



# **ROTARY CLUB OF ORGAN DONATION**

Organ Donation stands as a critical and life-saving act that holds the power to dramatically transform the lives of individuals eagerly awaiting transplants and giving them a second chance at life. India's organ donation rate is dismal compared to many western nations; less than one person per 10 lakh population and every year approximately 5 lakh Indians succumb to organ failure due to lack of available organs.

Acknowledging the paramount importance of raising awareness regarding organ donation in India, The Rotary Club of Organ Donation, District 3234, was chartered on 10th June 2022. Today it is one of the leading cause-based Rotary clubs in India, dedicated to promoting organ donation through awareness, advocacy, and philanthropy.

We are an e-club and conduct all our meetings, online. Our members are globally dispersed, and anyone passionate about organ donation can join. Our membership primarily includes esteemed medical professionals, kidney donors, recipients, and those affected by organ failure and transplants, either directly or through loved ones.

# Although we are a young cut, we have already achieved several milestones, including

# 1.UNITING ROTARY FOR ORGAN DONATION

Members of our club have played a crucial role in uniting Rotary for organ donation by traveling around the world to spread this important message. These global road trips, undertaken by car and bicycle, have been instrumental in forming our club and securing funding for the Lift Up project. These journeys have also provided a platform to announce our club's ambitious goal: to create a world where NO ONE DIES WAITING FOR AN ORGAN.

This vision is pursued through a comprehensive strategy that involves visiting Rotary clubs worldwide to promote this vital cause. So far, our members have successfully reached over 1,000 Rotary clubs, more than 25,000 Rotarians, and traveled to over 70 countries, spreading the word about organ donation. This achievement demonstrates the power of collective effort, the importance of raising awareness, and the transformative impact of advocacy and philanthropy in driving positive change.



### 2.KNOWLEDGE & RESOURCE PARTNER FOR ROTARY CLUBS



Our club collaborates closely with the Rotary Action Group - Blood & Organ Donation India Chapter (RAG BOD India). As a cause-based organization, we possess extensive resources and a wealth of knowledge to support both Rotary clubs and other organizations in promoting organ donation awareness. We assist Rotary clubs by supplying resources such as speakers, posters, and printable materials for their projects and campaigns. Additionally, we serve as knowledge partners, helping to organize workshops, seminars, and rallies focused on raising awareness about organ donation.

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#### 3."A ROTARIAN'S GUIDE TO ORGAN DONATION"



Recognizing the widespread misinformation about organ donation and related laws, our club published a book to inform the public and unite Rotarians in this cause. While many Rotary clubs already engage in organ donation efforts, these are often scattered. This book aims to consolidate these efforts.

The book includes forewords by Rotary International Past President Rtn. Gordon McInally, RI Director Rtn. Raju Subramanian, and RI Director Rtn. Anirudha Roy Chowdhury. It was officially released on December 17, 2023, at the RISE Institute Conference in Bengaluru, marking a significant milestone in promoting organ donation awareness and reform in India.

#### **4.ADVOCACY**

Coming to our advocacy efforts, Rotarians from our club have achieved a significant breakthrough in 2023 with the filing of a Public Interest Litigation in the Supreme Court of India, advocating for the removal of major barriers to organ donation in India such as the mandatory requirement of domicile certificate, age cap of 65 years to register for cadaveric organ transplant and cancellation of the registration fees when registering for cadaver transplant.

This legal victory has spurred the formation of an action-oriented legal advocacy portal, one indiaonelaw.org, focusing on ensuring equal rights and access to organ transplants across the nation.



#### **5.VENKY YODA INTERACT CLUB**



Venky YODA, where YODA stands for Youth Organ Donation Awareness, is the world's first cause-based Interact club that raises awareness about organ donation amongst youth. It was installed on 5th October 2023 and currently has a membership of 90 dynamic students of Venkateshwar International School, NCR.

Director of Youth Services - RC Organ Donation is the Rotary mentor of this Interact Club who has been the driving force behind the formation of this club.

# **6.BHARATI YODA ROTARACT CLUB - PROPOSED**

The proposed Bharati Yoda Rotaract Club is an all-female Rotaract Club composed of students from Bharati University in New Delhi. These members are dedicated to advocating for organ donation. Director of Youth Services - RC Organ Donation serves as the club's mentor.

#### 7.SATELLITE ROTARY CLUB OF ORGAN DONATION - PROPOSED

The proposed Satellite Club of Organ Donation in the city of Ahmedabad, Gujarat, consists of members living in different cities of Gujarat who are closely associated with Red Cross Gujarat and who are selflessly involved in promotion of blood donation, eye donation and related activities. These members have now decided to dedicate themselves to advocating for organ donation along with blood and eye donation. With their level of experience and outreach, organ donation promotional activities in Gujarat are sure to see a sharp rise.

#### 8.TRF GLOBAL GRANT - LIFT UP PROJECT

The Life Increasing Funded Transplant for the Underprivileged (Lift Up) project is the first organ donation initiative to receive a global grant from The Rotary Foundation (TRF), showcasing Rotary's dedication to supporting organ donation efforts. This innovative project tackles the high costs of kidney transplants for individuals below and above the poverty line (BPL and APL), enabling low-income beneficiaries to undergo kidney transplant surgeries.

Thanks to the global grant from TRF and our International sponsor, Rotary Club of Osborne Park, Australia, seven economically disadvantaged women and children, who have compatible donors but lack funds for transplant surgery, will benefit from free renal transplants. The Lift Up project provides these seven beneficiaries not only with free renal transplant surgeries but also with free doctor consultations and follow-up tests and investigations for three years post-transplant.

To ensure the project's long-term sustainability, our club will also provide subsidized medication to the beneficiaries post-transplant.



#### 9.ORGAN DONATION CHAT BOT

Organ donation is a crucial, life-saving act for those awaiting transplants. To raise awareness, the Venky Yoda Interact Club, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Organ Donation, and the first cause-based Interact club in India, launched a Chat Bot on March 14, 2024, coinciding with World Kidney Day. This innovative Chat Bot engages citizens, professionals, and community leaders in meaningful conversations about organ donation.

The Chat Bot's objective is to educate Indians about organ donation in simple language, dispel myths, address misconceptions, and motivate registration as organ donors through information from NOTTO. It allows users to ask questions and receive real-time information, enhancing engagement.

Accessible via a QR code which can be displayed in various public spaces like hospitals, clinics, schools, colleges, and government offices, the Chat Bot is easy to use with a mobile phone. It is multilingual, available in nine Indian regional languages, ensuring broad accessibility and relevance.











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