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BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METRO CITY



Policies to improve school progression and reduce the numbers of children dropping out of school are critical if Universal Primary Education (UPE) is to be achieved. Children are starting primary school in greater numbers than ever before but dropout rates are significant and lead to low levels of primary school completion in many countries. Despite its importance, strategies designed to improve primary school retention and progression has received relatively little attention. Typically, national education plans assume that primary school progression will improve automatically as a result of interventions designed to improve initial access and educational quality. The literacy rate in the country is 74.04 per cent, 82.14 for males and 65.46 for females, so the gender gap is quite visible in the statistics. Rotary has been quite aggressively promoting the literacy campaign in India through the RILM and to a great extent has been successful to be a prominent stake holder with the Union and the various state governments. Recently Union Government received the UNESCO Award on the e-learning content also known as e-Vidya which was provided by RILM, along with CBSE, KVS, NIOS.

For Rotarians we need to up the game and not restrict ourselves in easy formats as that restricts our giving and is not a true reflection of our resource channelization, the 160 odd clubs in our District have far better ability and the leadership needs to support literacy programs in a bigger way with an unified district program which can impact positively lakhs of students, bring back school drop outs or bridge the gender gap ( which is even more in our geographical terrain), the District leadership ( as per the leadership plan) needs to put up a concrete plan ( which needs to be backed by solid numbers and resources) in consultation and agreement with the Rotary clubs for a major thrust or else we shall be left observing the month with tokenisms.

EDITORIAL

Subhojit Roy

# Presidential Message - September 2022



Jennifer Jones President 2022-23

Recently, Nick and I spent time in Guatemala, where we met wonderful fellow Rotary members and families who unofficially adopted me as “Tía Jennifer.” On the third day, after visiting Patzún in the mountainous western highlands, we set out for Lake Atitlán, which we needed to reach by nightfall. If we took a back road we could get there faster. Locals told us it had just been repaved and assured us, “You’ll have no problem.”

At first, it was a breeze. We wound through misty-green coffee and corn fields covering the hillside like a patchwork quilt. But at a river crossing, we found a bridge washed away. The only way to continue would be to ford the river in our small bus. There were a few tense moments, but we decided to give it a try and, thankfully, we made it across safely.

This adventure reminds me of two important truths in Rotary. One, we rely on local, on-the-ground expertise to do what we do best. And two, sometimes you have to take uncomfortable chances to reach important goals.

Every day, I am honored to learn from our Rotary family. Every lesson is an opportunity to grow, and each story adds a chapter to our collective Imagine Rotary year.



## High-Impact Service through Programs of Scale Grants



Is your club or district ready to scale up a successful service project to make an even larger impact? Each year, The Rotary Foundation awards one US\$2 million Programs of Scale grant to a well-developed, evidence-based program with the potential to expand and attract experienced partner organizations. The 2021-22 Programs of Scale

grant was awarded to Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria, a member-led program focused on saving the lives of Nigerian mothers and newborns by improving access to quality health care. The project is sponsored by Districts 1860 (Germany) and 9110, 9125, 9141, and 9142 (Nigeria), as well as the Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal, and Child Health. Rotarians and Rotaractors in Nigeria coordinate project activities, oversee training, lead advocacy efforts, and engage with the Nigerian federal and state ministries of health, medical associations, and community leaders. Members in Germany lend their technical and administrative expertise to support management, monitoring, and evaluation. The group has applied for funding from Germany's Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, which has been contributing to the effort from the start, including \$1.36 million toward a recent global grant project.

The application cycle for the 2022-23 Programs of Scale grant began in June and is now closed. Selected applicants will be invited to submit proposals in October. Learn how to qualify and apply for this grant, and read more about Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria. Send your questions to [programsofscale@rotary.org](mailto:programsofscale@rotary.org).

## POLIO



### World Polio Day as important as ever

On World Polio Day, 24 October, Rotary and its partners will recognize the progress we've made against polio. Rotary members are encouraged to watch new World Polio Day 2022 videos on [endpolio.org](http://endpolio.org) and Rotary's social media to learn where the Global Polio Eradication Initiative stands in our

fight against this disease. Read a statement on recent polio detections on My Rotary. For World Polio Day, we're asking members to continue raising awareness of the importance of polio eradication and Rotary's critical role in this effort, to plan events and fundraisers, and to consider making a personal donation. Learn how you can get involved at [endpolio.org](http://endpolio.org).

## Build peace through Rotary

On the International Day of Peace, 21 September, districts can build peace by designating a district Rotary Peace Fellowship subcommittee chair for 2022-23 if that role is vacant. These leaders coordinate peace building activities and help recruit applicants for Rotary Peace Fellowships.

Clubs and districts can also encourage members to: Download and share the new Rotary Builds Peace brochure, which highlights the many ways clubs and districts build a more peaceful world.

Enroll in the Rotary Positive Peace Academy to take a free two-hour course on peace building, and then apply the lessons to Rotary clubs and communities. This self-guided course is available in multiple languages.

Follow the Rotary Peace Centers Facebook page to learn about peace fellows' work, and sign up for the Peace in Action newsletter for updates and ways to get involved.

### Taking Action for change

We're at a defining moment in Rotary's history as we implement our Action Plan, a strategic road map that will help us better connect with one another, grow as an organization, and share our stories of making a difference in our communities. The Action Plan is designed to help you, as club and district leaders, work together to achieve mutual goals. In the coming months, we'll share stories from Rotary members offering inspiration, encouragement, and guidance as they carry out the plan's four priorities.



## RI President Jennifer Jones' statement on the death of Queen Elizabeth II

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, whose dedication to humanitarian causes and unwavering commitment to peace and the environment deeply inspired Rotary members around the world, especially those in the Commonwealth countries. The queen was a supporter of Rotary's polio eradication and humanitarian missions. She received the Rotary International Award of Honor, the organization's highest recognition, in December 2013 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of her coronation. Her late husband, Prince Philip, was an honorary member of the Rotary clubs of Kings Lynn, Windsor & Eton, and Windsor St. George, England; and Edinburgh, Scotland.

We join the international community in offering our condolences to the royal family.

**-RI President Jennifer Jones**

## Rotary, Ukraine Friends to collaborate on addressing needs in Ukraine



**By Ryan Hyland**



**John Hewko, general secretary and CEO of Rotary International (left) and Brock D. Bierman, CEO of Ukraine Friends, sign a memorandum of understanding in July that calls for the organizations to collaborate on addressing needs in Ukraine.**

**Photo by David Alexander**

RI General Secretary and CEO John Hewko and Ukraine Friends CEO Brock D. Bierman signed a memorandum of understanding in July 2022 that calls for the organizations to work together to determine the viability of potential projects, distribute funds and in-kind donations, and prioritize joint efforts.

Rotary has awarded 272 disaster response grants totaling \$8.9 million since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. These grants, for club projects in 29 countries, support people in and around Ukraine who have been affected by the war. Rotary and Rotaract clubs worldwide have also donated millions more directly to Ukrainian clubs that are providing water, food, shelter, medicine, and clothing.

Ukraine Friends, the current focus of the New York-based Worldwide Friends Foundation, works in Ukraine to help people affected by the war. This includes organizing temporary housing as well as providing medical equipment and supplies such as badly needed ambulances to help treat injured civilians.

Rotary and Ukraine Friends have agreed on their first joint project, which is procuring and delivering nearly 50 ambulances to hospitals and other organizations. Rotary and Ukraine Friends have donated \$300,000 each toward the ambulances, and Rotary districts in Ukraine and Slovakia will work with Ukraine Friends to coordinate the delivery.

The collaboration between Rotary and Ukraine Friends "will have an amplifying effect and create an even larger impact on those we are trying to help," Bierman says. "The critical humanitarian assistance and medical aid to those most in need will provide Ukrainians with a helping hand exactly at the time when they need it most."

# The District Governor's Official Club Visit to RC Calcutta Metro City



The District Governor's Official Club Visit to RC Calcutta Metro City was held on 3rd September at the Eastern Metropolitan Club in a hybrid format.

While the DG Ajoy Kr Law and the First Lady PP Rtn Mitali Law were present along with DS OCV PP Rtn AMitava Chakraborty, Assistant Governor PP Rtn Mahua Bose and ZS PP Rtn Sanghamitra Sen. The members joined in on the zoom platform 7 members

from Poland, USA and other parts of the city along with 11 members physically at the venue. The Rotaract club and RCC representatives also attended.

The DG Ajoy Law deliberated and interacted with the members and US\$ 900 and GBP 100 were donated to the TRF on the occasion and cheques were handed over to the DG. PDG Shyamashree Sen suggested various programs for POLIO, PP Rtn Subhojit Roy spoke on thalassaemia and how it has been a continuous project for the club since 2005 and regretted the apparent lack of knowledge of the district leaders about the same. PP Rtn Sunando Sen also spoke about the need to have a planned program for thalassaemia.

President Amrita Basu spoke about the club's plans for the RY22-23 and AG Mahua Bose and DS OCV Amitava Chakraborty also shared their views on the good health of the club. Club Secretary Arundhati Kundu conducted the club business and PE Manish Nayak offered the formal vote of thanks while PDG Shyamashree Sen felicitated all the guests on the occasion.

## Coming Up:

- 18th September'22- SNID
- 25th September'22- Health & Eye Camp at Entally
- 26th September'22- 'Sports as a Career for Girls' to celebrate International Girl Child Day RC Calcutta Metro City in association Government of UK at British Deputy High Commission

## Teachers Day Celebrated



The club along with RCC Vivekananda Mission Seva celebrated the Teachers Day at the Alor Parash Primar School, Ballygunje by felicitating all the teachers of the institution. On the occasion the students were also presented with fruits and sweets.

# Greetings

Happy Birthday - 21st September-PDG Shyamashree Sen

Happy Birthday -29th September- Rtn Payail Parineeta Pal

## District Project Highlights

This section shall feature some of the projects of substance being conducted by other Rotary Clubs in D 3291:-

RC Calcutta Avyana- The Club took up a life-saving vaccination drive at Ward 92 of Kolkata, as a step towards preventing Cervical Cancer and spreading awareness about this dreaded disease, 37 adolescent girls were vaccinated on the day of the project.

RC Calcutta Old City- The club in association with other Rotary Clubs organized a musical fund raiser "Hridaya" in memory of late singer KK to raise funds for child operations. Till date the club has conducted over 40+ such operations.

RC Calcutta Presidency- The Club organised Saksham camp where LN-4 prosthetic hands were give at no cost to beneficiaries on 9th July'22 at Rotary Sadan where 59 beneficiaries received the hand which will make them self independent.

RC Haldia- The Club has conducted 9 Thalassemia Awareness Cum Carrier Detection Camps in RY 2022-23 till date. The project is being conducted in collaboration with Thalassemia Control Unit, Tamralipto Medical College & Hospital in various educational institutions. (Please note: Information collected from social media posts and we shall strive to feature most of the major projects of clubs of D3291)

## From the archives -



This edition of Metro Mail is sponsored by PP Rtn Sunando Sen

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