



Spectrum



RI District 3291

August 31, 2025

Semimonthly bulletin of Rotary Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata

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President □ Dr. Saktirupa Chakraborty

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CLUB NEWS I

Past Honorary member no more: Club's tribute



RCSLMK's past Honorary member and Major Donor and Chairperson of GPT Group, Dwarika Prasad Tantia (DP) died on August 17, 2025.

Born at Bidasar, Rajasthan as the second son of Late Gowardhan Prasad (GP) and Savitri Devi, DP had had his schooling and UG studies in Calcutta respectively at Shri Jain Vidyalaya and Umeash Chandra College. Incidentally, GP was one among the charter members of the Rotary club of East Calcutta that later sponsored RCSLMK, among many other Rotary clubs.

While pursuing studies, DP had his internship in business, the GPT Group, engaged in Infrastructure and Concrete Casting. DP later promoted ILS Hospital under GPT Healthcare.

DP was a member of Consular Crops of Kolkata and he was the honorary Consul for Ghana in Kolkata

DP's participation in philanthropic activities included, among others, setting up a sports

complex in Bidasar, Rajasthan; Burning Ghat in Kolkata; Mahavir Viklang Kendra for the handicapped; Mukti School for tribal children in Joka; Augmenting building and infrastructure of the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) at Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Muluk; Gowshslas in Pinjarapole and in Bidasar.

As chairperson of GPT Group he steered the group companies' growth. He also shaped up future leaders.

President and members of RCSLMK deeply mourn the sad demise of the past member, who steered many of RCSLMK's service projects.

The editorial team of Spectrum wish the noble soul of DP attain peace and tranquility in eternity. Let the bereaved family of DP have the strength and courage to recover from the loss.

CLUB NEWS II

Dr Aruna speaks at ESRAG webinar

On August 13, 2025, PP Dr Aruna Tantia of RCSLMK was the Guest Speaker at the weekly webinar of Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG), where she talked on necessity of growth of mangroves for global sustenance of shores of seas and delta regions.

It was a nice interactive session with 30 people participating from across the world. Club President Dr Saktirupa Chakraborty, club Secretary Ajit Majumdar, Club's Zonal Assistant Governor Dipak Mitra were, among others, who had joined along with Ambaree Majumder from Rotary Marina City, Singapore, and Sam Hancock from the USA. Amboree was club's 19 July Guest speaker.

In the webinar PP Dr Aruna shared club's International project history and its grant application for planting and growth of mangroves in south Bengal's delta region.

After the webinar PP Dr Aruna is hopeful of identifying International partners for club's upcoming GG project.

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CLUB EVENT I

“Matri Raksha”: The 73rd Fighting Anemia Camp of RCSLMK held on August 24, 2025 at Shree Nimbark Gouseva Trust, Naopara



On Sunday, August 2025 the Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata successfully held the 73rd Matri Raksha Camp at Naopara, Madanpur, in association Shree Nimbark Gouseva Trust at Naopara, Madanpur, Madhyamgram. The camp also included many helpful health programs, ensuring comprehensive healthcare services for the community.

A total of 160 patients registered including men and women, where 55 women were screened for hemoglobin levels by our trained technical team under Matri Raksha camp. All women were thoroughly examined and counselled by gynecologists that included Dr. Debasmitta Mukhopadhyay and RCSLMK President Dr. Saktirupa Chakraborty. Free medicines were distributed including iron tablets (for 2–3 months' use) and deworming tablets.



Women were further guided by RCSLMK member Dr. Sougata Manna, physiotherapist, who demonstrated simple exercises for managing knee and back pain and advised calcium supplementation as needed.

Data analysis revealed 44 women (80%) had hemoglobin levels below 12 gm/dl. with 26 (47.2%) categorized as having severe anemia ($\leq 10\text{gm/dl}$).



Additional Support:

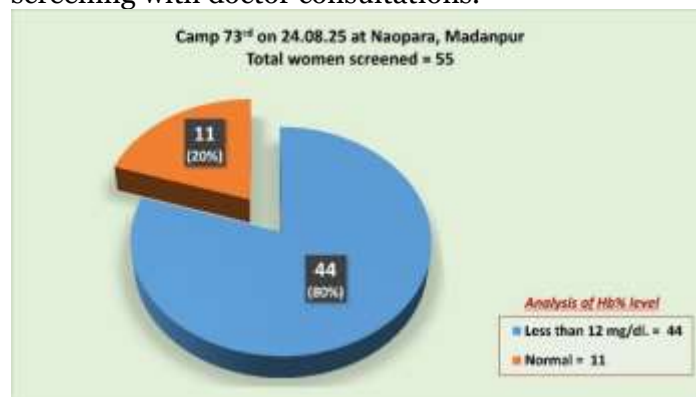
The camp offered multispecialty health services, including eye check-ups and doctor consultations for all patients including women & men.

Eye Screening:

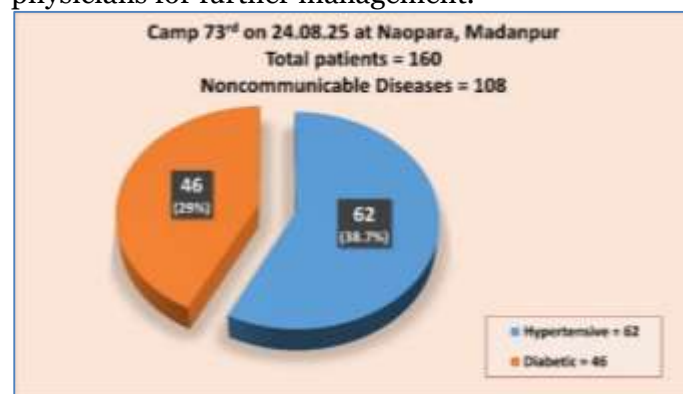
The Eye Screening Camp held with support of Susrut Eye Foundation & Research, had 100 patients. Among them, 98 were detected with vision defects and advised to use spectacles, while 2 patients were diagnosed with cataracts and referred for IOL surgery.

Project Know Your Numbers:

All patients underwent blood pressure and sugar screening with doctor consultations.



As per data analysis the camp, 46 patients (29%) were diagnosed with diabetes (DM) and 62 patients (38.7%) were found hypertensive (HTN) and referred to physicians for further management.



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| IMPACT OF THE 73 RD MATRI RAKSHA CAMP | |
|--|---------------|
| Breakup of category of patients treated | |
| TOTAL NO | 160 no |
| Hypertension detected | 62 no (38.7%) |
| Diabetes Detected | 46 no(29.0%) |
| Matriraksha: Anemia Screening | 55 no Women |
| Anemia detected | 44 no (80.0%) |
| Eye Screening | 100 no |
| Vision defect | 98 no (98.0%) |
| Cataract Defect | 2 no (2.0%) |



Food Distribution:

Meals for each beneficiary and needy were sponsored and offered by Ms Archana Kumar in memory of her son Late Ashutosh Kumar, USA.

CLUB EVENT II

RCSLMK & Rotary Calcutta Victoria hold Cervical Cancer awareness and vaccination



Rotary club of Salt Lake metropolitan and Rotary club of Calcutta Victoria jointly organized awareness & Cervical cancer vaccination of 120 girls of the school within Victoria Institution on August 28, 2025. This program was held in association with Bengal Obstetric & Gynecological Society.



PP Dr Chitra Ray, IPP Sunil Singhi and club member Dr Saugato manna represented RCCLMK.



CLUB EVENT III

3rd Mega Health Camp with 72nd Matri Raksha Camp on 10 Aug 2025

A Mega Health Camp was organized by Simla sporting club and Rotary club of Salt Lake Metropolitan for local community. Free health awareness, Expert consultation in Eye, Cardiac & Gynecology done along with free Anemia testing, blood sugar monitoring, hypertension, cataract screening, weight and free Electro cardiogram was done for a total 160 patients. Matri Raksha: 90 beneficiaries; Eye screening: 80 beneficiaries; General health checkup: 70 beneficiaries; Cardiac ECG: 38 beneficiaries. Cataract detected: 12 patients; Know your number: 160 beneficiaries.

Free Iron supplement for women with anemia and calcium and deworming medicines were given to each beneficiary. Local organizers felicitated doctors – President Dr Saktirupa, Dr Debasmita, PP Dr Aruna & General physician.

One lady was distraught about her fibroid in uterus. Her worry was put to rest.

Another lady had very high sugar detected for first time. She complained of dim vision. Her timely detection will now prevent vision blindness.

CLUB'S UPCOMING EVENT

The seventy-fourth Matri-raksha camp for fighting anemia in women is being held today at Baranagar.

CLUB NEWS

Club receives fund for cervical cancer vaccination

RCCLMK till date has received fund enough for 200 cervical cancer vaccinations. The fund shall be utilized in upcoming awareness and vaccination programs.

UPCOMING DISTRICT PROGRAM

Membership seminar of Rotary District 3291 shall be held today at Rotary Sadan.

RI ANNOUNCEMENT I

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola selected to be 2026-27 RI president



Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria, has been selected by the Board of Directors to become Rotary International's president for 2026-27. His term will begin on 1 July 2026.

The Board, guided by the RI code of policies, conducted a special session to select the organization's leader after the resignation of RI President-elect SangKoo Yun, who decided to step back from his Rotary responsibilities and focus on his recovery from recent cancer treatment.

Babalola began his Rotary journey in 1988 as a Rotaractor. He joined the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi six years later. His leadership roles include serving as district governor (2011-12), RI vice president (2019-20), and member of the RI Board (2018-20). He was also an active leader and participant in RI committees such as the End Polio Now Countdown to History Campaign Committee (2017-23) and the Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee (2013-present, adviser 2016-present).

An attorney, Babalola received a university degree in engineering in 1988. He has worked for 25 years in the oil and gas industry, holding senior positions in Shell PLC and carrying out projects on four continents. He is the founder of two companies: Riviera Services Ltd., an oil and gas infrastructure delivery company, and Lead and Change Consulting, an executive coaching and organizational performance advisory group.

Babalola's professional affiliations include the Nigerian Society of Engineers, the Institute of Safety Professionals, and the Association of Change Management Practitioners. He is a member of Jericho Business Club, an organization in his home city that provides input to governments on economic and social policy.

Babalola and his wife, Preba, live in the city of Port Harcourt. He supports The Rotary Foundation with a named endowment and as an Arch Klumph Society member. A trustee of ShelterBox UK and director of the Safe Blood Africa project, he is a recipient of the

Africa Centennial Heroes Award, the Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World, the RI Service Above Self Award, and The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service.

The president of Rotary International serves a one-year term, presiding over the Board of Directors and providing inspirational leadership for the organization. As the spokesperson for the global network, the president visits clubs around the world to promote Rotary's values and represent the organization at major events. Rotary chooses its president from members who have demonstrated extensive leadership experience within Rotary, including service as a club president, district governor, and member of the Board.

—28 August 2025

RI ANNOUNCEMENT II

Dubai selected as site for the 2027 Rotary International Convention

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, has tentatively been selected to host the 2027 Rotary International Convention, 22 -26 May. This will be the first convention in the Middle East.

The Rotary International Board selected Dubai for its strong proposal, accessibility, ability to host a convention of this size, and the opportunity to grow Rotary in the region.

Dubai's selection remains tentative until the 2027 Convention Committee convenes in the host city in November to verify that the conditions for confirmation have been met. The Board will issue final approval at its January 2026 meeting.

27-Aug-2025

RI ANNOUNCEMENT III

A record-breaking year for Rotaract giving

Congratulations to the 1,036 Rotaract clubs that earned the 2024-25 Rotaract Giving Certificate!

This recognition celebrates clubs whose members contributed US\$100 or more to The Rotary Foundation during the Rotary year. Each club will receive a certificate signed by 2024-25 Foundation Trustee Chair Mark Daniel Maloney.

This year's contributions from Rotaract clubs totaled US\$506,696 an increase of 29.4% from last year's total of US\$391,558, reflecting the growing impact and dedication of Rotaractors. The number of clubs that earned the certificate reached 1,036 clubs, surpassing last year's record of 882 clubs.

Rotaract clubs who have earned the Rotaract Giving Certificate over the past 5 years have contributed more than US\$1.3 million to The Rotary Foundation, helping make global grants possible and funding meaningful, sustainable projects.

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Thank you, Rotaract club members. Your generosity is creating lasting change in communities around the globe, and your commitment to Rotary empowers us all to continue Doing Good in the World.

26-Aug-2025

RI ANNOUNCEMENT IV

SangKoo Yun resigns as 2026-27 Rotary International President

Message from President Francesco Arezzo



Dear Rotary Members,

As you may recall, last April, President-elect SangKoo Yun informed us all of his diagnosis of pancreatic cancer and his decision to step back from Rotary responsibilities so he could focus on his treatment. Today, President-elect SangKoo notified me in a letter that he has decided to resign as President-elect of Rotary International after extensive consultation with his doctors. In his message, he shared the following sentiments:



SangKoo Yun alongside his wife Eunsun Yang Yun

“My doctors have advised that it may not be possible for me to meet the demanding travel and schedule required of our President. As much as I wish to serve in this role, I must honor that advice.”

“It has been a tremendous honor and pleasure to be given the opportunity to lead our organization. I will continue to serve however I can, and my love for Rotary and my commitment to our mission remains unshaken.”

On behalf of the Rotary International Board and with a heavy heart, I accepted SangKoo’s resignation. While it is a difficult decision, we deeply appreciate SangKoo’s thoughtful consideration and his focus on the best interest of Rotary.

The Board will convene soon to determine next steps. We will keep you updated on any further developments.

I want to thank SangKoo for his tremendous service, leadership and contributions to our organization. Please join me in wishing him a swift recovery and good health in the future.

With warm regards,

Francesco Arezzo

President, Rotary International, 2025-26

11-Aug-2025

ROTARY STORY OF THE FORTNIGHT I Folding 1,000 cranes and finding Rotary in every fold

**28 August 2025 by Marcelo Goberto de
Azevedo, Rotary Club de Marília Leste, Brazil**



Each crane became a symbol – not just of hope, but of Rotary’s values: peace, health, service, and resilience.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the world slowed down. But inside my home, something unexpected began to take shape – one fold at a time.

I have been a proud Rotary member since 2013. During the long months of lockdown, I found myself looking for a way to stay connected – with people, with purpose, and with hope. That’s when the idea of folding one thousand origami cranes came to me.

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In Japanese tradition, a Senbazuru – folding 1,000 paper cranes – is believed to grant a heartfelt wish. My wish? For healing, for peace, and for the world to recover from the pandemic. So, I picked up a square of paper and started folding.

A crane a day, a message of hope

I folded one crane each day and photographed it with my phone. No fancy equipment. No studio lighting. Just paper, purpose, and a quiet moment of reflection. Each crane became a symbol – not just of my hope, but of Rotary's values: peace, health, service, and resilience. As the days turned into weeks, and the weeks into years, the project became a form of meditation and activism. A way to say: we are still here, we still care, and we still serve.

Rotary was in every fold

Rotary has always been a part of my life. The friendships, the commitment to ethics, the idea that small actions can lead to big change – these are not just words. They are values I've lived by since joining my club in 2013.

This project reminded me why I joined Rotary in the first place. Even isolated at home, I felt part of something bigger – part of a global network of people who act with purpose and compassion. That's the Rotary spirit.

The book and its purpose

After nearly three years, I completed all 1,000 cranes. I compiled the photographs into a book: **1000 Tsurus for Peace**. Each page shows a different crane and a different moment – some bright, some solemn, but all meaningful.

You can find the book on Amazon, and here's the most important part: 100% of the profits go to The Rotary Foundation – specifically to support the End Polio Now campaign. Every purchase helps fund Rotary's historic effort to eradicate polio and promote peace worldwide.

A call to action

I never imagined that a piece of folded paper could carry so much meaning. But that's the magic of intention and the power of Rotary.

I hope my story inspires you to find your own creative way to serve. Fold something. Build something. Share something. And above all, believe that small gestures can have a huge impact.

What simple act has helped you stay connected to Rotary during difficult times? Share them in the comments section below.

ROTARY STORY OF THE FORTNIGHT II

How corporate clubs spark community and collaboration

26 August 2025 by Haresh L Ramchandani, 2024-25 RI Membership Growth Committee Chair



Haresh Ramchandani and his wife, Vandana.

I often find myself saying, "The world today is so different from the world I grew up in." It's a moment of self-reflection, a way to analyze just how much has changed – and I know I'm not the only one feeling this way. If we, as individuals, tend to approach introspection almost instinctively, I can only imagine how larger organizations do the same.

This ongoing drive to evolve for the betterment of the company I work for has led me to explore the intriguing concept of a corporate Rotary Club. This initiative brings the world's largest service organization right into the core of the business world, especially at a time when buzzwords like Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Employee Engagement are at the forefront.

The corporate club model is a way for businesses to engage their employees in service projects and activities all within their own organizations. This concept not only aligns with contemporary corporate values, but can also enrich a company's culture, enhance its brand, and positively impact its bottom line. Here's why.

1. Purpose-driven employees are productive employees

In today's job market, it's clear that people want more than just a paycheck. They are seeking purpose, impact, and meaning in their work. A corporate Rotary club gives employees the chance to roll up their sleeves and get involved in service projects that truly make a difference, both locally and globally. Employees become active change makers instead of bystanders. This feeling of making a contribution fosters loyalty, job satisfaction, and a deeper emotional connection to their workplace. They're not just clocking in for a paycheck – they're part of something bigger.

2. Fellowship that goes beyond the water cooler

Rotary thrives on fellowship, and in a corporate setting, this translates into stronger relationships among colleagues. When employees team up outside their usual roles to build a playground or mentor

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underprivileged youth, they connect in genuine, meaningful ways.

This sense of camaraderie enhances team dynamics, breaks down barriers, and eases tensions. Suddenly, IT, HR, and Marketing aren't just departments – they're faces you know and friends you trust. It creates a sense of unity and shared purpose that even the best team-building retreats often struggle to achieve.

3. Professional development in real time

A corporate Rotary club acts as a leadership incubator. Each meeting, committee, and service project presents real chances for employees to lead, organize, speak, negotiate, raise funds, and collaborate.

These “soft skills” are becoming increasingly vital in today's business landscape. Rotary's structured roles – like club president, secretary, treasurer, or committee chair – provide hands-on leadership experiences that build confidence and competence in ways that no seminar can replicate.

4. Values that align with ESG and CSR goals

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) metrics have moved from the sidelines to the spotlight, capturing the attention of investors, regulators, and stakeholders alike. Rotary clubs naturally embody these values.

From climate action and peacebuilding to disease prevention, education, and economic development, Rotary's initiatives resonate deeply with corporate sustainability objectives. By establishing a corporate Rotary club, companies create a reliable and structured platform to activate and showcase their ESG commitments through tangible actions.

5. Stronger employer branding and public image

When companies launch Rotary clubs, they send a clear message to their employees, customers, investors, and the broader community that they genuinely practice Corporate Social Responsibility and are committed to making a difference.

In today's world of brand transparency, such initiatives don't go unnoticed. Media coverage, engaging social media stories, awards, and community recognition all contribute to enhancing a company's reputation as a purpose-driven entity.

6. Global network, local impact

Rotary opens the door to a vast global network of professionals, leaders, and change makers. By connecting with this network, corporate members tap into resources, partnerships, and insights that cross international boundaries.

7. Employee retention and recruitment

When employees feel like they're part of something bigger than themselves, they're much more likely to stick around. Corporate Rotary clubs provide that sense of community. Plus, companies that actively engage in service-oriented initiatives tend to attract more potential hires, especially younger generations who consider social impact when making career choices. Just picture a job interview where you can proudly say, “Yes, we have a Rotary club right here. Want to join?”

8. Bridging generations and hierarchies

One of the wonderful things about Rotary is its multi-generational aspect. In a corporate environment, this means younger employees can connect with experienced executives not just as their bosses, but as equals working together in service. This approach helps dismantle traditional power structures and encourages mentorship and mutual respect. Everyone has a seat at the table, a voice in the project, and a part to play in finding solutions.

Getting started is easier than you think

Launching a corporate Rotary club is a pretty straightforward process. Rotary districts and local clubs are eager to assist companies with the setup, chartering, and onboarding.

Companies can kick things off with a satellite club or even a hybrid model where employees join an existing club with flexible meeting options. The key is to keep it accessible, voluntary, and in line with both business objectives and employee interests.

In a world that craves deeper meaning and stronger connections, corporate Rotary clubs present a unique opportunity that benefits everyone involved. It goes beyond just volunteering; it's about fostering genuine transformation. It's about empowering employees to evolve into leaders, to forge real human connections, and to create meaningful, lasting change in their surroundings.

The annual presidential message for 2025-26, Unite for Good, strikes a chord in the business world. It's a rallying cry to blend business with service, purpose with performance, and impact with innovation.

Consider starting a Rotary club within your organization and watch the incredible transformations that follow.

About the author:

Haresh L. Ramchandani, a member of Rotary L.I.F.E., Jamaica, is a 2016-17 governor of Rotary District 7020, a member of the 2026 RI Taipei Convention Committee, and the Communications Action Plan Chair for Rotary Zones 33-34.

Birthdays of members in August & September

Archana Goyal on August 11, 2025

Priyanka Agarwal on August 21, 2025

Kusum Chamaria on August 23, 2025

Abhishes Dugar on August 30, 2025

**August is Membership and New Club
Development Month and
September is Basic Education and Literacy
Month**

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TAILPIECE

How the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards foster tomorrow's leaders—and why volunteers keep coming back

Posted on August 21, 2025 by Madeline Kaiser, Programs for Young Leaders staff, RI

A reflection on a RYLA experience in the United States



Rotary members and professional educators host the Missouri Multidistrict RYLA, a community service and leadership training program for approximately 100 high school students. The curriculum includes volunteerism, team building exercises, and an introduction to Rotary principles of Service Above Self and the Areas of Focus over four days in a residential setting. Rotary clubs in Districts 6040, 6060, and 6080 promote the event and sponsor the participants. 11 July 2022. Missouri, USA.

While RYLA may go by different names in some regions, any Rotary-sponsored leadership experience for young people falls under the RYLA umbrella.

A Unique Experience

I had the pleasure of attending four RYLA programs at camps across Wisconsin, USA, this past year. These RYLAs represented students from Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Like many RYLA programs in the U.S. and Canada designed for youth ages 14–18, they featured the classic elements of a residential summer camp—rustic cabins, shared meals in the dining hall, and evenings around the campfire singing songs.

But this was far more than just camp.

In just a few days, these students—already recognized for their leadership potential in their communities—began to step into that potential. Through profound conversations

After traveling from all corners of the Rotary district, the students arrive—bedding and suitcase in hand. They are unsure of themselves. Some don't know why they signed up, and many don't know a single person there. But they are met with smiles and enthusiastic greetings: “Hello! Welcome to RYLA! Where are you from?”

As volunteers check in the participants, warm welcomes echo across the camp, and the nerves begin to melt away. RYLA has begun.

What is RYLA?

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is a leadership development program for young leaders ages 14–30. Offered in over 100 countries, RYLA empowers young people to explore values, build confidence, and strengthen their commitment to service. Programs often include students from diverse backgrounds, sometimes international or exchange students fostering global awareness alongside local leadership.

about values, humanity, and self-awareness, they pushed the boundaries of deep connection—often going further than they had with friends back home.



Participants at the District 6440 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) weekend in East Troy, Wisconsin, USA.

They soared to new heights—literally—as they climbed high ropes courses and tackled team-building challenges on the low ropes. They participated in hands-on service activities. They discovered the power of vulnerability, the value of asking for help, and that leadership isn't about being the loudest voice in the room. Again and again, they stepped out of their comfort zones until it felt more natural to be themselves than to hold back.

It all culminated in a powerful moment of confidence and collaboration: a skit demonstrating their understanding of The Four-Way Test.

A Lasting Impact

With teary eyes and full hearts, students said goodbye—hugging their new friends and thanking adult leaders for their mentorship, patience, and belief in them. As another successful RYLA ended, the Rotary volunteers quietly reflected on the impact they had helped create.

When asked why they return year after year, the answers are humble but powerful:

“If I do one good deed each year, it's helping these students develop the leadership skills they take back to their communities.”

“This program is truly unique. The impact is immense. These students will never forget this.”

And they don't.

In every program I visited, I was struck by the long-lasting impact of RYLA. Alumni frequently return as staff, and volunteers continue coming back—some for decades—to “pay it forward” and ensure others have equally transformative, supportive, positive experiences.

“I haven't missed a RYLA in 34 years,” one volunteer told me. “This is the highlight of my whole year. It inspires me to be a better Rotarian, knowing the young leaders I meet go home and live out Rotary's values—making their communities, and our world, a better place.”

Why It Matters

RYLA offers more than a short leadership experience. It's a behind-the-scenes look at how students come together, push boundaries, embrace vulnerability, and emerge as stronger, more empathetic leaders.

Programs like this show how Rotary youth programs are fostering the next generation of ethical, community-centered change makers—and why that matters. They reinforce Rotary's commitment to youth leadership and character development, and they celebrate the dedication of Rotary members and volunteers who make it all possible.

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