

OCTOBER 2023

Rotary

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SINGAPORE | 25-29 MAY 2024

When the Rotary family comes together for the 2024 Rotary International Convention in Singapore, we'll share ideas, friendship, inspiration, and hope — with each other and the world!

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convention.rotary.org



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WELCOME

Sarah van Heerden - Editor in Chief

DELAYED MAGAZINE DELIVERIES: A NOTE TO OUR VALUED READERS

Dear Rotary Africa Readers,

We have always prided ourselves on ensuring that the Rotary Africa magazine reaches you promptly, filled with content that reflects our shared values and commitment. However, the recent challenges faced by the South African Post Office have inadvertently affected the timely delivery of our print editions.

Despite our concerted efforts, and exploring myriad alternatives to circumvent this problem, it's with regret that many of you might be receiving your magazines several months after they were despatched. This isn't the service standard we aim for, nor is it reflective of our dedication to keep you informed and engaged.

Recognising the changing landscape and aiming for a more reliable solution, we'd like to encourage our readers to consider transitioning to our digital subscription. The digital version ensures that you get timely access, anywhere and anytime, to the content you've come to love and expect from us. While we all value the tactile experience of a printed magazine, the digital edition guarantees that no external factors come between you and the latest Rotary Africa news.

We understand the value of tradition and the charm of print, but in these trying times, embracing the digital version might be our best way forward. Our commitment to you remains unwavering, and we seek your support in making this transition.

Thank you for being a cherished part of the Rotary Africa community.

Warm regards,

Sarah van Heerden
Editor-in-Chief
Rotary Africa

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?

Rotary 

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Sharon at
rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za



**Together,
we end polio**



**WORLD
POLIO DAY
24 OCTOBER**



**Register your
World Polio Day event**





Dear fellow Rotary members,

The World Health Organisation designates 10 October as World Mental Health Day and with Rotary placing a special focus on mental health this year, I would like to help answer the question posed to me most often when I travel to meet members: How can my club get started?

There are some wonderful examples of Rotary members taking action already. In the Philippines, the Rotary Club of Tiaong-Hiyas held a 12-week health challenge for mothers in the community to promote some baseline health screenings and coaching on a healthier lifestyle.

By the end of the challenge, the mothers had a special bond and decided to form a Rotary Community Corps called Ilaw ng Tahanan (one who lights up the home) with the goal of involving more mothers in health education and wellness support - and later youth services, teen pregnancy prevention and help with unhealthy substance use. Almost a year later, the RCC is preparing to open its own health centre where mothers can come for peer-to-peer support.

Another strong example is in Colorado. In the autumn of 2021, a small group of stakeholders from the Rotary Club of Highlands Ranch formed the Rotary Clubs of Colorado Endowed Fellowship for Paediatric Mental Health. It enhances the ability of Children's Hospital Colorado to recruit and train paediatric psychiatry providers and allows the hospital network to make additional appointments. This increases access to mental health care for children and decreases provider shortages.

Since then, the project has brought on new supporters and is now fully funded with a \$500,000

endowment. Investment income from this endowment will support a fellow - a psychologist or psychiatrist - at the Children's Hospital. A new fellow will be named every one to two years, beginning in the spring of 2024. Over time this will create a cohort to bolster the mental health workforce, treating kids from all 64 Colorado counties and neighbouring states.

There are many greater mental health project stories on the Rotary Showcase and I invite you to share your experiences as you begin your own projects. Also, please reach out to mindhealth@rotary.org with any thoughts or ideas you would like to share about mental health in the Rotary world.

On 10 October, I will host a Facebook Live event, when we will recognise World Mental Health Day and further explore how Rotary members can begin this journey. But I would like to leave you with one way every Rotary member can make a difference.

Right now, there is someone you know in the Rotary world - in your club, from a project you've worked on, in a Rotary Fellowship or Rotary Action Group - who could use a little more of your time and attention. Rotary is this great gift of global friendship and that also means being there for each other.

Discovering the human connections that bind us is what we do through our membership every day. It's what Rotary has always been about and we can build on it by helping each other find peace at home.

We need to learn how to ask not just "How are you?" but also "How are you really?" By doing so, Rotary can continue to Create Hope in the World.

GORDON MCINALLY
President, Rotary International



Create your Rotary moment

Barry Rassin, Foundation Trustee Chair

On 24 October, we renew our commitment to our top humanitarian goal for World Polio Day.

This year, let's remember a young health worker in Pakistan known as Bibi Marjana (Miss Marjana). She braved the snow and cold in the mountains to vaccinate 84 children in rural areas, visiting each home, often miles apart. Marjana is one of the thousands of frontline workers in Afghanistan, Pakistan and outbreak areas I consider heroes in the final push to end polio. The work they do, coupled with the vision of our partners and the support you give, are moving mountains.

With Rotary's partnership, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative is aggressively pursuing two key goals from its 2022-26 strategy. First, we aim to halt wild poliovirus type 1 transmission. This year, only six cases have been documented as of this writing. Could this be the year we see the last of these poliovirus cases? We're cautiously optimistic that it might.

Second, we aim to report the final case of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2), in outbreak countries. About 80% of cVDPV2 cases last year occurred in subnational areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria and Yemen. We must implement tailored strategies to stop the virus in these

areas.

Other challenges persist, including political tensions, security risks and access issues and the lasting effect of the pandemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Despite these challenges, we are making progress. Poliovirus strains are diminishing, as is the number of affected regions where polio once prevailed. A new vaccine we have introduced reduces the incidence of the circulating vaccine-derived virus type 2.

Rotary is the organisation that had the audacity to take on a global effort to protect children everywhere from disability or even death due to polio. We must have the tenacity to see it to the finish line. What can you do to help us get there, you ask? Join or initiate a PolioPlus Society in your club or district and engage all members in this historic moment. And don't forget that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation continues to amplify Rotary's donations to polio eradication with a 2-to-1 match for every dollar. You can also advocate the cause of polio eradication with governments to secure political and financial support and promote Rotary's leadership role in all media.

Like Marjana marching up the mountain, we have our goal in sight and we will keep going until we get there.

Coming up...

28 & 29 OCTOBER 2023

ROTARY CLUB OF CLAREMONT (D9350) Papa Paul's Halloween Party. Held twice a day for two days, either from 11am-1pm or 3-5pm. Lots of fun and games for the whole family. Food and beverages on sale. Prizes for best dressed kids and adults. Please bring a donation of non-perishable foodstuff. **Tickets cost R120 each.** Children under 2 FREE. The event is intended for children aged under 12. **Limited tickets available at www.quicket.co.za**

1 DECEMBER 2023

ROTARY CLUB OF WORCESTER (D9350) Annual Charity Golf Day at the Worcester Golf Club. For more information contact Leonie 072 268 3299 or Mark 071 889 1413.



KEEPING AFRICAN TIME

Dr Patrick Coleman - Rotary Foundation Major Gifts Advisor

The rest of the world has watches... Africans have time! This was meant to be humorous but, in an age of international business, punctuality is a virtue that can, and will, either build or destroy a relationship.

As the end of the 5th All African Zone 22 Rotary Institute a number of Rotarians approached me with comments about punctuality and time keeping. One mentioned that Sherry and I were usually the first in the room at 15-20 minutes early; something I learned as a lecturer for over 40 years. I asked them to share their thoughts with you - Our Rotary family across Africa. Here is Tatenda Tavaziva's comment:

Dear Respected Rotarians in Africa,

I hope this letter finds you well and filled with the spirit and ideals of Rotary. As a young fellow Rotarian, I am writing to you today with a deep sense of concern regarding an issue that has been plaguing our organisation and, more importantly, our image as Africans. It pertains to the critical matter of timekeeping and the detrimental impact that our collective habit of starting things late has on our reputation.

Just recently, I had the honour of attending the Zone Institute in Lusaka, where it was clear the organisers had worked very hard to put it together and must be commended for their efforts. However, I witnessed first-hand the persistent problem of poor time management. Several workshops and events consistently began later than scheduled, causing unnecessary frustration among attendees. The consequences of our tardiness extend far beyond mere inconvenience; they reflect negatively on us as individuals and as a community, feeding into harmful stereotypes and perpetuating a perception of

disorganisation.

As Africans, we have fought and continue to fight, against stereotypes and biases that question our abilities and professionalism. Our predecessors struggled for equality, respect and recognition in various fields, breaking barriers and paving the way for future generations. It is our responsibility to build upon their legacy and ensure that we represent ourselves with the utmost dignity and excellence.

By consistently starting things late, we inadvertently reinforce the negative stereotypes that have been unjustly associated with Africans for far too long. We give others an excuse to doubt our professionalism, reliability and ability to meet deadlines. With every delayed event, we undermine the collective progress we have made in dispelling these stereotypes—progress that has been built on hard work, determination and a commitment to excellence.

Moreover, our poor timekeeping reflects a lack of respect for the precious time of our fellow Rotarians and participants. It sends a message that we do not value their commitment, sacrifices and efforts to be present at these events. It undermines the spirit of collaboration and mutual support that Rotary symbolises. Time is a priceless resource and by demonstrating a disregard for it, we inadvertently devalue the precious contributions of our fellow Rotarians.

It is crucial that we recognise the power of perception and how it ultimately shapes others' opinions of us.

Tatenda Tavaziva

Past President Rotary Club of Msasa (D9210)



RI CONVENTION'S A STRESS-FREE GETAWAY

It's easy to turn your Rotary International Convention trip to Singapore into a no-hassle vacation. The two convention sites give you ready access to much of the island's most loved gardens, recreation, food and sightseeing spots.

Before or after you get energised on Sharing Hope with the World at breakout sessions in the Marina Bay Sands complex, a vast vacation land in itself, enjoy being a tourist next door. A short walk brings you to Gardens by the Bay with its towering steel "super tree" art garden and mega-greenhouse of the world's flowers.

Cross the twisted-steel Helix Bridge for a 20-minute walk to the Singapore Flyer Ferris wheel for skyline views or to one of the city's hawker

centres. The usually inexpensive and open-air food courts are cultural touchstones. Stalls at Makansutra Gluttons Bay sell local culinary delights including meat satay skewers, char kway teow noodles stir-fried in lard and fried carrot cake that's no dessert - savoury cubes are made with daikon radish (white "carrot") and rice flour.

General sessions at National Stadium put you in the middle of the Singapore Sports Hub. You or your guests could surf a simulated wave, rent a kayak or visit Shimano Cycling World for bicycle history exhibits, to name a few activities.

Malls are a big deal in Singapore. The convention grounds have two: Marina Bay Sands and the Sports Hub's Kallang Wave Mall, including sporty stores, golfing simulators, a virtual reality arcade and a rock-climbing wall that cuts through the mall's levels.

Travel to venues and nearby sites for the convention from 25 to 29 May is simple on the MRT rail system.

Mário César Martins de Camargo

selected as 2025-26
Rotary International
President

By Etelka Lehoczky

Mário César Martins de Camargo, a member of the Rotary Club of Santo André (D4420, Brazil), is the selection of the Nominating Committee for President to become Rotary International's president for 2025-26. He officially became the nominee on 15 September as no other candidates challenged him.

De Camargo plans to boost Rotary's public image by working from the top down.

"Rotary today has strong competition for members and funds," he says. "We need to rejuvenate the brand, especially in some zones. We should utilise post-pandemic meeting tools ... to allow the president to address Rotarians all over the globe. We also need to develop more long-term partnerships with political, community and business leaders. Let's emphasise our greatest asset: over a million volunteers."

He also hopes to improve Rotary's process for appointments and governance.

"Rotary should adopt a more transparent system to appoint volunteers for positions, with clear criteria and



data-based evaluation of results," he says.

De Camargo was president of Gráfica Bandeirantes and has been a consultant to the print industry in Brazil. He has also served as president and chair of several printing and graphics trade associations, including the Brazilian Association of Graphic Technology and ABIGRAF, the Brazilian Printing Industry Association.

He has served on the board of Casa da Esperança (House of Hope), a hospital sponsored by his Rotary club that every year serves 150,000 children with disabilities.

De Camargo studied in the US and Germany and holds degrees from EAESP-Fundação Getúlio Vargas in business administration and Faculdade de Direito de São Bernardo do Campo in law.

A Rotarian since 1980, de Camargo has served Rotary as director, trustee, RI learning facilitator, committee member and chair and task force member.

De Camargo and his wife, Denise, are Major Donors and Benefactors of The Rotary Foundation.



From Vision to Impact

A conversation with Patrick Chisanga on RFHA's Journey

In the heart of Africa, a remarkable initiative is quietly transforming lives and communities. The Rotary Action Group for Family Health & AIDS Prevention (RFHA), born from a passionate vision, has grown into a powerful force for change, addressing healthcare challenges and creating a healthier future for millions.

In a recent interview with RID Patrick Daniel Chisanga, a Rotarian with 38 years of dedicated service, we discuss his Rotary journey, experiences and insights on the evolution, significance, and future of RFHA.

“Currently, I serve as a member of the Board of Directors of Rotary International, with specific responsibilities encompassing Zone 22, which includes the entire African continent, and Zone 21, which covers parts of Eastern Europe and the Middle East. This role comes with immense responsibility, but it is one that I embrace wholeheartedly,” shares Patrick.

As a seasoned consultant in corporate governance, Patrick’s commitment to service has extended beyond Rotary, collaborating with the World Bank and serving as the President of the Institute of Directors and chairing the steering committee of the Africa Corporate Governance Network (ACGN).

Patrick’s journey with Rotary began 55 years ago during his high school days in Zambia. A chance encounter with a Rotarian paved the way for one of Zambia’s first Interact clubs. “Back then, Rotary was an idea that resonated with us – young minds

eager to make a difference,” Patrick reflects. This desire to effect positive change was fuelled by a visit to Kenya in 1969, where Patrick, an Interact club president then, witnessed the tangible impact of Rotary’s efforts in underserved communities. Inspired by the dedication of a district governor, Patrick’s aspiration to serve as a governor himself was kindled.

In 1998, his dream materialised when he was elected as the governor to lead his district. This was a pivotal moment, solidifying his commitment to improving lives, a passion that has guided his Rotary journey ever since.

BROADENING THE SCOPE: RFHA’S ROLE IN AFRICA

Patrick’s connection with RFHA started in 1998 when he met Marion Bunch, RFHA’s founder and a passionate Rotarian. “Marion’s vision and determination inspired me, as I had personally experienced the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on my country and had lost friends and family to the disease. Without hesitation, I joined her in this crucial journey, and we formed the first board of directors for the Rotary Action Group for Fighting AIDS (RFFA).”

RFHA’s journey began with a focus on HIV/AIDS, a significant challenge in the region. However, as Patrick notes, “Africa had a bigger pool of diseases to fight.” This realisation marked the birth of RFHA with a broader health focus, addressing not only HIV/AIDS but also malaria, malnutrition, and



In June, RFHA celebrated the launch of the first-ever Rotary Family Health Days in Zimbabwe, made possible through RFHA's incredible partnership with the Gates Foundation. Through these health days, they provide free medical check-ups, vaccinations, screenings, and health education, ensuring that everyone has access to quality healthcare.

various preventable diseases.

“RFHA’s vision to broaden its health focus and fight a range of diseases was warmly welcomed in the African context.

“The impact of RFHA’s work in Africa has been significant, and the organisation continues to grow with the support of well-funded institutions such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation,” said Patrick.

A HEALTHIER AND AN INCLUSIVE FUTURE

“Last year, a remarkable development unfolded in the Rotary world as we witnessed the election of the first female president of Rotary International, Jennifer Jones. Jennifer’s leadership style was truly unique and captivating, endearing her to everyone she met.”

“Jennifer’s presidency has encouraged inclusivity and diversity, inspiring more women to engage in Rotary’s mission. This shift is already visible, with more women assuming leadership roles at district and club levels, driving a stronger culture of service and excellence,” he shares.

The passion for service exhibited by Jennifer Jones and other female leaders in Rotary has been truly inspiring. “Looking back at how RFHA has evolved in recent years, much credit goes to the personal input and commitment of its CEO Sue Paget. Her ability to reach out, collaborate, and hold hands with others has been instrumental in driving the organisation’s growth and impact.

“I have no doubt that, under Sue’s leadership, our vision of expanding healthcare access across Africa will continue to be realised,” remarks Patrick.

LOOKING AHEAD: STRENGTHENING THE IMPACT THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

As a Rotarian overseeing Zones 21 and 22, Patrick’s focus is firmly fixed on nurturing Rotary’s growth and impact in Africa. He outlines three key areas of emphasis: economic empowerment of young people, educational enhancement, and improving health facilities. These pillars resonate with Rotary International’s vision, aiming to drive transformative change in communities and lives across the African landscape.

Patrick’s enthusiasm for expanding Rotary’s footprint is evident, especially in Africa where the membership potential remains vast. “Africa, with its population of 1.4 billion, currently has only 45,000 Rotarians. There’s immense room for growth,” he emphasises. His immediate goal is to increase Rotary’s African membership to 50,000 by the end of his second year, with a larger vision of adding another 50,000 members within the next few years.

“To achieve this, I have initiated a strategic partnership between Rotary Zone 22 and the Africa Corporate Governance Network, a consortium of directors’ institutes across the continent. By aligning our values and synergising our efforts, we aim to attract members from each other’s institutions, doubling our impact and reaching our membership targets.

Through a structured approach involving Rotarians at different levels, from zone to club, we will work together to ensure organic growth and foster a culture of service and excellence. I am confident that by working together, we can achieve

our membership growth goals and create a lasting, positive impact on Africa and its communities.”

VISION FOR RFHA

Patrick’s vision for the future of RFHA is one of continuous expansion and greater outreach, driven by collaboration and partnership. “By harnessing the dedication of Rotarians and like-minded organisations, RFHA’s reach can extend even further, serving more communities and creating lasting change,” he shares.

“I am immensely proud of RFHA’s growth and achievements, reaching over 12 million beneficiaries to date. However, I firmly believe that the journey has only just begun. My vision for RFHA’s future is to continue expanding its reach, serving even more communities in need. As we move forward, our goal is to increase membership within RFHA, rallying Rotarians and like-minded organisations to join hands and amplify our impact. With collective dedication and collaboration, RFHA will continue to grow and make a lasting difference in Africa, striving towards a future where quality healthcare is accessible to all.”

ROTARY’S SPIRIT OF SERVICE

Patrick vividly recalls an incident during his governorship in 1999 when his wife’s impromptu

blood donation saved a child’s life. “This powerful experience has left an indelible mark on my heart. It epitomises what Rotary is all about – ordinary individuals coming together to do extraordinary things.

To this day, I often wonder about that child’s life and how he has fared over the past two decades. This experience is a reminder of the potential we have to create positive change and save lives through simple acts of service. And as I reflect on this memory, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to be part of an organisation that truly makes a difference in the world. Rotary’s spirit of service and willingness to go the extra mile remains a driving force in my commitment,” says Patrick.

From humble beginnings to growing Rotary’s impact across Africa, Patrick Chisanga’s story is a testament to Rotary’s timeless values of service, inclusivity, and creating positive change. Through collaboration, compassion, and a shared commitment to a healthier future, we’re reminded that even the smallest acts can leave an indelible mark on the lives we touch.

Stay tuned for more stories that highlight the power of service and the change it brings to our world. For updates on Rotary Family Health Days subscribe to the newsletter at www.rfha.org.



The dynamic and compassionate young heroes came together to help bring about a successful Rotary Family Health Day in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

Enhance our connection

His Rotary journey began in high school as an Interactor. Today, he is president of the vibrant Rotary Club of Johannesburg New Dawn (D9400). Babette Gallard spent some time chatting to President Mbali Zulu about his Rotary journey, dreams, plans and asked him the vital question, “How can we attract more young members like you?”



Babette Gallard: How did you first hear about Rotary?

Mbali Zulu: I first heard about Rotary during high school when I attended the Interact club and the Interact camps, which were life-changing for me. The opportunity to connect with students from different schools and the valuable lessons imparted during these camps significantly influenced my high school years. I vividly recall returning from those camps with a deep sense of purpose, feeling inspired to contribute to improving the world.

BG: When did you decide to join Rotary as an adult?

MZ: It was in 2022 when I accompanied a friend who was attending The Rotary Leadership Institute training. When he mentioned Rotary, memories of my time in Interact came flooding back, reigniting my interest in the organisation.

BG: Why did you decide to reconnect with Rotary?

MZ: As a social entrepreneur, I’m deeply passionate about community development, especially in our developing country and continent, where there’s been a history of inequality and oppression. Rotary represents a group of people dedicated to tangible action, constantly working to improve our global community. I recognised an opportunity to partner with and connect to fellow changemakers who share this passion for creating long-lasting positive transformations within communities.

BG: How did you feel when you were asked to be President?

MZ: I felt both honoured and pleasantly surprised when our club approached me to take on the role of President. The club’s confidence in my leadership abilities was humbling and unexpected.

BG: What are your key aims as a president?

MZ: My primary goals as president revolve around enhancing our connection with the communities we serve. I aim to ensure that our projects are impactful, sustainable and aligned closely with the genuine needs of these communities. Additionally, I’m committed to fostering greater awareness of Rotary and our positive contributions, ensuring that communities know about Rotary and directly experience the meaningful work we do firsthand.

BG: What are your key challenges?

MZ: One of the key challenges is navigating our intricate socio-political landscape. In a nation marked by polarisation, fostering a culture of inclusive service becomes especially challenging, particularly for South African organisations. Another challenge lies in ensuring timely and effective fundraising to meet our project goals.

BG: What can Rotary do to attract more young people like you?

MZ: I believe that Rotary can attract more young people like me by empowering young Rotarians to assume key leadership roles and drive initiatives with their innovative ideas. When young Rotarians are prominently visible and actively engaged, it naturally creates interest in other young individuals to join and become a part of this dynamic community. The more visible and influential young Rotarians are, the more appealing Rotary becomes to their peers.

BG: Do you have plans for your future after your presidency?

MZ: Through my Rotary journey, I aim to grow my network of changemakers and expand my influence on a global scale so we can make an even bigger difference together.

Professor Lucille Blumberg

A Beacon in Malaria Eradication

Malaria, a treacherous infectious disease, claims the lives of over half a million Africans annually. “It is treatable, and nobody should die from the disease,” asserts Professor Lucille Blumberg.

Recently, Professor Blumberg’s commendable efforts in the fight against malaria were recognised as she received a lifetime achievement award from the South Africa Medical Research Centre. This honour acknowledged her invaluable contribution to eliminating malaria in southern Africa.

The Rotary Club of Johannesburg New Dawn (D9400) consistently takes pride in its members and their contributions to society. Yet, every so often, a member like Professor Blumberg commands attention for their unparalleled work. This is not the first time she has been spotlighted, and it likely won’t be the last.

Professor Blumberg’s expertise extends far beyond malaria. She is a key member of several World Health Organisation expert committees, with her roles spanning advisory capacities on neglected tropical diseases and research and development in response to emerging pathogens.

Her association with the national malaria advisory committee spans an impressive 28 years. In addition to these roles, she presently leads the One Health programme at the NPO, Right to Care. This NPO plays a crucial role in supporting and delivering prevention, care, and treatment services,



focusing on HIV and TB. Their collaborations extend to the private sector, the National Department of Health (NDOH), and the Department of Correctional Services.

The value of experts like Professor Blumberg cannot be overstated. Professor Rajendra Maharaj, unit director of the South Africa Medical Research Centre, aptly remarked, “Prof Blumberg is an outstanding leader in public health. Her work continually elevates public health standards, making her an esteemed role model for colleagues.”

With dedicated professionals like Professor Lucille Blumberg leading the charge, the goal of eradicating malaria from southern Africa becomes an attainable vision.



DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Submit YOUR story and photos (at least 1MB in size) by email to rotaryafrica@mweb.co.za

DESPATCHES FROM OUR SISTER MAGAZINES:
Rotary-No-Tomo (Japan)



‘I just felt I
had to go’

About three months after Russia invaded Ukraine, Iroha Ukon travelled to Poland to help Ukrainian children displaced by the war.

A Japanese high school student brings smiles to Ukrainian refugee children

In February 2022, when Iroha Ukon, a high school senior in Osaka, Japan, learned of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, she came up with the idea of travelling to Poland to help children displaced by the conflict.

At 17, Ukon knew it was not going to be easy. She searched various media platforms for Japanese volunteers in Poland and contacted them for advice. Given that she would need to stay there for a long period, she realised a significant challenge was going to be finding a family to host her in Poland. Nevertheless, she refused to let the hurdle deter her.

Fortunately, a classmate whose father is Ukrainian introduced Ukon to Henryk Kalinowski, a former participant in a Rotary Youth Exchange living in Poland. Kalinowski, who speaks fluent Japanese, is a member of the Rotary Club of Wroclaw in south western Poland.

Having benefited from his days as an exchange student in Japan, Kalinowski agreed to help with Ukon's accommodation in Poland.

After careful consideration, Ukon's parents and school gave the green light for her trip. Meanwhile, her determination deeply touched her friends, prompting them to take action. They put up a donation box on school grounds and raised a significant amount of money to cover some of her travel expenses and to help Ukrainian refugee children.

On 6 May, after 24 hours of travelling, the Japanese teenager landed in Warsaw with two large suitcases filled with gifts for Ukrainian children, including sweets and misangas or good luck charms, that she had made with her friends at school.

Kalinowski, who was actively involved in relief efforts for Ukrainian refugees, met Ukon at the airport and arranged for her to help at a refugee centre in Wroclaw. The camp sheltered many Ukrainian children, including those who had become orphaned during the war.

On her first day, Ukon found herself the only



volunteer at the centre. It was hard to communicate with the children because she spoke neither Polish nor Ukrainian. But Ukon persisted. She spent her time playing with children at a small playground near the shelter. Her warmth and sincerity gained her several friends. As days passed, more volunteers, including some who were the same age as her, showed up at the centre. They quickly formed a supportive team.

Ukon taught Ukrainian children Japanese and demonstrated how to use calligraphy tools, such as brush pens that she had brought with her. She also engaged the children in making origami, the Japanese art of folding paper into the shapes of different objects. In return, the children taught her how to speak Ukrainian.

Ukon's story quickly caught the attention of local media. Several Polish newspapers and TV stations travelled to the refugee centre to interview her. Soon, she became a local celebrity.

A month after her arrival in Poland, Ukon had formed strong bonds not only with Ukrainian refugee children and their parents but also with her fellow volunteers. When it was time for her to return to Japan, she found it hard to part with her new friends and yearned to stay longer. Since she was graduating the following year, she realised that she had to go back home and finish her required courses.

Ukon stayed on for another two weeks. On her final day at the refugee centre, many Ukrainian children, unwilling to let her leave, clung tightly to her.

Having witnessed Ukon's extraordinary work, Kalinowski reached out to his former host father, Masamichi Kondo, a member of Rotary Club of Takatsuki West in Osaka and told him about Ukon.



Ukon formed strong bonds not only with Ukrainian children and their parents but also with fellow volunteers.

Inspired by Ukon's unwavering commitment to helping Ukrainian refugee children, Kondo contacted Yuiko Miyasato, 2022-23 governor of District 2660 (northern Osaka), who recommended Ukon as one of his district's exchange students to Poland. Ukon's trip would be sponsored by the Rotary Club of Osaka and hosted by the Rotary Club of Wroclaw.

In March 2023, Ukon graduated from Osaka YMCA Gakuin High School. She returned to Poland where she is attending a local school and continuing her volunteer work at the refugee centre in Wroclaw, bringing smiles to Ukrainian children and other volunteers.

DESPATCHES FROM OUR SISTER MAGAZINES:
Rotary-No-Tomo (Japan)



Kochi Diaper Bank

In 2016, while cleaning out my closet, I came across some packages of unopened diapers that I had forgotten about. My son, already in kindergarten, no longer needed diapers. At the suggestion of a friend who is actively involved in children's charity projects, I decided to donate them to Kochi Misono Baby Home, a local orphanage.

As I was delivering the diapers, I ran into a friend on the street. She also had leftover diapers she was looking to donate. Our encounter led to the creation of a diaper bank.

In Japan, many organisations and businesses are partnering with the government to provide various types of support for low-income families with small children. However, I quickly realised that no agency was dedicated to supplying these families with diapers. While some parents struggle to afford disposable diapers, people like my friend and me had unopened packs tucked away in our closets, forgotten. So, I decided to start a project that would collect unopened packages of disposable diapers from families who no longer needed them and deliver them to those who did.

Around that time, I had just been elected Rotary Foundation chair of my club, the Rotary Club of Kochi East and I proposed the plan during a

brainstorm session for club projects. Everyone liked the idea and we decided to make Kochi Diaper Bank a district grant project.

In December 2017, we organised a special funding event and donated the first batch of disposable diapers. At the same time, we distributed flyers at Rotary club meetings to encourage members to participate. Each donor received a towel as a token of appreciation. Since its inception, the Kochi Diaper Bank project has continued to expand. Every year, Misono Baby Home sets up a Kochi Diaper Bank booth at local events to raise awareness and ask for donations. The orphanage also works with the social welfare council in the Kochi prefecture to secure additional funding for the project.

Kochi Diaper Bank received the 2020 Kochi prefecture Best Childcare System Award from the child care support site Ikuhaku. In 2022, this Rotary project inspired Unicharm Co, a manufacturer of diapers and hygiene products, to set up a diaper donation programme in partnership with Kannoji city in Kagawa prefecture.

The Kochi Diaper Bank, born from Rotary's effort, has flourished thanks to the wonderful caregivers and the support of the public.

— YAYOI NISHIMORI



RI President Gordon McNally with DG Riana Pretorius (D9400) and RI Director Patrick Chisanga. Behind them are DGN Angelica Maria Salomao, DGE George Senono and PDG Stella Anyangwe.

Building a Unified Future

Rotary's Commitment to the ICC-Africa Protocol

The 5th annual Zone 22 Institute held in Lusaka stands as a beacon of Rotary's unyielding commitment to Africa's progress. On September 9th, 2023, with the backdrop of this notable event, Rotary leaders across the continent pledged their dedication through the Protocol ICC-Africa. This document captures the essence of Rotary's ambition for African unity, understanding and collective advancement.

CERTIFICATE OF COOPERATION: A PLEDGE TO UNITE

The Protocol ICC-Africa marks a pivotal milestone in Rotary's journey on the continent. More than just a document, it embodies a promise from Rotarians across all African districts: a commitment of collaboration, knowledge sharing and cultivating stronger relationships. At its heart is the establishment of future Intercountry Committees, designed to be the catalysts for Rotary's continental initiatives, championing cooperation and unity.

PROMOTING PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING: THE MISSION OF INTERCOUNTRY COMMITTEES

Synced with Rotary International's service mission, the Protocol ICC-Africa has peacebuilding at its core. Its dedication to fostering positive peace, overseeing shared sustainable projects and facilitating exchanges will not only elevate growth and prosperity but also enhance respect and appreciation for Africa's diverse cultures and communities.

A UNIFIED VISION FOR A PROSPEROUS AFRICA

By endorsing the Protocol ICC-Africa, Rotary charts a future where a united Africa stands tall, driven by collaboration and actionable plans. The challenges ahead are vast, but so are the opportunities. The commitment to unity encapsulated by the words "Africa United" is a potent reminder that together, the continent can achieve a brighter, more inclusive future.



DG Akan Emah D9142 Nigeria with Rotarian and ICC Chair Bibby Kalakala with Annemarie Mostert.

LEADERS OF UNITY: THE ICC'S VISIONARIES

Behind this significant protocol stand figures who've worked tirelessly for African Rotary unity. PDG Mohamed Ghammam's leadership, buoyed by stalwarts like RID Patrick Chisanga, Trustee PDG Geeta Manek, ICC Africa Taskforce members and a host of District Governors, has been the force propelling the unity movement. PDG Annemarie Mostert, PDG Christophe Koreki and PDG Abdul Hamid El Awa, alongside ICC chairs from various districts, have been instrumental in moulding this shared vision.

HISTORIC ICC PROTOCOL SIGNING EVENT

Highlighting the significance of the Protocol ICC-Africa's signing was the presence of Rotary International President Gordon McInally. This momentous occasion, which came right after the conclusion of the 5th All African Rotary Institute, was attended by Rotarians from across Africa and global guests, showcasing the international spirit of the Rotary movement.

A COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT: ZONE 22, 18 DISTRICT GOVERNORS REPRESENTING 54 AFRICAN COUNTRIES SIGN THE PROTOCOL

This historic signing saw 18 District Governors, representing 54 African countries of Zone 22, come together in a symbolic act of commitment. They're more than just district leaders; they're ambassadors of peace, unity and progress. Their endorsement speaks volumes of their faith in Rotary's mission and the collaborative power it champions.

D9400 ICC Chairperson, Aloysie Benite, remarked, "Their signatures symbolise a shared vision for Africa's future, embodying the very spirit of Rotary." With this pledge, they've highlighted the core Rotary principle: Service Above Self knows no borders. Their dedication serves as a beacon, illuminating the path toward a brighter Africa.



Member of the ICC Task Force and Chair of HOC ICC Peace Forum Cairo, PDG Abdul Hamid El Awa.



Executive Board Chairperson from Tunisia PDG Mohamed Ghamman

Uniting for Peace in the Heart of Egypt

African Rotary Intercountry Committee Peace Forum 2023

From the 17th to 19th of November 2023, the historical city of Cairo, known for its timeless landmarks and the mystery of the Pharaohs, will host an event of significance for the future: The African Rotary Intercountry Committee Peace Forum.

Bringing together over 450 humanitarian and industry leaders from Africa and beyond, this Peace Forum is a clarion call under the compelling theme “African Partnerships for African Peace and Prosperity.” With peacebuilding as one of Rotary’s core focus areas, the organising committee intends to harness the collective experience and wisdom of these leaders. Through a series of engagements with esteemed speakers and facilitators, the forum aims to shape a vision of peace for Africa.

THE PROGRAMME

Friday, 17th November:

- Cultural Tour (10am-4pm): Dive deep into Egypt’s rich past, from the awe-inspiring pyramids and the Sphinx on the Giza plateau to the contemporary marvel, the Egyptian Grand Museum.
- Opening Ceremony (6pm-9:30pm): A vibrant flags parade, insightful opening remarks and an exhilarating live show promise to captivate the audience.
- Cocktail Dinner (9:30pm-12am): A curated dining experience that promises to delight the palate in an atmosphere of refined elegance.

Saturday, 18th November:

- Peace Forum (9am-5pm) at the Crowne Plaza Arkan: The forum, set against a backdrop of modern sophistication, will engage participants in sessions ranging from the role of technology in peace building to the impact of social entrepreneurship and the principles of positive peace.
- Gala Dinner (8pm-12am): A night to remember with evocative music, a relaxed yet luxurious setting and a gastronomic journey that engages all the senses.

Sunday, 19th November:

- ICC Integrated Workshop and Executive Board (9am-1pm): A call to action and to solidify the vision for peace, echoing the words of Hugh Park, “The world is run by those willing to sit until the end of meetings.”
- Nile Cruise Lunch (3pm-5pm): Experience the serenity of the Nile, as you enjoy panoramic views of Cairo, authentic Egyptian cuisine and a folkloric show encapsulating the legendary Egyptian hospitality.

Join this momentous occasion and be a part of the narrative of peacebuilding in Africa. Together, let’s shape a continent marked by unity, growth and prosperity.

For more on registration, please email:

iccpeaceforum.cairo@gmail.com

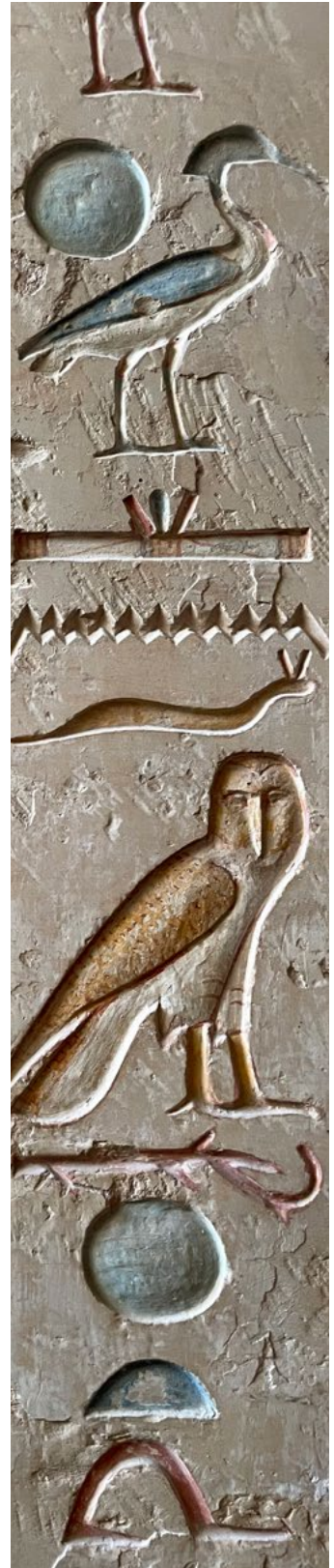


Photo Essay

WE ARE FAMILY



George French, a Rotary Youth Exchange student from Minnesota, is greeted by Ivone Pinheiro de Souza Silva and Ednei da Silva, his host parents in Guarulhos, Brazil, near São Paulo.

Rotary Youth Exchange offers both teens and host families the chance to grow

Regina Alesi loves to travel. So when a classmate told her about her experience with Rotary Youth Exchange, the teenager knew she wanted to take a journey of her own. Through the programme, Alesi left her Argentinian hometown of San Nicolás de los Arroyos in January to explore Brazil, dive into its culture and grow as a leader. “This experience has made me more independent and flexible in adapting to new things and different scenarios,” she says.

Rotary Youth Exchange has been promoting international understanding for nearly 50 years and today Rotary clubs host exchanges in more than 100 countries. The programme offers teenagers ages 15-19 an opportunity to make new friends and learn new ways of living, to open themselves to different

ideas and experiences and to adapt and gain fresh perspectives.

The exchanges offer the same to the host families. “Living with our exchange student gave my family the opportunity to get to know a new culture, traditions and practices,” says Ivone Pinheiro de Souza Silva, a host mom. “The doors of my house will always be open for exchange students.”

Alesi is one of thousands of students who participated in Rotary Youth Exchange last year. On the following pages, you’ll also meet Ava Minocherhomji and George French, two other exchange students and learn more about their exciting year in Brazil. - JP SWENSON

George French and Regina Alesi participate in a Rotary meeting during their exchanges in Brazil.



Alesi's tip for other
exchange students

**Don't be afraid
to talk to people.
Sometimes, they're
wondering how to
talk to you. "You
can ask anything
about them or the
country you are in."**

**"This experience has made me more
independent and flexible in adapting to new
things and different scenarios."**

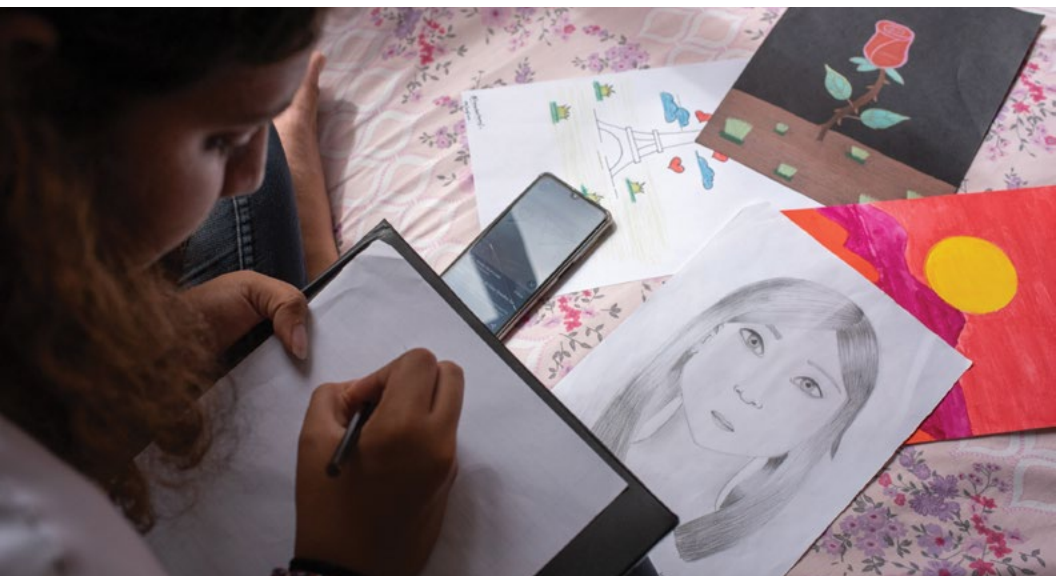


Ava Minocherhomji, a student from Pune, India, made deep connections with all three of her host families, including Luciana and Victor Pfuetzenreiter.

Below: Minocherhomji, who fell in love with Brazil and its culture and people, rehearses a dance.

Right: She appreciated the little moments like cooking, cycling and working on projects for her art class.

"The thing that surprised me most was how different my host families were from each other, yet how welcoming and loving they all were."



George French came to the São Paulo area from Crookston, Minnesota. “What surprised me the most,” he says, “was how even though I wasn’t their family, we did things as a family.”



“I realised I love to travel and that being on my own can be a freeing way to experience new things.” George French



Clockwise from top: French participates in an acting class; enjoys soccer with his host brother, Rafael da Silva; and shares a meal with his host family. His host mom, Ivone Pinheiro de Souza Silva, says, “I will miss his smile and the long lunches we would share together.”

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK



THE ALL-MEMBER SURVEY IS COMING IN OCTOBER!

This is your chance to tell us what you like, what you don't like, and what you want from your Rotary membership.

To make sure you receive the survey, update your email address at my.rotary.org/profile/me.

RESTORATION AND RESILIENCE

Rotary Club of Pietersburg 100 Tackles Sewage Woes

In the town of Polokwane, it's safe to say that when the sewage abruptly stops flowing, tensions begin to rise. Such was the plight faced by the residents of the 'Our Home' old age home. A sudden collapse of their decades-old sewage pipes resulted in more than just an unpleasant situation; it posed a dire and immediate problem.

The old sewage pipes, having served for over 40 years, were now victims of wear and tear. The deterioration was attributed to a combination of years of bearing sewage, natural ground movements and the strain of traffic overhead. While some parts of the pipeline were holding up, it became clear that a substantial revamp was crucial to prevent the recurrence of such a crisis.

In these challenging times, the Rotary Club of Pietersburg 100 (D9400) rose to the occasion. The club's long standing association with the old age home meant they were no strangers to lending a helping hand. Spearheading the restoration efforts were Rotarians Sampie Lyle and Sarel Martin. With a diligent team at their side and the supportive (albeit distant) backing of their fellow Pietersburg 100 members, they embarked on a ten-day intensive restoration mission.

The scope of the work was comprehensive. They excavated old pipes, tackled blockages and introduced new sections where required. An impressive 70 metres of these replacement sewage pipes were generously donated by a local hardware company. This benefactor, despite being an ardent supporter of numerous Rotary Pietersburg 100 initiatives, chose the humble path of anonymity.

The project wasn't without its challenges. The sewage system, having been in place for decades, had seen multiple modifications. Differences in pipe sizes and fitting types added complexity. At points, driveways and access roads that sat atop the sewage lines needed excavation. Additionally, the rerouting of overlaid electrical services became essential. These works, no doubt, introduced some inconvenience to the old age home's residents.

Yet, as the dust settled and the last pipe was fixed in place, the return to normality was palpable. The 'Our Home' old age home breathed a sigh of relief as the natural order - or more aptly, the 'free flow' - was restored.

Thanks to the tenacity and commitment of the Rotary Club of Pietersburg 100, residents can now look forward to many more years of seamless living, without a shadow of a sewage concern.

The project became more challenging than anticipated, as the piping had undergone a number of uncharted modifications over the years.





Past President Logie Naidoo and the team present the water purification tablets to Swamiji.

LIFELINE FOR COMMUNITIES

“There is no life without water.” A profound truth and one which the Rotary Club of Chatsworth (D9370) took to heart as they marked the successful handover of water purification tablets in the Welbedacht area.

Past President Charlie Panday collaborated with Business Connect/Bio Cache, securing a donation of a pallet of water purification tablets for the club.

These tablets are set to enhance the Water and Sanitation project that the club champions. In light of the recent floods, a portion of these tablets will be distributed to other Rotary clubs within KwaZulu-Natal and neighbouring areas, ensuring that the ripple effects of their initiative reach far and wide.

The statistics paint a promising picture. One pallet, valued at approximately R151,000, holds 410 boxes. With each box containing 260 sachets and each sachet capable of purifying 10 litres of water, the community can now safely utilise rain water and other sources, directly addressing a critical need.

Such endeavours underscore Rotary International’s focal area of Water and Sanitation, which strives to guarantee everyone access to

clean water and sanitation. For, as is universally acknowledged, access to safe water and sanitation forms the foundation of health and well-being.

The handover was met with evident appreciation. Residents, witnessing the demonstration of the water purification tablet, were filled with gratitude. A tip of the hat to the Swamiji, whose unwavering support to the club’s efforts remains crucial, especially when reaching out to those in need.

During the activities, President Cogie Muthulingum noted, “I would like to thank Business Connect/Bio Cache for this generous and much needed donation which has greatly assisted the community at large.”

Engagements with local residents and volunteers unveiled the club’s forward momentum, hinting at promising plans and projects in the pipeline.

The trajectory of the Rotary Club of Chatsworth is clear. With an unwavering commitment, innovative solutions and a cohesive team of Rotarians, the club stands poised to set benchmarks and inspire many more to join hands in service.



A hive of activity in Johannesburg as the much-awaited container is skilfully unloaded.

MOBILITY FOR ALL

For over three decades, the Rotary Club of Northcliff (D9400) has been a beacon of hope for thousands. Spearheading an international collaboration project, this esteemed club has dedicated itself to the noble cause of giving the gift of mobility to the underprivileged.

Cast your mind back to 1993. It was then that an inspiring partnership blossomed between the Rotary Clubs of Rushmoor (D1145, UK) and Northcliff (D9400). Their joint mission? To ensure that mobility isn't a luxury but a basic right for everyone. By importing second-hand wheelchairs from the UK, meticulously refurbishing, cleaning and finally distributing them to those in need, these clubs have made a tangible difference to countless lives.

The sheer scale of the initiative is remarkable.

A staggering 40,000 wheelchairs have found new homes, and that's not to mention the walkers, rollators, walking sticks, and crutches that have been distributed. Every Friday, like clockwork, approximately 20 hopeful individuals queue up at the club, waiting for a chance at a new lease on life, whether it's a shiny new wheelchair, a rollator, or just a walking stick. And the Rotary Club of Northcliff doesn't just stop at distribution. Broken wheelchairs are repaired, and in cases where they're beyond salvation, they're replaced. All this, without a cent being charged to the recipients.

The club's commitment extends even further. Rotary clubs across the nation are supplied with wheelchairs, ensuring that communities far and wide benefit from this compassionate endeavour.

GREAT CLUBS DON'T HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT

Be intentional about providing your members with a great club experience.

Our **MEMBERSHIP ASSESSMENT TOOLS** can help you get started.



Get to know new and prospective members with the **member interest survey**.



Identify groups in your community that are underrepresented in your club using the **diversity assessment**.



Create a plan to invite more people to visit or join your club with the **prospective member exercise**.



Meet members where they're at in their membership journey using the **retention assessment and analysis**.



Learn what your members want and keep your club relevant with the **member satisfaction survey**.



Understand why members are leaving your club with the **exit survey**.



rotary.org/membership

Rotary

Knysna's Interact clubs

EMBRACE THE NEW

In the picturesque town of Knysna, the future is bright as seven thriving Interact clubs stand as a testament to the commitment of young leaders in local high schools. Keenly supported by the Rotary Club of Knysna's (D9350) Youth Committee, these clubs have not only shown consistency but have continued to make impactful strides.



President Athabongile Kostayi takes to the stage, sharing the vision and aspirations of the club.



A collective of Knysna's Rotary pillars, Rotaractors and the avid Youth Committee Chair, Butch Coetzee, showcasing the unity and commitment towards a brighter future.

August saw the annual Interact Training Day take a spirited flight. Newly inducted boards from each of these clubs congregated at the event, creating an atmosphere of shared learning, networking and camaraderie.

While the day served to familiarise the Interactors with their responsibilities as office bearers, the broader landscape of Rotary both in Knysna and globally was also highlighted. They engaged with Knysna Rotarians and Rotaractors, delving deep into discussions of projects, both current and those on the horizon. The emphasis was also placed on the need for a robust, sustainable and eco-friendly waste management strategy for Knysna, addressing the pressing issues of landfill overflow and the protection of the exquisite Knysna estuary.

The culmination of the training day not only marks the onset of a year filled with promises and opportunities for the Interact clubs but also stands as a reflection of Rotary's enduring commitment to nurturing young leaders. As the clubs venture into another year, it's evident that with the support of dedicated Rotarians and the drive of these young Interactors, the community of Knysna is in competent hands.

Yet, amidst the serious dialogue and deliberations, fun was at the heart of the day. President Herb Hunter's signature games, like the laughter-inducing "balloon netball" and the creative "turn an Interactor into a mummy with a single roll of toilet paper", ensured that the day's energy remained vivacious.

ARE BICYCLES THE ANSWER?

The global perspective on bicycles is telling – with two billion in use around the world, this simple, sustainable mode of transport is cherished by all – from children to seniors. It's economical, environmentally-friendly, and health-promoting. Given South Africa's challenges and potential, Richard Jones of the Rotary Satellite E-Club of Kimberley (D9370) poses an essential question: Can bicycles be part of the solution?



South Africa is a vast and diverse country, spanning over 1,219,090 km², which is roughly 175% of the size of Texas. Though it's one of the larger countries in Africa and ranks 25th worldwide, a staggering 68% of its residents are urban dwellers.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) houses South Africa among its 16 member countries. This region, rich in resources and industry, still has South Africa tagged as a developing nation, a title that contrasts sharply with the country's abundant assets. And while its macro-economic growth charts an upward trajectory, many are yet to taste the fruits of this economic surge.

A study, "Realising their rights? Self-assessed community needs in 30 settlements in South Africa", highlights a glaring issue many South Africans face daily – transportation. Whether it's children walking long distances to school due to lack of transport or taxis no longer plying routes because of degraded road conditions, transportation is a recurring theme in the challenges of the South African populace.

While the need for better roads, especially in rural and informal areas, is evident, other calls for improved public health institutions, enhanced housing and more sustainable livelihood opportunities are equally pressing.

In the midst of these calls for better infrastructure and services, one demand consistently echoes -

better transport. A guide from the South African Education and Training Unit further emphasises this, putting transport among the top community needs.

Traditionally, the answer to transport issues in many developing regions has been to build roads. But this strategy often falls short, as pointed out by the International Forum for Rural Transport and Development.

In Uganda's Bikes Against Poverty programme, bicycles aren't just a mode of transport. They're a lifeline – opening doors to healthcare, education and profitable commerce. Similarly, the Bikes Without Borders initiative in Malawi, backed by the Rotary Club of Toronto, showed just how transformative a bicycle can be. Their research revealed that community healthcare volunteers with bicycles could visit 13% more patients, spend 46% less time in transit and provide 26% more services a week than their counterparts without wheels.

The benefits aren't limited to healthcare. People with bicycles were more involved in the business sector and had lower transportation costs. The sheer value of a bicycle becomes evident when respondents claimed they'd pay up to four times their monthly salary to own one.

So, can bicycles be part of the solution? The answer, looking at the evidence, seems to be a resounding "yes".



Pizzas, Projects and Partnerships

In the middle of Midrand, where pizzas bake and laughter rings, the tale of Cresset House and Knights-Pendragon stands as a testament to what enduring partnerships, fuelled by compassion and action, can truly achieve.

On a sunny day in Midrand, the whiff of melting cheese and aromatic herbs wafts through the air. The cause for this delightful scent? It's Pizza Day at Cresset House, an eagerly anticipated annual affair where the villagers (vulnerable adults with intellectual disabilities) come together in celebration alongside the spirited members of the Rotary Club of Knights-Pendragon (D9400).

For many, a pizza party might be a simple joy, but for the Cresset House community, it signifies the deep-seated bond they share with Knights-Pendragon. This partnership, lasting more than two decades, has seen the Rotary club embark on numerous endeavours to uplift and support Cresset House.

Visiting Cresset House, one might spot the secure garages, constructed specifically for Cresset's vehicles - a project brought to life by Knights-Pendragon. But perhaps the most transformative initiative was addressing the exorbitant water costs from the municipality. By collaborating with the Rotary Club of Kyalami and Jojo Tanks, the Knights-Pendragons played a pivotal role in bolstering the water storage capacity of Cresset House to an impressive 35,000 litres. This feat, coupled with a new filtration plant, meant that Cresset House,

blessed with its own boreholes, slashed its water bills by half.

Taking a sustainable approach didn't stop at water. This year saw the inception of a R2.3 million solar farm. While technical expertise was sourced freely from a top-tier solar consultant, Knights-Pendragon's commitment shone through their financial support - a steady R27,500 per month for a year, ensuring insurance and added security for the project.

Yet, the beauty of this relationship isn't just in these grand ventures. It's nestled in the heart-warming smaller acts that fortify their connection. During the turbulence of the COVID-19 pandemic, Knights-Pendragon stepped up, ensuring villagers and staff were supplied with essential multivitamins. From assisting with bakery equipment to helping refurbish a memorial dedicated to the departed, the Rotary club's fingerprints are lovingly spread across Cresset House.

Solidifying this relationship further, Past President Andrew Connold was recently welcomed onto the Cresset House board. This move not only augments Knights-Pendragon's over 20-year association with Cresset House but also ensures the Rotary club stays attuned to the evolving needs of the community.



Rotary Africa
Magazine

SUBSCRIPTION NOTICE

New subscription rates from 1st January 2024

Printed 6-month Subscriptions increased to R245 (postal addresses in South Africa) and **R300** (postal addresses outside South Africa)

NO INCREASE FOR DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS (R135)

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

The cut-off date for membership updates for the January to June 2024 billing period is the 20th 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.





Above: People collecting their gift sets. Left: AG Judy Sligcher helped by sewing on buttons.

WARMTH, CARE AND COMMUNITY

August witnessed a heart warming confluence of compassion and action. The Rotary Club of Northcliff (D9400), in partnership with Beanies, Booties and Blankets and GEM retirement village, set an ambitious goal: a Baby Shower initiative aiming to provide at least a thousand gift sets for expectant mothers in South Africa's rural heartland.

This initiative wasn't just about the tangible gift sets. It was about a community coming together, evoking the spirit of Ubuntu, and extending a hand of support to the vulnerable. As the packing day approached, the momentum grew. Lending their weight to the cause were the Nelson Mandela and Kuwane Foundations, as well as fellow Rotary clubs. A myriad of sponsors stepped forward, their contributions spanning from essential items to monetary support. Not to be left behind, skilled individuals, with their knitting needles dancing, crafted adorable baby booties, beanies, jerseys and warm blankets.

Each carefully packed gift bag was a bundle of love, thought and care. Mothers would unwrap beanies, booties, blankets, sanitary pads, face cloths, breast pads, assorted toiletries, engaging books and barrier cream.

When the day ended, not only did the team meet its goal, they surpassed it, with an impressive 1,100 sets ready to be delivered. The surplus blankets and knitwear didn't gather dust either; they found their way to various hospitals and clinics.

The day of dedication was encapsulated by a concluding session, characterised not just by the satisfaction of a job well done, but by fellowship. Volunteers, their hearts full, shared savoury and sweet snacks, a token of the shared spirit and camaraderie that epitomises such initiatives. The Baby Shower project stands as a testament to the power of collective effort, and the warmth that results when communities come together for a noble cause.

Power of Networking

Across the world, the spirit of Rotary is alive and well. Clubs often collaborate, sharing resources and assisting each other to achieve a shared vision of a better world. The strength of this collaboration was vividly displayed when the Rotary Club of Algoa Bay (D9370) was gifted a 40-foot container filled with much-needed medical equipment. This equipment, sourced from PhysioNet in the UK, stands as a testament to the hard work and dedication of countless individuals.

No Rotary clubs were directly involved in the delivery; their role was to provide guidance and funding. The financial backing was generously provided by four Rotary districts: D1080, D1110, D1190 and D1285. A special nod of gratitude goes to District 1080 and particularly Hillary Farrell of the Rotary Club of Hunstanton, for their significant contribution. Clubs in District 1285, such as the Rotary Club of Horwich, represented by stalwarts like Judith and Geoffrey Pearson, have also been steadfast donors.

Collection of these items wasn't just an insular effort. Numerous items were gathered from individuals and hospitals, in partnership with another charity, PhysioNet. This endeavour was coordinated with various warehouses throughout the UK. A note of interest: PhysioNet's founder, Peter Thompson, is a proud member of the Rotary Club of Knaresborough.

So, what impact did this container have on the community? Beyond the many organisations that received goods, an estimated 884 individuals benefited directly. From the elderly receiving a grab rail in their home to the diabetics benefiting from a glucose monitoring device, the ripple effect of this generosity was vast. The Rotary Club of Algoa Bay's influence reached disabled individuals throughout their community and extended as far as Cape Town. Financially, the club spent R15 109 on the container after recovering R44 070. However, when one considers that the equipment was valued at a whopping R1 529 300, it's evident that the return on investment was phenomenal. In essence, all expenses (totalling R59 179) for the container project were offset by the sale of some premium items to other Rotary clubs. It's not just about



numbers, but the tangible difference that was made in countless lives.

This project reiterates the true essence of the Rotary club: "Service Above Self". It's a story of collaboration, generosity and the transformative power of networking for the greater good.

OTHER PROJECT PARTNERS INCLUDED:

Arthritis Foundation
 Association for the physically disabled
 Buffelsfontein Retirement Village
 Cuyler Home
 Dept. of Health - NeoNatal Department
 Dept. of Health - Oncology department
 Dept. of Health - Orthopaedic department
 Echo Foundation
 Ekuphumleni Old Age Home
 Elukholweni
 Gelvan Park Home for the Aged
 Hand Up Foundation
 Kruger Gardens
 Kwadwesi Clinic
 Lake Farm Centre
 Malabar Home for the Aged
 Methodist Homes
 Missionvale
 Rosedale Facility
 St Francis Clinic
 St Francis Hospice
 Sweethearts Foundation
 The Association for Persons with Physical Disabilities
 The Rotary E-Club of Greater Cape Town
 The Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth West
 The Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth
 The Rotary Club of St Francis
 The Rotary Club of Grahamstown
 Ubomi Obutsha
 Union of Jewish Women
 WMC Bread for Life



Nyoka Ridge Farm's Vulture Hide Opens its Doors **FROM VISION TO REALITY**

In Skeerpoort, the buzz isn't just about the vultures. It's also about a community that came together, weathered challenges and transformed a vision into a reality for everyone to cherish.

Nestled in the scenic expanse of Skeerpoort, an awe-inspiring project is finally seeing the light of day. The Rotary Club of Brits-Hartbeespoort (D9400), in collaboration with WESSA Northern Areas Region and Birdlife Harties, celebrated the grand opening of the vulture hide at Nyoka Ridge Farm Vulture Restaurant.

Flashback to 2010 and it all started as the brilliant brainchild of John Wesson. Together with Alan Newton Perry, another enthusiastic Rotarian, they passionately pitched the idea of constructing a hide dedicated to vultures.

Though the project underwent various phases, it truly found its footing in 2018 with the acquisition of a 12-metre shipping container. Evaluating all possibilities, the team deemed the container the most pragmatic choice. Initial modifications were undertaken at Van Gaalens Cheese Farm.

However, the world had other plans. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic momentarily affected the project's progress. But with resilience and determination, the project regained momentum and

the revamped container was finally transported to its destined location on 11 January 2022.

Over subsequent months, an industrious team composed of members from Rotary, WESSA and Birdlife Harties meticulously worked on the hide's interiors. Carpets were laid, strategic apertures for photographers were crafted and wooden panels were installed for effective cooling and camouflaging the structure amidst its natural surroundings.

The official inauguration saw President Glen Ross take centre stage, as he, alongside WESSA member and PDG Jankees Sligcher, unveiled a granite plaque commemorating the project. In recognition of the man whose vision set it all in motion, the hide was fittingly named after John Wesson.

The ceremony was graced by multiple past and present Rotary District Governors, including the current governor, Riana Pretorius. Over seventy members representing the key partnering organisations, as well as those from the Magaliesberg Protection Association and the National Conservancy Association, attended the event.

Nature enthusiasts and photographers will be thrilled to know that the hide is now open to the public. With a modest fee of R200 per person or an option of R1,000 for exclusive hire, it can comfortably accommodate sixteen visitors, including seven photographers and a dedicated spot for cell photography.

Furthermore, visitors can look forward to an integrated ablution facility and garden by November.

Curious attendees closely inspect the hide, admiring its detailing and design.



The official part of the ceremony unfolds with a panoramic backdrop at the vulture project viewpoint facility



President Glen Ross, DG Riana Pretorius, John Wesson and PDG Jankees Sligcher smile as they mark the culmination of their efforts.



Palesa Manamela, Sefuna Mabuza, Millicent Kupunza and Jill Ovens at the RYLA camp.

For the Girls!

August witnessed a heartening step towards nurturing young leadership. Four Grade 10 girl learners from Lowveld Academy, all identified for their budding leadership potential, were sponsored by the Rotary Club of Hoedspruit (D9400) to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) camp. Held at Warriors Academy in the picturesque Magoebaskloof, this camp offered these young women not just training but also a platform to foster connections, camaraderie and character.

This gesture by the Rotary Club of Hoedspruit aligns with its commitment to empower young women, fulfilling its goal to sponsor 12 girl learners for RYLA this year. Recognised globally, RYLA stands as a testament to Rotary's dedication towards shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

Alongside the girls from Lowveld Academy, numerous other promising youths from District 9400 were in attendance. Their experiences, as shared, were profound and transformative. Palesa Manamela felt an overwhelming sense of belonging, saying the camp "felt like home", allowing her to interact and bond with others. Similarly, Emily Du Toit relished

the diversity of the camp, cherishing interactions with individuals from varied backgrounds and age groups.

RYLA's structure is both immersive and inclusive. Attendees are grouped into "family groups", generally comprising ten young participants with two dedicated counsellors. The emphasis here is on promoting teamwork, fostering constructive group dynamics and upholding ethical conduct.

Sefuna Mabuza's camp highlight was the boat race. Paddling in tandem with a partner, she gleaned crucial skills, most notably the importance of "communication with her partner and patience". The overarching sentiment, as expressed by many attendees, was the camp's familial atmosphere. They lauded the counsellors and their peers for creating an environment replete with care, support and understanding.

It's evident that through initiatives like RYLA, Rotary is making strides in sculpting future leaders, especially among young women, ensuring they are equipped, inspired and supported in their journey ahead.

AFRICA IN BRIEF



Members of the Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark (D9400) on a mission of mobility! PP Rita Benecke and PP Petro Bester giving refurbished wheelchairs a ‘test drive’ to ensure top-notch functionality. Thanks to a project of the Rotary Club of Northcliff (D9400), these previously loved wheelchairs have found a new purpose.



Members of the Rotary Club of Phoenix (D9370) gathered in August for a delightful braai, organised by the club’s service director and team. This heart-warming display of fellowship not only strengthens ties but also nurtures an atmosphere ripe for sharing ideas and club growth.

WALL OF HONOUR



Chris Stanbridge is a new member of the Rotary Club of St Francis (D9370).



Costa Vrannas is a new member of the Rotary Club of Worcester (D9350).



Ruben Kleu is a new member of the Rotary Club of Worcester (D9350).



Ursula Bennett is a new member of the Rotary Club of Worcester (D9350).



Anita Venter is a new member of the Rotary Club of Worcester (D9350).



Pieter Eloff is a new member of the Rotary Club of Worcester (D9350).



Jan Robberts is a new member of the E-Club of Eagle Canyon (D9400).



Johan Majola is a new member of the E-Club of Eagle Canyon (D9400).



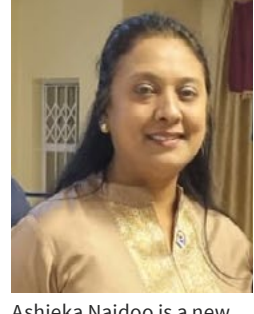
Patricia Mogano is a new member of the E-Club of Eagle Canyon (D9400).



Saloshnie Naidoo is a new member of the E-Club of Eagle Canyon (D9400).



Roddy Blaine Naidoo is a new member of the Rotary Club of Chatsworth (D9370).



Ashieka Naidoo is a new member of the Rotary Club of Chatsworth (D9370).



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