



# New *Horizons*



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**President**

Rtn PD Shetty

**Secretary**

Rtn JP Rai

**Treasurer**

Rtn Vikramdatta

## **ROTARY INFORMATION**

A collaboration between Rotary and Heifer continues to produce big results, helping small farms provide healthier, locally-sourced food

In the fall of 2015, volunteers from Rotary and Heifer International came together to build hoop houses for a few farmers working small lots in Arkansas, USA. The afternoon outing was part of a larger project that is still reaping benefits four years later, supporting small-scale agriculture in the region and increasing access to locally-grown food.

Heifer has been using the small-scale agriculture model for decades to alleviate hunger and fight poverty around the world. The approach has the added benefits of being environmentally friendly and offering healthier food options.

That mission dovetails with Rotary's mission to grow local economies and improve health. So it's not surprising the two groups have teamed up on a number of occasions in the past 30 years to improve communities by helping families escape poverty. Several Heifer employees are or have been members of the Rotary Club of Little Rock, Arkansas, USA, the city where Heifer has its headquarters.

"Our values line up very well," says Ardyth Neill, a member of the Little Rock club and president of the Heifer Foundation. "With Rotary, it's Service Above Self and helping to serve others. Heifer has been working with farmers to be accountable, pass on their gifts, train other farmers, and work together in community. It's learning to share and care, basic things that work well together."

## Sustainability

In the United States and other developed nations, a lot of food production is controlled by large industrial operations, which produce cheaper food by focusing on a single crop and using specialized equipment to cut labor costs.

But according to research into sustainable agriculture, this food model has downsides, including a reliance on commercial fertilizers, heavy pesticides, and other chemicals that can harm the environment.

The trend has also contributed to the failure of smaller family farms, increasing the poverty rates in places like rural Arkansas.

Nationwide distribution networks have also resulted in food deserts in urban areas, particularly in the U.S., England, and Australia, where poor neighborhoods have little access to fresh produce and instead rely on less nutritious fast foods and packaged products.

Small-scale sustainable agriculture, on the other hand, tends to keep things local. The money you spend on food stays in your community and helps your neighbor. Farmers maximize land use by planting multiple crops that replenish the soil and reduce the need for fertilizers and pesticides.

And fruits and vegetables grown closer to home keep more of their nutrients.

Consumers are increasingly aware of these health benefits, fueling the market for local produce.

“There’s a phenomenon going on, really nationwide, about people becoming more and more concerned and thoughtful about where their food comes from,” says Sharon Vogelpohl, a past president of the Little Rock Rotary club and a volunteer on the project.

## Birthday and Marriage Anniversary

<b>Rtn KR Shetty</b>	<b>Ann Sowmya R Shetty</b>	<b>06<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Wedding Anniversary</b>
<b>Jon Shaman</b>	<b>S/O Rtn PD Shetty</b>	<b>08<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Birthday</b>

### Next Date to Remember

14<sup>th</sup> March – Medical Camp at Ullal

**Edited and published by Ann Anitha Ravishankar**

**Charter on June 09, 2008. Meets at KS Hegde Hospital Auditorium , Deralakatte on Monday at 6 p.m**