rotary’s 1.2 million members volunteered nearly 5.8 million hours over the four-week period surveyed. The CCSS report notes that “if the overall Rotary membership maintains this level of volunteering over even nine months in a typical year, this translates into a conservative estimate of nearly 47 million hours of volunteer effort generated by Rotary members in a typical year.” And because the survey was confined to members of Rotary clubs, that number does not include the volunteer time of Rotaractors, Interactors or Rotary Community Corps members.

That figure also does not include the volunteer time given by friends and family members of Rotarians.

The economic value of volunteer services provided by Rotary is an estimated \$850 million per year

To put a dollar value on volunteering, the CCSS had to figure out what it would cost to hire someone to do the same work in the countries where the volunteer activities took place. As the report notes, “Since detailed wage data were not available on all countries, however, we took the more conservative approach of using average wage rates for selected countries in each region. ...

How do Rotarians spend their volunteer time?



These country wage rates were then averaged by region and converted to dollars based on ‘purchasing power parity.’”

Rotary’s emphasis on service is a major part of what draws new members.

When asked how important Rotary’s focus on service was to their decision to become a member, 28 percent of respondents said it was extremely important; an additional 46 percent said it was very important.

Rotarians carry out a variety of roles in their volunteer work.

- 49 percent: Project management, organisation and coordination.
- 33 percent: Manual tasks such as cooking and serving food, cleaning, building, operating vehicles, making phone calls and staffing booths.
- 14 percent: Technical and professional activities, including accounting, legal, medical and fundraising work.

New members embrace the value of time spent volunteering.

About two-thirds of the 2 200 survey respondents have been members for six years or more, and, unsurprisingly, they account for about two-thirds of Rotary-organised volunteer work, roughly proportional to their share of members. Significantly, however, those who have been members of Rotary for three to five years account for 20 percent of volunteer hours, exceeding their 17 percent share of membership.

To learn more and to download the full report, visit rotary.org/value-rotary-volunteering.

Rotary Youth Exchange students often say their experience abroad was the best time of their lives. Being part of the programme can be life-changing for Rotarians as well.

By Vanessa Glavinskas
Illustrations by Ruby Taylor



ADVEN





PASSPORT TO NATURE



For more than 40 years, Rotary Youth Exchange has been one of Rotary's best-known programmes. As an official programme, it dates to 1975 - but by that time, Rotary clubs had already been sending students abroad for decades with the aim of promoting international understanding and friendship.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic postponed some exchanges, the ethos of Rotary Youth Exchange remains strong. What the programme offers to and asks of participants - an openness to new ideas and experiences, a willingness to adapt and to gain new perspectives and an opportunity to make new friends and learn new ways of living - are the same values that define Rotary itself.

"The major goal of Youth Exchange is to dive into another culture," says Rotary President Holger Knaack, who served as chair of the German Multi-District Youth Exchange; he and his wife, Susanne, have themselves hosted dozens of students. "Youth Exchange is an opportunity for the kids to experience something new. And it has enriched our own lives."

How Rotary Youth Exchange changed my life

THE INTERCULTURAL ENTREPRENEUR

When Tim Pfrogner was in Los Angeles on his exchange in 2010, he participated in a service project that altered his career trajectory. “In our district, we do a humanitarian trip every year,” says Melody St. John, a member of the Rotary Club of Hollywood, California, who with her husband, Paul, hosted Pfrogner during his exchange year. “Tim was with us when we did a water filter project in the Dominican Republic, and he was fascinated.”



After returning home to Germany, Pfrogner went on to study at the Technical University of Munich, but he couldn't forget what he had experienced on his exchange — or the fact that 800 million people around the world do not have access to safe drinking water. In 2014, he co-founded a start-up, called Waterfilter, that works in the Kigoma region of Tanzania and is now supported by the Rotary Club of München-International. With his team, he developed a sustainable business model to distribute an innovative water purification product made using local resources. Waterfilter trains unemployed people to open up their own Waterfilter shop, where they build the filters and sell them to members of their community for an affordable price. “This way,” Pfrogner says, “we do not only provide clean and safe drinking water; we also create jobs.”

Pfrogner says his experience with Rotary Youth Exchange was pivotal. “Being confronted with different cultures at such

“Before I studied abroad, Japan was the world standard for me.

People in Mexico and Japan have very different social skills, different ways of thinking about time, different ways of living and I keenly realised the world is huge. Through studying abroad, I came to believe that Japan is only a part of the world.”

Hideyuki Fujita,
Japan to Mexico, 2001/02 Now: Uses
his language skills as a marketing
and sales specialist for Mexico and
Latin America for Nippon Express



On his first audition, Joel Jackson told himself: “I’ve just got to do what I did in Brazil: jump in and trust that I’ll be able to handle myself.”

Joel Jackson,
Australia to Brazil, 2009
Now: Award-winning TV and film
actor in Australia, best known
for his roles as Charles Bean
in Deadline Gallipoli and Peter
Allen in Peter Allen: Not the Boy
Next Door

10 things every Rotarian should know about Rotary Youth Exchange

1

Rotary Youth Exchange is **run by volunteers**, which means costs are lower than many other exchange programmes

2

While it's useful for students to know their **host country's language**, it's not a programme requirement

3

Rotary's stringent youth protection policies and district certification programme **ensure that the safety of students is the highest priority**

4

Host families are not paid. Every family is screened and has a background check. Families treat students like a member of the family and to include them in all their normal activities

5

Exchanges are for students **between ages 15 and 19**

6

Long-term exchanges often last a full academic year and **students are required to attend school.** They typically live with several host families during the year

7

Short-term exchanges, which can last from a few days up to three months, are often structured as a camp or a homestay when school is not in session.

8

There is usually no cost to students for room and board or school fees. **Students are typically responsible for their travel costs and for spending money**

9

In many districts, students can take part in **service projects** organised by local Rotary clubs or by alumni associations called Rotex

10

Upon their return, students are invited to stay connected to Rotary as part of a Rotex group. **Rotary clubs are encouraged to stay in touch with their past participants**, who can also offer guidance to current and prospective exchange students

Reconnect Week is 5-11 October. Each year, all around the world, Rotary members and alumni of programmes such as Rotary Youth Exchange, RYLA and Interact share their experiences, network with one another and participate in projects together. Find out more at on.rotary.org/reconnectweek

an early time in my life strengthened my ability to have empathy for others,” he says. “Youth Exchange taught me to follow my passions.”



THE GLOBE-TROTTER JOURNALIST

In 2001, Isabelle Roughol left France to spend a year in Montclair, New Jersey. Two weeks after she arrived, the United States was rocked by the 9/11 terrorist attacks. “I could see the World Trade Centre from my bedroom window,” she recalls. “Students in my school had parents who worked in lower Manhattan, teachers were worried for spouses, sirens were blasting. Everyone was in a state of shock.” Roughol remembers that day as eerie and sad, but she never questioned whether she should continue her exchange in New Jersey. “The sense of community was really strong in Montclair,” she says. “I felt supported.”

That year shaped her. She became bolder. Something frightening had happened, but with the support of her host family and community she was able to cope. “I could sometimes be timid and unsure of myself,” she recalls. “That year taught me that good things can come when you take chances.”

She continued to bet on herself and her ability to adapt. “I got my bachelor’s degree from the University of Missouri. I embarked on a career in journalism, writing in English and I’ve lived in Australia, Cambodia and the UK. My Youth Exchange year launched me into a global life and a global career. It was the start of everything.”

THE PANDEMIC RESPONDER

“I didn’t imagine possibilities for myself before I went abroad,” says Lorelei Higgins, who grew up in Spruce Grove, Alberta. “Many of my friends stayed in our small town and had families.” Today, Higgins is back in Canada, working for the city of Calgary, where her job is focused on building peace locally. Her most ambitious project is the creation of an indigenous relations office.



Her Rotary Youth Exchange experience in South Africa in 1998-99 inspired her to study political science and international relations. “I was 17 when I went to South Africa. I had never been on an aeroplane, I spoke no other languages, I had grown up in a small town in Canada. I was very sheltered. That’s what I think is so fundamental about the programme: It opens up opportunities at a critical age,” she says. “When I finished my degree, I couldn’t wait to leave Canada. I had that Rotary bug to be out there doing service.”

“That Rotary bug” inspired Higgins to go to Bolivia, where she had an internship with a Canadian NGO called Ghost River Rediscovery that helped connect young members of indigenous communities to their roots. She continued working for the organisation in Calgary before taking a job with the city —

A look at the history of Rotary Youth Exchange

1927

A Rotarian in France writes to Rotary International and proposes an international youth exchange between children of Rotarians

1928

The Rotarian magazine reports on a youth exchange proposed by clubs in Belgium, Denmark, Italy and Switzerland

1939

District 107 (formerly Southern California) sets up an exchange with districts in Latin America

1946

European exchanges resume after World War II ends

1953

A youth exchange conference in Switzerland generates worldwide interest in the programme

1966

Rotary’s Board of Directors surveys youth exchange activities by clubs and districts worldwide

1975

Rotary Youth Exchange is officially recognised as by Rotary International after being adopted at the 1974 Council on Legislation. The programme continues to operate and is now active in 128 countries and geographical areas. About 9 000 students participate each year.

which now has landed her on the front lines of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As lead staff member for community connections, she puts residents together with the resources they need, from groceries to garbage pickup. She recently arranged for 10 000 pounds of restaurant food that would have gone to waste to be delivered to vulnerable families.

Until normal life resumes, she's happy to serve in any way she can. In fact, her year abroad helped prepare her for this moment. "It taught me to be adaptable and flexible," she says.



THE ENTHUSIASTIC HOST FAMILY

For Mother's Day this year, Melody St Johns husband, Paul, himself a member of the Rotary Club of Los Angeles, organised a virtual get together with 20 people - all former Rotary Youth Exchange students who have stayed with the couple in their Los Angeles home.

"They surprised me with a beautiful slideshow" of photos from their exchanges, she says. "We talked about how we're doing and how we're coping" with being in lockdown because of COVID-19.

The St Johns almost didn't become exchange hosts. "I was hesitant because we didn't have kids," Melody explains; she wasn't sure they would know how to navigate integrating a teenager into their household. But when the couple's first student, Federico, arrived from Argentina in 1996, everything clicked - and their lives changed. "We had so much fun with him," she remembers. "It was such a joy. We took him everywhere, and he brightened our lives." For the next two decades, the St Johns continued opening their home to new students - some of whom were siblings of students who had stayed with them earlier. They even started organising a cross-country train tour for all the exchange students in their district.

In 2018, they took a break from hosting as Melody prepared to serve as 2019/20 governor of District 5280 - but in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, they opened their home yet again. "One of our former students, Pietro, lives nearby. He asked if he could shelter here with us," Melody explains. "He also wanted to do the shopping for us, so we didn't have to go out."

The couple now can't imagine their lives without Rotary Youth Exchange. "I was sad for a long time because I couldn't have kids," Melody says.

"But now I've got over 20 of the coolest kids, and they all call me Mom. We've gone to our former students' weddings; we've been to Poland for Easter and Spain for Christmas. We have family all over the world."

THE LEADERSHIP ADVISER

"I joined Rotary because I wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself," says Claudia Taha, a member of the Rotary Club of Londrina-Alvorada in Brazil.



But after a while, Taha wasn't sure joining had been the right decision. "There were times I was about to leave," she says. "I thought, this is not for me. I don't want to just go to meetings."

Then she got involved with her district's Rotary Youth Exchange programme. "I became interested in Youth Exchange because of my kids," she explains. All three of her children participated in the programme - her son and older daughter went on year-long exchanges to the United States, and her younger daughter travelled to Germany and Italy on a short-term programme. "When I first got involved, it was hard to attract students to Brazil," she explains. "We were competing with Europe and Asia."

Taha wanted to change how the programme in District 4710 was structured, and she got the chance when she became Rotary Youth Exchange co-chair for the district. "We wrote to Rotary International and asked permission to market it as a programme to develop young leaders - youth exchange included," she says. "I wanted to add value to our programme by incorporating a social component." To accomplish this, the district pairs prospective outbound students with students who are currently on exchange in Brazil. They work together on a service project - such as visiting the elderly or volunteering in an impoverished neighbourhood. "By doing this, Rotarians have a lot of contact with the students. The students learn Portuguese faster because in the communities we help; no one speaks English. At the same time, we are providing students who want to be involved in community work with a reason to choose Rotary Youth Exchange."

Taha also found that pairing inbound and outbound students turned the teenagers themselves into ambassadors for the programme. "They film and post on Instagram what they are doing and show the impact on society," she explains. "At

the beginning it was just us, the committee, talking to families, talking to kids. Now we have young people talking to young people.” Over the past seven years, the district has gone from sending four students abroad to sending 20.

“We’re selecting people to become leaders, not just to travel,” says Taha, explaining the fulfilment she gets from being part of the Rotary Youth Exchange programme. “I’m still in Rotary because of this programme.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Oscar-winning actor **Matthew McConaughey** travelled from Texas to Australia as a Rotary Youth Exchange student in 1988

Blazers are emblematic of Rotary’s Youth Exchange programme. Each participant gets a blazer in a **colour based on their home country**. Students often cover the blazers with pins they trade with one another

In 2018/19, **70 percent** of exchanges were long term, lasting a full academic year

91 percent of Rotary districts are certified to participate in Rotary Youth Exchange, but only 16 percent of clubs send or host students

5 768 Rotary clubs participate in Rotary Youth Exchange

Figures do not include information about the programme in Germany

Did you **participate in Rotary Youth Exchange**? Connect to Rotex International, the association for programme alumni, at rotex.org

Coping with the unexpected: Youth Exchange and COVID-19

In early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic began to affect Rotary’s Youth Exchange programme in unprecedented ways. We talked about it with RI Director James Anthony “Tony” Black, who served as chair of the Youth Exchange Committee and as its director liaison.

Rotary Youth Exchange participants often cope with the unexpected. How have students, clubs and districts been handling the pandemic?

The Rotary Youth Exchange community has done outstanding work keeping students and programme volunteers engaged. We’ve seen students connecting virtually through video challenges and attending club meetings online. Virtual exchanges can serve as an engaging alternative to in-person exchanges, providing young people with the opportunity to engage and collaborate with people from other cultures and communities through technology. Some districts are even planning virtual exchanges for 2020/21. Clubs and districts are working hard to keep students safe and connected with Rotary and their communities.

How did Rotary support students who had to come home early?

Returning home, even after a successful exchange, can be difficult for students and their families. Imagine the added challenges of returning home earlier than expected, and of experiencing reverse culture shock during a global pandemic. Rotary leaders recognised the need to provide students with additional emotional support and found innovative ways to do that. For example, some districts arranged video calls so that students could maintain the relationships they had developed while on exchange or set up group conference calls so that students could share what they experienced and provide support to one another. Some even arranged for mental health counsellors to offer support to students.

What about the students who had to shelter in place while abroad?

For students who remained on exchange, the effect of COVID-19 on their experience was equally unexpected and challenging. But even without the typical social activities, districts found ways to keep students engaged, to help them practise their language skills and to stay connected. Students even developed creative social media campaigns to promote safe social distancing in their host communities with the help of volunteers.

Is there any lesson from the past that could help chart the way forward for the Rotary Youth Exchange programme in a world changed by COVID-19?

It’s important to realise that this is not the first time that international exchange programmes have been challenged by an international crisis and most study abroad programmes have historically rebounded very quickly. In the 2020/21 year, COVID-19 may close some doors temporarily, but we know that with any challenge comes great opportunity. A pause could provide a chance for clubs and districts to strengthen their programmes and to find new, innovative ways to engage young people with Rotary. I have no doubt the programme will come out of this challenge even stronger.

THE POWER of One

“No individual raindrop ever considers itself responsible for the flood”

The Power of One! A simple statement, but how does it apply to you as an individual Rotarian in influencing positive change in the world?

We all know that collectively, our efforts can bring about change - one student at a time

Africa as a continent is the second most populated continent and is home to 17.2 percent of the world’s population, half of which is under the age of 25 years. However, African students participate in only two percent of Rotary Youth Exchanges.

The Power of One committee and Rotary Youth Exchange plan to increase the participation of youth from Africa in exchanges and in developing future world leaders.

In Africa only six Rotary districts (representing 12 countries or partial countries) are fully-certified (able to send and receive students), five districts (14 countries) are certified as outbound-only and eight districts have at least one country (30 in total) that is not certified and is unable to participate in RYE.

This, says secretary of the Power of One committee, P Terrance McNaughton, shows that there is a lot of opportunity for embracing the exchange programme.”

SO HOW DOES THE POWER OF ONE WORK?

The short-term goal of the Power of One is to reach the five outbound-only districts and provide assistance in the recruitment and selection of students. This would include finding host districts around that are willing to participate in an outbound-only youth exchanges. Some of these host districts have already indicated a willingness to provide some financial support to the African students.

To date, two of the five districts have participated. In addition, the Power of One team has also assisted in finding placements for some fully-certified districts.

The long-term goal of the Power of One is to encourage more African districts to seek full certification and become involved in Rotary Youth Exchange.

In addition to the Youth Exchange Officers (YEO) Preconvention that Rotary offers, there are three major Rotary Regional Groups that hold annual youth exchange conferences around the world.

Realising there are challenges facing many of the African districts, the first-ever Power of One Conference was held in Casablanca, Morocco in October 2019 to address them. The focus was to provide the opportunity for RYE chairs from African districts to network, share their experiences, their challenges, find support and most importantly, to discover specific ‘how to’ action plans to address their challenges.

A second Power of One Conference was planned for November 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in its postponement until 2021. For the next several years, annual Power of One Conferences will be held in different African nations, to provide support and build the infrastructure needed for youth exchange.

WHAT CAN YOU DO IN THE MEANTIME?

Each district should have a committee of dedicated Rotarians charged with making Rotary Youth Exchange happen in their district/country. Engage the district governor (DG), district governor-elect (DGE) and the district governor nominee (DGN) in developing a long-term plan. District financial support to allow the RYE chair and one to two committee members to attend future Power of One conferences is suggested.

The Power of One team that supports this initiative consists of the project’s founder and leader Serdar Kelahmet (Turkey), along with Jany Hatanaka (Brazil), Terrance McNaughton (Canada), Martine Texier (Switzerland) and Jakob Volther (Denmark).

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Terrance McNaughton:
terrance.mcnaughton@outlook.com

Martine Texier (French): maba8620@hotmail.com

DARING dinners

To beat the isolation blues, a club has formed an online dinner club that has dished up some interesting discussions and challenged members to try something new - regardless of whether it is a crop or game!

Since the COVID-19 Pandemic began, Rotary meetings have not been able to take place as usual and, like most Rotary Clubs, the Rotary Club of Boksburg (D9400) resorted to meeting online. Younger members loved the new adventurous way of 'staying at home' while meeting with other club members. Soon, the older members also learnt to use the technology and then, it was not long before the clubs found creative ways to make meetings interesting and entertaining.

President Derek Fox set aside the fourth week of every month for a Fellowship meeting and launched his dinner club on 29 July. This is a virtual meeting and will continue as such for the rest of the Rotary year. During the meeting, Rotarians enjoy socialising with each other and discussing meals they enjoy. Members were asked to talk about a dish and it was required that the recipes they chose must be educational and interesting. They also had to provide information on the dish's origin.

The first dish up for discussion was mopane worm stew, presented by Dr George Hove, the club's trainer and wheelchair man. He assured the club that it is a delicious dish and provided an appetising picture. Little did he know, his dish would cause some discussion. Firstly, there was debate over its origin, either Limpopo or Zimbabwe and secondly, over the mopane worm's classification – crop or game?

Club Secretary Elsa Venter recalled that some years ago there was litigation about mopane worms' classification. Whether the worms are a crop (such as apples, which grow on trees) or game (although they live on the Mopane tree, nobody cultivated them and they are alive) is relevant when ownership is decided, as well as who is entitled to harvest them. Rod Genricks, a game ranger, also remembers the litigation, but there is no record of such a reported court decision.

The second dish was demonstrated by Assistant Governor Monica Nazziwa. She taught the club about Tortilla de Patatas (Spanish Omelette). The dish is said to have originated in the South West of Spain in about 1817. Particularly interesting was that Monica, a Ugandan who married a Spaniard and learnt to cook Spanish food for the sake of her in-laws, is now the family's champion Tortilla de Patatas maker!

Lastly, it was the turn of champion potjiekos man Rod Genricks. He demonstrated a lamb and vegetable potjie and it is difficult to imagine a dish more typically South African than this. As it is considered a cardinal sin to stir a potjie during preparation, he demonstrated a contraption that is fitted inside the pot to allow sauce to be circulated without stirring.



George Hove introduced the club to one of his favourite dishes, mopane worm stew!



Monica Nazziwa's marriage to a Spaniard encouraged her to become the best Tortilla de Patatas cook in the family - even better than her in-laws!





SERVICE while in isolation

A small club has proved that thinking big while in lockdown has its rewards

When the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a lockdown for South Africa late in March 2020, members of the Rotary Club of St Francis Bay (D9370) began a mammoth project to address food security in the Sea Vista community, which is home to more than 8 000 people. Overnight, many of these people had found themselves without a job or means to support their families.

As St Francis is a small community, the club partnered with the St Francis United Church and the Disaster Volunteer Group to lead the project which was also supported by a number of organisations and people. The organisations worked to raise funds, source donations, secure appropriate foodstuffs, package food parcels and then distribute them to identified families.

More than R2.1million was raised in cash and food donations and 6 121 food parcels were distributed until level three lockdown was in place. Soup kitchens also benefited and continue to receive a weekly supply of groceries. A further 240 food parcels were distributed to families in the

Oyster Bay community. Of the funds collected, about R500 000 remains that will be used to continue to assist soup kitchens and identified families in need.

SuperSpar Village Square discounted all foodstuffs purchased for parcels. Donations were also received from Balobi Fishing Enterprises (13 tons of fish), Mathew Ferry (nine tons of porridge), Rennie and Alison Price (four tons of citrus fruit), Patensie farmers (10 tons of potatoes), while Smhart Security provided security services at no cost whenever food parcels were distributed. Rotarian Dave Truter was instrumental in facilitating the establishment of the overall team, while Rotarians Ivan Beaumont, Lyn Aitken, Dave Micklem, Cath Mitchley, Jim Fletcher, Charlie Jonsson and Paula Raber ensured that foodstuffs were secured and packed for distribution.

The Rotary Satellite Club of St Francis Bay (a satellite club of Uitenhage South) was formally chartered as the Rotary Club of St Francis Bay in late 2019 with 23 members.

Fruitful Partnership

In 1966 the Rotary Club of Dundee (D9370) was the first in its district to enter the Rotary Youth Exchange programme. The relationships formed over the years of the programme have continued to provide Rotarians with opportunities for service. An example of this is a project, financed by the Rotary Club of Havelberg (D1900, Germany), that ensures children, primarily those from child-headed households, receive food every day.

In 2014, the club sent Catherine Willis Smith on an exchange to Germany where she was hosted by Havelberg. Catherine spoke about Dundee's projects and the Havelberg club donated toward a service project in Dundee that year. The following September, a Havelberg Rotarian turned 70 and asked his friends and family to celebrate the occasion by donating towards a service project in Dundee.

The donation was used to support Siphuthando Care Centre's feeding scheme and in 2017, the same Rotarian sent another donation. The Rotary Club of Havelberg took over funding the project from the beginning of 2018.

"We firmly believe that the funding is continuing as it does due to the reporting that Catherine (and her Rotarian parents) send to Germany," said Assistant Governor Bev Garner. Initially, Catherine would send monthly reports to Havelberg that highlighted the reality of a specific child's life without disclosing any personal details. All her reporting was done in German.

Over the years this has become a permanent project. Reports are now sent on a quarterly basis and include exact accounting for every cent spent. When funds are in surplus, and with permission, school uniforms and the



Thandi Zulu with Gerald Willis Smith at Siphuthando Care Centre.

like are purchased.

At the end of March, when South Africa entered a level five COVID-19 lockdown, the situation of these children worsened. When level four was implemented, Siphuthando Manager Thandi Zulu reported visible malnourishment in many children. An action plan to address this was quickly put in place and the Willis Smiths arranged a 750 kilogramme donation of ePap from the Boikanyo Foundation in Johannesburg. This was added to supplement the regular donations of food to the children.

The Rotary Club of Dundee remains committed to the long-term youth exchange programme and although only two of its 29 members have children, there is no shortage of host families or enthusiasm!



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The Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400) gave Golden Future Crèche and Pre-school a sanitising station to ensure that proper COVID-19 hygiene protocols were followed at the school. The station consists of a movable stand, a 25 litre water bottle, drainage bucket and sanitiser spray bottle. At the handover are Principal Maria Manamela and Kgabo Choshi, with Rotarians Susan van der Merwe, Marius Liebenberg and Seja Rapholo.



Food and clothing donations sourced and delivered by members of the Rotary Club of Umhlanga (D9370) were given to children in Amanzimtoti. The club also raised funds to purchase nutritious meals from Chef2Table for the families of the children.



Dr Benita Ramnarain of Osindisweni Hospital, outside Verulam near Durban, received a donation for refreshments for the frontline staff from President Sastri Naidoo of the Rotary Club of Phoenix (D9370).



Since the beginning of lockdown, the Rotary Club of Swellendam (D9350) has provided a weekly supply of vegetables to Pastor Joseph of the Apostolic Faith Mission in Railton. Pastor Joseph gives them to the needy. With Pastor Joseph is President Johan Kriek.



The Rotary Club of Northcliff (D9400) donated a fridge and freezer to Potters Nursery School in Windsor West, Johannesburg. The club used a District Grant to finance this project. The school was founded by Pastor Tiras and Salome Magolo and provides quality education in a Christian context for the local lower income community. There are 72 students. The club is also attending to repairs to the geyser and plumbing while DG Annemarie Mostert arranged for Mila Cleaning Services to sanitise and defog the school prior to its reopening on 25 August.



The Rotary Club of Haenertsburg (D9400) thought that it would be impossible to hold its annual Iron Crown Trail Run this year, but after seeing how the Comrades held a virtual race the members decided “If Comrades can do it, so can we!” Using

TimeMe, they organised the virtual race that was held on 11 July. Participants paid R55 to enter and ran either five, 10 or 22 kilometres. Their times were sent to TimeMe and they received a certificate of their results. Advantages of the virtual run were that entrants could run when they liked and that all the Rotarians could take part! The event raised more than R5 000.



About R300 000 worth of tablets were given to three KwaZulu-Natal schools by the Rotary Club of Mooi River and Midlands (D9370). The funding for this project was received from the Rotary Club of Macclesfield Castle (D1285, England). The club's International Chair Ken Newton managed to increase the funding by obtaining additional support from Rotary clubs in Germany, Holland and Belgium. Bruntville Primary School and Drakondale School of the Arts and Girls' Choir received the tablets. In previous years the four Rotary clubs in England and Europe have helped the Rotary Club of Mooi River provide boreholes at a number of schools in South Africa.



The Interact Club of Port Alfred High School, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Port Alfred (D9370), welcomed the Matrics back to a very quiet campus by giving them each a handmade biscuit iced with the encouraging message "You've Got This!" The Matrics were the only learners on campus as they began preparations for their preliminary exams at the end of August. Ready to hand out their biscuits are Interactors Oneza Mkangisa, Romy Alexandre, Zayden du Plessis and President Kim Waters.



To celebrate Mandela Day, the Rotary Club of Umhlanga (D9370) collected toys for distribution to the children of Waterloo and Inanda.



The Rotary Club of Westville (D9370) held a tea to thank the Dawncliffe Park Retirement Home knitting group members for their help in supplying baby clothes for premature babies born at hospitals throughout KwaZulu-Natal. The club buys wool for the knitting group to use.

NEW PRESIDENTS



Deney Barry
Haenertsburg, 9400



Penny Orton
Amanzimtoti, 9370



Bryan Anderson
Paarl, 9350



Dennis Tucker
Algoa Bay, 9370



Peter Sharples
Pinelands, 9350



Sonja Gilliland
Vanderbijlpark, 9400



Naas Vorster
Pietersburg 100, 9400



Helen Hugo
Kimberley South, 9370



John Johnston-Webber
Durban, 9370



Sastri Naidoo
Phoenix, 9370



Desire du Toit
Riverside, 9400



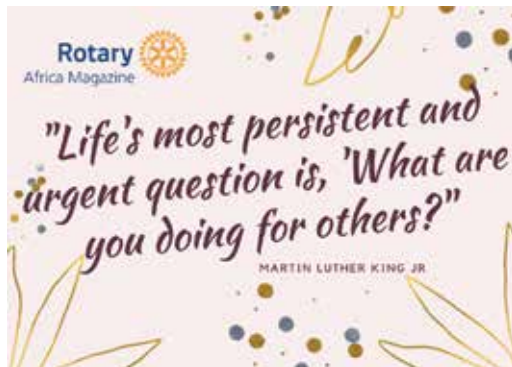
Alcelina Haingura
Walvis Bay, 9350



Logs Naidoo
Durban Merewent, 9370



Tom McGhee
Port Alfred, 9370



WALL OF HONOUR



Sampie Lyle a new member of the Rotary Club of Pietersburg 100 (D9400).



Sarel Martin a new member of the Rotary Club of Pietersburg 100 (D9400).



Elwyn Mudungwe was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow +3 by the Rotary Club of Harare West (D9210).



Tanya Stone was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Pinelands (D9350).



Rod Genricks is a new member of the Rotary Club of Boksburg (D9400).



Sonia Moremoholo is a new member of the Rotary Club of Boksburg (D9400).



Thierry Boulanger is a new member of the Rotary Club of Kenton on Sea (D9370).



Monika Boulanger is a new member of the Rotary Club of Kenton on Sea (D9370).



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