



MAY IS YOUTH SERVICE MONTH



FRANCESCO AREZZO
President 2025-26

Presidential Message May 2026

Shoki Wafula did not know what to expect when he was forced to leave his birth country of Uganda for South Africa. What he found was a Rotary community that welcomed him with warmth and friendship. That experience inspired him to help create a Rotaract e-club where young leaders from around the world could connect, develop their skills, and serve together.

Today, that community includes members across multiple continents who collaborate on leadership development, peacebuilding, and service initiatives. For Wafula, the experience reinforced the lesson that meaningful service begins with people who feel connected, valued, and empowered to lead.

His story reminds us why Youth Service Month is so important. Through Rotaract and programs like Rotary Youth Exchange, young people build leadership skills, develop global understanding, and discover the impact they can make through service.

Rotary's Action Plan calls on us to enhance participant engagement. At its heart, that goal asks a simple question: How can we ensure that participation in Rotary is meaningful and fulfilling for everyone? Youth programs and Rotaract provide a powerful answer.

When clubs mentor Rotaractors, host exchange students, or support youth leadership initiatives, they create opportunities for members to share their experience in ways that feel personal and rewarding. These connections deepen members' sense of purpose and strengthen the bonds within our Rotary family.

They also create lasting pathways into Rotary. Thousands of young people complete Rotary programs each year, and they carry those experiences with them throughout their lives. Many remain eager to stay connected.

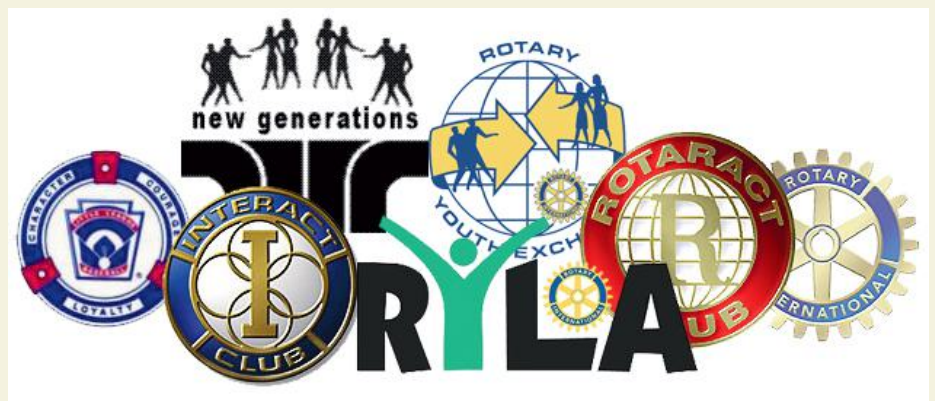
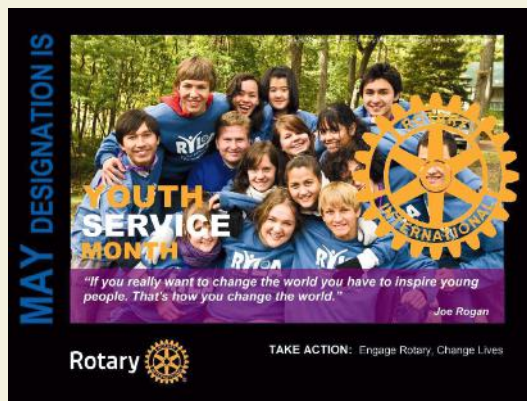
Organizations such as Rotex International, an association of former Youth Exchange students, help Rotary program alumni continue serving as mentors, leaders, and advocates for our youth programs. As Rotex co-founder Hans Lee wrote in a recent reflection on Youth Exchange alumni, "exchange doesn't end when you return home."

When we welcome these young leaders into our clubs and activities, we strengthen the continuity of Rotary across generations.

During Youth Service Month, I hope every Rotary club reflects on how youth programs can enhance engagement for new and longtime members. Collaborate on service projects and invite youth voices into your planning and decision making.

Rotary's message to the world is that we can *Unite for Good*. Youth programs show us how that happens in practice — when generations come together, share ideas, and work side by side in service.

When we invest in young people, we are not only shaping future leaders. We are building a stronger, more connected Rotary today.



The Four-Way Test: A road map we need now more than ever

By Haresh L. Ramchandani, Past District Governor and member of the Rotary Club of L.I.F.E, Jamaica

blog.rotary.org :: April 09, 2026



Haresh Ramchandani and his wife, Vandana.

Prominently displayed on my office door is a small sign featuring The Four-Way Test. It recently caught the eye of a customer, sparking a 15-minute deep dive into morals and ethics. That conversation stayed with me because, while our world is changing at breakneck speed, this 24-word code remains one of the most powerful ethical guides ever written.

But where did it come from, and why does a test written nearly a century ago still feel so relevant today?

From Bankruptcy to Breakthrough

The story begins in 1932, during the darkest days of the Great Depression. A businessman named Herbert Taylor was asked to save the Club Aluminum Company of Chicago from certain bankruptcy. The company was \$400,000 in debt — a staggering amount at the time. Taylor risked everything, taking an 80% pay cut and lending the company his own savings just to keep the lights on.

He knew he couldn't out-spend his competitors on advertising or price. Instead, he decided to build a "corporate character" so dependable that it would become his competitive advantage. He turned to prayer and reflection, eventually distilling a 100-word guideline down to just four questions.

The result? Within five years, the debt was paid in full. Within the next 15 years, the company distributed \$1 million in dividends to stockholders while its net worth climbed to more than \$2 million. Taylor proved that even in the worst economic climate, simple ethical guidelines could provide a clear path to success.

More Than Just Words

What makes The Four-Way Test unique is its design. It doesn't bark orders at you; it asks questions. It invites us to search for our own answers and constantly examine our own behavior. It's also broad and inclusive, highlighting values of truth and fairness that resonate across every culture and religion. It's so universal that honorary Rotarian Buzz Aldrin even planted a Four-Way Test pin on the moon's surface!

So let's break down the four pillars of this "prescription for living:"

1. Is it the TRUTH?

Truth is the bedrock. Without it, society would dissolve into chaos. We live in an era of "white lies," "political truths," and situational ethics. This first question asks us to strip away the smokescreen and face the reality of our actions. When we stop meaning what we say, trust collapses.

2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?

If truth is about reality, fairness is about morality. This question protects our relationships from bias and exploitation. In an "everyone for themselves" world, this test charges us to remember the humanity of others before making a move.

3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

In this test, "friendship" is treated like a verb — something we do. It's the most democratic of relationships because it's available to everyone, rich or poor. By adding "goodwill" to the mix, Taylor reminds us that to have a friend, we must first be one.

4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Taylor chose the word “beneficial” very carefully. He could have said “profitable,” but he wanted to emphasize a commitment to the greater good. To be beneficial means to add something good to the world that wasn’t there before. It moves us away from the “what’s in it for me?” mentality and toward a life of integrity.

Bringing it all together is the spoke of the wheel that rotates it in harmony: “Of the things we think, say, or do,” ensuring a positive outcome for Rotary’s most conspicuous gift to the moral climate of the modern world.

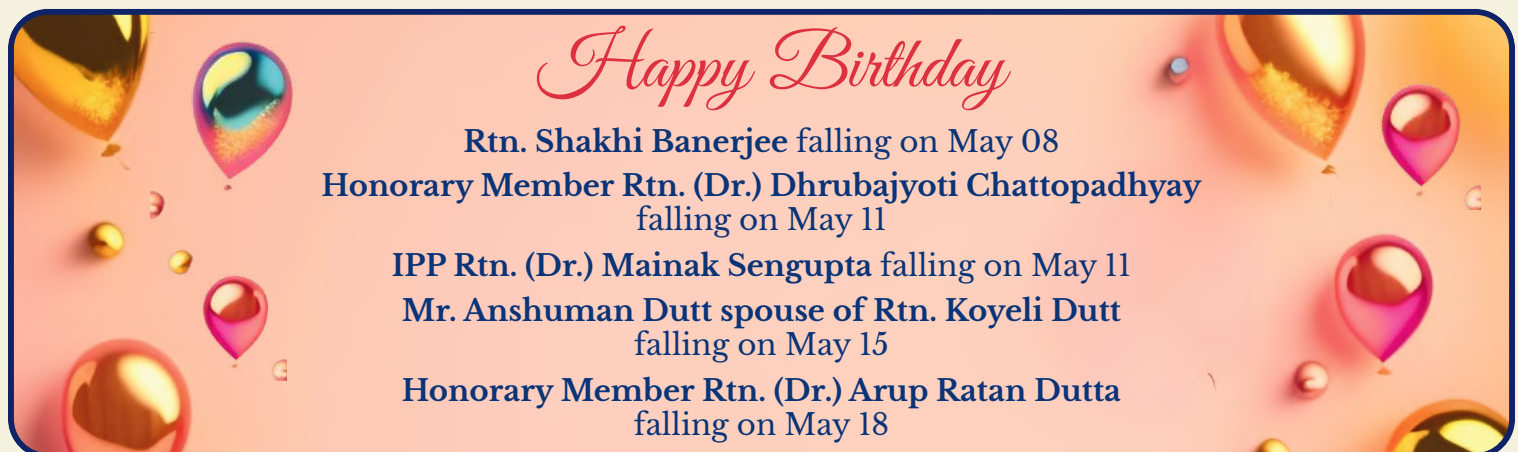
A Compass for the everyday

The Test isn’t just for philosophical debate though; it’s for practical use. For decades, Walgreens drugstores used The Four-Way Test as a “compass” for their corporate culture. Former president Charles R. Walgreen Jr. saw it as a literal prescription for how to treat customers and employees alike.

Our world may be more complex than it was in 1932, but our human need for trust and fairness hasn’t changed. These 24 words might not solve every global crisis, but they are a perfect place to start.

The next time you’re faced with a tough decision — in business or in life — ask yourself these four questions. You might be surprised at how much clarity they bring.

Haresh L. Ramchandani is a Past Governor (2016-17) of Rotary District 7020, a member of the 2026 Rotary International Taipei Convention Committee, Communications Action Plan Chair for Rotary Zones 33-34, and 2024-2025 Rotary International Membership Growth Committee Chair.



Happy Birthday

Rtn. Shakhi Banerjee falling on May 08
Honorary Member Rtn. (Dr.) Dhruvajyoti Chattopadhyay falling on May 11
IPP Rtn. (Dr.) Mainak Sengupta falling on May 11
Mr. Anshuman Dutt spouse of Rtn. Koyeli Dutt falling on May 15
Honorary Member Rtn. (Dr.) Arup Ratan Dutta falling on May 18



Happy Anniversary

Mrs. Sumita & Rtn. Santanu Bera falling on May 07
Mrs. Sreyashi & Manoj Bhaumik falling on May 12

I Forgot the Fall. I Never Forgot the Kindness

In a move-on culture full of fast forgetting, one woman recalls the stranger who chose instead to stop, notice, and care

BY AMEETHA CHARI

readersdigest.in :: April 26, 2026



During my college years in Bangalore, some time in the early '80s—before the internet, before television, before social media—our days were filled with simpler, and more tangible pleasures: a good book, endless conversation, or, most thrilling of all, for me at least, a Saturday at the movies.

Teeming with cafés, restaurants, and the busy chatter of people with places to be, Bangalore is a city that’s always on the move. But its crown jewel was the cinema. One weekend, my friend Sumi* and I set our sights on the Rex Theatre on Brigade Road, a magical place that felt like the epicentre of the universe. I can’t, for the life of me, remember the name of film we were going to see. What I do remember is the ride there—wedged into an autorickshaw that rattled through traffic like it had somewhere far more urgent to be.

That afternoon, Brigade Road was pure chaos in motion—bikes, cars, buses, and people spilling across lanes as if the pavement were optional. We disembarked at the theatre, and I stepped on to the road, thinking only of popcorn and plot twists. And then, in one strange, startling moment, I collapsed.

I don't remember the mechanics of it—my right leg has always been the weaker one, and maybe it gave way. Maybe the road caught me off guard. Maybe it was a ground-level obstruction hidden by the crowd. Either way, there I was: splayed across the curb, foot twisted, and pain spreading quickly, dramatically, screaming to be noticed.

In India, any event—however small—tends to attract an audience. People gathered around as if I were street theatre, murmuring commentary. Not unkind, just...curious. Sumi, bless her, dashed off in search of another rickshaw. But after a string of refusals from drivers—a not-uncommon conundrum city dwellers face—she soon gave up and returned to my side. We sat there alone, amidst a sea of strangers—me in pain, Sumi feeling powerless.



The author, Ameetha Chari

Then, unexpectedly, a young man stepped out from among the crowd of 20 or 30 onlookers and passers-by. Lean, soft-spoken and impeccably polite, he looked to be in his early-20s, with a quiet, purposeful demeanour, entirely unlike the rest who were still frozen in their collective curiosity. He crouched beside me and asked how much pain I was in, and whether I felt I needed to go to a hospital.

I shook my head, trying not to cry—from embarrassment or discomfort, I wasn't sure. It was hard to tell which stung more. But, without the slightest hint of judgment or condescension, he nodded, disappeared for a few seconds and returned having hailed a passing auto. He helped me in, and with a quick "take care", disappeared back into the mass of urban commuters.

A short while later, I was home, nursing a bruised ego and a swollen foot, and spent the rest of the week replaying the fall—and the stranger's kindness—in uneven loops. Months passed. My foot healed. The world resumed its rhythm. One evening, I was at the Lido Theatre on MG Road with a group of friends. We'd bought our tickets and were waiting for the doors to open, the usual hum of laughter and street noise swirling around us. And then, out of nowhere, he was there again. The same young man.

He walked right up to me and asked how my foot was. It took me a few moments to place him—he was less of a memory than a blur, a kindness I'd half-convinced myself I'd imagined. But here he was, real, and smiling softly.

"I was on a bus," he said, gesturing vaguely toward the street. "Saw you standing here...thought I'd come over and check how you were doing."

I smiled and told him it had been just a sprain—that I was back on my feet and doing a lot better.

With a nod and a smile, he said "take care," and left—no further words, no over-familiar follow-up—just a small gesture of decency and compassion—extended twice—like a gentle punctuation mark in the chaos of city life.

Not once did it cross my mind to ask his name, or where he was going, or why he chose to stop. All I managed was a simple "thank you"—a hurried offering in the moment. And yet, his kindness shone bright long after the streets had emptied and the pain had faded.

That kind of warmth stays with you, doesn't it? Not because it was grand, but because it was so entirely unrequired. There was no script, no expectation, no exchange—just a person on a busy street with somewhere else to be, who chose instead to stop, notice, and care. Also, it wasn't just that he helped, but that he remembered.

In a move-on culture full of fast forgetting, that kind of remembrance feels almost sacred. It's the sort of gesture that recalibrates something deep inside you—that maybe, despite everything, people are still capable of choosing kindness in the most beautifully inefficient ways.

* Name changed for privacy

Minutes of the Virtual 2171st RCM of RC Calcutta Jadavpur held on April 16, 2026, on Google Meet at 7.00 PM.

- President Rtn. Sudipta Kundu called the meeting to order and welcomed members present online.
- National Anthem was led by Rtn. Manas K. Ghosh and joined by all.
- President Rtn. Sudipta highlighted the various events conducted by RCCJ, since the last RCM.

These were as follows:

- A Thalassemia & Cervical Cancer Awareness Campaign and a Nutrition Awareness Campaign were conducted by the club, at Godapiashal MGM High School on April 03, 2026.
- That on April 04, 2026 a Thalassemia & Cervical Cancer Awareness Campaign followed by a Nutrition Awareness Campaign were conducted at Sarenga in Bankura.
- On the the same say, review & certification of Beauty and Makeup Skill Trainees, as well as Tailoring Skill trainees were undertaken at Sarenga.
- The club donated pre owned clothes at the precincts to some needy people. Further, books were donated to the kids who were present.
- That on April 12, 2026, a Blood Donation Camp was held by the club at Nimtala, for Thalassemia affected kids.
- The President then mentioned the upcoming projects of RCCJ as follows and requested members to make it convenient to participate:
 - The World Thalassemia Day will be celebrated at Kolkata Police Hospital on May 08, 2026,. This will be a District 3291 event in association with LBC, RC Calcutta Jadavpur & RC Calcutta Universe.
 - RC Calcutta Jadavpur is planning to create a Rose Garden at Godapiashal MGM High School. Also the club is looking at the possibility of providing a generator to the school.
 - The club has received a request from a school at Kultali for repairing a water pump at their premises, which may be looked into.
- The District Learning Assembly 2026 will be held at Hyatt Regency Kolkata on May 17, 2026 hosted by RC Belur. Members willing to attend may please register for the event.
- The Club thankfully acknowledges donation of Rs.5,000/- from President Rtn. Sudipta Kundu on the occasion of his son's birthday.
- Secretary Rtn. (Dr.) Saiful Anam Mir, conducted the club business and extended birthday greetings to PP Rtn. Gautam Chakravarty falling on April 28. Further, he extended anniversary greetings to Mrs. Rita Chanda & Rtn. Bhaskar Chanda falling on April 17, Rtn. Shakhi Banerjee & PP Rtn. Jaydeb Banerjee falling on April 20, Mrs. Smita Ray & PP Rtn. Sanjay Ray falling on April 26.
- Minutes of the 2170th meeting was confirmed by all the members present and there being no other business the meeting was concluded with thanks to everyone present.

