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RID 3291, Zone-16
Rotary
Garden Reach



2333rd RWM

Rotary
Club of Aruba



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What makes The Rotary Foundation different—Why it matters for our District

-PP Tanu Roy, Club Editor

Today, I want to talk about something that lies at the heart of who we are — **The Rotary Foundation**, and what makes it truly unique when compared with other major foundations of the world.

Around the globe, we have many remarkable foundations: the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Tata Trusts, and many others. Each of them plays an important role in improving lives, advancing science, and shaping policies.

But among all of them, **The Rotary Foundation stands apart**—not because it is the richest, but because it is the most human.

Let me explain why.

First, The Rotary Foundation is powered not by wealth, but by people.

Most foundations are created through large endowments from wealthy families or corporations. They depend on grant-making institutions, governments, or professional agencies to execute their projects.

But The Rotary Foundation is different.

It is fuelled by the generosity of 1.4 million Rotarians across the world—ordinary people doing extraordinary things. When you give to the Annual Fund, when you contribute every year, you are not just writing a cheque—you are powering the dreams of communities everywhere.

And unlike most foundations, Rotary's administrative expenses are covered through investment earnings. That means almost every dollar we give goes directly to service.

There are very few foundations in the world that can make that claim.

Second, our work is not top-down—it's bottom-up.

The Gates Foundation funds large national programs. The Ford Foundation supports social justice and policy advocacy.

The Rockefeller Foundation invests in scientific and system-level innovation. But The Rotary Foundation starts where true change begins—in the community itself.

Rotary projects are not designed in headquarters or boardrooms. They are imagined, planned, and executed by Rotarians who live in the community, who understand its needs, and who stay committed long after the project is completed.

This creates one of Rotary's greatest strengths—local ownership, supported by a global network.

Third, Rotary's reach is unmatched.

The Tata Trusts focus on India. The Rockefeller Foundation works primarily in Africa and the Americas.

Many global organizations work where they have offices.

But The Rotary Foundation has a presence in over 200 countries and territories—everywhere that a Rotary club exists, our Foundation exists. No other foundation has such a deep grassroots presence. No other foundation can connect a village in Nepal with a club in Australia, a hospital in Uganda with a partner in Sweden, or a school in India with a sponsor in Canada—all driven by volunteers.

This global family is our greatest asset.

Fourth, Rotary delivers what money alone cannot—volunteer service.

Most foundations fund others to do the work. They rely on implementing agencies, contract staff, or government departments. But Rotary has something truly special: our Foundation trusts us—Rotarians—to do the work ourselves.

We donate our time, our expertise, our professions, and our passion. We are the engineers, the doctors, the teachers, the entrepreneurs, the innovators who make these projects happen.

In fact, the value of volunteer time contributed by Rotarians every year is estimated in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

And that is something money can never buy.

Fifth, we have proven that Rotary can change the world.

When the world said polio could not be eradicated, Rotary said, "We will do it." And we did not just give money—we rolled up our sleeves, travelled to remote villages, and ensured that every child received those precious two drops.

Today, the fight against polio is one of humanity's greatest public health achievements. And Rotary is at the centre of it—standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the Gates Foundation, UNICEF, WHO, and governments across the world.

No other volunteer-led foundation in history has taken on a global challenge of this magnitude.

So, what makes The Rotary Foundation truly different?

It is not the size of our endowment. It is not the scale of our programs. It is not the prestige of our partnerships.

It is the power of our people. It is the compassion of every Rotarian. It is the belief that service above self is not just a motto—it is a responsibility. And it is the conviction that lasting change happens when ordinary people work together for an extraordinary purpose.



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Ensure members have the big picture of Rotary

PP Scott Learned, District 5400, Learning Facilitator, Rotary Boise, Idaho

My parents, both Rotarians, brought me to my first Rotary meeting when I was 6 years old. I even assisted my dad with a presentation on how user-friendly and helpful computers could be. I was engaged even back then!



But participant engagement is not a given. Like many clubs, the Rotary Club of Boise, Idaho, USA sometimes faced challenges retaining members.

In my role as a club leader, I'd look over exit interviews for clues on how to keep people engaged. It became clear that some exiting members hadn't been fully introduced to the big picture of Rotary. They didn't understand how they were part of something bigger and how their work could travel far beyond their club and impact lives in other communities and even other continents.

The familiarity I'd grown up with was missing. As my district's Rotary Action Plan champion, I saw that gap as an opportunity

to support the plan's priority of enhancing participant engagement. I started by talking about engagement with our club members and other clubs in my district, rounding out what I'd learned from the exit interviews I'd conducted.

I learned that many other clubs faced the same situation, and several had started revamping their club's introductory and welcome tools. These ideas and materials formed the basis of **Rotary 101**, a program designed to ensure that all members have the baseline understanding of Rotary so they can find meaningful ways to be engaged.

Our goal is to educate and empower members. We want every Rotarian to understand the avenues available to them to make an impact locally and globally.

This Rotary introduction covers essential aspects of our global network, including local club dynamics, Rotary International's structure, and the work of **The Rotary Foundation**. By clarifying Rotary's structure and highlighting transformative projects, members get a deeper understanding of Rotary's global impact.

Newer members might discover that there's more to Rotary than what comes up at social events and in early conversations. And long-term members might find new ways to remain people of action for life.

A valuable component of the course is the participant survey. Through this survey, we can continue to refine course content to reflect member interest and needs. This is similar to Rotary's customizable **Member Satisfaction Survey**. By regularly asking members for feedback and responding to their input, clubs can identify what members like and dislike about their club experience and address concerns and preferences.

This "take a leap and make it your own" mentality is one of the key ideas our Rotary introduction seeks to spark and nurture. If there's a project or issue that interests you, it's very likely there's a Rotarian working on it, and you're within an introduction or two from meeting them and taking action. Rather than six degrees of separation, at Rotary it's only two or three degrees of separation, because our global network connects people all over the world with a common intent to do good. To me, that truly is the power of Rotary that I hope everyone sees.

Children's Day at Bharatgarh Rotary School

PP Shweta Bose Barua

On November 14th, 2025, a beautiful winter morning, with a few sponsor friends PP Prosenjit Barua, spouse Shweta & son Abhijan, set out for Rotary Garden Reach's 2 years old school, comprising 52 children aged between 6-10 years old and two teachers. Of course some local well-wishers like Mr. Amal Nayak and Mr. Harasuit Mahato were there to make all preparations.



Our team reached the place by 11 am and was given a warm welcome with bouquets & a sash each and hot cups of ginger-lemon tea.

The children looked agog and cheerful. They presented us with

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a cultural program. A few spoke on the importance of Children's Day while the others took part in a united drill singing a patriotic song.

There was a 6 year old girl, **Mithu**, who gave a solo dance recital. We took this opportunity to spread the importance of education among them.

The program ended with some quiz on their general knowledge. Then came their much awaited time... a sumptuous lunch of mouth-watering khichri, begun bhaja, papad bhaja, chicken kosha, chatni & sweets carried from Kolkata.

It was time to say goodbye when most of the students extracted a promise that we meet them again very soon...!

How Rotary service can sustain us in our darkest hour

Jessica Bailey Weiss, President-Rotary Morro Bay, California

My dad, John Weiss, was relentless about Rotary, even when he was forced to do his service work or attend club meetings virtually from his hospital bed.

Throughout various treatments for a rare type of cancer, he didn't want to miss out on being there for our club and for other clubs that he helped as a Past District Governor.

Even in his final months this summer, he joined me on a trash clean-up on the Embarcadero (boardwalk area) along Morro Bay in California, as I was encouraging our Rotary club to do more hands-on projects. My year as President of the Rotary Morro Bay comes right after my dad served his second stint as our Club President, in 2024-25.

My dad died of the cancer on 4 September at age 66. But the extraordinary story of how he reacted to the disease shows how Rotary can inspire hope and resilience, and how one Rotarian can inspire others. His experience speaks to how service, community, and purpose can sustain us even in our darkest moments.

Doctors found a tumour in 2017 just ahead of his term as Governor of District 5240, eventually diagnosing the specific type of cancer, adrenocortical carcinoma, which gave him a low chance of surviving even five years. The disease starts in the adrenal glands, which are above the kidneys and make hormones to regulate various body processes.

My father chose to fulfil his year as district governor, working through surgeries and many hardships. **Rotary motivated him** to continue and gave his life purpose. Through hospital stays for nine surgeries and other treatments (including for several bouts of sepsis), he attended countless Rotary meetings from his hospital room by video calls.

He travelled to important events when he was able and always enjoyed calling Rotary members. He was notorious for dialling up people to encourage them to join Rotary, and many did as he brought in about 75 members throughout our district.

When my dad took on a task, he stepped up to accomplish more than was expected, a quality that led him to help start a Rotaract club and an Interact club locally; create our club's Public Heroes honours for residents; and run the group's golf tournament 10 times over the years. In our club and our district, he held numerous leadership roles for Rotary youth programs and membership.

Rotary members who have shared memories and comforting messages with my family have called my dad a super-Rotarian and a friend who became more like family through his frequent checks on people's well-being and his welcoming personality.

Denise Vivero, of the Rotary Conejo Valley, says that my dad always seemed to teach with "such calm and knowing grace" at district conferences. "It gave me a sense of peace and confidence to know that he was there to ask questions to and rely on for guidance," she says.

I'm grateful for the timing of my presidential year with the Morro Bay club because it gave us so much extra valuable time together. We worked closely through my year as president-elect, and he was always there with advice, which I asked for almost every day. In the months before my term, I started taking over his presidential duties in February as he went through chemotherapy.

It was difficult for our club's board to cancel the golf tournament that he'd started planning ahead of his last trip to the hospital, hoping to run one more. He was our club's expert in organizing the event, and no one wanted to do it without him.

Though he felt a high level of pain many days, he was willing to sacrifice his own comfort to do more for our club and our community. That's because Rotary kept him going. It's what gave him the hope and inspiration to keep serving through all the cancer treatments and complications. He knew it was for a higher purpose than himself.





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Planting 50,000 trees in a day

Gautam Shrestha, Rotary Yala, Nepal

On a crisp morning in July, my heart raced with excitement as I joined Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Mount Everest – Ravi Lamichhane, Chand SJB Rana, and Suman Ratna Tuladhar – on a journey to plant saplings in central Nepal. We were headed for Dalchoki, a breath-taking village about 23 kilometres (14.2 miles) from Patan in the southern part of the Lalitpur district. It is hill country ranging from 1,200 to 2,300 meters (3,900 to 7,545 feet) above sea level.

Rotary District 3292 has a proud history of massive tree plantings, but this year's **"50,000 Trees in One Day"** campaign was our most ambitious yet. By uniting communities, wards, social organizations, educational institutions, and local governments across Nepal and Bhutan, we aimed to make this the largest and most impactful tree-planting initiative in our history.

We reached Dalchoki after an hour's journey along twisting roads with epic views. Once there, we waited for other Rotarians and members of the local community to join us as the fog lifted, skies cleared, and a chilly breeze kept us on our toes.

District Governor Binod Koirala's vision had set the tone: "Together, we can create a lasting green legacy for our communities and future generations. This is not just about planting trees; it is about planting hope and strengthening community ties."

Young and old carried saplings, greeted each other with laughter, and brimmed with enthusiasm. We planted trees in parks and hilly areas, near schools, public spaces, police stations, and highways. We gradually transformed landscapes across urban and rural settings with hope and greenery.

After the trees were planted, Rotary clubs collaborated with stakeholders to ensure the saplings' survival, providing protective fencing, regular watering, and community-led monitoring. In this way, sustainability was built into our project.

We felt inspired by the Presidential message Unite For Good, considering our efforts a demonstration of how collective action can build a brighter, greener future. Our tree-planting campaign was more than an event, it was a movement. With every tree planted, our district left a legacy of hope, unity, and environmental stewardship for generations to come.

Rotary donors surpass ambitious Fundraising Goals

Contributions will support projects around the globe, including a robust recommitment to the fight to End Polio

Donors to The Rotary Foundation celebrated some big achievements in fundraising in the past year, showing their support for the wide array of programs the organization sponsors all over the world.

A multiyear campaign to increase the Endowment to US\$2.025 billion by 2025 exceeded its goal by US\$25 million. In 2024-25 alone, members and others contributed more than half a billion dollars to the Foundation.

"The goal was an inspiration, but the objective was to do good in the world," says Mark Daniel Maloney, the 2024-25 Rotary Foundation trustee chair. "We are making sure that Rotary will always be able to carry out that mission."

The Foundation raised more than US\$569 million in 2024-25 alone, exceeding its annual goal by almost US\$70 million. More than 478,000 individuals donated, along with over 31,000 Rotary clubs and nearly 1,900 Rotaract clubs.

Thanks to its donors, the Foundation was able to award 1,424 global grants, 468 district grants, and 74 disaster response grants in the past year. A US\$2 million Programs of Scale grant will help build peace and economic independence in Colombia. Rotary International also extended its long-standing partnership with the Gates Foundation, announcing a joint commitment of up to US\$450 million over three years to support global polio eradication efforts.

"Rotary members demonstrated their commitment to these efforts with their support of the 2.025 by 2025 campaign," Maloney says. In particular, he notes the large number of fundraising events around the world that Rotary's District Governors organised.

"I am just amazed at the generosity of Rotary members," he says. "They came together to make it happen."

Since When Is There Volunteering?

How did volunteering originate? Here you can learn how voluntary engagement has developed over time and how volunteer work has looked in different eras. Whether as an expression of charity, a commitment against "authority," or as involuntary engagement, volunteering has experienced many phases. Here's a brief overview of volunteering from past to present:

Origins of Volunteer Work

Charitable activities, neighbourhood assistance, and voluntary engagement have deep roots in history. In ancient cultures like the Roman Empire, there were citizens who voluntarily dedicated their time to charitable projects. The idea of charity also played a significant role in religious contexts. Especially in the Middle Ages, volunteering was embedded in religious



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and social contexts, with monks and nuns caring for the poor and sick. Besides religious institutions, guilds and brotherhoods formed the basis for volunteer engagement during that time. Guild members engaged in training apprentices, caring for widows and orphans, and financially supporting needy members. To this day, the fundamental motivation for voluntary charitable work remains unchanged: the willingness to “do good.”

Renaissance and Early Modern Period: Engagement between Knowledge, Art, and Education

Between the growing interest in art, culture, and philosophy, new areas for volunteering opened up. In the 14th to 17th centuries, new forms of social engagement emerged. The understanding of community and solidarity was shaped by the idea of promoting culture and knowledge. Thus, it was not uncommon for wealthy citizens to support artistic projects and educational institutions. The idea of charitable action as a contribution to cultural and social development continued to take shape. Volunteering remained a growing part of society but was mostly characterized by sporadic involvement.

Structural Development of Volunteer Work

In 1788, merchant Caspar Voght founded the first poorhouse in Hamburg and included over 200 volunteers in his organization, including doctors, caregivers, and teachers. The poorhouse offered various forms of support: shelter, food, medical care, and job opportunities. The aim was not just to provide temporary help but to sustainably improve the living situation of those in need. Voght's concept laid an important foundation for organised charitable institutions and volunteer work in society.

The Balancing Act between Voluntary and Involuntary

A few years later, in the early 19th century, “political volunteering” emerged. Due to financial necessity, it became mandatory for wealthy citizens in Prussia under Friedrich Wilhelm III to assist without compensation, for example, in public offices within municipal administrations. This was not true voluntary work. The term “Ehrenamt” (volunteer position) first appeared in the Prussian city regulations in 1808. Shortly thereafter, private associations flourished, bringing diverse opportunities for genuine volunteer work. The desire and ability to shape society established themselves, with areas of engagement including sports clubs, welfare associations, and labour unions.

Volunteering During the Nazi Era

The National Socialists' takeover led to the loss of much of the diverse volunteer work that had previously been established in society. Many organizations and associations were banned or co-opted starting in 1933. Volunteering experienced an ambivalent time and was exploited to spread Nazi ideology and tighten control over society. Many voluntary activities, such as fundraising for the Winter Relief Fund, were associated with coercion and sanctions. Despite this oppression and control, there were also instances where individuals engaged in volunteer work to help the persecuted or resist.

Volunteer Work in the Reconstruction

In the post-war period, volunteering was a natural response to the dire circumstances. In the early years after the war, volunteer organizations were founded to assist in reconstruction efforts. The focus was primarily on humanitarian aid, rebuilding infrastructure, and supporting war victims. The significant role of women brought about social change, allowing women more space and recognition within volunteer structures.

Development of Modern Volunteering

As reconstruction progressed in the post-war years, volunteer work became increasingly institutionalized, developing a wide range of areas. Environmental protection, education, healthcare, and cultural projects gained more focus. Especially in the 1970s and 1980s, volunteering became more professionalized through training, workshops, and education, improving the quality of volunteer engagement. At the same time, peace movements, women's organizations, and environmental political groups emerged. The “modern volunteering” no longer solely relies on Christian or political values. Personal development and self-expression also became part of the evolution of volunteering, just like in society as a whole. In the 21st century, volunteer work is at a high level with various manifestations. In the “new volunteering,” it's not just about helping others or serving a higher moral purpose but also about fulfilling personal needs and ambitions.

Rotarians say The Rotary Foundation transforms lives. True – just look at how it transforms Rotarians into fundraising ninjas every November!!!



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Minutes of the 2332nd RWM held on November 11th, 2025 at BNR Officers' Club, Garden Reach

- 1. The President Bandaru called the meeting to order and requested the members to rise for the National Anthem.**
- 2. The President appraised the house regarding the updated status of Semi-Annual Dues (SAD). As on date, only 8 members are yet to pay. It is expected that all payments will be received by end of November.**
- 3. The President proposed that the Bijoya-Diwali meet be held on November 21st, 2025. Since BNROC may not be available due to their internal programme, members were requested to suggest an alternative venue, if any.**
- 4. PP Prosenjit Barua informed that sponsors have been arranged for the Children's Day celebration at Bharatgarh Rotary School, where lunch will be served to the students.**
Members were requested to confirm their participation at the earliest to facilitate necessary arrangements.
- 5. A Thalassemia Awareness programme will be held at Panchanan Roy College, Joypur, on November 26th, 2025 at 12:00 pm. PP Dr. Arabinda Ray will be the keynote speaker.**
All members were requested to attend in large numbers to ensure the success of the programme.
- 6. Following termination of the RWM, the proceedings were handed over to Rtn Subhojit Roy, DPIC, who addressed the members on enhancing the Public Image of Rotary.**
- 7. Club Secretary, Rtn. Shubhayan, conducted the club business.**
- 8. President Bandaru confirmed the minutes of the last meeting and terminated the meeting.**

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