



# Brochure

Issue 4 | October 2024 Rotary Club of Bharuch

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2025-26

# ASSISTANT GOVERNOR'S MEET



## President's Pen

Dear Rotarians,

October marks Rotary's focus on Community and Economic Development, a theme that speaks directly to the work our club undertakes throughout the year. At Rotary Club of Bharuch, we believe in empowering individuals with practical skills that open doors to economic independence and community growth. Our commitment to development goes beyond a single month—it is woven into the fabric of what we do.

One of our most impactful initiatives is our vocational training program, through which we provide courses in sewing, beauty parlour skills, and computer training. These fields were chosen based on local demand and the ability to create immediate employment opportunities. Our centers provide training to all who wish to gain expertise and improve their prospects, whether they're entering the workforce for the first time or looking to enhance their existing skills. By offering training in accessible, high-demand areas, we're helping individuals build viable careers and generate income, benefitting not only them but their families and the broader community.

This October, we conducted exams at our Angareshwar Center, where trainees from our vocational training programs demonstrated the



knowledge and skills they have acquired. The exams are a culmination of their hard work and a testament to their commitment to bettering their lives. For many, these exams mark the beginning of their journey toward financial independence, as they're now ready to apply their skills in meaningful ways.

The success of these trainees reaffirms our club's belief in the power of economic development at a grassroots level. Seeing

individuals move from training to employment highlights the vital role our programs play in fostering a self-sufficient and resilient community. The dedication of our members and the support from the Rotary family are what make these achievements possible.

As we celebrate Community and Economic Development Month, let's acknowledge the transformative impact of these initiatives and reaffirm our commitment to creating more opportunities for growth and learning. Together, we're building a future where every individual can pursue their aspirations and contribute to a thriving, sustainable community.

**- Rtn Rachana Poddar**  
President - 24-25  
RC Bharuch

## Assistant Governor Meet

Team RC Bharuch under the leadership of President Rachana Poddar proudly hosted Assistant Governor Meet 2025-26 at Amritsar during 18-19-20 October 2024.

From the planning to the execution, every detail was handled with precision and passion under the Chairmanship of PP Manish Poddar, Special thanks to our Masters of Ceremony – Rtn Bhavesh & Anju Hariyani, Rtn Rahul & Gunjan Mehta, and Rtn Akshar & Shruti Mehta – for managing the flow of the event so gracefully and Rtn Vipul Thakkar for managing backstage smoothly behind the scenes. We also acknowledge the support of PP Dhimant Shah and Sudha Shah as well as PP Ashwin Modi & Dr. Parul Modi.

RC Bharuch is grateful to DRRE Ruchit Mehta and Rtr Harsh Thakkar for the outstanding technical support that kept the event seamless. RC Bharuch is also thankful to everyone for their invaluable contributions and meeting the expectations set by DGE Amardeep Singh Bunet and Kamaljit Bunet.



Project at a Glance

**Aadhya Ambe Sheri Garba-2024** : RC Bharuch along with RCC, Interact, Rotaract Bharuch, Bharuch Femina, and Rotarect Bharuch Next, had organized an evening of devotion, celebration, and community spirit - Aadhya Ambe Sheri Garba-2024 at Hyatt Place, Bharuch. It was truly an unforgettable night packed with fun, food and fantastic dance moves.



**"Menstrual Hygiene" - Break the silence, End the Stigma** : Menstrual Hygiene and Awareness session was held at Shri Kusum Harnath Vinay Vidhyamandir, Nikora.

The session was focused on providing crucial information about menstrual health and hygiene practices to young students, fostering understanding and breaking down misconceptions related to menstruation. Over 120 students from classes 6 to 12 participated in the session. The session was led by Rtn Dr Pratiksha Mahida.

She engaged the students addressing key aspects such as :

- Menstrual cycle basics
- Importance of menstrual hygiene
- Safe practices for managing periods
- Busting myths and misconceptions
- Interactive Q&A.

To support the initiative, sanitary pads were distributed to all participants.



Project at a Glance



**Health is Wealth :** Healthy Nutritious Sukhadi was distributed to 340 resident students of the Gayatri school's hostel at Tavra. These children come from underprivileged backgrounds, and several have been identified as being at risk of malnutrition. Our initiative aimed to address this issue by providing a nutritious and traditional snack that is both energy-rich and wholesome.

This was an attempt and sustained effort towards improving the nutritional intake of these children. The smiles and gratitude from the students truly reflected the impact of this gesture. RC Bharuch extends heartfelt thanks to all the Rotarians who attended and supported this meaningful project.




**Chandi Padvo Celebration :** Chandi Padvo was celebrated at the Ginwalla Bungalow, Civil Lines, Bambakhana, Bharuch. The event brought together Rotary members, families, and friends for a memorable evening filled with fun, festivities, and community spirit. Attendees enjoyed the warmth of the celebration, as the event featured delightful music, delicious food, and moments of joy that truly captured the essence of the festival.

It was a wonderful occasion for everyone to come together and celebrate the blessings of Chandi Padvo.

RC Bharuch extends heartfelt thanks to PP Rtn Sarosh Ginwalla and Ann Piloo Ginwalla for the beautiful venue and appreciate the efforts of Rtn Vipul Thakkar and Rtn Zubin Jambusarwala for their coordination in making this event a grand success.





**100% Attendance**

Rtn Bhavesh Hariyani	Rtn Dr Amit Sethi
Rtn Gunjan Mehta	Rtn Manish Poddar
Rtn Zubin Jambusarwala	Rtn Sarosh Ginwalla

**Rotary Weekly Bonanza Winner**





## Art from the Heart

Rotary Club of Bharuch successfully organized the “Art from Heart” Rangoli Competition at PD Shroff Rotary Hall. Participants showcased creativity and cultural expression through beautiful and intricate Rangoli designs. Winners were recognized with certificates and prizes, while all participants received certificates of appreciation.

The event was a great success, fostering community spirit and artistic engagement. RC Bharuch highly appreciates Event Chair Rtn Dr Parul Modi and Co Chair Ann Alka Tambedia for its successful execution...



## Project at a Glance



**World Polio Day :** RC Bharuch has proudly released a hoarding at prominent location of Station Road Bharuch, to mark World Polio Day on 24th Oct., reaffirming our unwavering support for the global fight to end polio.

Together with Rotary International's End Polio Now campaign, RC Bharuch continues to raise awareness and contribute towards a polio-free world. Let's keep the momentum going until we reach every child and eradicate this disease once and for all."

**SAMARPAN - Clothes Distribution Drive :** Rotary Club Bharuch's continuous efforts to support those in need, RC Bharuch organised Old Clothes Donation Drive - Samarpan to help the underprivileged by distributing good quality wearable clothes at "Son Talavdi" slum area. RC Bharuch is thankful to everyone for contributing their wearable clothes with good condition, as every donation makes a difference.



**GURBANI PATH :** Members of RC Bharuch were invited by DGE Amardeep Singh Bunet and Kamaljit Bunet at Chaddar Sahib Gurdwara, Kasak for GURBANI PATH with the traditional Langar meal.

## Project at a Glance

**Light up smiles - This Diwali** : Rotary Club of Bharuch marked the auspicious occasion of Diwali with a heartwarming community service initiative by distributing nutritious food and crackers to children at different Aanganwadi schools of Bharuch. The children enjoyed a festive meal and the excitement of crackers. It reflected the true spirit of Diwali - Sharing and Caring.

- Santoshi Vasahat
- Nannumiya
- Janda Chowk
- Bharti Tokiz
- Khatri vad
- Narmada Apartment
- Kalrav School
- Limdi Chowk
- Kunbhariya Dhodav
- Kharwa Vad
- Elijan
- Vasant Mil ni Chal
- Nilkanth Zupadpatti
- Barhanpura
- Bhidbhanjan ni Khaadi
- Sadhna School
- Ali Matariya Talav
- Dandiya Bazar
- Lahori Godown
- Suthiya Pura
- Kasak Navi Nagri Golden Bridge

Distributed of nutritious food and crackers to the children, ensuring they will have a memorable Diwali filled with joy and excitement and witnessed countless smiles as we celebrated together, lighting up their day in the true spirit of Diwali. This was a beautiful reminder of the joy that comes from giving.





## Project at a Glance

**Diwali Tambola Night :** Rotary Family celebrated the festival of lights in style with an unforgettable evening of joy, music, games, and festive cheer at MIPRYC Lawns, Bharuch. This funfilled evening of live music, excited TAMBOLA GAME and Bumper prizes was followed by sumptuous Gala Dinner.



**JASHN - E DIWALI - Get together :** An evening filled with laughter, light, and festive fun was organized by Rotary Spouse family. RC Bharuch is grateful to Ann. Behroz Jambusarwla, Ann. Seja Shah, Ann. Manya Hariyani and Ann. Prexa Modi for organizing an unforgettable Diwali celebration. From vibrant decorations to joyous moments shared with friends, this gathering truly captured the essence of Diwali.



## Project at a Glance



**VOCALS for LOCALS :** RC Bharuch in association with Rotaract Club of Bharuch invited Dr. Roshni Dave as guest speaker in "Vocals for Locals" hosted by Rtr. Janvi Bhojwani along with weekly general meeting. The speaker shared glimpse of her hard work and success stories in this meeting.

**Visit to Women Empowerment Center :** RC Bharuch Visited Women Empowerment Center, where trainees are developing skills in sewing and beauty parlour services. During this visit, we had the privilege of meeting these dedicated women, each eager to learn and build a brighter future for themselves and their families. We spent time engaging with the trainees, discussing their progress, and encouraging them to continue on their journey towards self-reliance and empowerment. It was inspiring to witness their enthusiasm and commitment to learning new skills. These women are not only gaining practical knowledge but also confidence, which is equally vital in their path to independence.



**Reading - A habit to help your mind bloom :** To promote reading amongst children, library pouches were successfully donated at Kusum Harnath Vinay Vidhya Mandir, Nikora. This will encourage them to carry and protect their books, fostering a habit of reading both in school and at home.



## Project at a Glance

**Sewing Skill Examination :** Sewing Skills Examination was conducted at Women Empowerment Center, Angareshwar for the trainees enrolled in the sewing program. This evaluation aimed to assess their skills, progress, and readiness to apply their training towards meaningful opportunities. The trainees demonstrated remarkable commitment and skill, showcasing the techniques they have learned throughout their course. We are proud of their achievements and believe they are well on their way to utilizing these skills for financial independence and personal empowerment.



### Rotarian's pen

## “THE FINAL COUNTDOWN”

*The man who goes farthest is generally the one who is willing to DO and DARE.*

*Happy Diwali & Prosperous New Year to one and all.*

The Rotary Bulletin editor gave me one more chance to express my thought and this time on a subject I desire and hence I chose to speak my mind on my professional subject, much talked about, of late; the Indian Stock Market.

Post Covid-19 pandemic one thing which has shown significant and fast growth is the Indian Stock Index. India is divided in two extremes when it comes to the basic understanding of the Equity Market. Although miniscule, when compared with our total population, there is one community whose belief is deep and the participation is the highest in the equity market and on the other hand most of the Indians are ignorant on the same. Times are changing and changing fast, still we are far behind the levels of developed economies.

Developed nations of the world are finding difficulty in sustaining their track record of growth. There is also unrest and hostility in most parts of the world today. Understanding the global position visa-a-visa the position of our country, one can easily say that we are in a better condition. The



domestic consumption of India is its real strength today and many corporate from different parts of the world see India as a better a preferred designation for business and growth.

Before jumping you have to walk and run. The last leap is the most beneficial and fruitful. Coming to the heading of this write-up, I would like to say that Indian equity market has gathered the required steam, we are also in the transition phase of becoming a developed and leading economy and as I see we have a decade of steep uptrend before we catch a little breath, hence I found the heading apt. It is my deep desire that each one realizes the potential; participates and enjoy the sweet fruits.

Thanking the editorial team for this opportunity.

With good wishes.

Yours in Rotary,

**- Rtn. Zubin R. Jambusarwala**

# More than a year after two powerful earthquakes, Rotary's relief efforts remain for many a path out of the wreckage

By J P Swenson and Hannah Shaw

It was just past 4 a.m. when Ferit Binzet finally drifted off to sleep. All night, one of his cats meowed and paced through his apartment in the city of Adiyaman, in southeastern Turkey. It was, looking back, as if the unsettled animal knew something was different about this night.

At 4:17 a.m., Binzet knew it too.

Loud booms shook him and his wife awake. Their bathroom walls exploded into the hallway. The kitchen caved in. The building lurched side to side. Binzet cried out to God.

“Please don't take my soul.”

They ran from their crumbling home into a cold, heavy rainstorm, only to look back and see Binzet's brother, who was living with them at the time, staring out a window, unmoving. Waves of concrete rubble rolled through the streets. Buildings swayed and fell. Screams pierced the roar of rain smacking against pavement.

After 85 seconds of sheer terror, the earth stilled.

Binzet went back inside the ruined building. He slapped his brother out of his shocked daze. “We can't leave without the cats,” pleaded his wife, Mehtap Bostanci Binzet. They dug through the dust and debris, found their two cats, and left their home for what would be the last time.

## 'A cascade of ruptures' and a plan for relief

Turkey is known for its deadly earthquakes. The country sits at the junction of three major tectonic plates, with a fourth, smaller one squeezed between the others. (Scientists use the analogy of pinching a watermelon seed between your fingers and watching it squirt out.) Still, with a 7.8 magnitude, the quake, which occurred on 6 February 2023, was the strongest to hit the country in more than 80 years.

Its epicenter was near Kahramanmaraş in south central Turkey, near the border with Syria and about 75 miles from Adiyaman. What scientists called a “cascade of ruptures” tore along the East Anatolian Fault's clamped rocks in both directions for a staggering 190 miles in total, shifting the earth more than 26 feet in some places. Nine hours later, a second quake, similar in size at 7.5 magnitude, struck north of the city in what seismologists call a “doublet,” compounding the damage.



Millions of people were left homeless after earthquakes struck Turkey and Syria in February 2023.

Up to 9.1 million people were directly affected, according to some estimates. Between Turkey and Syria, the quakes left more than 50,000 people dead, over 100,000 injured, and several million homeless.

People felt the trembling far from the epicenter, including in Egypt, Greece, Armenia, and Iraq. The first quake awoke Emre Öztürk, then governor of Rotary District 2430, that morning at his home in Ankara, about 300 miles away. Within hours, he and the two other Turkish governors, Suat Baysan of District 2420 and Serdar Durusüt of District 2440, were on a video call to start mounting a response. “The first thing we did was turn on the TV and try to understand what happened,” Baysan says. “And we immediately realized the power of the earthquake.”

That same morning, they outlined a three-pronged plan that would grow into a multimillion-dollar global relief effort: fulfilling immediate emergency relief needs,

## R I News

providing shelter in the form of container cities, and meeting the long-term needs for everything from water treatment to kids' education.

Throughout the day, Öztürk, whose district encompasses the affected area, called the Rotary club presidents and district team members who live there. He learned that some Rotary friends were under the rubble. In the end, six Rotarians and Rotaractors died in the quake.

One of his calls was to Binzet, who was then the president of the Rotary Club of Adıyaman-Nemrut and would become a key contributor to relief efforts despite his own staggering personal losses, which he had only begun to tally.

### Loss and survival

A video journalist for Turkey's NTV news, Binzet recorded the aftermath on his cellphone as he and his family emerged from the wreckage. About three of every five buildings in his neighborhood had collapsed. Muffled cries emanated from the rubble: Save us. Rescue us. We can't breathe.

In the early afternoon, he and his brother went to check on their mother. They were especially concerned about her because she had Alzheimer's. The door was open. Her nurse had left, and they found her inside, confused. "I'm dizzy," she said. "What's happening?" The two urged her to leave, but in her confusion she did not seem to grasp the situation and refused. At 1:24 p.m. the second earthquake struck. Binzet ran outside as a nearby building crumbled. Binzet's brother jumped from a balcony just before the platform collapsed. (Their mother, still in the building, survived that second quake but has since died.)

Buildings weakened by the first earthquake were quickly consumed by the second. "It was like a horror movie," Binzet says. People were gathering personal items from their homes when the second earthquake hit. Others who had been trapped since morning by debris or, in some cases, by the steel gates on their doors were crushed in the afternoon. One of Binzet's cousins was rescued in the morning but died of a heart attack in the afternoon when a building collapsed near him.

In total, Binzet lost 41 relatives — an unimaginable toll. In time it would be felt especially hard during holidays

like Ramadan, when he used to visit 15 or 20 homes among his extended family. After the disaster, that once joyful promenade shrank to just two homes. In an interview more than a year later, he weeps at the thought, adding, "We don't have anybody here. All our relatives are gone."

But in those days after the quakes, he was focused on surviving. There was no food and no electricity. In desperation, people had emptied market shelves within hours. On that first cold night, everyone remained in the darkened streets, sleeping in any shelter they could find. Binzet and six others took turns sleeping in his brother-in-law's car.

While recording scenes on his camera, he wandered into a gym where it looked like people had taken shelter. He shot video of a dark room full of people under blankets. "Why are people lying on the floor?" he asked the security guard. "Those are dead bodies," the guard replied. Binzet fainted.

### Rotary mobilizes

As news spread of the devastation across southern Turkey, Rotary clubs in other parts of the country were desperate to do something. "There was a desire to send stuff immediately," Baysan says, "but if you do, is there anybody that will take it, distribute it, make sure it goes to the right people?" The day after the earthquakes, he, Öztürk, and Durusüt met with the clubs in their districts and outlined their developing plan.

They quickly set up help centers in six hard-hit cities. Assigned Rotary club members coordinated the centers, discovering residents' needs and relaying them so that donors could send the right supplies. Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact clubs in the three districts sent more than 200 trucks of emergency supplies, including food, water, generators, heaters, diapers, sanitary pads, fuel, toys, and body bags. "The whole Rotary family in Turkey acted as one," Öztürk says. "We used all of our power, all of our collaboration, to do something to create some relief for the earthquake victims."



Women work at a factory in Adıyaman opened by Districts 2420 and 2440 (Turkey) to provide relief for displaced people.

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The day of the earthquakes, temperatures were only 37 degrees Fahrenheit at the epicenter, and in the following days they dipped below freezing. The rainstorms changed to snowstorms in some areas, and survivors battled the windchill and hypothermia. District 2440 had an existing supply of tents and immediately established a tent city in İskenderun, on the Mediterranean coast, that Rotary members administered for more than a month before the country's disaster agency took it over. "We were the first NGO [nongovernmental organization] that was present in that region," Baysan says. Tent cities in Adiyaman and Kırıkhan quickly followed. Rotary clubs worked with **ShelterBox**, Rotary's project partner in disaster relief, to distribute over 2,500 tents and played a pivotal role in that organization's relief efforts by making introductions to local leaders.

Öztürk spent the next 40 days trekking back and forth between the three tent cities, six coordination centers, and his home in Ankara to report back on what he saw and plan future steps. Baysan and Durusüt similarly traveled into the field to witness the needs and help.

Meanwhile, Rotary's global membership mobilized to support their work. Within hours of the earthquakes, Jennifer Jones, then the Rotary International president, activated Rotary's disaster response efforts, and within the week, Rotary established a dedicated disaster response fund that received more than \$2.7 million in contributions. Additional aid efforts used **Rotary Foundation** global grants totaling about \$1.4 million. Projects were confined to Turkey since Rotary has no clubs in Syria, where the earthquakes compounded a humanitarian crisis triggered by more than a decade of civil war.

Lifesaving relief and direct donations streamed in from all over the Rotary world, and so did volunteers. A Rotary member and doctor from Indonesia texted Öztürk, "I'm coming with medical supplies and will be there in two days." The doctor lived in one of the tent cities for weeks and treated people.

### Changing the fate of a city

Today in Adiyaman, children bike and play in the streets, conversation is exchanged over aromatic platters of

kebab, and the melodic Muslim call to prayer crackles over loudspeakers five times a day. But even as life goes on in many respects, in other ways time seems to have stopped, like the clock tower that stands tall in the city center, its four faces frozen in time at 4:17, the moment the first earthquake struck.

Before the disaster, Adiyaman was known for its blend of archaeological sites and modern architecture, its stunning natural landscapes, its apricots and pistachios. Now, mountains once blocked from view by towering buildings have reclaimed the city's backdrop. Shells of destroyed buildings and abandoned businesses loom next to sweeping fields of rubble. Distant cranes offer a constant reminder that Adiyaman is in an extended period of transition.

Rotary members from around the region know Adiyaman. Its province is the site of an annual project in which they accompany people with disabilities on a hike up Mount Nemrut. The UNESCO World Heritage Site features colossal stone heads and statues at the tomb of a first century B.C. ruler of a Greco-Persian kingdom. Rotary relief efforts focused here and in Hatay province on the Mediterranean coast, places with a lot of damage and strong Rotary cultures. "A Rotary club can change the fate of a city," Öztürk says. "If we didn't have Rotary clubs in Adiyaman and Hatay, we wouldn't likely have been able to deliver this much aid."

There was also the "Ferit effect," he says of Binzet. "He was always in the field and knew the needs," Öztürk says. "The city of Adiyaman should erect a statue of Ferit."

Binzet was born in Adiyaman and has lived there his entire life. He joined Rotary in 2008. As a journalist, Binzet had the communication skills and the reach to advocate for the city. In the early days after the earthquakes, for example, he took a video of a toilet overflowing with waste and menstrual hygiene products for the news. Following the broadcast, people all over the region sent menstrual products. "He is a born communicator," Baysan says.

His wife, Mehtap, a photographer and designer, joined the Rotary Club of Adiyaman-Nemrut shortly after the earthquakes and was the club's president in 2023-24.

## R I News



Left: Sadet Pişirici lives in one of the homes provided by Rotary. Top right: The modified shipping containers can be outfitted with the comforts of home such as porches and gardens. Bottom right: Donations from Rotary members supplied 350 container homes for displaced people.

Adiyaman became the location of one of four container cities that Rotary members supported in the affected region, the second prong of their plans. In total, donations from Rotary members supplied 350 of the prefabricated small homes. The temporary city on the northern edge of Adiyaman includes two streets of Rotary-sponsored homes: Imagine Street and Hope Street.

The modified shipping containers, laid out in tight rows, provide enough space for essentials such as toilets, showers, cooking utensils, beds, and air conditioning, as well as comforts of home such as televisions, porches, and gardens.

Sadet Pişirici, 74, lives alone in a Rotary-provided container. Before the earthquakes, she lived a “proper life,” she says. Her hopes echo those of survivors all over Turkey: She wants her grandchildren to go to school and become active citizens. She wants to maintain her health so she can keep walking and enjoying life.

Along with the hundreds of other residents of this container city, Pişirici benefits from Rotary's field hospital, a short distance from her home. The hospital has been operational since April 2023 and serves about 200 patients every day. It has its own generator, an ambulance, monitoring and ultrasound devices, a blood testing lab, and a shower that doctors can use between shifts.

Today, chief physician Mesut Kocadayı sits with a patient

surrounded by the hospital's white canvas walls. Working as a doctor in the city, he began treating his fellow survivors in the wreckage immediately after escaping his own home.

Survivors suffered significant wounds and many required amputations. The health system collapsed momentarily when the city was struggling to even bury its dead. But other health care workers streamed into Adiyaman from China to Sweden to help.

“The first three to four days were the most difficult because there was no electricity, water, and heating,” Kocadayı says. People lost their appetites, suffered from scabies and gastrointestinal diseases, and endured poor hygienic conditions. Some injuries will last a lifetime.

### Building a kindergarten

The disaster affected nearly every aspect of daily life, which shows in the assortment of projects that Rotary members have supported: building water treatment plants, providing farmers seedlings and cows, opening a veterinary clinic. “Rotary has done great, great work here,” Baysan says. “People are working to rebuild and reshape their lives. I'm very happy to see that.”

But when looking at the results from the third prong of the Rotarians' response plan — sustainable long-term projects — a kindergarten might be the most appropriate place to start.

After one kindergarten in Adiyaman was destroyed, funds from Rotary members in Japan paid to build a new school from the ground up.



Baysan, Öztürk, and Binzet visit with a teacher and his class in Adiyaman; their classroom, provided by a Rotary Foundation disaster relief grant, was made by merging two shipping containers.



Principal Zeliha Özlem Atlı at a new school built with contributions from Rotary members in Japan.

Taking a tour, a group of Rotarians greets the school's principal, Zeliha Özlem Atlı, with a warm “merhaba” as they approach the entrance. Decorations from a recent holiday still hang amid toys and kid-size chairs. The principal's goal: make this the best kindergarten in Adiyaman.

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She's made great progress. "The children needed materials like toys and books," she says. "With the support of Rotary, they got all of it." The school is on the city's outskirts. She says that no one can believe there is such a nice school in the area.

"My first project is taking them to theaters and movies," she says, explaining that many students have never been. "Then, I want to take them to other cities, because they've only seen Adiyaman."

To Atlı, this school is a family. "The teachers also have trauma; some are still living in containers," she says. "We support each other as a family. We don't use the word colleague. I'm not the principal here. I'm the big sister."

Atlı says the kids are in a much better place than a year ago. Every morning, they hug their teachers, who have become their role models. Most of the children, she says, want to become teachers someday.

### Stray cats and memories

Mehtap and Ferit Binzet step out of their car into the stillness of their old neighborhood. The familiar call to prayer buzzes from the loudspeaker of a distant mosque, its only competition the occasional passing car. Their old apartment spills into the street around them, where it will stay until the city clears the rubble.

This was the building they moved into 13 years ago after they got married, but one day the remaining pieces of it will be erased. "All my memories are here," Ferit Binzet says.

Concrete and glass crunch beneath their feet. They call out for one of the stray cats they took care of before the

earthquakes. "Gece!" The cat, whose name means "night," dutifully appears.

After the earthquakes, the two sought help to deal with their emotional trauma. Their therapist recommended replacing painful memories with positive ones. That's what brings them to their old home every other day, when they come to feed the stray cats. It helps, but it's hard. "Every time I come here, I live that day again," Mehtap Bostanci Binzet says. "It's not easy."



Binzet cares for one of his cats. He and his wife continue to feed the stray cats near their old home as a way to deal with the trauma.

They remember escaping the house, the sound of the first earthquake. And they feel the pain of others who, like them, are trying to survive surviving. "Everywhere we look, we remember our loved ones. We also suffer from their pains."

But they find that helping others helps them. Their optimism, their gratitude, breaks through. "Thank God we have friends all around the world," Ferit Binzet says, as Gece observes from a nearby cement wall. "It's better to say 'Thank God' than 'I wish.'"

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

## K4Knowledge: Facts to make you smart

### "Fiori di Como" - The Largest Glass Sculpture

"Fiori di Como", created by the acclaimed American artist Dale Chihuly, is a breathtaking glass sculpture that adorns the ceiling of the Bellagio Hotel's lobby in Las Vegas, Nevada. Completed in 1998, this masterpiece is renowned not only for its staggering beauty and complexity but also for being the largest glass sculpture ever made, embodying Chihuly's distinctive style and unparalleled craftsmanship in the realm of blown glass art. The sculpture is comprised of over 2000 hand-blown glass flowers, covering an expansive 2000 square feet of the hotel's ceiling. The installation of "Fiori di Como" in the Bellagio Hotel marked a significant moment in the intersection of art and architecture in Las Vegas, a city known for its lavish and visually striking environments. The sculpture not only enhances the aesthetic experience of the hotel's guests but also serves as a landmark work of art that draws visitors from around the world.





Partners in Service

Rotaract Club of Bharuch



Adhya Ambe Sheri Garba Night, a lively celebration brought to life by the combined efforts of the Rotaract, Rotary, and Interact clubs of Bharuch!



Clothing/Chaniya Choli Drive & Navratri Celebration at Girls Juvenile Home, Bharuch



E-Waste collection



Navratri celebrations with traditional attire



Bharuch City Treasure hunt



Online webinar for young leaders



Rotaract Diwali Celebration



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Partners in Service

Interact Club of Bharuch



Interact club of Bharuch joined Rotary club's organized Pre-Navratri along with Rotaract club.



Interact club joined Rotaract club for chaniya choli distribution at girls' juvenile home.



Interact club of Bharuch did a cleanliness project marking the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.



Interact club did a Diwali based food distribution among the needy people.



Interact club visited Pashu Ghar and fed fodder to the cattle.



Interact club along with Rotaract club participated in treasure hunt overall Bharuch.

Partners in Service

RCC Bharuch



Celebration of the Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti at Statue Park



Celebration of the Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti at RCC Library



Distribution of school bags to the students of the Nilkanth Anganvadi



Sheri Garba competition at Alekh Bungalows, samruddhi Bungalows & Muktinagar



Apartment Sheri Garba competition at RK Casta



Sheri Garba competition at Ayodhya Nagar



Sheri Garba competition at Unnati Vidyalaya



Celebration of the Sharad Purnima at Shraavan Vidyalaya



Sheri garba competition at Narayan Extension and Khatriwad



Sheri Garba competition at Gattu Vidyalaya, Ankleshwar



# Birthday Greetings



02 Nov.	Rtn. Nilesh Parekh	9825047555	14 Nov.	Ann. Meena Tibdewal	9824051683	21 Nov.	Rtn. Prakash Shah	9898040415
03 Nov.	Rtn. Dr. Datt Modh	9974705249	15 Nov.	Ann. Varsha Parikh	8347576152	22 Nov.	Rtn. Jugal Kishore Ruia	9898045900
03 Nov.	Ann. Abhipsha Patel	9099941949	15 Nov.	Ann. Tripti Goel	9377511005	22 Nov.	Ann. Sheela Chadderwala	9824854786
05 Nov.	Rtn. Hardik B. Shah	9924210431	17 Nov.	Rtn. Dr. Ketan Doshi	9825027016	22 Nov.	Ann. Shraddha Singh	9586890009
06 Nov.	Ann. Manya Hariyani	9974926861	17 Nov.	Rtn. Pravin Purohit	9825323704	23 Nov.	Ann. Rubina Raj	8141780222
06 Nov.	Ann. Sonal Shah	9622009954	18 Nov.	Ann. Mona Rao	9426892195	23 Nov.	Ann. Neelam Patel	9227472111
07 Nov.	Rtn. Vital Patel	9898472111	19 Nov.	Rtn. Dr.Dhirajkumar Sathe	9820704524	26 Nov.	Ann. Nita Gadhavi	9979891253
09 Nov.	Rtn. Ashwin Modi	9824135877	19 Nov.	Rtn. Ronak B Shah	9898181885	27 Nov.	Rtn. Dr.Gary Chen	9427144339
09 Nov.	Ann. Nikki Mehta	9377284757	19 Nov.	Ann. Chaitali Thakore	9825046485	27 Nov.	Ann. Jinal Desai	9428601074
10 Nov.	Ann. Jasmin Shah	9925029928	20 Nov.	Rtn. Dr.Farah Ajmeri	9924772577	29 Nov.	Ann. Kiran Patel	9879203968
12 Nov.	Ann. Preksha Modi	9924018218	20 Nov.	Ann. Prachita Modi	8200481387	30 Nov.	Rtn. Amar Shahdadpuri	9913067776
14 Nov.	Rtn. Harshil Shah	7283824481	21 Nov.	Rtn. Chirag Tambda	9327726415			



## ROTARY BHARUCH PERMANENT PROJECTS



M. I. Patel Rotary Youth Center



Shantivan Crematorium



Project Adhar



P.D. Shroff Rotary Diagnostic Center



Pay & Use Toilet Blocks



Ambulance & Morgue Vehicle



Women Empowerment Project



Mobile Toy Library - Ramakdu



Hum Honge Kamyab - Literacy



Clean Drinking Water