

THE PANACHE

NEWS FROM ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA AVYANNA

Oct - Nov - Dec 2022

RI President: Jennifer Jones | Dist. Governor: Ajoy Kumar Law | Club President: Sheela Janakiram



From the Desk of the Editor

Rtn. Sumi Chaudhury
Editor

Each new day brings with it an opportunity to make a difference to life. At Rotary that underlines the very purpose of its existence; through each new Rotary year, each new quarter, each new day.

For RC of Cal Avyanna the journey continues, in making life better for the less-privileged in different segments of the society. The Quarter of Oct-Nov-Dec 2022 has, once again, been gratifying in this regard.

The activities began on a blessed note with the Pujas and Tejaswani Samman. More interactions as Co-hosts helped the Club reach out through Health and Mental Wellness Camps, besides Distribution of blankets, mosquito nets and Cycle Vans. The Rotaractors and the Interactors stepped up the action through donation drives - reaching basic essentials like biodegradable sanitary napkins and woollen garments to beneficiaries in far-flung villages.

Women and adolescent girls felt liberated and aware at the Club's Menstrual Hygiene Workshops. The children of the inmates at Dum Dum Correctional Home, found reason to smile. Even Senior Citizens rejoiced in a spirit of oneness as the Club reached out to them with free chairs and gift hampers. Much is done... yet much more remains to be done in the spirit of Rotary by RC of Cal Avyanna.

Till then we wish you **HAPPY READING & A HAPPY 2023!**



Message from RI President**
Rtn. Jennifer Jones
RI President 2022-23

On a wooden bench in a small village, I sit with Timothy and his young son Nathan. With a camera crew capturing our conversation, he tells me of the time Nathan showed signs of malaria. He brought the boy to the nearby home of a community health worker, where Nathan quickly received medicines that in all likelihood saved his life.

Calmly, Timothy tells me about his other son's bout with the disease a few years earlier. He had to race that son to a medical clinic more than 5 miles away. Riding a bike and carrying his child on his back, he tells me, he could feel his son's legs turn cold and then his little body go limp. As he finally entered the clinic, he screamed for help, but it was too late. The camera stops rolling, and we sit in silence. He begins to weep, and I hold him tightly. "I lost my son, I lost my son," he says.

This story is all too familiar for the families we meet over the next few days. And yet there is hope. Partners for a Malaria-Free Zambia is Rotary's first Programs of Scale grant recipient, and it is saving lives. Across two provinces of Zambia, 2,500 volunteer health workers have been selected by their communities. They are trained to bring medical care closer to those who need it, and they are able to diagnose and treat malaria and other ailments. Rotary partnerships create lasting change.

***Excerpts from the RI President's Dec 22 message.*



Message from
Rtn. Sheela Janakiram
President 2022-23

We entered the second quarter of our Rotary year welcoming Ma Durga into our abode, with our hearts brimming with joy! Tejaswini Samman Awards, which turned 5 this year, was executed with much aplomb. 7 Rotary Clubs from Dist 3291 joined us in this project, in which we have been recognising and awarding women organised Durga Puja's in and around Kolkata and which has become a major Rotary Public Image project. It was equally heart-warming to see our beneficiaries' faces beaming with happiness when we donated Trishaws, Wheelchairs & cycle vans to them, to help facilitate their lives. We also participated actively in the End Polio Rally, and the Dist. Diwali event - Aahlad as Co-hosts. The President's Fellowship in Nov turned out to be an eventful one, as we celebrated Hony Member Usha Uthups 75th birthday! On Children's Day we spent quality time with the children of Ankuran, our School at Dum Dum Correctional Home. In Dec, both our RCC's held free Medical Camps at their respective premises. Our young Interactors organised a Cardigan donation drive for the less-privileged children in Mednipur. Our fundraiser project 'Horseshoe', for the Cobbler community has been a roaring success, attracting eager buyers at every exhibition and sale. On New Years' Eve we visited Little Sisters of the Poor, an old age home and donated Chairs and distributed snacks to the residents. Our Hony. Member Usha Uthup got the residents dancing with her foot tapping music. I wish you all a bright, happy & prosperous 2023!

Community Service October

1st October: Judging for Tejaswani Samman Awards 2022

Rotary Club of Calcutta Avyanna had initiated a unique project Tejaswani Samman in 2019 with mission attempts to recognise and acknowledge the enterprising Durga Pujas which are solely organised by women members of the community.

In 2022, Tejaswani Samman entered its 5th year. 23 Puja Committees participated from all over Kolkata.

Tejaswani Samman Awards judging in progress with 7 other Rotary Clubs



2nd October: Puja Parikrama 2022 with Senior Citizens

RC of Calcutta Avyanna was the Host Club along with several more Clubs from RI District 3291 for Puja Parikrama 2022, to make the festive days happy and memorable for needy Senior Citizens. The event was organised by RC Salt Lake Green City at Jagat Mukherjee Park. 50 women Senior Citizens were invited at the venue. Special arrangements were made to provide a tour of the city to these elderly people. Haat pakha, water bottles were also distributed among them, besides food and refreshments. The Rotary banner was prominently displayed and the local people were given an awareness talk on the fact that we should include Senior Citizens in all our joys and festivities. The Senior Citizens expressed immense gratitude to the Club members for this benevolent gesture.



New Generation Service (Youth Leadership)

5th October: Rotaractors Join Hands in Community Service

The Rotarct Club of Calcutta Avyanna has been carrying out a series of commendable projects supported by RC of Cal Avyanna. On 5th Oct 2022, the Club sponsored a noble project organised by the Rotaractors, in which they distributed Biodegradable Sanitary Napkins to the marginalised community of sex workers at Sonagachi.

The activity was undertaken to spread hygiene and health awareness as well as build a sense inclusiveness amongst this community.



Community Service

10th October: 5th Anniversary Celebration of Ankuran at DDCH



The RC of Cal Avyanna members gathered on 10th October 2022 to celebrate the 5th Foundation Day of Ankuran - a school run for the children of the inmates at Dum Dum Correctional Home. The members distributed goodies, books, stationary and chocolates and biscuits and nutritious food packets amongst the children and sarees for the teachers. 50 children and 3 teachers were benefitted.



Community Service

14th October: Co-host for RYLA Held at Nayagram, Jhargram

A RYLA Sanhati event was organised for the underprivileged tribal youth (Sabar and Lodha tribes) at Nayagram, Jhargram at West Minapore. 50 youths belonging to the age group 14 to 18 years participated in it. This unique project under Rotary Youth Activities provides a great exposure to the underprivileged youth to express their leadership qualities and showcase their hidden talents who are otherwise deprived of such opportunities in the rural communities.



Community Service

15th October: Horseshoe Sale Turns Out to Be a Roaring Success as a Fundraiser

RC of Cal Ayanna's Horseshoe Project Team received a huge response at an Diwali exhibition organised at Daga Nikunj - an Alka Jalan Foundation.

The Brocade sneakers branded as Horseshoe are a brainchild of Club Hony Member Usha Uthup and are being promoted by RC of Cal Avyanna as part of their community service project in uplifting the way of life of the cobbler community.



Community Service

**16th October:
Co- host for Spine Workshop at RN Tagore,
with RC of Calcutta Metropolitan East on World Spine Day.**

RC of Cal Avyanna participated as co-host at a Workshop held at RN Tagore Hospitals on World Spine Day. The Workshop was aimed at spreading awareness on back, neck pain and spinal disorders which benefitted more than 200 people. 10 doctors were present answering the queries of the attendees in detail and prescribed the recommended treatments. Health Cards from the spinal department were given to all present.



**18th October:
Distribution of
Cycle Vans to the
Underprivileged**

5 Cycle Vans were distributed at Neelgunj Barrakpur by RC of Cal Avyanna. The beneficiaries were underprivileged traders who greatly benefited from it.



Community Service

21st October: Tejaswini Samman Awards Ceremony 2022

The Tejaswini Samman Awards Ceremony was held on 21st October at Offbeat CCU, hosted very graciously by Club Member, Manoshi Roychoudhury.

District Governor Ajoy Kumar Law and IPDG Prabir Chatterjee graced the occasion and gave away the prizes.

The winners and the audience enjoyed a lively evening powered by non other than Padmashri Usha Uthup whose voice, wit and humour added a joyous spark to event. The talented singer Tathagata Sengupta, charmed the audience with his velvety, rich textured voice. The beautiful renditions of Debapriya Mukherjee made everyone take to the dance floor.

Thanks to Club President Sheela Janakiram and Team Avyanna for making this evening truly memorable.



Community Service

23rd October: Rally to End Polio

On World Polio Day, Club Members joined the rally from Eden Gardens to Rotary Sadan - to spread awareness about Polio and how we must eradicate it. It was a Mega District Event, which was flagged-off by DG Ajoy Kumar Law..



Community Service

24th October: Dist Diwali Meet AAHALAD

Aahlad - the spectacular Dist Diwali Meet - was held on 24 Oct 2022. RC of Cal Avyanna joined members of the Rotary fraternity for a joyous evening of Fellowship and music. Club Member Debapriya sang at the event and received great appreciation for her melodious voice.



Fellowship November

8th November: President Sponsored Fellowship at CC&FC

Club President Sheela Janakiram invited Members to a grand President's Fellowship at CC&FC, Kolkata.

The highlight of the event was the celebration of Club Hony Member Padmasree Usha Uthup's 75th Birthday.

The evening turned out to be truly special, with Ushadi herself singing her popular lively numbers. The younger up-coming singers - Tathagata and Debapriya as well as Ujaan added to the merriment, by singing Ushadi's all-time hits. Truly a landmark evening!



Community Service

9th November: 2nd Club Assembly

The year's 2nd Club Assembly was held at Saturday Club, Kolkata, where the Charter President Srabane Chakraborty, conducted the meeting. The Chairs talked about the target taken during the last Club Assembly vis a vis the achievement and announced the plan for the next quarter.



Community Service

14th November: Celebration of Children's Day at Ankuran

On Children's Day, Club Members spent a joyous morning at ANKURAN, the school for the children of the inmates at Dum Dum Correctional Home, being run by the Club. It was heart-warming to watch the smiles on the little faces as they received gifts and refreshments from the Club members.



14th November: Co-host for Sports Day for Differently-abled Children

RC of Cal Avyanna was the Co-host for Sports Day held for differently-abled children at the Parsee Club Grounds. These children were invited from various institutions of the city. The event certainly gave a boost to the confidence of the children who thoroughly enjoyed themselves and thanked the members



20th November: RCC Shyamnagar, Celebrates Children's Day

RC of Cal Avyanna supported the Children's Day programme organised by RCC Shyamnagar. The Children put up a lively cultural show and received great encouragement from the Members. Drawing and Drama Workshops were also held on the day.



Community Service

20th November: Mother & Child Welfare Programme with RCC Shyamnagar

RCC Shyamnagar Rural Women Development Centre along with RC of Cal Avyanna members organised a Mother and Child programme where nutritious food, water bottles, tiffin boxes and other educational equipment's were distributed to around 70 beneficiaries.



22nd November: Interactors Initiate Distribution of Woollen Garments

Members along with the Interactors of Birla Bharti School visited West Mednipur and donated woollen garments to more than 500 beneficiaries. The drive was undertaken in association with Sharehouse Charitable Foundation.



22nd November: Mental Wellness Programme

RC of Cal Avyanna, in association with WICCI West Bengal Mental Health Council, & WICCI, Eastern Region & Lifeline Foundation, organised a seminar on 'Suicide Prevention & Emotional Band Aid' at ICCR. An awareness talk was held on how to detect depression and suicidal tendencies in people and how we can help them come out of it.



December

Community Service

4th December: Free Medical Camp with RCC Sadhukhardari Welfare Society, Usthi

Rotary Club of Calcutta Avyanna along with its RCC Shadhukhardari Rural Welfare Society, held a free medical camp for the locals in Usthi. The camp involved Free check-up of Blood Pressure, random Blood Sugar and Blood Groups tests, for the inhabitants of the village. As many as, 72 villagers had their Blood Pressure checked and 58 Blood Sugar samples were drawn on that day. The idea behind the Camp was to capture potential patients and help them take due precaution in advance. A first-hand review of this extremely interior settlement revealed that largely, the villagers were not aware of the consequences of these lethal diseases. The importance of being aware of their Blood Group was also explained to them by the Club Members. A team of seven technicians and volunteers were present, along with 9 Club Members.



Vocation Service

4th December: Horseshoe Fundraising Event

RC of Cal Avyanna held another successful sale of their Horseshoe brand of sneakers, in continuation of their Fundraiser initiative, at the German Consulate Christmas Bazaar event. As always, the sneakers sold out in no time at all!



Community Service

7th December: Co-host at Prevention of Human Trafficking Seminar

RC of Cal Avyanna was a proud Co-host for a seminar that involved a serious Global concern - Prevention of Human Trafficking. The event was part of a #16 Day of Activism' on the concern. The Programme was rolled out at Rotary Sadan by DG Ajoy Kumar Law on 7th December 2022. A number of active Rotarians from the District and other Clubs participated in this awareness drive.



Community Service

11th December: Host for a Fundraiser for Building Operation Theatres

RC of Cal Avyanna was one of the two Host Clubs at a truly meaningful event organised by RC Kolkata Benevolence. RC Kol Benevolence in association with The Play Makers, presented 'Achhe Din' - a montage of 4 short plays. The programme was a Fundraiser held to build Operation Theatres in Joy nagar General Hospital.



Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence

Supported by OrbiTech, AVM, IMAGINE KOLKATA

Media Partner Hello Kolkata

Rotary Club Kolkata Benevolence
In Association With
The Play Maker Presents
ACHHE DIN
A Montage Of 4 Short Plays
Fundraising Concert

For Building Operation Theatres In Joy nagar General Hospital

Sun, Dec 11
07:00pm-09:00pm
Gate Open at 06:00pm

VENUE : @ KALA KUNI - KALAMANDIR BASEMENT
48 SHAKESPEARE SARANI RD, KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL 700017

Passes Available ₹500 and ₹1000

Host Club: Re Calcutta Avyanna | Re Central Calcutta
Re Calcutta New Horizons

Co Host Club: Re Calcutta Chowringhee | Re Calcutta Mayfair
Re Calcutta Mid Town | Re Calcutta Presidency
Re Calcutta South East | Re Cal Charnock City

17th December: Health Camp & Distribution of Blankets for the Less-privileged

A Health Camp was organised by RCC Shyamnagar Mahila Gramin Unnayan Kendra and was whole-heartedly supported by RC of Cal Avyanna.

About 80, mostly women, had their BP, ECG & Blood Sugar tested. The Club members explained to them the importance of regular health check-up. ECG was also conducted for both the men and women attendees. RC of Cal Avyanna, distributed 50 blankets to elderly women at the Shyamnagar RCC center, under the Club's Avyannadaan, initiative. It was very gratifying for the Members to see the elderly ladies so happy.



Community Service

19th December: Menstrual Hygiene Workshop

Rotary Club of Calcutta Avyanna conducted a menstrual hygiene workshop at Christopher Road Government sponsored Higher Secondary School for girls. Around 60 students attended the workshop and greatly benefited from it. A PPT presentation of the Do's and Don'ts to be followed during the periods; how to maintain hygiene was discussed. An interactive session on general awareness of diets to be followed and exercise as well as lifestyle was talked about. The students asked a lot of questions regarding certain taboos and restrictions that they have been asked to follow during the menstrual periods. Club Member Mandira Mukherjee explained to them the meaninglessness of it all. She also reinstated the importance of hygiene and of maintaining their regular lifestyle during periods and to use sanitary napkin. The scientific explanation of the whole process enlightened the girls. A packet of sanitary napkin was given to each girl by the Club.



24th December: Interactors Organise a Medical Camp

Interact Club of Birla Bharati organized a Medical Camp at Remedy Clinic in association with Milan Tirtha Club. The medical camp was based on free check-up of Blood Pressure and Weight of underprivileged patients. Recognised physiotherapist, Debashish Roy checked patients having arthritis and prescribed medicines. Rtn. Dr. Sudipta Chandra, ENT Specialist checked patients too. Total footfall was around 120. Rotarians and Interactors gave shawls and thermal vests to underprivileged families at the Camp. 9 volunteers from Birla Bharati Interact Club were present and helped in distribution of 25 shawls and 15 thermal vests. 5 shawls and 5 vests were distributed to the underprivileged roadside people at a Masjid at the Prince Anwar Shah connector.



Community Service

31st December: Children & Community Festival

RC of Calcutta Avyanna was the Organiser Club for the Children & Community Festival at Sonagachi. The Club donated large-sized mosquito nets to 60 beneficiaries. Other Rotary Clubs also participated in this annual event. The Club Members were happy to end the year with this meaningful project.



31st December: Donation of Chairs to an Old Age Home on New Year's Eve

RC of Calcutta Avyanna carried out a meaningful project at Little Sisters of The Poor, Old Age Home, where the Club donated 50 chairs to the residents and also handed them goody bags. There were 150 beneficiaries. Padmasree Usha Uthup regaled the Senior Citizens in her inimitable style, which had them all dancing away with gay abandon. The sheer joy and happiness writ all over their faces, was truly overwhelming.



ROTARY TRIVIA

Q. Who introduced Rotary to the 4 Way Test?

A. Herbert Taylor (during Great Depression)



Rotary

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** & **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Happy
New
Year

2023



WARM
Birthday
WISHES

OCTOBER BORN

9th
Soma Bhan

15th
Uma Mitra

22nd
Sweta Kedia

31st
Dolon Ganguly

NOVEMBER BORN

1st
Sonal Sethia

8th
Preeti Gupta

12th
Shukti Singh Roy

15th
Moushume Garg

18th
Chandrima Roy

20th
Debjani Mukherjee

25th
Manashi Roy Choudhury

26th
Puja Tandon

DECEMBER BORN

18th
Aparna Banerjee