



Spectrum



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Learning about storytelling at the 2022 Convention



Posted on October 5, 2022 by Randy Bretz, Rotary Club of Lincoln, Nebraska, USA



Breakout session in Houston: Participants at the 2022 Rotary International Convention in Houston, Texas, listen to tips on storytelling at one of many informative breakout sessions.

I was seated in a breakout session at the 2022 Rotary International Convention in Houston, Texas, USA, with about 200 other attendees ready to learn about story telling. I had come to the convention along with about 11,000 other members from around the world to learn and be inspired. And merely looking around the room gave we inspiration to see the diversity of nations represented.

A few minutes in, we were informed that the speaker would be unable to present. But that did not hinder this room full of creative and innovative People of Action. After taking a few seconds to confer with their neighbors, three people near the front of the room volunteered to lead the session. A round of applause broke out as they stepped up to the presentation table. Shirley Weddle, a Rotary member from North Texas and Charter President of an e-club, Bob Wiltfong, club President of the Ponte Vedra, Florida club and Amanda Beadles of Chillicothe, Illinois proceeded to lead a seminar that resulted in a number of valuable guidelines for us to follow. As the hour-long seminar unfolded, we heard from dozens of folks with stories of their own from around the world.

Wiltfong, a former broadcast newsman, suggested following the journalism standard of being sure to include who, what, where,

when and why in your stories. He also urged storytellers to be specific when telling their stories, details make all the difference. Then he went on to talk about guidelines to use when recording audio and/or video to share. One of the most important points, in my mind, was to keep stories short and to the point with a call to action. He concluded by suggesting that we let the story do the selling.

The three impromptu seminar coordinators invited us to share our insight into stories, or to tell a story of our own. A woman from Poland stepped to the microphone and talked about moving from New York to Louisiana and feeling disconnected. Joining Rotary helped her establish connections and feel more at home. A gentleman from Zimbabwe talked about moving to Washington, D.C. In late 2020, even during the COVID pandemic, participating in Rotary was a great way for him to meet new people, to feel welcome in a new country.

Weddle, one of the impromptu leaders, talked about her bold step to establish an eRotary club focused on suicide prevention and brain health. Her club meets virtually twice each month and helps foster understanding of the issues leading to suicide and steps that can be taken to mitigate those issues.

A fellow from Texas shared how his club produced a video to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the club and how it had helped recruit new members. "People take action based on their emotions, and our video showed the good connections we have in our club."

Amanda Beadles from Illinois used the acronym CAUSE to illustrate how storytelling could be beneficial in Rotary.

I walked out of the room fully inspired, not just about storytelling, but about Rotary. The three who volunteered as impromptu leaders, those who stepped forward to share their suggestions and stories, and certainly all of us in that room saw Rotary in action. What's more, we witnessed inspiring people of action who connected and gave us all a story to tell about what we gained at Rotary International Convention in 2022.

Rotary members' role in facing hunger, poverty, and inequality

Posted on October 6, 2022 by Bonaventure Fandohan, Community Economic Development Manager at Rotary International

Livelihood prospects have changed since 2020 for developing and emerging countries. Conflict, extreme weather patterns, and disparities caused by economic shocks and health crises, including the coronavirus pandemic are the main drivers of that change.

According to OXFAM International, a non-governmental organization based in the UK, **more than a quarter of a billion people around the world could be pushed into extreme poverty this year** due to:

- A surge in global food prices after Russia invaded Ukraine

- The ongoing impact of COVID-19
- Rising global inequality
- Changes in weather patterns due to climate change



Savings and Loans are key to support entrepreneurs

Loss of jobs, the rise of inequality, and hunger are real concerns for poor and underserved communities worldwide, especially for women, youth, and low-wage and informal workers. More than 48 million people are facing emergency levels of hunger, with the threat of acute malnutrition, starvation, and death, according to the World Food Program. The World Bank reveals that nearly 25 years of effort to reduce the number of people living in extreme poverty—earning less than US\$2.15 per person per day—has been put at risk.

This situation has created unprecedented economic damage, contributing to a significant slowdown and inflation. Global growth is projected to slow from an estimated 6.1 percent in 2021 to 3.6 percent in 2022 and 2023.

Moreover, the rising costs of fuel, fertilizer, and wheat, driven by shortages and sanctions arising from the war in Ukraine, are exacerbating the hunger crisis and creating the potential for mass starvation across hunger hotspots in multiple nations worldwide. This problematic situation has enabled Rotary members to invest more time and effort in people and communities to alleviate poverty, creating measurable and enduring economic improvements in poor and underserved areas. Through their work, Rotary members have contributed to improving livelihoods in countries where people are going through job loss, decreased incomes, and high levels of hunger.

What you can do to support community and economic development



Vocational training can make a difference in household incomes

If you want to be part of that group of Rotary members supporting individuals, households, or communities in dealing with the economic downturn:

- Start with a community assessment to identify a community's needs and assets and discuss local priorities and long-term visions.
- Discuss the results of the assessment with a local expert from the Community Economic Development field, identified through your District Resource Network with the help of your District International Service Committee.
- Look for partners who share the same ideas and interests in the project.
- Approach your District Foundation Committee if you're considering applying for a district or global grant to support your project. Consider sharing the community assessment results and the project idea with your Regional Grant Officer for feedback and ideas.

Remember to keep an open mind. Prioritize sustainability and community ownership in projects by involving stakeholders from the onset of your project. Stakeholders, however, should be partners and project co-designers from the community assessment stage and throughout every aspect of project planning, implementation, and long-term ownership and oversight.

Recognizing the equity gap: informal settlements are being left behind

Posted on October 3, 2022 by Anne Myers, Senior Director, Advocacy Campaigns, Habitat for Humanity International



Houses cover the hillsides of Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Photograph courtesy of Habitat for Humanity International

More than thirty-five years ago, the United Nations General Assembly took an important step in promoting the idea that everyone deserves a decent place to live by declaring that the first Monday in October would be **World Habitat Day**.

This World Habitat Day, we invite you to reflect on the importance of adequate shelter.

The scale of the problem is enormous. According to the United Nations, more than 1.8 billion people lack adequate housing. Informal settlements represent one of the most extreme forms of deprivation, and 1 billion people are living in slums and other informal settlements. Their living conditions, a physical manifestation of inequalities holding back far too many families and communities, are unacceptable. They are not treated as equals. They are being left behind.

Homes without access to clean water are also inadequate and mean that people - especially children — face increased health

threats. A home without land rights hampers families' ability to plan. A poorly constructed home of lower-quality materials is most vulnerable to the consequences of our changing climate. And a home in an area with few platforms for residents to share their perspectives means decisions are made without them. Even further, the fast-moving challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted that healthy housing is more important than ever. A safe and secure home is the first line of defense, and the preexisting global need for adequate and safe housing only exacerbated the pandemic. Very quickly, the global health emergency became a housing emergency.

Vulnerabilities are intensified by conflict and displacement, such as in Ukraine, where populations already at-risk are being made more vulnerable by the war, and long-term housing needs for displaced populations must be planned for while immediate shelter needs are addressed to ensure the social and economic stability of the region.

At Habitat for Humanity, we know homes can also be part of the solution. And we know equity and inclusion starts at home. Our work ensures that the ideas coming from people living in informal settlements complement government initiatives and are truly heard and factored into policies. We help promote secure land tenure, resulting in the most basic physical, and economic and psychological security. We ensure access to services such as clean drinking water, sanitation, waste management services, and electricity, in turn increasing the quality of life of those living in informal communities and reducing the spread of disease. We advocate for building climate resilience, which we believe is imperative to ensuring the stability, security and resilience of families and communities. We also advocate for housing that is well-located, accessible, connected to utilities, adequately constructed, not crowded, and affordable. We will ensure that the next pandemic will not unequally impact the most vulnerable.

Together, we can create a more equitable world where people living in informal settlements have a safe and secure place to call home. **Rotary members can engage with Habitat for community impact**, like recruiting volunteers to build homes or revitalize communities through repairs and other improvement projects or developing local, national, or international projects to equip communities with access to clean water and sanitation. Rotary members can further Habitat's social impact by advocating for engagement and policy changes related to affordable, sustainable housing, such as women's empowerment, engaging youth in service, and promoting access to information.

Rotary International's partnership with Habitat for Humanity International helps clubs and districts empower local communities through access to safe and affordable housing, water and sanitation facilities and hygienic practices, and skills training to improve employment opportunities. Contact your local Habitat to jointly design and implement local service projects.

About Habitat for Humanity

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity began in 1976 as a grassroots effort on a community farm in southern Georgia. The Christian housing organization has since grown to become a leading global nonprofit working in local communities across all 50 states in the U.S. and in more than 70 countries. Families and individuals in need of a hand up partner with Habitat for Humanity to build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners

help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Through financial support, volunteering or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves. Through shelter, we empower. To learn more, visit habitat.org

Texas Rotarians let kids be kids at camp for Ukrainian refugees



Posted on October 7, 2022 by Shannon Coleman, governor of District 5870 Central Texas, USA



Child craft project: A child works on a craft project during the four-day recreational camp at Peaceable Kingdom in Killeen, Texas. Photo by Oliver Smith, Rotary Club of Northwest Austin.

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, the United Nations estimates that more than 14 million people are thought to have fled their homes. We began hearing about some of these families through our Ukrainian community here in Central and South-Central Texas. Children are entering our school systems with only the clothes on their backs. Many of the families have experienced violence, war, a shortage of food, water or shelter, personal injury, and disease.

Wanting to help, Rotarians in our district applied for a Disaster Response Grant from The Rotary Foundation to work with Peaceable Kingdom by Variety, a children's retreat/camp in Killeen, for a three-night, four-day recreational experience over the Labor Day weekend. We imagined a space where the Ukrainian families could connect with their community, step away from the reminders of war, and take a much-needed deep breath. We wanted to give the children a place to explore, laugh and just be kids.

Working with the Ukrainian community in our area, we identified 47 children ranging in age from 5-13. Twenty-six parents also attended. The \$20,000 grant provided for overnight lodging and meals, facility costs, and on-site medical professionals. We had 55 Rotary members give more than 350 volunteer hours, while 20 members of our Ukrainian community volunteered their time. All volunteers were required to complete a criminal background check and a child sexual abuse prevention training.

Variety Peaceable Kingdom was the perfect location to promote healing and empower through nature and adventure. Campers enjoyed campfires while making s'mores for the first time, swimming in the pool, taking archery lessons, and completing confidence building courses including a 40-foot rock wall and zip line.

The final day's carnival allowed the children to eat all the snow cones, cotton candy, and popcorn they wanted while playing games, having their faces painted, and spending therapeutic time in the petting zoo.

The many activities helped the children find comfort with others who speak the same language and who could understand their trauma.

We were surprised at how beneficial the camp was not only for the children but also for the adults. Bonds were developed between Ukrainian campers, parents, and volunteers – creating and enhancing a support network they could use to move forward and thrive in their new community.

We found that these parents were able to connect with other parents and the Ukrainian volunteers in a way they hadn't prior to the camp. One parent commented how she had thought this would be a benefit for the children and found that it was an even bigger blessing for the adults.

I was told by one parent that "without internet/ social media reminders of the war, we were able to leave the war behind for a few days and connect with others."

A mother and son who had arrived in the United States only one month before from Bucha after her husband's death, were sitting at our table the first night at dinner. They were noticeably forlorn, isolated, and didn't understand English. Midway through the camp, she told a Ukrainian volunteer, "It's the first time I've seen my son smile since the war started."

Another mother told us: "Thank you for letting my son be a child for a few days."

And yet another, "It's the first time I can remember my son play, (he had) lost a light in him."

Our district imagined creating a space to help kids be kids and help them to imagine a better future. Based on feedback, I believe we accomplished that. Ultimately, we were the ones who were changed.

Brief outline of the Global Grant 1991152

Purpose: 'Fight against Anemia in Women'

Objectives: Treat women of Anemia by screening and treatment and prevent by educating them

Title: 'Matri-Raksha' - protection of mothers

Scope of work: Provide screening camps, minor and major surgeries, medicines, awareness training, healthcare professional training and providing diagnostic equipment at community health centers

Coverage: Both districts of 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India

Sponsors: Rotary clubs of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata of District 3291, India and Nidau-Biel, Biel-Bienne, Biel-Buttenberg of District 1990, Switzerland:

Grant Partners: Rotary Foundation India, the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International,

Associates: Related Government and civic bodies, NGO's

QUOTE

Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope.

Kofi Annan

UNWINDS

If you throw a stone randomly in Bangalore, chances are, it will hit a dog or a software engineer.

In India we drive on the left of the road.

In Bangalore, we drive on what is left of the road.

Q: What is the easiest way of causing traffic accidents in Bengaluru?

A: Follow the traffic rules.

Bengaluru, where PG (Paying Guest) is the first business and IT, the second.

When someone says it's raining in Bengaluru, be sure to ask them which area, which lane and which road.

If a Bangalorean stops at a traffic light, others behind him stop too because the others conclude that he has spotted a policeman that they themselves have not.

Bengaluru is the only city where distance is measured in units of time.

Rickshaw driver, grocery seller and common shop keeper think that you earn at least two hundred thousand per month if you are in IT sector.

Birthdays of members in October 2022

Sanjay Agarwal on October 5, 2022

President Elect Ansul Agrawal on October 7, 2022

Past President Dr Chitra Ray on October 15, 2022

October is Economic & Community Development month

TAILPIECE

A new weapon in the fight against polio



A modified polio vaccine, nOPV2, is offering new hope in the fight to eradicate polio. The reengineered formula has a lower risk of causing vaccine-derived poliovirus. This means it is less likely that the weakened strain of poliovirus used in the vaccine will mutate and spur outbreaks in communities where immunization levels are low. The vaccine first rolled out in March 2021. In the first half of 2022, more than 370 million doses have been administered in more than 20 countries.