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Rotary doctor clears plastic from Ghanaian hospital grounds

Posted on February 7, 2024 by Dr Ralf Hardenberg, a member of Rotary Club of Nuremberg-Connect, Germany



Volunteers and Ralf Hardenberg (far right) with some of the collected plastic waste.

As a just-retired physician, I was excited to volunteer for a medical project at a hospital in Nkawkaw, Ghana. While I was there, I saw plastic everywhere. Thousands of black disposable plastic bags, small plastic water sachets, plastic bottles – even littering the hospital grounds. As a member of the Rotary Club of Nuremberg-Connect, which is involved in the EndPlasticSoup initiative, I am an ambassador for the initiative. I really wanted to change the situation.

EndPlasticSoup is a global initiative supported by thousands of Rotary members and hundreds of Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact clubs around the world. Plastic never goes away. It just gets smaller. Microplastics pose a threat to human health, biodiversity, and the climate. Through the initiative, clubs are working together to address and prevent the full-cycle problem of plastic pollution.

Plastic has been a problem in Ghana since the 1980s. Plastics have begun to dominate not only the landscape, but also villages and towns. They clog sewers and cause flooding before being washed into rivers, lakes and the sea. When I learned about the problems this waste was causing in nature, I suggested that we start a cleanup competition. EndPlasticSoup supported this idea. Holy Family Hospital is a former mission hospital that includes St. Michaels Church and convent. Everyone wanted to take part, including the Reverend, maintenance staff, the sisters, and

nuns from the convent. We bought T-shirts with the EndPlasticSoup logo. Everyone looked great in the T-shirts and red gloves.



Volunteers bag up the plastic waste during an hour of cleanup on the hospital grounds.

Then off they went, into the bushes and everywhere. The biggest success was in the nuns' garden. In total, 15.9 kilograms of pure plastic was collected, not including bottles. The collected plastic was carefully weighed and documented. After about an hour of collecting waste, the hospital grounds were clean.

The winners of the cleanup competition were awarded certificates and other prizes. The plastic was carefully packed up, and a company was contacted to purchase the material for recycling. At the big farewell party before I left Ghana, they promised to carry out regular cleanup events – next time including the hospital's immediate surroundings as well. The movement aims to influence the city of Nkawkaw as a whole.

We meet calendar months' 2nd & 4th Saturdays at GPT Group, JC 25, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700098 at 6.00 PM

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Rotary History and Anecdotes

Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – *across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.*

Rotary International is a global service organization whose stated human rights purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to *provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and to advance goodwill and peace around the world.*

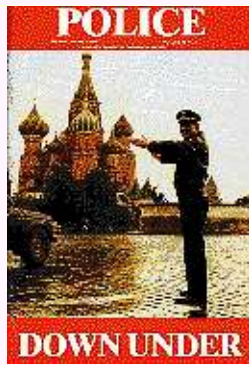
Over last 118 years, Rotary, like other surviving institutions, has changed itself to remain inclusive and contemporary *without compromising its dynamism and relevance.*

In this section, the editorial team of Spectrum, so far, has touched upon and shared the different anecdotes of Rotary each week during the current Rotary year:

Rotary Historians and their remarkable roles

The Smiling Cop and Traffic Control

Sergeant Geoffrey Little of COPS* has controlled traffic all around the world, promoting better relations between Police and the community. * Computerized Operational Policing System – the Police Service Unit where Sergeant Little participated in and performed duties during the introduction of computerization to the New South Wales Police Service. – Article published in the Police Service Weekly.



He has visited many cities in the world promoting the Fellowship and Rotary's 'Peace City' Project of Wagga Wagga. To encourage press coverage, Sergeant Little goes on traffic control duty with local Police. He has controlled traffic in London, Delhi, Agra, Jerusalem, Manila, Bangkok, Singapore, Hong Kong, Honolulu, Belfast and Moscow. In Moscow, he promoted a project for 'Russia's Forgotten Children' (Rotary Club of Hurstville – Australia), which helps young people through donations of clothing, toys, medical supplies and vocational training. In Belfast, he assisted with a project titled 'Towards a Better Understanding' (TABU), which is being promoted by the Rotary Club of Belfast.

“The Smiling Policeman” Sergeant Geoffrey Little directing traffic in Red Square, Moscow/>

The Smiling Policeman in the USA



The Smiling Policeman doing his 'thing' at the Monument Roundabout, City of Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. June 1998.

Sergeant Little is interested, as part of his traditional program around the world, to engage in a traffic control exercise in the host city or town being visited. Friends from the Indianapolis Police Department and Lieutenant Tim Horty did a great job in marshalling television and media coverage backed up by a contingent of uniformed Police from the Traffic Branch and Bicycle Unit. The Monument is the centerpiece of the City of Indianapolis standing 95 meters high and is a memorial to those who have served in America's Armed forces since Indiana became a State back in 1816.



Pictured with Deputy Mayor the Hon John R. Hall and Lieutenant Timothy J Halligan, North District, Indianapolis Police Department, on the occasion of being presented the "Key to the City" and made an Honorary Citizen of the City of Indianapolis.

My second host for my stay in Indianapolis was Lieutenant Timothy J. Halligan and his dear family. Tim is Administrative Assistant to North District and through whose 'good officers' I was able to see Policing in Indianapolis from the 'ground up'. I accompanied my new friend on a number of errands and a friendly lunch, later going on a memorable visit to the Indianapolis 500 Museum. We visited the Indianapolis Police Training Academy where I met Academy Commander Major John Bent.



Left to right. Sergeant Pete Mungovan of the chief's Office, Detective Gregg Arkins, Police Chief Michael Zunk and Lieutenant Tim Horty of Media Relations, Indianapolis Police Dept – on the occasion of the appointment of Geoffrey Little as an Honorary Deputy Chief of the Indianapolis Police Department.

Note – Geoffrey is a financial member of Rotary Global History Fellowship and has facilitated in establishing RGHF

Headquarters for the 2012 Bangkok World Rotary Convention.

He is Past President and Member of the Rotary Club of North Sydney Sunrise D9680

His latest international initiative on behalf of his friends and associates in the Law Enforcement profession is a collaboration between Polefor and “Philippine Rotary Watch”, a program, initiated in 1999 by the Rotary Club of Makati Forbes Park D3830, under the Chairmanship of Rotarian Albert Garcia, in concert with the Makati Police Department, and latterly the Philippine National Police (PNP). Geoffrey says enthusiastically; “Rotary Watch is a world beating Community Based Policing initiative which is unprecedented, and like never before, represents a potential template International Programme designed and initiated out of the Philippines to encourage and foster cooperation between the Rotarians of the Philippines and the communities they serve, with the enthusiastic support and involvement of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

After forty years, Past President Geoffrey (RC’s East Sydney D9750 and RC North Sydney Sunrise D9680) retired from the New South Wales Police in 2001, and recognising you can’t keep a good man down, served in all facets of the Private Security Industry, complementing his former very active Police career as a Master Licence holder, Security Risk Management Consultant and Workplace Trainer and Assessor – and in PP Geoffrey’s third career move, he currently serves as a full time casual Officer within the Court Security Unit (CSU) of the Department of Corrective Services.

Disclosure

The Rotary Global History Fellowship (RGHF) is a group of Rotarians dedicated to building a global community of Rotarians, Rotaractors, other Rotary International approved groups, and others interested in the history of Rotary to exchange ideas, provide learning opportunities and build friendship online through its website www.rghf.org. This fellowship operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International. (Statement per November 2021 RI Board of Directors Meetin

Rotary History and Anecdotes to be continued...

New peace center in Turkey



Istanbul, home to the newest Rotary Peace Center, has been a crossroads of cultures since antiquity. Image credit: Ozgur Donmaz/Getty Images

Rotary clubs and districts have begun recruiting candidates for the next class of Rotary Peace Fellows, including for the newest Rotary Peace Center at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, Turkey. The center was made possible by a US\$15.5 million pledge from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation and approved by Rotary Foundation Trustees in early 2023. The new center will offer experienced peacebuilders the opportunity to complete a one-year professional development certificate program, earning postgraduate diplomas in peace and development studies.



*With campuses and offices in more than 10 countries, and more than 7,000 international students in Istanbul alone, Bahçeşehir University promotes a global focus.
Courtesy of Bahçeşehir University*

Upcoming Matiraksha Camps

- On February 11, 2024 at Spandan in association with RCC Manab Seba Samiti, Nadia
- On February 18, 2024 at and with support of Ramkrishna Mission Ashram, Nimpith, 24 Parganas (S)



Dr Bimalendu Sen on February 6, 2024



Spouse Dr Nandita & PP Dr Ankush Bansal on Jan 28, 2024
Spouse Rahul & Rtn Meenal Chaudhary on Jan 29, 2024
Spouse Dr Suranjan & Dr Saktirupa Chakraborty on Feb 5, 2024
Spouse Krishna & Prez Kusum Chamaria on Feb 24, 2024
Spouse Rani & PP BL Ajitsaria on February 28, 2024

February is Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month.

March is Water and Sanitation Month.

TAILPIECE

From Service Project to Friendship: A Heartwarming Friendship Exchange Journey from the United States to Croatia

Posted on February 8, 2024 by Linda Olson, member of the
Rotary Club of Waunakee, Wisconsin, United States



Changing their lives forever, a group of 11 Rotarians, friends, and spouses from throughout District 6250 in the United States traveled in September 2023 to District 1913 in Croatia for an unforgettable Rotary Friendship Exchange adventure. This exchange was the culmination of relationships formed between the two districts when they executed a global grant sponsored by the Rotary Club of Beloit (Wisconsin, United States), which increased the digital literacy of school children in Croatia.

Arriving in Zagreb, the charming capital of Croatia, the group was greeted by Danijel Jozic, the Croatian Rotary Friendship Exchange leader, and local host families. What followed were incredible days filled with food, wine, fun, and fellowship. Zagreb, with its rich history of foreign invasions, earthquakes, and wars, was reflected in the resiliency of the people, diverse cuisine, and rich culture. Like most Rotary Friendship Exchange trips, District 6250 Rotarians stayed with Rotarian home hosts, and the daily activities were organized and led by local Rotarians.

The Zagreb activities included a visit to a local school where the Beloit Rotary digital literacy global grant was changing lives. Grant funding provides microprocessors, software, and training to schools throughout Croatia via the non-governmental organization "Croatia Makers". The children are being introduced to computer coding, critical thinking skills, and practical applications at a very young age. The Rotary Friendship Exchange group saw 2nd-grade children demonstrate their newly-acquired skills- all while explaining what they were doing in English, their second language!



After four days in Zagreb, the Rotary Friendship Exchange group boarded a bus and traveled five hours southwest for a three-day stay in the vicinity of Split, which is located on the Adriatic coast of Croatia. Stops along the way included Plitvice National Park and its spectacular waterfalls, and a tour of the birthplace of Nikola Tesla (the man, not the car).

Split and the Adriatic offered an entirely different backdrop filled with coastal views, rugged mountains, seafood, and, of course, more wine. Daily excursions included the Krka National Park, Roman ruins, meetings with local Rotarians, and a wine-tasting fundraiser. A highlight was a full day spent on a boat touring the islands off the coast, eating seafood (including squid potato salad and mussels), sipping wine, swimming, snorkeling, and conversations with Rotarians from the United States, Croatia, and beyond.



Saying goodbye to Split, the group returned to enjoy Zagreb for the final two days of its Rotary Friendship Exchange adventure. Rotarians attended a Blues, Burgers & Beer fundraiser, dancing until the bands stopped playing well after midnight. The abilities of the U.S. Rotarians for consuming beer and polka-dancing were on full display. The final day in Croatia included a car trip into the nearby countryside, a visit to the Museum of Neanderthals (fossils of which were discovered on the site), a tour of a car museum, and a farm-to-table al fresco feast at an agri-tourism establishment.



Exhausted but sad to leave, the Rotary Friendship Exchange team departed knowing that their newly formed friendships with Croatian Rotarians and with each other will be renewed when the Croatian Rotary Friendship Exchange team visits Wisconsin in the United States in September 2024. The sights, sounds, and flavors of Croatia were a delight. But it was the one-on-one conversations with our Croatian counterparts that left the most impactful impressions. Our shared hopes to make the world a better, more peaceful place are universal. And through Rotary, we are in a position to do just that.