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BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METRO CITY



Basic Education and Literacy - Rotary's Focus in September

Each month, Rotary shines a light on one of its key areas of service. September is dedicated to Basic Education and Literacy, a cornerstone for building a fairer, stronger, and more peaceful world.

Literacy is more than the ability to read and write—it is the foundation of lifelong learning, personal growth, and social progress. An educated child is more likely to escape poverty, lead a healthier life, and contribute positively to society. A literate adult gains confidence, independence, and the ability to make informed choices. In essence, education transforms not only individuals but entire communities.

Rotary's commitment to Basic Education and Literacy reflects its belief that knowledge is empowerment. By supporting schools, teachers, and learners, Rotarians across the world continue to bridge divides and create opportunities where they are needed most.

As we observe this special month, let us remember that every effort counts. Whether it is helping a child discover the joy of books, mentoring a young student, or contributing resources to strengthen learning environments, we are shaping brighter futures.

This September, let us reaffirm our pledge to promote literacy and education for all. By doing so, we honor Rotary's mission and help create a world where knowledge leads to opportunity, equality, and lasting peace.

Subhojit Roy

Presidential Message - September 2025



When I stepped into the role of Rotary International president, the moment came swiftly and unexpectedly. It got me thinking how the world can change in an instant, and how Rotary has the power to be a steady force for good in that change. This month, Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month, we have a clear call to action: to strengthen the foundation of learning in every community we serve.

Millions of people worldwide remain unable to read. Millions of children lack access to basic education. And yet, we know the solution: sustainable, inclusive, and equitable education, especially for girls and marginalized youths. Literacy is more than the ability to read and write. It is the key to human dignity, economic mobility, and peace. Every book opened, every classroom supported, and every teacher trained becomes a building block of peace.

This year, our message is *Unite for Good*. "Unite" speaks to the strength we find in each other. When we unite our talents and resources — not only among our clubs but across partners, organizations, and communities — we expand our reach. And when we do so

consistently over time, we create lasting change. Rotary service cannot be measured only in annual goals. Our work in education must extend beyond a single year. Literacy projects take time to take root, grow, and bear fruit.

Now is the time to think boldly and creatively. New types of clubs can help us engage educators, students, and advocates in new ways. Let us use this month to welcome new members with a passion for education and empower existing ones to lead service projects that reflect local needs. Whether you're building libraries, distributing textbooks, or mentoring students, your actions matter.

Education is also peacebuilding. Every scholarship we provide, every early childhood program we support, every adult literacy class we fund is an act of peace. And Rotary has been building peace in this way for more than a century.

Let us not forget that the fight for literacy is not only about access, it's about equity. It is about ensuring every learner, regardless of background, has the opportunity to reach their potential. And it is about standing together — across borders, languages, and generations — to say that education is a right, not a privilege.

Let's *Unite for Good* by committing to literacy that lasts. Let's dream of a world where every child learns to read. And then, as people of action, let's work together to make that dream a reality.

Together, we can change lives, starting with the power of education. Together, we *Unite for Good*.

Francesco Arezzo
President 2025-26

Rotary Projects around the Globe

September 2025

By Brad Webber



Peru

In the western Amazon, Rotary clubs in the city of Iquitos participated in a seminar in January to learn about the state of the area's schools. Two District 4465 leaders, Doris Alván and Fernando Del Aguila, enlisted a well-known educator in the area, Josefa Ríos Gil, to share with Rotarians what they can do to assist educators. In May, the Rotary Club of Iquitos Amazonas finished one related initiative, a district grant-supported teen empowerment project that taught young people to make earrings sold at eco-lodges near Lake Zungarococha. The club also provided school supplies to primary schools in the area.



United States

Prom is an expensive rite of passage, with purchases of gowns, tuxedos, flowers, meals, and transportation. In New York City, the Rotary Club of North Shore (Staten Island) is helping students through its "Cinderella/Cinderella" project. The entire 25-member club solicits new and gently used formal attire, some of which is purchased new by Rotarians. In April, students from across the borough are invited to choose from about 200 free dresses and suits, as well as shoes and accessories, so they're ready for prom season. The project was started in 2024 by then-President Suzanne Demetrio and is led by members Stephanie Accardo and Regina Boukhvalova.

- 39%- Share of Peruvian entrepreneurs who are women
- \$919-Average spent per student on proms in 2015



Croatia

The Rotary Club of Zagreb International organizes regular treks for members and friends. The club, says immediate Past President Petra Pungerčar, had “noticed our members were not as connected and focused as they once were.” So the group conceived of the hikes as a way to reconnect and motivate members while also raising money for the club’s signature project, a mentoring initiative. Their inaugural hike took members of the country’s only English-speaking club through the Slapnica Valley near Zagreb in October. They walked in Budapest during a trip to Hungary, and in June they strolled beside the Kamačnik River in Croatia’s mountainous Gorski Kotar region. “Relaxed, happy, and laughing, it was an incredible experience,” the club posted on Facebook.



India

During the early stages of a global grant project to support mothers and their children, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Rotary Club of Hiranandani Estate in Maharashtra state to reimagine the enterprise. Rotarians pivoted to organize vaccination camps, distribute emergency food, and establish basic health care. The three-year effort reached more than 6,000 people across four communities in the city of Navi Mumbai. The club partnered with the Rotary Club of Metropolitan Lubbock, Texas, on the nearly \$50,000 global grant, which also provided 12 industrial sewing machines and offered training in their use. Namrataa Srivastav, project director, lauds the program as a “milestone, opening doors for future collaborations between Rotary and prestigious social service institutions.”

- 10%- Land designated for national and nature parks in Croatia
- 26,076- Home visits by community health workers in the Navi Mumbai project



Myanmar

After an earthquake of magnitude 7.7 struck Myanmar in March, killing more than 3,700 people and injuring many more, the Rotary Club of Yangon coordinated a relief effort both at home and at the epicenter near Mandalay, about 400 miles away. The club gathered supplies donated by its members, Mandalay Rotarians, and other Rotary clubs in neighboring countries, notably the Rotary Club of Bangkok South in Thailand. In May, a District 3350 delegation to Myanmar brought water purification systems, temporary shelters, and thousands of hot meals. The district committed to providing long-term recovery assistance, including a tube well in Sein Pan, a hard-hit ward in Mandalay.

This story originally appeared in the September 2025 issue of Rotary magazine.

Larry Lunsford Named President Nominee for 2027-2028



EVANSTON, ILL., USA -Larry A. Lunsford, member of the Rotary Club of Kansas City-Plaza, Mo., was today confirmed as president-nominee of Rotary International – the association of the membership service organization’s 45,000 clubs worldwide – and will begin his one-year term on July 1, 2027.

Lunsford, a member of Rotary since 1991, is committed to inspiring Rotary’s 1.2 million members across continents and cultures to deliver real, long-term solutions to the world’s most persistent issues, while building professional and leadership skills through meaningful connections.

From fighting disease to supporting education – Rotary members work toward building the optimal conditions for more peaceful and resilient societies. “Our greatest strength lies in our ability to unite people of all cultures and generations through a shared commitment to doing good,” said Lunsford. “We exist without borders and boundaries, and we see each other as part of our collective Rotary family. I am inspired by our members’ relentless belief that peace is possible and will encourage them to continue to be the torchbearers of hope. Our world needs this today, more than ever.”

Rotary members throughout the world develop and implement sustainable, community-driven projects that fight **disease**, promote **peace**, provide **clean water**, support **education**, save **mothers and children**, grow local **economies** and protect the **environment**. More than US\$5.5 billion has been awarded through The Rotary Foundation – Rotary’s charitable arm that helps clubs work together to perform meaningful, impactful service – to support these initiatives over the last 100 years.

Lunsford will also oversee Rotary’s top goal of **ending polio**. Alongside its **Global Polio Eradication Initiative** partners, Rotary has achieved a 99.9 percent reduction in polio cases, and contributed more than US\$2.9 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect more than 3 billion children from this paralyzing disease.

About Larry Lunsford :

A certified public accountant, Lunsford spent seven years working for Ernst & Young before joining a family-owned

business, Bernstein-Rein Advertising, in 1990. He is currently executive vice president and chief financial officer for the Bernstein group of companies.

Lunsford is currently on the boards of Global Ties KC and the Church of the Resurrection Foundation. Previously, he has held positions on the boards of the Kansas City Spirit Festival and the Variety Club as well as serving as director of a local bank and treasurer of the Epilepsy Foundation for the Heart of America. He has also served on Truman State University's alumni and foundation boards and received the university's Distinguished Service Award.

Born and raised in Macon, Mo., Lunsford attended Truman State University in Kirksville, Mo., on an academic scholarship, earning bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting. He first encountered Rotary when he received a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship to spend the 1981-82 academic year at the University of Newcastle in Australia.

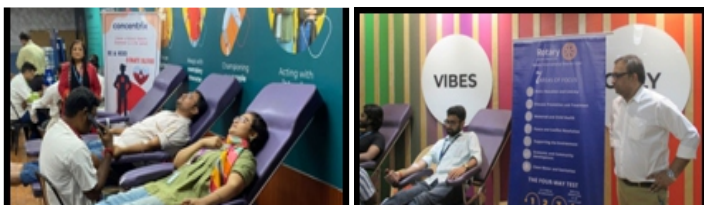
Club News

Blood Donation Camps in association with Concentrix Daksh for Thalassaemia Patients



Blood Donation – Day 1 (11th September 2025) Concentrix Daksh organised a blood donation at their RDB Primarc facility in New Town on 11th September 2025. Rotary Calcutta Metro City facilitated the project in aid of The Thalassaemia Society of India supported by People's Blood Bank.

39 units of blood were collected completely dedicated to the Thalassaemia patients of TSI. Present from the club PDG Shyamashree Sen, PP Rtn Subhojit Roy, District Public Image Chair, PP Rtn Arindam Ghosh and Club President Rtn Sunand Sen.



Blood Donation- Day 2 (12th September 2025) at Candor Techspace by Concentrix Daksh facilitated by Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City in aid of The Thalassaemia Society of India for Thalassaemia patients.

60 units of life in form of blood were collected for Thalassaemia patients' courtesy Concentrix partners and thank you ex Rtr. Amiyanath Bhattacharya for coordinating the entire blood donation initiative.

Birthday Greetings

Shyamashree Sen for 21st September

Dental Camp in association with IPER & Indian Dental Association



Friday 12th September 2025, Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City in association with Indian Dental Association- Kolkata chapter and IIPER organised a Dental Camp for the underprivileged community specially the children of the neighbourhood.

PP Rtn Dr JK Singh and PP Rtn Dr PJ Mustafi actively implemented the camp on behalf of the Rotary Club Of Calcutta Metro City which was represented by President Rtn **Sunand Sen** and amidst presence of PP Rtns **Subhojit Roy, Arindam Ghosh** and Jharna Mitra.

The total numbers of beneficiaries were 100.

International-Level Rotary Awards

- **Service Above Self Award**
Rotary's highest honor, given to Rotarians who demonstrate exemplary humanitarian service, with an emphasis on personal involvement and a sustained record of commitment.
- **Rotary Foundation Distinguished Service Award**
Recognizes significant and dedicated service to The Rotary Foundation for at least 10 years.
- **Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service**
Honors Rotarians who have actively served The Rotary Foundation over a sustained period.
- **Rotary Alumni Global Service Award**
Presented to alumni of Rotary programs who have made outstanding humanitarian contributions and shown strong professional achievements.
- **Rotary Alumni Association of the Year Award**
Recognizes outstanding alumni associations that support Rotary's mission and actively engage in service.
- **Rotary Foundation Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award**
Highlights alumni whose career and service exemplify Rotary's motto Service Above Self.
- **Rotary Award of Honor**
Bestowed sparingly, this award recognizes non-Rotarians who have shown extraordinary support for Rotary's ideals.

Visit www.rotary.org for more information

**STRIKE OFF
THALASSEMIA**

Calcutta Metro City
Rotary
RI Dist 3291



**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**