

JUNE 2023

# Rotary

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# WELCOME

Sarah van Heerden - **Editor in Chief**

Have you ever had one of those weeks where you begin to wonder if everything and everyone is out to get you?

Paranoid, I know. And if you know me, you will know that I try to remain positive at all times and sometimes, it is a challenge. For example, in the space of five days, power surges claimed my camera and a design laptop, the WiFi in my office kept dying and then, a week later, the fibre in my home said “cheerio” and headed off for warmer climes. Ok, so maybe it did not sashay off for a yay-cay, but it felt that way.

The purpose of this ‘woe is me’? Hmm, I am not too sure. The ship seems to have righted itself, but I am still suspiciously on guard for the next disaster.

I am a big believer in the power of positivity; that if you see a problem as impossible you are automatically telling your mind that it is too big to solve and invoking a mental flight or freeze state. Whereas, if you start imagining solutions, any solutions, as wacky as you like, you are adopting a state of mind that you can overcome this, your mind no longer senses an obstacle. Your positivity or negativity colours your behaviour, decision making and interpretation of the world around you. As you can imagine I was fairly bleak for a few days and you know what? Everything just kept getting worse! No, no... I am not going the way of hocus-pocus-moon-wailing-madness. What I am saying is that the negativity I was feeling over the situation definitely coloured the world around me; my interactions with people and even my relationship with the Howickian Hounds (no, not the local yokels, but my literal hounds... I call them hounds because it makes them sound braver and more useful than what they are!).

So, I took a day’s leave last week, attended a Rotary Africa Zoom board meeting in my pjs (sorry, directors) and spent the rest of Friday cuddled up on the couch bracing myself for the first proper chill of winter. It was half-term and Mac (if you follow me on Facebook you will know he is a handful) was home, rambling on about cars, trucks, gaming and goodness knows what.

It was a good day.

Ahh, I feel we may have found the point: May was Mental Health month and I think that sometimes we get so caught up in life that we forget to take care of our minds and emotions. Just as when you overdo it physically, strain or pull a muscle, you need to rest to allow time to heal. Sometimes we just need to take a moment, reconnect with the hounds and handsome son. Turn your off phone, WhatsApp, laptop and tablets. Watch an old silly comedy series, sip some tea or read some pulp fiction.

Whatever you do, take care of yourselves. Make the time.

## 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?







The recipient of the 2022-23 Programs of Scale award will be announced at the Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, Australia.

You can read about recent finalists at [rotary.org/programsofscale](https://rotary.org/programsofscale) and expect an update on this year's recipient in the August issue of *Rotary* magazine.

# Apply for the 2023-24 Programs of Scale award

## The application process for the 2023-24 Programs of Scale award opens 1 June!

Through the annual Programs of Scale competition, The Rotary Foundation selects an initiative that has demonstrated its success and is ready to expand in order to help more people in more places. The programs, which receive US\$2 million over three to five years, need to be sponsored by a club or district and implemented

with experienced partners who are also committed to their long-term success and sustainability.

Concept notes from qualified Rotary and Rotaract clubs and districts describing programs that have had an impact and how they're ready to scale will be accepted from 1 June until 1 August 2023.

Learn more about Programs of Scale at [rotary.org/programsofscale](https://rotary.org/programsofscale)



**Rotary** 

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



1. At September's Global Citizen Festival in New York City, RI President Jennifer Jones announced that Rotary International would commit an additional \$150 million to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. 2. Visiting Zambia in August, Jones talks with health workers participating in Partners for a Malaria-Free Zambia, the recipient of RI's first Programmes of Scale grant. 3. Jones goes shoulder-to-shoulder with Lucky Johana Mishel Chutá Simón, a student she met during an April tour of the Guatemala Literacy Project. 4. In July, at a stop on her Imagine Rotary Canada Tour, Jones hugs a stuffed grizzly bear wearing the red serge tunic of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. 5. Jones and the actor Sibongile Miambo (left) participate in a September soccer game at the Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Uganda.





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## Not goodbye, but good work

Speaking to you through the pages of the Rotary Africa magazine this past year has brought me so much joy. I have especially enjoyed sharing the incredible stories of the wonderful people Nick and I have met on the Imagine Impact Tour.

From Patzún in the mountainous western highlands of Guatemala to a small village outside of Lusaka, Zambia, we have been greeted by countless people who imagine and work toward a better world.

We were inspired by teachers who imagine a better education for girls and boys facing gender-based violence, by Rotaractors in a refugee settlement who created a flour mill to provide for their families in a critical food shortage and by brave polio workers who push tirelessly to reach every last child.

All of us have imagined Rotary this year. This means looking past what we are today and reaching for what we could be tomorrow. We imagine a Rotary that will continue to tell our stories in impactful ways, work to reduce our carbon footprint and focus on diversity, equity and inclusion efforts that lift every voice in our organisation and beyond.

Nick and I want to thank all of you for the moments we've shared and for your efforts to Imagine Rotary. And now, we look forward to continuing these efforts as we Create Hope in the World. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve with each of you.

**JENNIFER JONES**

*President, Rotary International*



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6. Accompanied (at right) by her husband, Nick Krayacich, and Judith Diment, dean of the Rotary Representatives Network, Jones greets King Charles III in London on Commonwealth Day. 7. In the midst of her Imagine Impact Tour, Jones and her husband enjoy a quiet moment while seated in a Taiwanese cabbage patch. 8. Jones points to "Imagine One's Dream," the painting, by her brother Darren Jones, that inspired her presidential tie and scarf. 9. Jones poses for a photo at a February seminar in Texas for Rotary club presidents-elect. 10. Jones and Krayacich ride tall in the saddle at the annual Calgary Stampede Parade in Alberta.



# Foundation Trustee Chair

Ian H Risely

June marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another in Rotary, a bittersweet time to reflect as we look ahead.

Looking back on this year, The Rotary Foundation accomplished a great deal. We renewed our determination to fight polio to the end. Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative are implementing a strategy to stop the transmission of all wild poliovirus in the endemic countries of Pakistan and Afghanistan and the circulation of vaccine-derived poliovirus in outbreak countries. Last October, Rotary, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the global community collectively pledged \$2.6 billion toward this plan.

We know what it takes to eradicate polio and we have the strategies to do it. I urge all clubs to continue to take action in this historic effort by raising awareness and funds, especially around World Polio Day in October. Also, consider joining or starting a PolioPlus Society in your club or district to collectively give a set amount each year until polio is eradicated.

Our Foundation also responded to the devastating earthquake that hit Syria and Türkiye through disaster response grants that helped clubs and districts provide aid.

The Foundation continued to grow. Rotaract

clubs began volunteering on and applying for Foundation grants on their own. And our next Rotary Peace Centre, made possible by a gift from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation, will be located at Bahcesehir University in Istanbul.

To all who supported The Rotary Foundation by volunteering on grant projects or through giving, I thank you. If you haven't yet made your gift to the Foundation, please do so online by 30 June so we can end this remarkable year on a high note and reach our goal of raising \$430 million.

We can be proud of what we have done this year but let us never rest on our laurels; rather, let us remain persistent.

One of those who best personified persistence was Nelson Mandela. Speaking to a crowd of global dignitaries before his 90th birthday in 2008, he said, "It is in your hands to make of our world a better one for all, especially the poor, vulnerable and marginalised."

Changing the world is indeed in no one else's hands but our own and helping those in need is what defines and will continue to define Rotary and its Foundation in the years ahead.

I wish incoming Trustee Chair Barry Rassin, the Trustees and our staff continued success in making a difference through The Rotary Foundation.



## Rotary Showcase: Find Project Partners

**Thousands of Rotary and Rotaract clubs have shared projects on Rotary Showcase since it launched in 2012. Your club can post proposed projects and seek partners for those projects, 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](https://my.rotary.org)**





# Just imagine

Dr Patrick Coleman - Rotary Foundation Major Gifts Advisor

## DON'T READ THIS

Unless you want to learn something! Two conversations impacted me in the past few days. I made a phone call to a friend and her response was "To what honour do I owe actually receiving a telephone call?" In a society where more conversations are held over a screen nearly as small as a postage stamp, a real phone call is a rare experience. (By the way, I used the words postage stamp in the previous sentence, can you remember the last time you actually licked one?)

The other conversation was with a Rotary leader in Africa who said she had not heard anything about the upcoming Rotary Institute in Lusaka in September. I was stunned, the Institute has been advertised in every Rotary publication, social media platform and Governor's Newsletter from Cape Town to Cairo, but somehow the news is not getting out!

According to Serenity Gibbons who wrote for Forbes Magazine, here are six reasons people aren't reading emails - and probably other means of communication:

1. Information Overload
2. Inefficient Workflow
3. Poor Quality of Communication
4. Poor Timing of Communication
5. Unclear Policy Expectations
6. Uninviting Work Culture

According to Rotary International President Nominee Stephanie Urchick, this is one reason she is now a member of her third club! Before sending that next text message, consider a telephone call. Surprise them!

## BECOME VIBRANT

The new Rotary year is approaching and as we are finalising our plans, let's all endeavour to ensure that our clubs become vibrant!

**V - VISIBILITY OF OUR CLUBS IN THE COMMUNITY.** Every Rotary club needs to tell the public what Rotary is and what Rotary does. A Rotary club without an active public relations programme is like waving to a friend in the dark.

**I - INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS.** An involved member is a member for life. As a member of a Rotary club, each of us should have a job to do in our club. To be a Rotarian is to serve and service is a word of action.

**B - BIGGER, BETTER, BOLDER PROJECTS.** Service and fellowship are what we do. These are the reasons for getting together regularly. These are the products we sell to our prospective members.

**R - RECRUIT AND RETAIN MEMBERS.** Without members there will be no Rotary. Fewer members mean fewer Rotarians providing service. It is important to reach out and recruit members.

**A - ADVANCEMENT AND TRAINING OF CLUB MEMBERS.** The best way to retain a new member is to make them understand what Rotary is and how it works. The Rotary Learning Centre at My Rotary is full of opportunities to enhance our Rotary experience and the Rotary Leadership Institute gives every member an opportunity to increase their leadership skills.

**N - NEVER-ENDING FUN.** Paul Harris founded Rotary because he wanted to have fun and fellowship. When we have fun, we can do amazing things. If it isn't fun, then it isn't Rotary!

**T - THE ROTARY FOUNDATION** Past Rotary International President Gary Huang shared a Chinese proverb. If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help someone.

# KANGAROO MOTHER CARE

This low-tech method of skin-to-skin contact is improving outcomes for premature babies and their mothers

At birth, a baby kangaroo climbs into its mother's pouch, latches onto a nipple and stays put until it is more fully developed. Now imagine if you could do something similar for a human baby who is born prematurely.

That's the concept behind a low-tech intervention known as kangaroo mother care.

"Kangaroo mother care involves skin-to-skin care with the mother or with another family member: The father, grandmother, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters have all done it," says Doug McMillan, a member of the Rotary Club of Calgary, Alberta and a neonatologist experienced in global child health.

Mothers get support to breastfeed exclusively and if someone else is helping with the kangaroo care, the baby is fed stored breastmilk. The method was developed more than four decades ago in Colombia, when physician researchers Edgar Rey Sanabria and Héctor Martínez-Gómez were looking for a way to keep babies warm and with their mothers because their hospital didn't have incubators for low birth weight new-borns. The death rate for low birth weight infants at their hospital was 70 percent at the time.

Since then, multiple studies have shown kangaroo mother care saves new-born lives: It maintains better temperature, improves nutrition and growth, decreases infection and enhances the bonding between the mother and the baby, explains McMillan, a member of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers.

It has benefits for mothers too, reducing postpartum depression and enhancing their perceived ability to care for their new-borns. But while child mortality has otherwise declined dramatically, 1.6 million premature or low birth weight babies die every year in their first month, according to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. More than 75 percent of deaths of premature babies are preventable using current knowledge and basic clinical care.

In Uganda, the neonatal mortality rate is around 19



A Rotary Foundation global grant supported a project to upgrade the kangaroo mother care programme at a hospital in Uganda.



**1.6** million babies who die each year in their first month due to premature birth or low birth weight

**75%** Percentage of deaths from prematurity that are preventable





**150,000**

The estimated number of lives that could be saved each year by immediate kangaroo mother care



per 1,000 live births. At the Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, southwest of the Ugandan capital of Kampala, about 200 babies admitted to the neonatal unit died each year. About 70 percent of them were pre-term babies.

The two major causes of death were hypothermia,

as the babies were too small to keep themselves warm and infections - both of which are complicated by malnutrition.

That's where Rotarians stepped in. The Rotary Clubs of Mbarara, Uganda and Calgary at Stampede Park, Alberta, applied for a Rotary Foundation global

grant to upgrade the kangaroo care programme at the hospital.

Through the project, which began in late 2020, more than 40 nurses, midwives, paediatricians and other doctors have been trained in kangaroo care. The project has also supported the development of a curriculum for health care workers to use to teach mothers how to do kangaroo care. The curriculum has been translated into the local language and printed and mothers are now able to train other mothers on the method.

Women tailors made 500 kangaroo mother care wraps as part of the project, generating income in the area. The wraps are easier to use and better accepted than the kangas, or pieces of cloth, mothers may have used earlier to carry around their babies, says McMillan, who has been volunteering in Mbarara for over 20 years. Meanwhile, Rotarians were able to secure meals for mothers who needed food, which has improved breastfeeding and reduced the rate of women leaving hospital care early.

In addition, the grant helped fund improvements in the new-born unit. Before the grant, in January 2020, the unit had just one thermometer and lacked other equipment. At least two babies would share a cot, often with a torn mattress, increasing the risk of spreading infections. The new-born unit now has the equipment to treat sick babies, more bed space and chairs to sit on, explains Sheila Abaasa, past president of the Rotary Club of Mbarara.

Rotary members in Brazil, in partnership with members in India, are also supporting the practice through a global grant. Their grant targeted a hospital along the southern border with Paraguay and Argentina, a densely populated area with a high poverty rate. The Hospital Ministro Costa Cavalcanti is noted for its care for children, says Alexandre Kraemer of the Rotary Club of Foz do Iguaçu-Grande Lago. The hospital serves high-risk pregnant women in the city and the region, as well as Brazilians who live in neighbouring countries, mainly in Paraguay. It also handles obstetric emergencies.

The grant helped purchase equipment including slings and armchairs made especially for breastfeeding. The slings are made with special fabric designed to help “the mother to welcome the baby in her lap as kangaroos do, to convey the mother’s heartbeat to the baby, their body heat and affection, which helps to bring mother and child closer together,” Kraemer says. “This helps to prevent mental health issues like postpartum

depression. Naturally, the length of hospital stays and maternal and child mortality decreases.”

The positive outcomes were numerous, Kraemer says, but most of all, “the environment became more welcoming, removing much of the typical coldness of hospitals and maternity wards. This is part of the humanisation of care that we so desire.”

The methods of kangaroo mother care may be evolving as well. A 2021 study in *The New England Journal of Medicine* suggests that starting the practice as soon as pre-term or low birth weight babies are born can save up to 150,000 more lives each year. Currently, the World Health Organisation recommends starting the care after the baby is stabilised in an incubator or warmer. This can take an average of three to seven days.

“Keeping the mother and baby together right from birth with zero separation will revolutionise the way neonatal intensive care is practised for babies born early or small,” Rajiv Bahl, head of the WHO new-born health unit and the study’s coordinator, said in an announcement about the results. “When started at the soonest possible time, kangaroo mother care can save more lives, improve health outcomes for babies and ensures the constant presence of the mother with her sick baby.”

The study results point to a need for dedicated mother and new-born intensive care units, which have been established in some countries so that mothers can provide continuous kangaroo care. Mothers receive post-birth care without being separated from their babies. If a mother has complications, a surrogate continues the kangaroo care while the mother recovers.

In Uganda, the kangaroo mother care project has shown promising results at Mbarara Hospital. Abaasa says the equipment supplied under the project has been used to treat more than 4,000 new-borns in the last two years. The most common conditions treated have been prematurity, birth asphyxia and neonatal sepsis.

Overall, the inpatient neonatal mortality rate has dropped from 15 percent to 7.5 percent over the two years and the survival rate of babies receiving kangaroo mother care is 96.5 percent.

Meanwhile, McMillan says that he and others are looking for partnerships with Rotary clubs to provide kangaroo care wraps and instruction in Ukraine amid the war with Russia. “While kangaroo mother care may assist small babies throughout the world, the need in Ukraine is increased as many hospitals have been bombed and others have power shortages.”

# Rotary Fellowships

Rotary Fellowships are international groups whose members share a common interest. Being part of a fellowship is a way to make friends around the world, explore a hobby or profession, and enhance your Rotary experience. Membership in a fellowship is open to any interested individual.

New fellowships are added frequently; for the most recent list, see [rotary.org/fellowships](https://rotary.org/fellowships). If your recreational or vocational interest isn't represented, contact [rotaryfellowships@rotary.org](mailto:rotaryfellowships@rotary.org) to learn how to start a new group.

4x4 vehicles	Flying	Photographers
Amateur radio	Francophonie	Pickleball
Antique automobiles	Genealogists	Public health
Argentine culture	Gin	Public speakers
Astrology	Global development	Quilters and fibre artists
Badminton	Go	Railroads
Beard and moustache	Golf	Recreational vehicles
Bee	Gourmet cooking	Rotary global history
Beer	Graphic designers	Rotary means business
Bird-watching	Health care professionals	Rotary on pins
Bowling	Hiking	Rotary on stamps
Camping	Home exchange	Rowing
Caravanning	Horseback riding	Rugby fans
Chess	Hunting	Rum
Coffee lovers	Internet	Scouting
Comedy	Italian culture	Scuba
Composting	Jazz	Shooting sport
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Corporate social responsibility	Kites	Social networks
Cricket	Latin culture	Startup investors
Cruising	Lawyers	Strategic planning
Cultural heritage	Leadership	Surfing
Curling	LGBT+	Table tennis
Cycling	Magicians	Tea lovers
Doll lovers	Magna Graecia	Tennis
Draughts (checkers)	Marathon running	Total quality management
E-clubs	Metalhead	Travel and hosting
Editors and publishers	Metaverse	Triathlon
Educators	Military veterans	Urban gardening
Empowering women	Motorcycling	Vintage collectables
Entrepreneurs	Music	Whisk(e)y
Esperanto	Old and rare books	Wildlife conservation
Ethics	Palmwine	Wine
European philosophy	Past district governors	Yachting
Fine arts	Peace fellows	Yoga
Fishing	Performing arts	Young Rotarians





# FLYING HIGH

## a kite expert surfs the sky

Sandesh Kaddi, Rotary Club of Belgaum, India, Kite builder

The first kite I made was a paper kite, what we call a fighter kite, a very common, rectangular-shaped kite. My elder cousin and I built it when I was in third or fourth grade. Luckily, it flew. That was a big surprise for me - the first kite I built, and it flew! It motivated me. Most kids give up when their kites don't fly. But it somehow took hold of me.

I've built kites from four inches long to 12 feet long. I've built a lot of miniature kites. They're made of bamboo and paper. It takes a very different skill: stripping the bamboo to a 2-to-3-millimetre thickness, making it very balanced, finding the right shape. When people see my miniature kites, their first question is, "Does this fly?" I must fly the kite in front of them or show them a video to convince them.

It took me almost 20 years to become a kite builder at the international level. When I entered college, I had more understanding of aerodynamics - I was aware of what you might call kite physics. It was a step-by-step journey: If this doesn't work, will this work? Kite building became a passion in 2011, when I participated in the first international

festival in my hometown. I was introduced to a whole new world of kites. Now I have more than 50 kites. At kite festivals, people who know me can identify them - "Yeah, yeah, that's Sandesh's kite."

There are international standards for kite competitions, for what technique you use, what material you use, how stable your kite is in the sky. I've represented India in more than 14 countries, including Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia and Indonesia. The American Kitefliers Association holds a lot of competitions. There are box kites, inflatable kites, single-line kites, dual-line kites - all these incredible kites in competitions. We choose our kites according to wind conditions. That's why we call kite festivals 'festivals of wind.'

I'm part of the Rotary Fellowship of Kites and I've been asked to open a chapter in India. There's a chapter in Ethiopia, and they're starting chapters in the US, the UK and a couple of other countries. Once you're into kite building, you're part of the kite family. You don't need a language. Spontaneously, it happens.

- AS TOLD TO ETELKA LEHOCZKY



Members of the Rotaract Club of Ankara unload trucks in preparation for the distribution of ShelterBox aid in Türkiye after February's earthquakes.

# A powerful partnership

ShelterBox brings expertise. Rotary brings local knowledge

ShelterBox has more than two decades of experience responding to crises around the globe, but it has never witnessed destruction on the scale it saw in Türkiye and Syria after February's earthquakes.

Within 72 hours of the disaster, the international humanitarian aid organisation - Rotary's project partner in disaster relief - had an emergency response team in Türkiye. ShelterBox quickly connected with local Rotary clubs to provide shelter and other lifesaving aid to thousands of people in the two countries. Given the scale of the disaster, that partnership has been essential.

"The circumstances in Türkiye were very challenging and our long-standing relationship with Rotary has been pivotal in helping us make progress," says Dave Raybould, ShelterBox's emergency response manager. "The powerful combination of Rotarians with strong networks and local knowledge coupled with 20 years of ShelterBox expertise in delivering emergency shelter support means that we are able to provide the right support at the right time for people affected by

the earthquakes."

ShelterBox was founded in 2000 by the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard in Cornwall, England, to send shelter and essential items to help some of the world's most vulnerable people recover and rebuild their homes after disasters. It has since grown to be a leading disaster response organisation, having served more than 2.5 million people in nearly 100 countries. In 2012, it became Rotary International's project partner for disaster response.

The NGO relies on charitable giving to fund its operations, including from thousands of individual Rotary members and clubs that contribute regularly. ShelterBox HERO Clubs, for example, are Rotary clubs that contribute annually to make sure ShelterBox's warehouses around the world are stocked when disasters strike.

During crises, ShelterBox works closely with Rotary and local communities. In Türkiye, for

Learn more about Rotary's partnership with ShelterBox and other organisations at [rotary.org/partners](https://rotary.org/partners).

example, ShelterBox coordinated with Rotary clubs and districts to deliver aid to help some of the millions who've lost their homes or been forced to seek shelter elsewhere.

Families in the Hatay, Gaziantep and Adiyaman regions received a tent, four blankets, three mattresses, two solar lights, a family hygiene kit, a woven bag and a stove. ShelterBox also responded in Syria by adding concrete bases to previously distributed tents to reduce flooding and by providing cash assistance to give people the flexibility to purchase essential items they need.

Rotary districts worked together to support communities across the region and they made crucial introductions for ShelterBox response teams with local manufacturers and suppliers and with local leaders and authorities. Rotaract members in the region have supported ShelterBox with translation, serving as liaisons between the organisation and local authorities, as well as training aid recipients on how to use and care for the tents.

Rotary clubs supported ShelterBox in rural areas and are designing a longer-term recovery project to support rehabilitation and restart disrupted schooling for children. At the same time, Rotary clubs continue to manage needs for food, clothing and hygiene, along with supporting a mobile hospital project and planned temporary housing using container structures.

Rotary is also taking part in response efforts led by the Turkish government and coordinated through AFAD, Türkiye's disaster management agency and the Turkish Red Crescent Society. Organisations must have authorisation from AFAD to operate in affected areas or work through local partners that do. Because Rotary has that status, ShelterBox was able to move more quickly than other international disaster response organisations.

"Incredible Rotary members in Türkiye made a huge difference to how we are operating," Raybould says. "ShelterBox and Rotary worked together dynamically in the face of immense need."



Volunteers preparing for the distribution of ShelterBox aid in Türkiye. Below ShelterBox distributions in Ukraine.









# A Song

OF THEIR OWN



The Imagine Impact Tour brings Gaby Moreno to her home country to inspire children to dream big

Gaby Moreno moved to Los Angeles with a record deal as a teenager. She's shared the stage with Bono, Andrea Bocelli, Tracy Chapman, Ani DiFranco and the Buena Vista Social Club. And she sang the TV theme song for Disney's first Latina princess, Elena of Avalor.

But one of the most special performances of the Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter took place in February in a tiny farming village in her home country of Guatemala. More than 100 students at a school in the village of Chajalajjá sang and waved their arms as Moreno played her hit song "Fronteras" ("Borders") on a borrowed guitar. (The song was featured in a national Pepsi commercial and is known by people all over the country.) After an encore prompted by the kids' shouts of "otra, otra!" ("another, another!"), students flocked for photos.

Moreno was in Guatemala with Rotary International President Jennifer Jones as part of Jones' Imagine Impact Tour to raise awareness of some of the highest-impact, sustainable and scalable Rotary projects. The two visited schools supported by the Guatemala Literacy Project, one of the largest grassroots, multiclub, multidistrict projects in Rotary. The reading programme has received 48 grants from The Rotary Foundation totalling \$6.5 million since 1997 and more than 800 clubs in nearly 100 Rotary districts have participated. (See the September 2022 issue of Rotary magazine to learn more about the project.)

While this was Moreno's first time travelling with Rotary, she's long been familiar with the organisation: Her father and her uncle have been members for more than 30 years. "I remember growing up, seeing my dad going to different communities in Guatemala to help," she says. "I thought that was a very kind and generous thing that he did. ... That was a wonderful, selfless thing to do."

Moreno is a UNICEF national ambassador, Guatemala's first. She also does work with a Guatemalan NGO that helps children who are blind and deaf, an organisation started by her uncle and aunt, and she has donated computers for a school through another NGO. "They even named a classroom after me," she says. "That was super sweet."

Throughout the Rotary tour, Moreno encouraged the students to work hard to pursue their dreams. "It all starts with a dream. If you don't have a dream, then you have nothing," she says. "When I was a little kid, my dream was music. I worked hard on it. And I never let go of that dream. Somehow, some

way, the opportunity arises and you must go get it."

*Moreno, a performer at the 2023 Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, spoke with Briscila Greene, Rotary International regional communication specialist, the day after she visited the school in Chajalajjá. Here is part of their conversation:*

### **What has been the most memorable moment for you on this trip?**

There have been so many, but one that sticks out is getting to sing for the kids. Hearing them sing back my song and seeing the joy on their faces and the excitement was really moving. It really touched me. It was very beautiful.

### **It was really a magical moment.**

I taught them the chorus of the song, but I couldn't believe that a lot of them knew the whole song. They were singing the verses too. That's always incredible to me, how my music can reach so many people and children and how they can make the song their own. You can see it in their eyes when they're singing it. It's so precious.

### **Tell us about the people you have met and the impact that this has had on you.**

Yesterday, we visited a computer lab. I got to sit down with one of the students. They played a computer game where they used a mouse to drag icons to make a little robot move. It was a coding game and it was hard, even for me. I could see how she was really into it, enjoying the learning experience. It's amazing how they are building those skills. I know all of them have so much potential. They can become something bigger. They can dream to be whatever they want to be. It starts right there with the education and with giving them the tools with technology.

### **What has surprised you the most so far?**

I'm always surprised at the warm welcome that you receive when you go to these communities. They make it a huge celebration. That's always a big surprise for me — when they're chanting my name, it's just so sweet. It really warms my heart. It makes me want to do more for these communities. You can sense the gratitude. And I feel so grateful to be there with them.

### **What impressions do you have about Rotary's impact on the ground in Guatemala?**

This is the first time that I've been in the field with Rotary. It's been a beautiful experience to see first hand the work that they're doing and the impact that it's already had on children.





Gaby Moreno speaks about the importance of education at the celebration of the Guatemala Literacy Project's 25th anniversary.

Moreno visits students at a computer lab in Hacienda Maria.



We got to meet two girls yesterday, Joselyn and Jäckelyn, who graduated from one of the computer programmes [read more about their stories in our September 2022 issue]. We met a teacher named Diego Yojero who also graduated from this programme. He went to university, came back and now he's teaching at this classroom. It's beautiful to see how they are now giving back to their community. It's inspiring, it really is, to see that the programme changes lives. They know there are so many opportunities out there for them, that they can

go out there and chase their dreams. We want that for every single child. I'm so grateful for Rotary, for CoEd [NGO partner Cooperative for Education], to have this initiative.

### What are your personal takeaways from this trip?

My own personal takeaway is that I want to do more. I want to get involved more with these organisations. I want to come back to Guatemala and help these communities in any way that I possibly

can. It's all so heart breaking. You see the realities, the way they live. A lot of people here in Guatemala lack resources and there are still a lot of people that are not getting the education that they deserve. I want to let people know, through my platforms, of the work that's being done here and hopefully inspire other people to want to get involved.

**You wrote a children's album with UNICEF. Tell us more about that project.**

I've been a UNICEF Guatemala Goodwill Ambassador for about three years now. I got this distinct honour just before the lockdown and the pandemic began. It was a bit frustrating at the beginning because we couldn't find ways to collaborate. Then we came up with this idea of doing what I love doing the most - music - and bringing some music and joy to kids. I decided to produce this album called *Cantando Juntos* (Singing Together!). I wanted it to be by kids, for kids. I wrote most of the songs, I produced it, but I had kids sing it, because when I was a little girl, I really enjoyed listening to children singing songs. That made me more inspired to sing.

Some of the songs on this album are songs that I listened to as a kid. One of them was a song that I wrote when I was 10 years old. It's called "Sé positivo," which means "Be Positive," stay positive with life. There are messages of hope, of love, of friendship. There are messages of nutrition: "Sopa de letras" ("Alphabet Soup") is a song that I loved as a kid and it teaches you about all the wonderful foods out there that you can try, like fruits and vegetables. "Mi planeta" ("My Planet") teaches about taking care of our planet, being environmentally friendly.

The album was such fun to make. The goal was to make CDs



Gaby Moreno visits the family of a student who received a scholarship through the Guatemala Literacy Project.



Singing "Fronteras" with students at a school supported by the project.

and bring them to different rural communities in Guatemala to allow children to have music that they can dance to, have fun with and learn.

**What would you say to the children you met here about chasing their dreams, from your own personal experience?**

I would tell them to never let go of their dreams, to dream as big as they want, but always to know that it is very important to stay in school, to get their education, to remain focused and disciplined and keep working hard at what they do. With all these ingredients, nothing is impossible.





# SUBSCRIPTION NOTICE

**Printed Subscription increased to R215** (posted to addresses in South Africa) and **R268.75** (posted to addresses outside South Africa)

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Rotary Africa magazine subscriptions are billed bi-annually in January and July of each year. **We do not have access to ClubRunner or My Rotary and rely on clubs for member updates.**

Clubs will be billed according to the mailing lists in our records. Please ensure that we have all the correct information!

## DEADLINE

**20 June** - Final day for updated subscriber list for **billing period July - December 2023**

At this time, Rotarians may decide to change from the printed magazine to the digital version and clubs will be billed accordingly.

**Credits will not be processed on notifications of resignations or changes in subscription choices (printed to digital) received after invoices have been sent out.**

*New subscribers will be invoiced pro-rata as notifications are received.*





Residents waiting for medical assistance on RFHD at Ontlametse Phalatse Primary School in Hebron

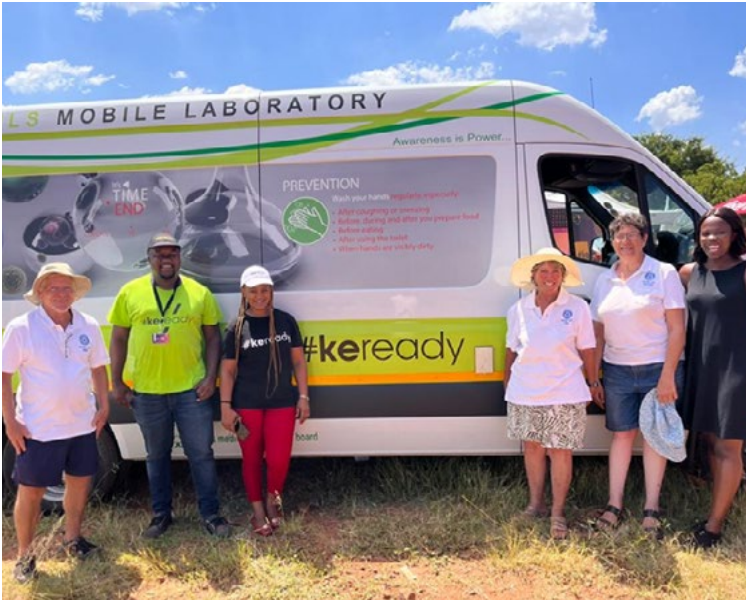
More than 1,000 people received free health care services when Rotarians of the Rotary Clubs of Waterkloof and Pretoria East (D9400) managed a site in the national Rotary Family Health Days (RFHD) campaign.

RFHD is the signature programme of RFHA, the Rotary Action Group for Family Health and AIDS Prevention, and one of the largest public/private medical partnerships in the world. With the support and guidance of the Rotary Action Group for Family Health & AIDS Prevention (RFHA), partners are identified and engaged.

Relationships between Rotarians, the government, the private sector and NGOs are built to sustain

this valuable health programme. Through disease screening and referral processes at RFHD sites, the programme enables access to medical care for thousands of people. RFHA works across Africa and India to provide free quality health resources to people who would otherwise fall between the cracks in critical care. Over the past 11 years, RFHA has used initiatives such as the Rotary Family Health Days programme to bridge the gap and, so far, more than 2.67 million people have already received health services.

Led by Rotarian Rita Sonko, the Rotary Club of Pretoria East mobilised healthcare partners and collaborated with the Rotary Club of Waterkloof to provide services to residents of Hebron, a township



Leveraging her extensive networks as a public health physician, Rotarian Rita Sonko mobilised a mobile clinic operated by the #KeReady Programme of the DG Murry Trust .

located on the northern outskirts of the city of Tshwane (Pretoria). The selected site was chosen due to limited access to services and the long distances residents must travel to access health services and was approved by the National Department of Health for RFHD events.

Using her extensive networks as a public health physician, Rotarian Rita Sonko mobilised a mobile clinic operated by the #KeReady, a programme of the DG Murry Trust, to provide services over the three days. #KeReady mobile clinics that mainly target young people with youth-friendly services, provide a wide range of primary healthcare services and attend to all clients regardless of age.

In addition to #KeReady Mobile, Dr Sonko also arranged services by the Fola Foundation, the non-profit arm of her business, The Body Mind Wellness Clinic, which focused primarily on promoting awareness and delivering essential Mental Health Services. Psychology graduates, volunteers from the Fola Foundation, provided mental health screening, counselling and referral services to clients over the three days. Back-stopping and support supervision for the volunteers was provided virtually by Professor Maretha Visser, a community psychologist and a director at Fola Foundation.

In addition to these services, the Rotary Club of Waterkloof also mobilised several service providers who participated on different days. These included the Sefako Makgatho University of Health Science, the mobile clinic of the district Department of Health, and several NGOs providing community outreach programmes.

The members engaged actively and supported the RFHD in different ways. A total of eight club members visited and participated in the coordination and delivery of services at the site over the three days. Some of the members, who were unable to attend in person, assisted by donating funds to pay for volunteer stipends and refreshments. The feedback from all those who attended the site was that this event was a huge success and probably the biggest in terms of the number of people reached by the club in a long while. Based on the success of this year's RFHD, the Pretoria East club is committed to continuing these campaigns and members are now exploring ways to provide support to communities on a more regular basis.

## OVERALL RESULTS

**SITE:** Ontlametse Phalatse Primary School, Hebron.

**DATES:** 8th, 9th, 10th March 2023

**CLIENTS REACHED PER DAY BY ALL HEALTH PROVIDERS AT SITE:**

**DAY 1:** 318

**DAY 2:** 308

**DAY 3:** 376

**TOTAL CLIENTS REACHED:** 1002

**NOTE:** Data was collected and summarised by officials from the Department of Health with support of volunteers and Rotarians



Executive Mayor of Cape Town, Geordin Hill-Lewis, was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by DG Tracey Wilson, who also announced his honorary membership of the Rotary Club of Helderberg Sunrise.

# MOVING FORWARD

The annual Rotary District 9350 Conference was held in and sponsored by the City of Cape Town; major sponsors included the V&A Waterfront and Pick n Pay. The theme of this conference, the first after a hiatus of three years, was Reconnect, Reimagine - Moving Forward together. It was reinforced throughout the conference by incredible speakers at outstanding events.

The plenary venue, the President Hotel Bantry Bay, was a winner. The historic venue for POETS (Het Bakhuis - the Castle de Gooie Hoop) a bastion of Cape history, was a first visit for many of the more than 60 attendees.

The Mayor's Banqueting Hall at the magnificent City Hall was the venue for the mayoral cocktail event that was attended by 150 Rotarians and Rotaractors. The final Saturday night nautical fun event was in the Regatta Centre of the Royal Cape Yacht Club where fellowship triumphed bringing the D9350 family of Rotary together from all three countries - Angola, Namibia and South Africa!

A moving moment for all was when DG Tracey Wilson recognised Geordin Hill-Lewis, the

city's executive mayor, as a Paul Harris Fellow for his commitment and dedication in uplifting communities in Cape Town, especially during his term of office. DG Tracey then conferred on him honorary member status of the Rotary Club of Helderberg Sunrise.

Representing RI President Jennifer Jones, was RI Director Jeremy Hurst and his wife Michelle, of the Cayman Islands. His message was inspirational and looked at the importance of partnerships, emphasising that Rotarians are People of Action who get the job done!

Rotary clubs in Rotary District 9350 (Angola, Namibia and South Africa) have connected with local communities in areas of basic education and ECDs, sustainable food gardens, girl empowerment projects and health care, to name a few. It is through our partnerships with communities, NGOs, and local municipalities/government - such as the City of Cape Town, that has helped us achieve more, do more and reach more to "build a new tomorrow."

For more see: [www.discon9350.africa](http://www.discon9350.africa) or the [www.waterfrontrotary.org](http://www.waterfrontrotary.org)





The Rotary Club of Waterfront hosted the conference. With its members is the Assembly Guest Speaker Schalk Brits.



At Nautical Night at the Royal Cape Yacht Club are Jacqueline Tamri, June Webber and Nadene Rolston of the Rotary Club of Waterfront.



The executive mayor with guest speaker Brandon Beack, a member of the Rotary Club of Waterfront.



Past District Governor Tracey Wilson after inducting District Governor-Elect Ann Wright.



Mayor Chris Pappas of uMngeni Local Municipality receives a Paul Harris Fellowship recognition from the late DG Gavin Jepson who passed away three weeks later. With them is RIPPR Bob Gallagher. Cogie Muthulingum with guest speaker Matthew Willman, who in 2003 was commissioned to photograph Nelson Mandela for the Nelson Mandela Foundation. Over 10 years he created an intimate collection of images on the life and times of Nelson Mandela. This collection of work is now central to the Mandela Centre of Memory and Presidential Library in Johannesburg.

# Midlands hosts Discon

by Estelle Sinkins, editor, Village Talk newspaper

Rotarians were left with plenty of food for thought following talks by uMngeni mayor, Councillor Chris Pappas and Love Howick founder, Matt Hogarty, at the Rotary District 9370 annual conference.

The event took place on Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6 at the Oasis Conference Centre in Main Street, Howick,

The conference was attended by delegates from Canada, Switzerland, Germany, Nigeria, Lesotho, as well as many regions across South Africa. There were approximately 250 delegates present.

The Rotary Club of Hilton and Howick, one of 88 clubs in Rotary District 9370, along with several other clubs, assisted with the organisation of a successful conference.

District Governor Gavin Jepson said Howick had been chosen as the venue because of its beautiful surrounds and the warm hospitality of the Midlands people.

Colin Hall, of the Rotary Club of Hilton and

Howick, added, “Two of our Howick heroes addressed the conference, our mayor Chris Pappas, who did the welcoming address, and Matt Hogarty, who spoke on ‘Together for Transformation’, both of whom had the audience totally enthralled and stimulated.

“For me undoubtedly the highlight of the conference was that, as the current president of the Rotary Club of Hilton and Howick, I had the great privilege and honour to present two Paul Harris Fellowships.

“One went to our mayor for his unselfish and unstinting commitment to uplifting the uMngeni community, and the other to local businessman, Stanton Goodenough, for his outstanding service to the Rotary Club of Hilton and Howick for 50 years.

“On behalf of the Rotary Club of Hilton and Howick, I would like to offer our very grateful thanks to Howick High School for lending us some of their learners to be flag bearers at the opening ceremony of the conference,” said Hall.





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YEAR



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# COMMITTED TO SERVICE

Meet three members of the Rotary Club of Swakopmund (D9350) who are working to make the world a better place.



## BRITT STAUCH: COMMUNITY SERVICE

Britt joined the Swakopmund club in 2008 and has held the positions of secretary and president. As a Rotarian she acts to channel support from the club for the Offender Rehabilitation Programme at the Swakopmund Correctional Services Prison. This programme, run by the Uhili Wellness Trust, is a cognitive based therapy programme which assists offenders to reform their thinking and actions in order to prevent relapse into negative behaviour patterns.

In 2019, Britt joined the Swakopmund Community Gardeners group, facilitated by the Municipality of Swakopmund to promote collaboration of community and municipal efforts to support food security in the town. In 2021, she helped to begin a Growing Local market, a community-based market that provides a physical and digital platform for local food producers to sell their produce. Britt is currently a committee member appointed as an advisor by the municipality. The committee provides feedback to the municipality from the community and also manages an educational and intervention programme on food gardening around the town.

During the national COVID-19 lockdown, Britt worked with the Street Based Person network to support, feed and manage a group of homeless men who were accommodated at the Swakopmund Multi-Purpose Resource Centre. A weekly programme of activities including gardening, counselling, simple

woodwork, sports and art therapy was provided.

In 2022 Britt co-founded the Coastal Community Youth Faculty that helps youth develop their capacity for self-employment and service through various platforms according to their individual needs and abilities. These include growing food in eight micro-gardens, the use of a studio for crafting and manufacturing, access to the market through a stall at the monthly Growing Local market, access to basic advice and mentorship on owning and managing a small business and material support through small grants which are partially repaid by services or goods.

The faculty is liaising with the ministry to provide a weekly support programme for street-based and vulnerable youth at the youth hostel based on the model used during the lockdown. It is also setting up the infrastructure at a site provided by the municipality that will house ten commercial vegetable gardens and also be used for woodworking, manufacturing activities, manufacture of solar ovens and working with harvested materials such as kelp and alien vegetation.

In her professional capacity as an architect, Britt assists people living in self-built homes to develop ways to provide more sanitary, safer and comfortable structures for themselves.



## JOEL NAMBULI: TEACHER, MUSIC-MAKER, SINGER

Joel wears many hats. He is a talented singer, having grown up in a musical family. He teaches music and leads a very popular acapella group which successfully tours Germany every few years. Joel is an entrepreneur, always looking for a good opportunity to expand his income and his contribution to the world around him.

Joel teaches music at the Mondesa Youth Opportunities Rotary Education Project in Swakopmund, (MYO) and his marimba group is greatly admired and enjoyed by all visitors to the project, and also by visiting Rotary clubs. His acapella group, African Vocals, often entertains Rotarians from far and wide and their business as a group is singing and dancing for visitors who seek their charismatic brand of Namibian music and entertainment. Joel's voice and style are unique.

Joel works for other projects too but, of his own initiative, he has organised a choir group for all the underprivileged young people whom he sees out on the dusty streets with time on their hands and little to fill it with. He teaches them songs and harmonies and brings them together with purpose and meaning.

Joel says, "I work for MYO but also for some youth choirs in the community, helping them



with their vocals and expanding their limited knowledge. I am sure it is appreciated. I help wherever I can. I'm a youth activist... there are many opportunities out there, and my take is that one needs to learn how to find them or create opportunities for oneself rather than sitting back and waiting for others to provide help. It takes patience, perseverance and commitment to succeed."



## RACHEL HARRIS: PEOPLE AND ELEPHANTS

Rachel originates from the UK and leads the NGO Elephant-Human Relations Aid (EHRA) Namibia. She has been part of their organisation for 19 years. Rachel is the club's long-serving secretary, and somehow manages to include her Rotary duties with her very demanding work schedule which often has her out-of-town with overseas groups of visitors to her organisation.

Since 2004, EHRA has helped to foster peaceful relationships between free-roaming desert-dwelling elephants and humans in Namibia. Because of the devastating succession of droughts in the region, elephants can be destructive in their search for water, and out of desperation, they frequently destroy water pipes or spear their tusks through water tanks to provide water for their herd.

This behaviour can leave communities without a local water source for years. EHRA works directly with local communities to provide hands-on conservation support through the construction of protective walls which allow elephants to drink water, but prevent their access to the windmills, water storage tanks or pumps. Funding is provided by an award-winning volunteering programme that encourages participants to help with the construction of these walls as well as elephant patrols. To date, EHRA has constructed over 260 protective walls with the help of over 3,500 volunteers.

EHRA initiated its education programme, the PEACE Project (People and Elephants Amicably Co-Existing) in 2009 in response to the increasing conflicts and intolerance towards elephants. The PEACE Project teaches residents important facts about how elephants live and behave, how to interpret elephant behaviour, and most importantly, how to protect themselves and their livelihoods during encounters with elephants. Through educational PEACE workshops, people of all age groups and social backgrounds learn and experience the true nature of elephants, which decreases their fears and changes unfounded beliefs and attitudes. This helps secure a future for Namibia's unique desert-dwelling elephants.

To date, the PEACE Project has educated over 1,800 participants. There are also Elephant guards who are local people, trained by EHRA to be first responders in conflict incidents and give training to assist in our organisational reach.

The NGO has also started an environmental education programme, the SEED Project which focuses on Namibian schools. Solar pumps are also donated to replace diesel pumps. Elephant drinking dams are constructed to keep elephants away from villages forming a biodiversity corridor project, which aims to open up elephant pathways to allow them safe passage through various landscapes.





# CAMP IS OPEN!

After being paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic, members of the Rotary Clubs of White River (D9400) was able to reopen Camp Quality this year.

The camp began as a joint project of the Rotary Clubs of White River and Nelspruit in 1988. Originally, the Rotary Club of Nelspruit ran the camp but handed it over to the White River club as the venue was in White River. The camp provides children with terminal and serious illnesses the opportunity to enjoy a few days of spoiling by the

Rotarians.

Uplands College, a private school in White River, provided a hostel and its kitchen staff for the children, while the community rallied around this project and took care of most of the food costs and provided for T-shirts, aeroplane flips and outings to places such as Elephant Whispers.

Most members get involved in one way or another and have a lot of fun as a club while providing a wonderful break for the children.

## HAVE YOU GOOD NEWS TO SHARE?

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Rotarians with the tanks that were installed at Ons Tuiste. Photo: Gerber Photo and Film of Humansdorp.

# Water security in Kouga

Water security is a hot topic in the Kouga region of the Eastern Cape, thanks to a prolonged drought that has dried up supply dams and thrown the region into a water supply crisis. The Rotary Club of St Francis Bay (D9370) implemented two water security projects in neighbouring towns.

## ONS TUISTE, HUMANSDORP

In December 2022, the club was made aware of a water supply problem at Ons Tuiste Retirement and Assisted Living Facility in Humansdorp. The facility, which has approximately 190 residents and is serviced by a staff of 80, needed both funding and advice on how best to overcome the problem.

The projects team of Jef Forrer and Peter Long investigated and established that the interruption of water supply from the Kouga Municipality was due to the drought and the electricity loadshedding by Eskom. Ons Tuiste had a borehole but not sufficient water storage capacity to see the facility through a long Eskom load shedding schedule, so a solution needed to be found.

The project to implement the solution, which would cost St Francis Rotarians just under R60,000, was approved and began in earnest in April. Seven 5,000-litre water tanks and a new pump were

installed and connected to the water supply from the borehole. A float switch ensures that the tanks will be refilled from the borehole when they are drawn down to a certain level. Once this installation was complete, the supply was linked to all the facilities at Ons Tuiste which included the kitchen, laundry, ablutions and residential units. This new water storage capacity will provide Ons Tuiste with water supply for four days in the event of Humansdorp losing power and being unable to pump water to reservoirs. Ons Tuiste remains connected to the Kouga Municipal water supply as a back-up.

## THARROS CHILD AND YOUTH CARE CENTRE, HANKEY

The other project was undertaken to assist Tharros Child and Youth Care Centre in Hankey which houses 10 children and is run by four staff members. The centre has also struggled with water supply but was offered a free supply from a borehole on a neighbouring property belonging to Omega Vermaak. This borehole would easily be able to supply both properties with water. Peter Long assessed the project and managed the installation of the necessary pumps, electrical and plumbing works to link the centre's three 5,000-litre water tanks.





# 172 PEOPLE. 10 HOURS. 28,855 SANDWICHES!

On Saturday, 6 May 2023 over 28,000 sandwiches were made and distributed to hungry people in communities near Milnerton, Cape Town. The Rotaract Annual Sandwich Drive was hosted by the Rotary Club of Blouberg (D9350) youth team and its local partners. Some 160 plus volunteers gathered at Parklands College to spread 507 kilograms of peanut butter and jam onto 2,796 loaves of bread in order to fight hunger.

The Sandwich Drive project is an annual effort run by the Blouberg youth team and forms part of smaller weekly initiatives in individual school Interact clubs, making and collecting sandwiches for those who would otherwise go without food.

The sandwiches made were distributed by partners like Ladles of Love, Doors of Jannah and Rotary Interact clubs. Some of the beneficiaries also made sandwiches. This contributes to the project's sustainability. A local tutoring project, for example, has mentors who prepared sandwiches for their mentees. Arrangements were made for volunteers from different communities to be on site to make the sandwiches to take back to their respective communities.

Of the 28,855 sandwiches, approximately 3,205 were made off-site, 1,205 were made at the home of organiser President-Elect Rex Oameh and 2,000 were made at the Tehila Community Collective, a facility in Elsies River which cares for the sick and homeless. The Tehila Community Collective site also houses a bakery, which baked 10% of the total bread used for the entire sandwich project.

Organisations that were involved included the Rotaract Clubs of Claremont, Steenberg, Waterfront, Hout Bay, Atlantis, Bellville and Blouberg, the Rotary Club of Blouberg, the Milnerton EarlyAct Club, the Interact Clubs of Parklands College, Sinenjongo, Buren High, Curro Century City, Gardens Commercial, Blouberg International School, Blouberg High School, Milnerton High School, Groote School and Leap Science and Maths School.

Next year's sandwich drive has a target of 30,000 sandwiches and people wishing to support the event or to host one themselves can contact Rex Oameh: [rexta0405@yahoo.com](mailto:rexta0405@yahoo.com) or [rex.oameh@rotaractafrica.org](mailto:rex.oameh@rotaractafrica.org).



# Smiles and more smiles

Recently, the Rotary Club of Knysna (D9350) ended its biggest humanitarian project of this year: RotaryDent 2023. This joint venture included USA-based Medicine: Arm-in-Arm, the Rotary Club of Dundee (D9370) and the Western Cape Departments of Health and Education. Over the four days of treatment, 391 children were treated, involving 450 extractions, 262 fillings and hundreds of smaller procedures.

Many hours of preparation and work had preceded the actual treatment week, held from 17-20 April, at facilities provided by the Knysna Provincial Hospital. The driving force was the US organisation Medicine: Arm-in-Arm which, under the leadership of Dorothy Steinert, brings mobile dental services to challenging areas of the world. This is often done in partnership with Rotary clubs. The first RotaryDent project in Knysna was held in 2018. Both in 2018 and 2023 Knysna was greatly supported by the Rotary Club of Dundee. Rotarians Johann Du Plessis and Marlyn van Zuydam brought the stored dental equipment to Knysna by road and provided invaluable practical support.

The visiting team of nineteen volunteers consisted of dentists, dental hygienists and highly trained support staff. Two dentists were from Finland and the rest from the USA. They worked with a team from the Knysna Provincial Hospital. Treatment stations were set up in the hospital and in two outside mobile clinics.

The Rotary team, led by Mick Furman, supported the project by providing accommodation, catering, transport and administration. Mick was a whizz at organising additional funding and liaising with the South African Departments of Health and Education.

A holding station was set up for the learners while they waited for treatment and included a mommy's group of Rotarians, Rotary Anns and Interactors to look after the children. Games were set up and Roanda Bakhuizen provided face-painting. The Interactors of Knysna High School provided invaluable assistance by entertaining, comforting and caring for the children, many of whom were nervous and anxious.

Over 5,000 learners were screened at three primary schools and three high schools in Knysna during the preceding months by Dr Dillon Manuel (principal dentist of the Knysna/Bitou subdistrict) and his team, Dr Julian Joubert, Filicity-Ann Holtzhauzen and



Siya Sishuba. They were assisted by a number of volunteer dentists. Dr Manuel will continue to treat learners who were identified as needing additional dental treatment. Meetings are also planned to discuss ways in which the Knysna district can take measures to improve the dental health of the learners, and instil good habits and routines to maintain this health.

Afterwards the volunteers of Medicine: Arm-in-Arm left for a well-deserved safari.



Rotarians, Rotary Anns and Interactors got involved to keep children calm and relaxed while waiting for their turn in the chair. Fun activities and face painting calmed the nervous children.







The Rotary Club of Polokwane (D9400) made a significant contribution towards an ECD training centre by ensuring it has access to water. Led by club members, Vinesh Devchand, Frikkie Ponelius and Past President Chymie Naidoo this project entailed the installation of a 2,000 litre water storage tank. Vinesh Devchand repaired the centre's roof.



The Rotary Club of Durban-Clairwood Park (D9370) recently held a fundraising dinner at Kali restaurant in Umhlanga. The event was well supported with good food and entertainment.





The annual golf day of the Rotary Club of Phoenix (D9370) was held at the Papwa Sewgolum golf course. This year was extra special as the club celebrated its 20th birthday and announced the names of two new bursary students. Each golfer received a goody bag, refreshments and snacks at a watering hole, as well as a delicious meal at the end of the day. Prize giving was a little different, with golfers choosing a prize in order of the scores they achieved. An auction was also held to raise additional funds. Funds raised at the day will support the club's various community projects. Top: Rotarians with sponsors at registration and tee off.



The EarlyAct Club at Outeniqua Primary School received special recognition at the recent district conference when it was recognised as best D9350 EarlyAct Club for 2022/23. Members of the Rotary Club of George presented the EarlyActors with their award at a school assembly. At the presentation are Di Kershaw, Arno de Jager (EarlyAct member 2022), Sibabalwe Ncumbé (EarlyAct member 2022), Danielle Barnard (Outeniqua Primary educator and EarlyAct coordinator) and Wilhelm van der Vyver (Rotarian and EarlyAct liaison).



The Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400) has supplied water tanks to various organisations over the last few years. Using a district grant, the club recently installed a tank at Huis Frangipani, one of the four foster homes of the Jabes Foundation. The official handover was attended by Johan Riekert, chairman of Jabes Foundation, and Ben and Rina Riekert, the foster parents of Huis Frangipani. The club's Foundation Chair, Alan Claase, championed the project and President Celeste Lance assisted with the handover. Tinned food for the home was received from the CMM Attorney group and the stall holders at its annual "Potjiekos" competition. Avis contributed toiletries and Alco Beton supplied the concrete blocks for a sturdy foundation for the tank. At the handover are Allan Claase and Johan Riekert with Ben and Rina Riekert.



Instead of spending on a lavish celebration, the Rotary Club of Phoenix (D9370) chose to direct what it would have spent on its 20th anniversary to its bursary programme. This enabled the club to provide bursaries to fund the tertiary studies of two students. The first recipient, Sharde Goordeen, received the bursary for the second year as she maintained excellent results and adhered to the criteria set by the club. The second student, Sanesha Haripersad is a second year Bachelor of Commerce (Law) student. Charter President Sharm Moodley and President Clinton Samuel with bursary awardee Sanesha Haripersad.





Alice Wambui (50) received an LN-4 prosthetic hand from the Rotary Club of Nairobi-Utumishi (D9212). The housing estate agent lost her hand in a 2021 road accident. Dr Mussadiq Mir, a member of the Nairobi-Utumishi club which manages this project, fitted the prosthetic and trained Alice in its use.



The Anns of the Rotary Club of Helderberg (D9350) hosted a tea for the volunteers of the Bargain Box Charity Shop, as well as ladies who knit baby clothes, beanies, shawls and baby blankets for the various causes the Anns support.





On 12 May, President Mary Anne Daubermann of the Rotary Club of Kimberley (D9370) arranged and convened a “Youth Brainstorming” session that was attended by 45 young people representing the Interact Clubs of Kimberley Girls’ High, Northern Cape High and CBC schools, as well as the Sol Plaatje University Rotaract Club. Richard Jones, chair of the Satellite E-Club of Kimberley - The Karoo Region, started the session with a video about a menstrual cup programme being run in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek. From there, a general discussion began in which the Interactors and Rotaractors considered a number of projects and ideas for future projects. The numerous items discussed included: a donation of school shoes, visits to people in need of support, mental health programmes in schools, cancer awareness projects and many other topics. The session concluded with hot dogs and cool drinks.

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