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# Spectrum



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## Why I support The Rotary Foundation

*Posted on November 1, 2022 by Edward Hicks, a member of the Rotary Club of Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA*

# HAPPY FOUNDATION MONTH



I first became acquainted with The Rotary Foundation and its Fellowship for Undergraduate Study Abroad in 1970, as a sophomore at the University of Oklahoma. My faculty adviser suggested I apply for the fellowship. Little did I imagine how much it would change my life. I used the fellowship to study Economics at the University of Melbourne in Australia during the 1971 academic term.

Australia was very far from Oklahoma. There were no cell phones or internet service available for the typical college student. There were one-page aerograms which carried news to and from home that was already over a week old by the time it reached the reader. International telephone calls were few and far between and could quickly deplete a student's discretionary budget.

Fortunately, the family of my Rotarian host and the Fitzroy Rotary Club quickly made me feel at home by welcoming me to the beautiful city of Melbourne. Many Rotarians in Melbourne and other areas graciously invited me to their homes, businesses, and sporting events so that I could get a taste of the culture down under. **Melbourne University** was on a trimester system and the breaks between the sessions and occasional weekend trips provided ample time for me to travel and become acquainted with other parts of Australia. I was able to spend time in all major Australian cities except Perth. My host club, Fitzroy, used their contacts to make sure I always had accommodations and a host for my travels during the academic breaks. I was also very fortunate to be able to attend the Rotary International Convention which was held in Sydney in 1971.

Upon my return to the United States, I concluded my undergraduate degree and enrolled in Law School at the University of Oklahoma. A year or so later I received a call from the chief executive of the telephone company in Oklahoma. He was a member of the Oklahoma City Rotary Club and was chair of their Rotary Foundation Committee. He explained that his speaker who was to talk about the Foundation had to cancel due to an emergency. He asked if I could come and talk about my experience in Australia. It

was finals week, but I did not have a test that day. So perhaps remembering the dozen Service Above Self talks I had heard at various Australian Rotary clubs, I could not refuse.

**After graduating from Law School**, I served as the head of the Contracts and Real Property Division of the city attorney's office in Tulsa. After 10 years there, I spent 25 years on the bench as a trial judge for the state.

Shortly after I moved to Tulsa, my father (who had become a Rotarian after I had returned from Australia) met the gentleman who I had helped by agreeing to present a talk. This Rotarian contacted a member of the Tulsa Rotary Club and insisted that he sponsor me as a member. I accepted the invitation and joined on 11 October 1976. Forty-six years later, I am still an active member.

I support the Rotary Foundation because it made my life better. And I will continue to support the Rotary Foundation and my club's foundation because they are working in new and important ways to improve the lives of people around the world. Give today.

## A COP 27 preview

*By Amelia Nierenberg, Writer, Briefings New York Times of November 4, 2022*



*A coal-fired power plant in Beijing.  
Gilles Sabrié for The New York Times*

World leaders and climate activists are heading to Egypt for the annual U.N. climate talks, known as COP27, which begin on Sunday.

The two weeks of negotiations, in Sharm el Sheikh, come at a tense time. Since last year's summit in Scotland, just 26 of the 193 countries that agreed to step up their climate actions have followed through with more ambitious plans.

To understand the stakes, I spoke with my colleague Lisa Friedman. COP27 will be the 11th climate conference she has covered.

### **What are the major themes?**

Countries that failed last year to put forward strengthened targets were expected to do so before COP27. And the protection of vulnerable countries is going to be really high on the agenda.

**We meet calendar months' 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays at GPT Group, JC 25, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700098 at 6.00 PM**

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This year, Pakistan is leading the G77, which is a group of developing nations, so Pakistani leaders are going to be out front on the issue of aid for countries in need of support. We'll also hear a lot on the subject from the small island nations that are the canary in the coal mine when it comes to climate change, as well as from very vulnerable countries in Asia and Africa. So we're most likely going to see developing countries make a dramatic stand and call for wealthy nations to provide compensation for a problem that they didn't cause but with which they have to deal.

### ***How does the war in Ukraine affect the talks?***

A lot of countries are finding it very hard to move forward this year with their climate commitments.

Germany is moving back toward coal. President Biden is leaning on oil-producing nations to produce more oil in the short term. And European nations are pushing African countries to develop more gas, when, just a few years ago, you saw Europe pressuring Africa to focus on renewables.

But a lot of leaders make the case that one can focus on oil and gas supplies in the short term, while also aiming to phase out fossil fuels. In fact, the International Energy Agency said last month that the war could actually speed up the shift to clean energy. COP27 will be one place where we will see if leaders are as serious about climate change as they are about their near-term energy needs.

### ***What about China and the U.S., the world's largest polluters?***

It was cooperation between the U.S. and China that made the Paris Agreement possible in 2015. Having the two biggest polluters commit to establishing emissions goals set the stage for an agreement in which all countries, at all levels of wealth and responsibility, were able to say: 'Yes, we will act, too.'

This year, it's hard to imagine the U.S. and China making any kind of joint anything. And in the long term, it's impossible to see how the world can stay at safe temperatures without the world's biggest emitters working together.

### ***Even though this is the 27th meeting, climate change is still barreling forward. Is anything going to change this time around?***

I have medium expectations. There are big COPs and little COPs, and every five years or so there is a big decision-making protocol: Kyoto, Paris, Glasgow.

I do expect there to be agreements and deals that move things farther along in the right direction. But the thing we'll be looking for is whether governments will keep the promises they make at these summits.

*Related news: China is burning more coal than the rest of the world combined. Its greenhouse-gas emissions rose nearly 6 percent last year, the fastest pace in a decade.*

## **Afraid of needles? China using inhalable COVID-19 vaccine**

***By Ken Moritsugu on October 26, 2022***

Beijing (AP) - The Chinese city of Shanghai started administering an inhalable COVID-19 vaccine on Wednesday in what appears to be a world first.

The vaccine, a mist that is sucked in through the mouth, is being offered for free as a booster dose for previously vaccinated people, according to an announcement on an official city social media account.

Scientists hope that such "needle-free" vaccines will make vaccination more accessible in countries with fragile health systems

because they are easier to administer. They also may persuade people who don't like getting a shot in the arm to get inoculated.



***In this photo taken from video released by Shanghai Media Group, a medical worker hands over aerosolized COVID vaccine developed by Chinese biopharmaceutical company CanSino Biologics Inc. in Shanghai on Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2022. The Chinese city of Shanghai started administering the inhalable COVID-19 vaccine on Wednesday in what appears to be a world first. (Shanghai Media Group via AP)***

China wants more people to get booster shots before it relaxes strict pandemic restrictions that are holding back the economy and are increasingly out of sync with the rest of the world. As of mid-October, 90% of Chinese were fully vaccinated and 57% had received a booster shot.

A video posted by an online Chinese state media outlet showed people at a community health center sticking the short nozzle of a translucent white cup into their mouths. The accompanying text said that after slowly inhaling, people hold their breath for five seconds, with the entire procedure completed in 20 seconds. "It was like drinking a cup of milk tea," one Shanghai resident said in the video. "When I breathed it in, it tasted a bit sweet."

The effectiveness of non-needle vaccines has not been fully explored. Chinese regulators approved the inhalable one in September, but only as a booster shot after studies showed it triggered an immune system response in people who had previously received two shots of a different Chinese vaccine.

A vaccine taken as mist could fend off the virus before it reaches the rest of the respiratory system, though that would depend in part on the size of the droplets, one expert said.

Larger droplets would train defenses in parts of the mouth and throat, while smaller ones would travel further into the body, said Dr. Vineeta Bal, an immunologist in India.

The inhalable vaccine was developed by Chinese biopharmaceutical company CanSino Biologics Inc. as an aerosol version of the company's one-shot adenovirus vaccine, which uses a relatively harmless cold virus.

The traditional one-shot vaccine has been approved for use in more than 10 markets including China, Hungary, Pakistan, Malaysia, Argentina and Mexico. The inhaled version has received a go-ahead for clinical trials in Malaysia, a Malaysian media report said last month.

Regulators in India have approved a nasal vaccine, another needle-free approach, but it has yet to be rolled out. The vaccine, developed in the U.S. and licensed to Indian vaccine maker Bharat Biotech, is squirted in the nose.

About a dozen nasal vaccines are being tested globally, according to the World Health Organization.



China has relied on domestically developed vaccines, primarily two inactivated vaccines that have proven effective in preventing death and serious disease but less so than the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines at stopping the spread of the disease. As a result, it's unclear how widely COVID-19 would spread if restrictions were lifted. The ruling Communist Party has so far shown no sign of easing the "zero-COVID" policy, moving quickly to restrict travel and impose lockdowns when even just a few cases are discovered.

Authorities on Wednesday ordered the lockdown of 900,000 people in Wuhan, the city where the virus was first detected in late 2019, for at least five days. In remote Qinghai province, the urban districts of Xining city have been locked down since last Friday.

In Beijing, Universal Studios said it would close its hotels and attractions "to comply with pandemic prevention and control." The city of more than 21 million people reported 19 new cases in the latest 24-hour period.

*This story has been corrected to say that CanSino's one-shot vaccine has been approved for use in more than 10 markets, not that the inhaled version has completed clinical trials in those places.*

*Associated Press writer Aniruddha Ghosal in New Delhi and video producer Olivia Zhang in Beijing contributed to this report.*

## **Seven ideas to celebrate World Children's Day in your community**

*Posted on November 3, 2022 by Claudia Urbano, Service and Engagement Senior Communications Specialist at Rotary International*



World Children's Day takes place each year on 20 November. It is UNICEF'S global day of action for children, by children, marking the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The theme for 2022 is "Inclusion, for every child." Kids will stand up for a more equal, inclusive world. UNICEF is calling on partners and supporters to share a positive message of equality and inclusion for every child. Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation are one of UNICEF's largest partners for polio eradication since 1988. You and your club can help raise awareness about World Children's Day. Here are some ideas:

**1. Partner with one or more Interact clubs in your district to develop shared workshops and projects that raise awareness of the importance of child rights.** In the past, Rotary members have organized these activities:

- The Rotaract Club of St. Augustine in Trinidad in Tobago visited an early childhood education school to teach young children about World Children's Day.

- The Rotary Club of Kuliyapitiya in Sri Lanka organized a World Children's Day celebration whose theme was Ethnic Peace.

**2. Engage in Youth Service.** As one of the five Avenues of Service, Youth Service recognizes the importance of empowering youth and young professionals through leadership development programs. Learn more about each of Rotary's Programs for Young Leaders: Interact, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), and Rotary Youth Exchange.

**3. Turn the world blue.** Show your support for child rights by wearing something blue or changing your profile picture online on World Children's Day.

**4. Help children know their rights.**

- Read and download the child-friendly text of The Convention on the Rights of the Child and share it with children in your community.
- Download this memory game for children to help them learn about their rights.

**5. Invest in Rotary's young people.** Review Rotary's youth protection resources for clubs and districts that participate in youth programs to foster a safe and positive environment for young people.

**6. Take this short course on child rights and why they matter** to transform and/or refresh your understanding of child rights and a child rights approach, introduce you to UNICEF's mandate as it relates to child rights, and inspire you to apply a child rights lens to our everyday work and life

**7. Help children 'take over' high-visibility roles** in media, politics, business, sport, and entertainment normally held by adults to shine a spotlight on issues that matter to them.

*"The voices and perspectives of young people in the decision-making process are vital when creating innovative, strategic, and lasting change for Rotary International."*

*Jennifer Jones, 2022-23 Rotary International President*

## **Rotary members, Ukraine Friends deliver ambulances to Ukrainian officials**

*By Ryan Hyland on October 31, 2022. Photo by Chantal Mistral*



*A convoy of nearly 40 ambulances wound its way from Slovakia, around mountains and through roadblocks, military checkpoints, and torrential rain to arrive in Kyiv, bringing the critically needed vehicles to Ukrainian government officials.*

The US\$600,000 initiative was the first joint project between Rotary and Ukraine Friends, which agreed in July to collaborate

to provide resources, organize logistics, and distribute funds for high-impact projects that help Ukrainians affected by the war with Russia. Each organization donated US\$300,000 to get the ambulances, and Rotary districts in Ukraine and Slovakia coordinated the delivery. Rotary's funding came from a Rotary Foundation disaster response grant.

After a journey of about 870 kilometers (540 miles) that took more than twice as long as it would have in normal circumstances, the convoy arrived on 27 September at Mariinsky Park in Kiev.

Brock Bierman, the CEO of Ukraine Friends and a member of the Rotary Club of Staunton, Virginia, USA, says the logistics of moving that many vehicles to another country would always be difficult, and doing it across a border into a war zone was especially complex. Yet the ambulances were delivered without any major incidents.

"I don't think the trip could've gone any better," says Bierman, who was at Mariinsky Park for the arrival. "The way people worked together to get this done was spectacular."

Ukraine Friends secured the ambulance drivers, while Rotary District 2232 in Ukraine and Belarus bought the fuel. The ambulances are equipped with oxygen tanks, defibrillators, electrocardiogram machines, mechanical ventilators, and other medical equipment.

Twenty-two of the ambulances were procured by Rotary clubs in the Czech Republic and Slovakia and went to the Department of Health for civilian use. Ihor Kuzin, Ukraine's deputy minister of health, was there to see the transfer of ambulances.

"Updating the fleet of fast vehicles (ambulances) is one of the most urgent tasks on the agenda for Ukraine," Kuzin says. "We are very grateful to our international donors and partners for joining such an extremely important cause."

The 18 ambulances supplied by Ukraine Friends were given to military personnel, Ukraine's Territorial Defense Forces. Rotary members and Ukraine Friends are also working together to rehabilitate two schools in the Bucha region that were damaged by shelling. Ukraine Friends is organizing the logistics involved to rebuild the school's infrastructure, while Rotary clubs are buying and providing books, school supplies, and computers.

Mykola Stebljanko, a member of the Rotary E-club of Ukraine and past governor of District 2232, said the ambulance project is part of comprehensive program under which clubs in the region provide specialized equipment for emergency vehicles, including firefighting trucks. "When good deeds are done in partnership," he says, you can have a greater effect and find more opportunities to plan effectively in crisis situations.

"By combining the connections of both Ukraine Friends and Rotary, tremendous strides can be made to alleviate and mitigate the suffering endured by the people of Ukraine," Bierman says. Since Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February, more than 13 million Ukrainians have been forced to flee their homes, the United Nations refugee agency says, which created a humanitarian crisis. Rotary, so far, has awarded more than 353 disaster response grants totaling more than US\$11.7 million since the war began. 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 have donated millions more directly to Ukrainian clubs that are providing people with food, shelter, medicine, and clothing.

## **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-Butteneberg of District 1990, Switzerland:

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

**Associates:** Related Government and civic bodies, NGO's

**The 9th Matri Raksha Anemia screening and treatment camp will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2022 at Perona Mohila Songha Bhavan, Sehagori, Joypur, Howrah in association with RCC Bhateghari Janakalyan Samity, Amta with support of local Gram Panchayet (Rural Administration)**

## **QUOTE**

*Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.*  
**William Butler Yeats**

## **UNWIND**

*Do you believe in love at first sight or do I have to walk by you again?*

*Reply: Yeah. Why don't you walk by and just keep walking!*

## **Anniversaries of members in Nov 2022**

Spouse Sapna & Sanjay Agarwal on November 19, 2022

President Archana & Mukesh Goyal on November 21, 2022

Past Prez Dr Aruna & Rt Dr Om Tania on November 27, 2022

Spouse Sushila & VP Indra Kumar Bagri on November 30, 2022

**November is Rotary Foundation month**

## **TAILPIECE**



Rotary President Jennifer Jones sat down for a conversation with UN Environment Program Executive Director Inger Andersen on Friday, November 4, 2022 at UNEP in Nairobi, Kenya. Both are attending COP27 in Egypt to learn more about, and address, critical environmental issues.

The 27<sup>th</sup> UN Climate Change Conference COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt is scheduled from November 6 to November 18, 2022.