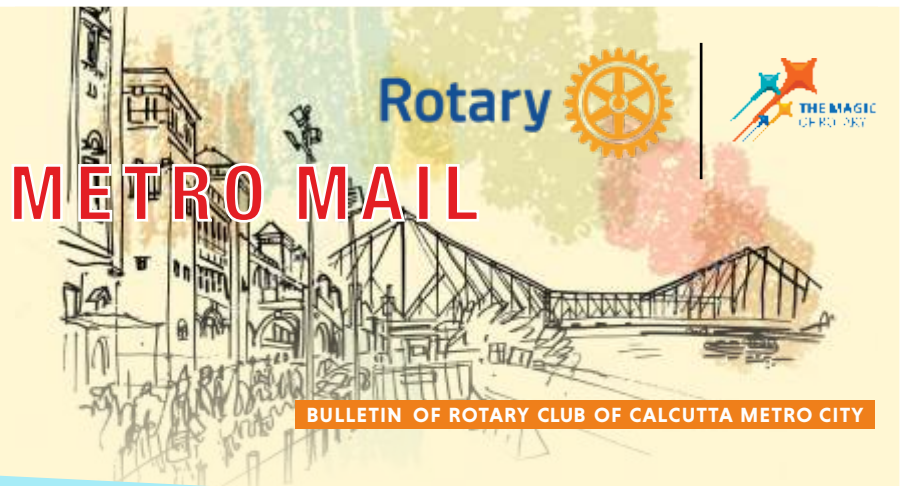


RI President: Rtn. Stephanie Urchick  
Dist. Governor: Dr. Krishnendu Gupta  
Club President: Rtn. Sunando Sen  
Club Secretary: Rtn. Dipu Mullick  
Club Editor: Rtn. Subhojit Roy

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**The Transformative Power of Giving** - In a world often driven by individual pursuits, the act of giving offers a powerful counter-narrative—one that fosters connection, compassion, and change. For Rotary members, this habit isn't just a choice but a guiding principle central to our motto : *Service Above Self*.

Giving is more than a financial transaction; it is an investment in humanity. When we give—be it time, resources, or skills—we create ripples of transformation that extend far beyond our immediate reach.

It bridges divides, empowers communities, and uplifts those left behind. For Rotarians, the habit of giving is a catalyst for societal progress, allowing us to address pressing issues like poverty, illiteracy, disease, and environmental degradation.

Developing the habit of giving enriches not only the receiver but also the giver. Studies show that giving enhances mental well-being, reduces stress, and instills a sense of purpose. For Rotary members, these personal benefits translate into renewed energy for our missions, fostering leadership with empathy and determination.

As Rotarians, our role extends beyond philanthropy; it is about sustainable impact. Initiatives like Thalassaemia free India, PolioPlus, community literacy projects, and water sanitation efforts showcase the collective strength of habitual giving. But this habit must be nurtured continually. We must inspire younger generations of Rotarians to integrate giving into their daily lives, ensuring our legacy of service endures.

In these uncertain times, the need for giving has never been greater. As Rotary members, let us reaffirm our commitment to service. Let us give—not because it is expected but because it is essential to building a better, kinder, and more equitable world. In giving, we discover the true essence of leadership: the ability to transform lives, starting with our own.

**Subhojit Roy**

## Rotary International

### Presidential Message November 2024



One of Rotary's greatest strengths is the ability of our members to come together to create lasting change, and The Rotary Foundation helps us transform dreams of change into reality.

From eradicating polio to building peace, much of the work we do around the world would not be possible without our continued support of our Foundation.

The cause of peace is especially important to me, and one of the most effective ways we build peace is our Rotary Peace Fellowship — a product of The Rotary Foundation. The program helps current and aspiring peace and development professionals around the world learn how to prevent and how to end conflict.

Thanks to a \$15.5 million gift from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation, we can continue supporting peace builders in more regions with the next Rotary Peace Center, at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul.

Opening yet another peace center is a monumental achievement that we will celebrate at the 2025 Rotary Presidential Peace Conference in Istanbul.

The three-day conference 20-22 February will highlight the many ways our family of Rotary advocates for peace. Keynote speakers, panel discussions, and breakout sessions will allow us to share ideas about building peace and foster meaningful conversations about promoting peace everywhere.

Registration for the Presidential Peace Conference is open. I hope to see you there, but if you can't make it, our Foundation offers so many ways to change the world for the better. November is Rotary Foundation Month, a great time to get to know your Foundation better and pursue causes that appeal to you.

Global grants support large international activities with sustainable, measurable outcomes in Rotary's areas of focus. By working together to respond to pressing community needs, clubs and districts strengthen their global partnerships.

District grants fund small-scale, short-term activities that address needs in your community and in communities abroad. Each district chooses which activities it will fund with these grants.

Our Foundation can even help you support our wonderful youth programs, including Rotary Youth Exchange, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, and Interact.

Your gifts to our Foundation also make Programs of Scale possible. These are long-term projects that seek to solve otherwise intractable problems.

To ensure these good works continue beyond our lifetimes, it is up to us to reach our ambitious Rotary Endowment goal of \$2.025 billion by 30 June 2025.

*The Magic of Rotary* does not appear out of nowhere. We create

the magic with every new member inducted, every project completed, and every dollar donated to our Foundation.

Please join me in supporting The Rotary Foundation, and together, we will change the world for the better.

**Stephanie A. Urchick**

**President 2024-25**

## Rotary Projects around the Globe

November 2024

By **Brad Webber**



**Guatemala**

The Rotary Club of Guatemala La Reforma's Upcycling Art Festival featured whimsical sculptures and paintings created with cast-off materials such as paper and cardboard, wood scraps, glass, plastics, metal, rubber, and electronic waste. Like many countries, Guatemala struggles with solid waste management, notes Esther Brol, a past club president who pioneered the event in 2023. "Pushing artists out of their comfort zone by challenging them to create works of art from waste has generated wonderful results," including raising funds for club projects and **The Rotary Foundation**, she says. The club partnered with the Rotaract Club of Guatemala La Reforma and the Rotary Club of Los Altos Quetzaltenango to organize the three-week exposition and sale that concluded 5 June.



**Canada**

The annual Concert to Feed the Need has raised nearly \$90,000 since 2018 to offer meals in the Durham region in Ontario, through a network of food banks, meal and snack programs, shelters, and other social service providers. **Feed Ontario** reports an increase of 47 percent in the number of employed people using food banks since 2018. "With the rising cost of food and the impact of the pandemic still being felt, food bank use is soaring," says Joe Solway, a member of the Rotary Club of Bowmanville, which initiated the event. Members of six other Rotary clubs also sell sponsorships and tickets and promote the show, an eclectic mix of pop, folk, country, rock, blues, gospel, "and maybe this year some opera," Solway says. Media attention surrounding the concert and its acclaimed performers helped it yield nearly \$23,000 in 2023. The 2024 event will take place on 8 December.

- **\$34.9 million - Record auction price for work by a Latin American artist**
- **\$2.4 billion - Share of Canada's 2022 GDP from live performance industry**





### Bulgaria

In 2007, the Rotary Club of Sofia-Balkan teamed up with the Bulgarian Basketball Federation and the National Sports Academy to form a basketball club for wheelchair users, and the project has kept growing. Over the years, the club has lured coaches from the European Wheelchair Basketball Federation to offer a player clinic, cultivated referee skills, and established a **Rotary Community Corps** to help. On 13 February, in conjunction with a Rotary zone event, the Bulgarian team faced off against a Serbian team for a friendly match. RI's president at the time, Gordon McNally, sounded the starting whistle and tossed the ball into play. The club's signature project is a point of pride for Rotarians, says Past Club President Krasimir Veselinov, and several organizations that advocate for people with disabilities have signed on to support the venture.



### Kenya

Recognizing the importance of sleep to child development, the Rotary Club of Nairobi delivered bed kits for 8,000 school children in 2024, a milestone in a long-running project. Over the past 16 years, the club has partnered with Toronto-based charity **Sleeping Children Around the World** to supply bed kits to a total of 80,000 children at a cost of about \$4 million, says club member Mumbi King. Each kit includes a mat or mattress, bedding, and mosquito netting, along with school supplies and clothing. The kits have an outsized influence on children's lives, since better sleep improves health and school performance, King says. Twenty Nairobi Rotarians mobilized for the five-day delivery mission in February, serving the town of Naro Moru at the base of Mount Kenya and other villages, including in the Maasai Mara region. "The heat couldn't keep the team from visiting the villages and interacting with the families," says King.

- **47%-Share of urban populations in Europe interested in basketball**
- **9-12 hours-Recommended amount of sleep for children ages 6 to 12**



### Ethiopia

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With the wind at their backs, members of the **Rotary Fellowship of Kites** and its founder, Henock Alemayehu, gathered for a day of kite making and flying with 250 children, many of them displaced by conflict among the more than 80

ethnic groups in Ethiopia. The children and volunteers converged on the grounds of an elementary school in Quiha, in the northern Tigray region, for the Ashengoda Kite Festival on 9 June. "The simplicity of this activity carried profound significance, offering a rare moment of peace and joy for these children," says Alemayehu, a member of the Rotary Club of Addis Ababa Central-Mella. The kite fellowship, which has more than 100 members from 12 countries, is "creating lasting change through the simple yet powerful act of kite flying," says Alemayehu.

This story originally appeared in the November 2024 issue of *Rotary* magazine.

## District News

**Rotary Foundation Seminar 2024**  
 Registration: Rs 500/- including HIGH TEA  
 SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2024  
 TIME: 2 PM - 6 PM  
 The International Management Institute  
 24/C, Judges Court Rd, Rajaraj, Kulkarna, West Bengal 700027

**Rotary Club of New Ballygunge**  
 Rotary International District 3291  
 District Interact Council  
 presents  
**অমল শৈশব (Amol Shoishab)**  
 A CONCLAVE & PANEL DISCUSSION  
 "CHILD SAFETY FIRST"  
 A Dialogue on PCCSO, Child Rights & Child Protection  
 on Saturday, 30th November 2024 from 2 pm to 6 pm  
 at Kulkarna, Kulkarna (Streetment of Rajarajah Road)  
 Requesting other Rotary Clubs to join  
 For details, Contact: [Amol.Shishab@rotary.org](mailto:Amol.Shishab@rotary.org)

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# CLUB NEWS

## *Thalassaemia Free India Campaign with Sunidhi Chauhan*



On behalf of my club Rotary Club Of Calcutta Metro City and Rotary International District 3291 I had the privilege of launching the Thalassaemia Free India campaign, Bengaluru chapter at the Leela Hotel, Bharatiya City Mall with India's hot shot singer Sunidhi Chauhan. She has now joined as Thalassaemia Free India brand ambassador.. she spoke about the campaign to leading media houses who were at the Press Meet including Bengaluru Times, Deccan Chronicle, New Indian Express and Red FM. She expressed her gratitude to our club for roping her in the cause.

## *Thalassaemia Treatment Support*



As part of Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City's Project Thalassaemia, the club donated Rs 50,000 to Thalassaemia Society of India for procuring medicines and transfusion implements for the underprivileged patients. M/s Ramawatar Trust made the donation on behalf of our club on 3rd November 2024.

The club was represented by President Sunando Sen, PP Rtns Subhojit Roy, Arindam Ghosh and Dipu Mullick (also the Club Secretary) and Smt Anita Shankar our guest from USA.

This is part of the Club's National campaign Thalassaemia Free India.

## Greetings

*Happy Birthday to PP Rtn Dipu Mullick for 24th November*



Edited & Published by PP Rtn Subhojit Roy

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