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METRO MAIL



BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METRO CITY

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September is one of the most important in the global calendar and especially so in the present context as 21st September is observed as the day International Day of Peace (UN) is observed on 21 September around the world. For the first time it was observed in September 1982 and in 2001, the General Assembly adopted a resolution 55/282, which established 21 September as International Day of Peace of non-violence and cease-fire. But where are we in terms of achieving peace? Are we doing enough in our daily lives to promote peace?

Evidence shows that conflict happens in places where people get access to justice, stamping out exclusion is the first step followed by bringing in true equality between women and men. The larger a country's gender gap, the more likely it is to be involved in violent conflict, according to research in Valerie Hudson's *Sex and World Peace* (2012). Gender inequality trumps GDP, level of democracy or ethnic-religious identity as the strongest push factor for both external and internal conflict more likely, and being the first to resort to force in such conflicts. In contrast, when women participate in peace processes, peace is more likely to endure. According to a World Bank survey, 40 per cent of those who join rebel groups do so because of a lack of economic opportunities. The systematic transfer of wealth from rich to poor – instead of the other way round – improves security for everyone. Ecological stress from global warming is proven to exacerbate conflicts over resources such as land and water. A functioning climate deal 'is the greatest peace deal the world could have,' according to Dan Smith, from the leading arms-control think-tank SIPRI. But most importantly, Peace starts with you. Ordinary citizens can make a difference. When's the last time you said sorry? Think about who loses when you win. Are the people around you heard and respected or marginalized, ignored and left out? Make a decision to care about what happens to them.

Rotary promotes peace by carrying out service projects and supporting peace fellowships and scholarships; our members take action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources. The eight Pillars of Positive Peace are; Low levels of corruption, Acceptance of the rights of others, Free flow of information, Sound business environment, High levels of human capital, Equitable distribution of resources, Good relations with neighbours and Well-functioning government. And what all Rotary projects have in common is that ultimately, they contribute to a more peaceful society.

This is Positive Peace – when we create communities where neighbors can thrive socially, emotionally, and economically. Positive Peace is not simply a lack of conflict; it's the active effort to create equitable and resilient societies where people can reach their potential.

EDITORIAL
Subhojit Roy

Trustee Chair's Message - September 2023



When was your Rotary moment? It's when you realize that being part of Rotary means more than just showing up for a meeting, when you discover you are part of something that changes the lives of others as it changes yours.

I will never forget the moment when I learned about Daniel, a Haitian child. Rotary Foundation Trustee Greg Podd, who at the time was serving with me on an

RI committee, had been trying to get Daniel on a plane for urgent heart surgery through the Gift of Life program. But Daniel couldn't get the visa to travel, and doctors had given him only months to live.

When Greg told me this, I remembered that Gift of Life was operating in Haiti and we could do the surgery there. This was on a Wednesday. Greg helped get ahold of Daniel's medical records. The Gift of Life surgeon I knew – who visited only once or twice every month – happened to be in Haiti. By Thursday, the surgeon had looked over the medical charts and told us that he could repair Daniel's heart but said he was traveling soon. We had to get Daniel to a medical facility by Friday morning.

Daniel and his parents rode 90 minutes on a scooter through the bumpy roads of rural Haiti to get to the facility, and the surgeon successfully performed the procedure. Thankful, Greg and I moved on to other projects.

A few months later, I got an email with a picture of Daniel. I will never forget his smiling face, despite the foot-long scar running down his chest, and what he wrote: "I know you helped me. You saved my life. Thank you."

On behalf of Daniel and countless others, I am passing along that gratitude to all Rotary members who have helped or will help this year.

The beauty of Rotary, especially with The Rotary Foundation, is that we can create these Rotary moments anytime. Just reach out to others in Rotary and discuss our work. Our caring network, our dedicated volunteers, and available resources will take care of the rest.

If two people can make such a difference, imagine what we can accomplish by working together in larger groups through The Rotary Foundation. Picture the impact of clubs within a district joining forces for a Foundation district grant to boost literacy, or two districts from different parts of the world transforming a community through a water, sanitation, and hygiene global grant.

If you haven't discovered your Rotary moment yet, keep searching. Serving Rotary through our Foundation is a great place to find it, and it will change your life.

Barry Rassin

Trustee Chair 2023-24

CLUB IN ACTION

Free Eye Camp at Dunlop



Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City in association with Omkarnath Mission and supported by Rotary Clinic, RC Madhyamgram Metropolitan organized a free eye check up camp at the Mission premises at

Dunlop.

The camp witnessed a large turnout of senior citizens and underprivileged beneficiaries. 105 patients were checked and screened for both IOL operations as well as free spectacles. Total beneficiaries were 34 IOL operations and 28 Spectacles

the club was represented by PP Rtns Subhojit Roy, Sunando Sen, Arindam Ghosh & Dipu Mullick.



Thalassaemia Awareness Program



Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City continued its Thalassaemia awareness campaign with a session at the Basanti Devi Women's College in Gariahat, Kolkata. Over 100 students and teaching faculty attended

a lecture presentation by District Governor Nominee Dr Ramendu Homchowdhury where he lucidly explained to the students what is thalassaemia, its manifestations, treatment and most importantly how it can be prevented.

A lively interaction followed the presentation. PP Rtn Jharna Mitra introduced the speaker and offered the formal gratitude while Mrs Indrila Guha, Principal of the college felicitated the speaker while PP Rtn Rajnish Kapoor felicitated the speaker on behalf of the club.

Rotary club of Calcutta Suncity also joined our club in the campaign and was represented by their members.

The Rotary Club Of Calcutta Metro City was represented by PP Rtns Jharna Mitra, Sunando Sen, Dipu Mullick and Rajnish Kapoor.



District Interact Installation



Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City and Encourage Pathways hosted and sponsored this year's Interact District Installation Ceremony at the GC Sri Sri Academy Auditorium on the 21st of September 2023. For the first time, this year Interact changeover ceremony, ABAHON, had a focal theme. Mental Health and Wellbeing. Attended by more than 20 Interact Clubs from all over the city, the event was graced by

the District Governor of RI District 3291 Hira Lal Yadav , six Past District Governors, and the District Youth Committee and Mrs Gargi Banerjee Principal of the Host School. The District Interact Chair Apala Datta led the ceremonies and incoming DIR Rooprekha, outgoing DIR Arushi Dubey, and incoming DS Shivani spoke on the occasion. There were beautiful dance and band performances to spice up the program. The entire program was coordinated by students of Birla Bharati and Sri Sri Academy.

The spotlight of the event was a fascinating talk on " The Winning Mindset" by Dr Dripto Bakshi from the IIT Kharagpur, on behalf of Encourage Pathways who explained effective Mantras to keep a level head on their shoulders. The event ended with the pinning of Mental Health Ambassador badges on 20 volunteers from among the Interact Clubs. The host Club was represented by PP Rtn Subhojit Roy and Club President Amrita Basu. The beautiful venue and amenities were sponsored by the Sri Sri Academy School, Alipore. Samrat Sengupta you were missed, Anton Mookherjee thank you for the wonderful creatives.

Text Book Donation and All Girls Football Academy Support



Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City completed a major project with the Kanmari Social Welfare Football Academy with distribution of football jerseys (full set) for 44 football

players, 6 footballs and text books for Class IX & X students who play at the academy.

The unique facet of the academy is local girls from the age



group of 9 yrs to 18 years train towards achieving excellence in football. The girls are not only fighting poverty, hunger but also breaking the shackles of social taboos and restrictions in an otherwise conservative society that they belong to. Their dedication towards the game of football develop their personalities as well and when PP Rtn Subhojit Roy had visited the academy 3 months back, he had promised support in his personal capacity and on behalf of our Rotary club. Today President Amrita Basu, PP Rtns Sunando Sen, Arindam Ghosh accompanied PP Rtn Subhojit Roy for the distribution of football kits as well as text books from the syllabus to also encourage these economically challenged girls to also continue their studies.

The visit to the academy was preceded by text book donation at Kanmari Vidya Mandir Class IX & X under the Eazy School 2 Initiative of RI District 3291.

55 sets of text books, 44 sets of jerseys, 2 footballs were donated by the club. Our Club received support from the Parul Prakashani (major discounted rates for the books), from Emami East Bengal Club for 4 footballs.

The club shall continue to support the academy in the near future.

The total project cost for the project was sponsored by Rtns Atreya Roychowdhury, Shanker Das, Debankur Saha, Sunando Sen and Arindam Ghosh.

Text Book Donation at Poddar Nagar



Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City of conducted its Text book donation program at the Poddar Nagar Boys High School on 30th September 2023. The text

books donated were from Geography, History, Bengali, English and Dictionary. The total volume of the text books donated was Rs 10,500.

PP Rtns Subhojit Roy and Jharna Mitra were present on behalf of the club while the Headmaster of the school received the text books in the presence of teachers and students of the school.

The program was part of the Eazy School Initiative 2 of RI D3291.

The club acknowledges the support of Parul Prakashani for the discounted books for our project.

Thalassaemia Awareness Camp at Sonarpur



Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City completed its 2nd Thalassaemia awareness session on 30th September'23 at the Indian Institute of Mother & Child premises at Sonarpur. 85 participants attended the session which included parents, women, men and students of the nearby villages.

The entire session was conducted by PP Rtn Subhojit Roy is a very easy to understand basic understanding of the genetic disorder, Thalassaemia. the 45 minutes session was in an interactive format. The participants were enthusiastic as well as attentive and due to the prodding of the speaker it was discovered that 2 of the participants had already tested blood for carrier detection, they were made to share their experience and hence became the true ambassadors for carrier detection campaign. PP Rtn Subhojit Roy also implored the participants to donate blood regularly.

Overall it was a very successful camp and the next one is coming up in November.

PP Rtns Jharna Mitra and Sunando Sen also actively participated and coordinated the session.

Coming Up.....

Anniversary Greetings Rtn Nirjhar & Subarna Bhadury for 8th October!



Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City and Rotarian Women Leaders present Dr Ruma Bhattacharya speak on Mental Health on 10th October'23,6:30pm



Rotary Club Of Calcutta Metro City in association with SHER shall conduct Anandayatra, a DURGA PUJA parikrama for children from distant villages of Sunderbans who are also economically challenged. SHER is our facilitating partner along with several other donor partners.

The young students shall be brought to Kolkata on Panchami (19th Oct'23), early morning taken around several pandals, they shall be provided with lunch and presented with new clothes and shall be escorted back to their villages by the day end.

Forthcoming Events of Neighbouring Clubs & District 3291



<p>1.4 million</p> <p>WE CONNECT PEOPLE</p> <p>1.4 million members worldwide</p>	<p>47 million</p> <p>WE TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES</p> <p>Approximately 47 million volunteer hours each year</p>	<p>\$333 million</p> <p>WE FUND SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS</p> <p>\$333 million awarded for global service initiatives in 2020-21</p>
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