

RI President: Rtn. Gordon R McInally  
Dist. Governor: Rtn. Hira Lal Yadav  
Club President: Rtn. Amrita Basu  
Club Secretary: Rtn. Atreya Roychowdhury  
Club Editor: Rtn. Subhojit Roy

For private circulation only

# METRO MAIL



BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METRO CITY

RI District 3291 | Charter Date : 14/06/1995 | Club No. : 30869



The role of The Rotary Foundation is extremely important, it taps into a global network of Rotarians who invest their time, money and expertise into priorities that align with our seven areas of focus and Foundation grants empower Rotarians to approach problems such as disease, poverty, illiteracy, and malnutrition with sustainable solutions that leave a lasting impact. The Rotary Foundation is known throughout the world for its exceptional financial management and for the efficient use of its donations. Every year since 2008, TRF has received the top four-star rating from Charity Navigator, the world's largest and most trusted charity evaluator. This rating is a standard achieved by only one percent of charities for judicious care of donors' money.

The history of TRF is quite known among Rotarians, The Foundation was created in 1917 by Rotary International's sixth president, Arch Klumph. It was established as an endowment fund to provide an ongoing and sustainable income for Rotary to allow us to 'do good in the world'. It has grown from an initial contribution of US\$26.50 from the Rotary Club of Kansas City to more than US\$1 billion. It provides grants of over \$1 million per day to support projects led by Rotarians. Today, TRF has one of the largest and most prestigious international fellowship programmes in the world.

But the Foundation does face quite a few realistic challenges in present times, especially competition among similar organizations also raising funds for similar humanitarian causes. For someone who does brand promotion exercises for a living, I genuinely feel TRF and Rotary as an organization has been inward looking, closeted and not done enough to reach out to more number of donors and support from more number of corporations. So we haven't marketed ourselves enough to raise money and relied more on members (numbers have not increased for many years) and a few philanthropists globally. Even at the regional or district level we should see the leaders reaching out for CSR support for TRF with much more vengeance. One of the possible reason may be an elite image that needs to be shed for otherwise middle class organization. Another factor may be the constant attrition of members, newer members usually are not those who give easily, if we look at the member donations, we will see the same set of members who donate to TRF. So giving does not increase in similar proportions as to induction of members every year.

Finally we must educate our fellow members and also at the grass root level must reach out to corporate to give to TRF.

***(This editorial is based entirely on my personal views and may not reflect my Club's Views)***

## EDITORIAL

Subhojit Roy

# PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

November 2023



Next year, Rotary takes a step toward supporting peacebuilding in the Middle East and North Africa region when recruitment begins for our newest peace center in partnership with Bahçeşehir University (BAU) in Istanbul.

A series of events in the coming year will recognize the new center at BAU and Rotary's work to promote peace. The 2024 Rotary International

Convention in May will mark 25 years since the first Rotary Peace Centers were announced – coincidentally at the Rotary Convention in Singapore in 1999. Recruitment for the first cohort of Rotary Peace Fellows at BAU also starts in 2024, and selected candidates will begin their program in early 2025.

Since its beginning, the peace centers program has prepared more than 1,700 peace fellows working in more than 140 countries to create a more peaceful world. That is certainly worth celebrating, but Rotary Peace Fellows are more than statistics on a page. Their actions have helped Create Hope in the World and will continue to do so.

For example, Jennifer Montgomery and Goret Komurembe – peace fellows from the program at Makerere University in Uganda – are co-founders of Magenta Girls Initiative. The international nongovernmental organization equips Ugandan girls and young women with the support and tools to overcome harmful gender norms, generational poverty, gender-based violence, trafficking, and trauma.

Ndzi Divine Njamsi, another peace fellow who studied at Makerere, has taken lessons learned about Positive Peace and is sharing them with students of his own in Cameroon. He became interested in the Rotary Positive Peace Activator training program after witnessing extremism, online hate speech, and violence in Cameroon. Since completing the program, he has brought his lessons on peace to students at the Yaoundé International Business School and other organizations in the Central Africa country.

The world needs more people like the graduates of the program at Makerere and our other peace fellows. To that end, we can all advance peace by encouraging our local peacebuilders to learn more about Rotary and apply for this impactful fellowship. Rotary members can also mentor candidates for the fellowship. Or you can work with peace fellows who have already graduated. They probably have an initiative or two that would benefit from your help.

Our peace centers in North America, Europe, Africa, Australia, and Asia depend on financial support as well. The program at BAU was made possible thanks to a generous gift of \$15.5 million to The Rotary Foundation from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation.

This new Rotary Peace Center will offer a one-year professional development certificate in peace and development studies for fellows focusing on peacebuilding within the Middle East and North Africa region.

Peace must be waged persistently; it is the soil where hope takes root. But as with any journey, we take one step at a time. Let's take those steps together.

**R. Gordon R. McNally**

*President 2023-24*

# TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

November 2023



This month, as we celebrate The Rotary Foundation, let's recognize it for what it is: one of the world's best humanitarian organizations.

Many charities, relief organizations, and nonprofits do the same type of work, and the public associates them with the causes they work on. But I wonder how many people know that Rotary supports

those same causes – seven of them in fact – which we call our areas of focus.

If they want clean water, good health, and a sustainable future for our planet, they support what our Foundation does. If they envision a world where peace, full literacy, and economic opportunities for communities to support themselves exist, they also believe in Rotary's mission. And if they want to see mothers and their babies thrive, their vision aligns with the work we do.

And we have a lot of work in progress through the Foundation. Polio eradication is changing the world, one drop of vaccine at a time. Rotary Peace Centers are training peacebuilders to reduce violence and resolve conflict. And through Foundation global and district grants, we are improving lives in a real way.

The way we work also sets us apart. We have global reach, with more than 48,000 field offices in the form of Rotary and Rotaract clubs. We emphasize good stewardship of your funds and efficient implementation of your projects. And we always aim for sustainable solutions.

During the 2022-23 Rotary year, the Foundation awarded 1,098 global grants. If you think of what a single grant can do, you begin to grasp the scale of our work and the magnitude of our impact – an impact people can see and feel in their daily lives.

Our district supported a global grant project that focused on basic education and literacy in Malawi, where we helped train 38 teachers who are responsible for 4,000 students. We also built two toilets and installed a pump, so they had water for drinking and hand washing.

I will never forget that when Esther and I visited the school, a young boy pointed to my Rotary pin, recognizing it from other volunteers who wore their pins during the project. He said, "I know you helped me. I won't be able to travel to thank the others who helped me, so please thank them for me."

So thank you, Rotary, on behalf of a child in Malawi whose future you made a little brighter, and on behalf of thousands of others you have helped by supporting The Rotary Foundation.

**Barry Rassin**

*Trustee Chair 2023-24*

# World Polio Day



The World Polio Day on 24th October also featured a Facebook Live featuring PRIP Shekhar Mehta and EPNC, Zone VI PDG Shyamashree Sen.

A well curated talk show, PRIP Shekhar Mehta threw light on the importance of the Polio eradication drive globally and how close we are towards total eradication of Polio. He spoke about the corporate, institutional and government agencies as partners and stakeholders. He spoke about the journey of GPEI since 1985. He congratulated all Rotary warriors as PDG Shyamashree Sen for their contributions towards the Foundation and the program. The biggest role played by Rotary has been advocacy. The magic that happened in India in eradicating Polio.

## Rotary Projects around the Globe November 2023

### United States

By Brad Webber



After a 2021 tornado and subsequent electrical fire damaged the African American Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky, a Rotary club in the city acquired a \$10,000 disaster relief grant from District 6710 to help restore the museum. But "we didn't just want to be handing out the check," says Vickie Elrod, a past president of the Rotary Club of Bowling Green. "We wanted to get boots on the

ground to get involved with the preservation of those artifacts." About a dozen Rotarians attended workshops on archiving, and the club is assisting the museum in digitizing documents. They include records on Shake Rag, a once-vibrant district settled by former slaves and soldiers who fought for the Union in the Civil War. The financial assistance enabled the museum to work with a conservator on preserving its uniforms and other clothes. The museum reopened in August, and Rotarians continue to assist with cleaning damaged artefacts, pictures, and equipment.

### Jamaica



Advocates in Jamaica highlight a shortage of housing that meets the needs of people with limited mobility. The Rotary Club of Kingston funded a nearly \$23,000 refurbishment of Cheshire Village, a transitional

housing facility associated with a rehabilitation center. "Rotarians were instrumental and involved in the three town halls we had with residents," says Karsten Johnson, the club's

immediate past president. "Our plans were made based on their priorities." The Kingston club, supported by donations from the Rotary Club of Naples North, Florida, raised the height of toilets and added support bars and railings along restroom walls. The club installed new kitchen cupboards, sinks, and faucets to improve accessibility for people who use wheelchairs. A first phase, to install six solar streetlights, was completed in February, with the retrofit finished in June.

**300+ African American museums and related organizations in the U.S.**

**16% Estimate of the world's population with a significant disability**

### Portugal



The Rotary Club of Almancil International takes an active approach in its mission to serve children, notably those with autism spectrum disorders or Down syndrome. Members sponsor activities including surfing lessons and animal therapy. In June the club unveiled a sensory room at a school to serve students ages 5 to 16. "The

room is now complete, with state-of-the-art equipment including a soothing waterbed, music, and many sensory light and tactile objects," says club member Peter Hinze, who coordinated the project. "[It] can provide a sense of calm and help improve [students'] visual and auditory skills and help regulate their behavior." The project cost more than \$16,000. The club provided about \$5,000, with businesses and friends donating the remainder.

### Belgium

The Rotary Club of Virton en Gaume organized two days of concerts to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Coralpins Gaumais, a trio that plays the traditional alphorn, a wooden horn once used by shepherds in the Alps. More than 140 alphornists, flag throwers, and bell ringers in folk costume participated in the event in May. The event raised money for the club's charitable causes. The alphorn was the ideal instrument for harmoniously bringing together nature and the people who live in the region, says Jean-Marie Henin, a past club president. The club was inspired to put on the concert series after it organized visits by the Coralpins Gaumais to nursing homes and other care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**1 in 100 Children worldwide with autism**

**86 feet, 9 inches World's longest alphorn**

### Sri Lanka



While sea turtles can live to be more than 100 years old, as few as 1 in 10,000 survive to adulthood, according to some experts. Five of the world's seven sea turtle species visit Sri Lanka, but poaching for food and shells, along with disruption caused by recreation, imperils the creatures. The Rotaract Club of CINEC at the Colombo International Nautical and Engineering College in Malabe organized a public

Contd. from Page 3

webinar to raise awareness of the vulnerability of turtles, coral, and other sea life. Then in April the club offered the marine reptiles a leg up with an overnight operation to move turtle eggs out of harm's way. More than two dozen Rotaractors met at Rekawa Beach near Tangalle to help transport about 350 eggs to a conservation center for safe hatching. They worked by the light of cellophane-covered lamps to avoid disturbing the light-sensitive turtles. "We were shown by experts how to carefully dig around the nest to expose and collect the eggs," project chair Monalee Dissanayake says.

This story originally appeared in the November 2023 issue of *Rotary* magazine.

**Rotary projects make a difference in communities around the world.**

## Combating Polio Around the Globe

### **Rotary members use creative approaches in the fight to end polio**

As the fight against polio unites communities around the world, Rotary members are using time-tested methods and attention-grabbing new ideas to raise awareness, funds, and support. From Europe to Africa, Asia to the Americas, Rotary members remain committed to eradicating the disease forever.

#### **Germany to Turkey and back again: A trip to end polio**

Bashar Asfour, a member of the Rotary Club of Tbilisi Ambassador, Georgia, embarked on a European tour in a Volkswagen bus, starting in Berlin on 31 August. He aims to raise awareness, gather donations, and inspire new volunteers to fight polio. With a route spanning 16 countries and meetings in 38 cities, his journey culminates in Chemnitz, Germany, on 20 and 21 October to coincide with the main Rotary event for World Polio Day in the region.

#### **Brazil: Together Against Polio campaign**

The Rotary clubs of Brazil are using the Together Against Polio campaign to combat the disease and raise awareness about vaccination. The campaign includes billboards, leaflets, social media graphics, and a website featuring verified information from sources like the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Through their extensive network, clubs are distributing free campaign materials, spreading accurate information, and encouraging polio vaccination across the nation.

#### **Madagascar: An urban run for polio awareness**

The Rotary Club of Antananarivo-Mahasina organized the sixth running of the Urban Trail, uniting clubs in Madagascar's capital. With more than 4,000 participants on 7-km and 14-km (4.3-mile and 8.7-mile) routes, this event coincided with African Vaccination Week. The initiative, in partnership with UNICEF, WHO, and others, aimed to raise awareness about the PolioPlus program and the importance of vaccination.

#### **France: T-Rex Race with fun and purpose**

At the T-Rex Race in Fréjus, France, participants wear tyrannosaurus rex costumes and race to raise awareness and funds for polio eradication. Organized by District 1730, this event on 21-22 October takes place alongside the Fréjus International Air Festival. It's a creative way to get people's attention for a noble cause, embodying Rotary's dedication to a polio-free world.



*Participants look forward to the annual T-Rex Race in Fréjus, France, which raises awareness and funds for polio eradication.*

*Credit: Dinh Hoan Tran*

### **Colombia: El Zoo del Amor brings comfort to terminally ill children**

Rotarians Sonia Uribe and Alberto Londoño launched El Zoo del Amor to provide comfort to terminally ill children. Stuffed animals like Ana the giraffe and Lucas the tiger offer solace, each wearing a shirt adorned with the Rotary logo. Rotarians also carry these animals on their global travels, capturing photos against iconic backdrops, which sparks smiles and more support. The project has raised about US\$260,000 that will be spent on polio eradication efforts and vaccinations for more than 76,000 children, nurturing children's lives and a polio-free world.

### **Philippines: Culinary collaboration for a cause**

Rotary clubs in the Philippines united for a dinner event to raise funds for the End Polio Now campaign. Over two days, renowned chefs prepared Dabawenyos and Ilonggo dishes, supporting polio eradication while celebrating fine dining. The clubs plan to repeat the event and are exploring other collaborative efforts to support polio eradication.

### **Korea: Gugak concert raises US\$12,000**

On the Korean island of Jeju, Rotary members in District 3662 and the Sehyang Orchestra organized a concert of traditional gugak music. This concert was a rare treat for Jeju residents, who have limited access to such events. It was attended by 400 people and raised 16 million won (about US\$12,000) for the PolioPlus Fund.

### **Japan: Chiba's parade of unity**

Rotary members in Japan's Chiba prefecture organized a vibrant parade featuring a mikoshi, a portable shrine. It coincided with the Oyako Sandai Festival, fusing festivity and purpose to raise awareness and hope for a polio-free world. Draped in End Polio Now shirts and festival costumes, the Rotary members made a dramatic impression.

### **India: Italian Rotarians take part in polio vaccination**

Italian Rotarians and their friends from District 2080 worked on a crucial vaccination campaign in Uttar Pradesh, India. During the campaign, part of the National Immunization Day initiative, the team collaborated with local frontline health workers. The effort included significant participation from women in the region. The Rotary members have consistently supported global polio vaccination efforts and are enthusiastic about sharing their stories to generate more support.

## Club in Action Project Thalassaemia



Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City facilitated donation of Rs 50,000 to The Thalassaemia Society of India for procuring reagents and laboratory products of the treatment centre on 4th November'23 at the treatment center.

M/s RAMAWATAR MAHESHRAJKA CHARITABLE TRUST made the donation under the CSR program based on our Club's appeal.

The total giving now stands at Rs 2,00,000 by the trust for The Thalassaemia Society of India for the treatment of thalassaemic patients of the centre over the past 1 year.

Present on behalf of the club were PP Rtn Subhojit Roy and Vice President Rtn Shanker Das and President of TSI Prof Ashok Mishra and Hony Secretary Mr Utpal Panda.

## Deepavali Gifts for Underprivileged Children



Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City in association with 91.9 Friends FM and citizens of Kolkata conducted a chocolate distribution program for the underprivileged children of Kolkata.

The team from 91.9 friends FM went around the city to distribute chocolates and cakes for the slum dwelling kids, orphans living on streets and neighbourhoods on the eve of Deepavali.

It was heartening to see RC Belur and members of teh club joining the distribution drive.

The club donated Rs 5000 worth of chocolates for teh drive and Rtn Shanker Das, PP Rtn Bandana Das, PDG Shyamashree Sen, PP Rtn Sunando Sen and PP Rtn Subhojit Roy contributed to the chocolate donation drive.

*Greetings*  
**Happy Birthday**  
**PP Rtn Dipu Mullick**  
for 24th December!!!



Rotary | CREATE HOPE IN THE WORLD | The Rotary Foundation

### 2023-24 ANNUAL FUND CHALLENGE

Challenge Period: 1 July 2023 to 31 January 2024

Eligibility Criteria:

	PLATINUM	GOLD	SILVER
<b>For District</b>	75% of the district membership contributing minimum of 25\$ each	100% Club Giving with minimum \$300 contribution by each club	100% Club Giving with minimum \$50 contribution by each club
<b>Award</b>	Crystal for District	Plaque for District	Smaller Plaque for District
<b>For Club</b>	Minimum \$25 contribution by each member and Annual Fund Per Capita of \$200	Minimum \$25 contribution by each member and Annual Fund Per Capita of \$100	Minimum \$25 contribution by each member
<b>Award</b>	Crystal for Club	Plaque for Club	Certificate for Club

**Paul Harris Society Championship Award for Districts**

Eligibility Criteria:  
At least 50% of the total registered PHS members contributing to Annual Fund (members fulfilling their yearly commitment of \$1,000) by 31 January 2024 provided the district has minimum total of 30 registered PHS members by 31 January 2024

**PLEASE NOTE:** Contribution towards Annual Fund ONLY will be considered for this challenge

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

This Edition of Metro Mail is sponsored by President Rtn Amrita Basu

Edited & Published by PP Rtn Subhojit Roy  
Designed by : DARK HORSE : 9831050155