



**Adaptive
Inovative
Inclusive**

Membership and New Club Development Month

August 2026

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Meet the Team & Contact us

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Region 25 in Figures towards



Rotary Regional Group 25 — Membership Tracking 2026 → 2027 Target

District	Members (1 July 2025)	Members (1 July 2026)	2026 Growth	%	Target 2026 (1 July 2026)	Towards goal 2026	Target 2027 (1 July 2027)	Current Membership	Towards goal 2027	2027 Growth	Current clubs
2420	2 286	2 366	+80	+3,5%	2 361	5	2 438	2367	-71	1	89
2430	2 339	2 541	+202	+8,6%	2 351	190	2 362	2573	211	32	110
2440	1 789	1 748	-41	-2,3%	1 880	-132	1 975	1772	-203	24	70
2452	1 965	1 926	-39	-2,0%	1 975	-49	1 985	1941	-44	15	95
2475	1 665	1 610	-55	-3,3%	1 673	-63	1 682	1610	-72	0	79
2482	1 775	1 803	+28	+1,6%	1 784	19	1 793	1821	28	18	87
2483	1 091	1 135	+44	+4,0%	1 096	39	1 102	1131	29	-4	69
2485	1 002	994	-8	-0,8%	1 040	-46	1 079	988	-91	-6	46
TOTAL	13 912	14 123	+211	+1,5%	14 160	-37	14 416	14 203	-213	80	645

Rotaract 2025–2026, 2026-2027

District	RAC clubs 2025	RAC members 2025	RAC clubs 2026	RAC members 2026	Member net growth 2026	Avg/club 2026	RAC members 2027	Member net growth 2027	Clubs
2420	38	675	40	762	+87	18,0	719	-43	40
2430	52	721	58	806	+85	13,9	804	-2	58
2440	37	641	36	644	+3	18,2	655	11	36
2452	56	637	49	630	-7	12,7	621	-9	49
2475	8	67	7	53	-14	7,9	55	2	7
2482	28	189	30	226	+37	7,7	238	12	31
2483	27	232	21	201	-31	9,6	201	0	21
2485	10	150	10	151	+1	15,1	151	0	10
Total	256	3312	251	3473	+161	13,8	+3444	-29	+252



Discover

In our special Newsletter Edition

The **New Clubs** of Rotary Zone 21B

coming this August

President's Message

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola
Rotary International President 2026/2027

My challenge to you

Peace does not happen by accident. It must be pursued deliberately, built strategically, and woven intentionally into everything we do. That is the challenge I am placing before the Rotary world this year.

Rotary has long recognized peace as one of our areas of focus. But I believe peace must be more than a category of work we set aside for certain projects. It must become a lens, one we choose to look through every time we plan, every time we serve, every time we ask what kind of impact we truly want to leave behind. The Institute for Economics and Peace has identified eight Pillars of Positive Peace: well-functioning government, sound business environment, equitable distribution of resources, acceptance of the rights of others, good relations with neighbors, free flow of information, high levels of human capital, and low levels of corruption. These pillars describe the conditions that make lasting peace possible. And when I look at them carefully, I see enormous potential for Rotary. Not because our work automatically advances peace but because it can when we are deliberate about it.

That is the key word: deliberate.

A water project does not build peace on its own. But a water project designed with the Pillars of Positive Peace in mind — one that asks how equitable access to resources strengthens community trust — can begin to lay that foundation. A vocational training program does not guarantee reconciliation. But one that intentionally brings divided communities together around shared economic opportunity can start to build it. The project does not change. The intention does.



In Colombia, Rotary's Pathways to Peace and Prosperity program shows us what this looks like in practice. Working in communities shaped by decades of armed conflict and displacement, the program combines economic empowerment with conflict resolution training and community-led reconciliation. Peace was not a hoped-for side effect. It was central to the design. That is the standard I am calling all of us to follow.

As you plan your next project, whatever the focus area, I want you to pause and ask one question: How does this create the conditions for peace? Consult the Pillars of Positive Peace.

Find where your work connects. Then, make that connection intentional. Share what you discover with your club, your district, and your community. The more we talk about peace as a practice rather than a destination, the more naturally it will shape everything we do.

This is not about doing different work. It is about doing our work differently, with greater awareness, greater purpose, and a clearer vision of the world we are trying to build. Every Rotary project carries potential. Our task is to unlock it, not by chance but by choice.

Director's Message

Emmanuel Katongole
Director Zone 21/22, 2026-2028

One Table, One Journey: The Rotary Story Still Unfolding

In my earlier days as a Rotarian, I attended a district gathering far from my own club and found myself standing at the edge of a room full of unfamiliar faces. Before I could decide where to sit, a Rotarian I had only just met pulled out a chair and said, "Sit. There is always room for one more." It was a small gesture, but it reminded me of something I had almost forgotten that Rotary's real strength is never in the size of the room, but in whether every person in it feels a chair has been kept for them.

I carry that memory still. And as we turn, this August, to Rotary Membership and New Club Development across Zone 21, I ask on your behalf: who in your communities has not yet been offered that chair?

Somewhere in Istanbul, in Tbilisi, in Amman, in Bucharest, in Warsaw, in Dubai, in a mountain town along the Balkans or a quiet street in the Baltics, there is an engineer, a young professional, a lecturer, a business owner someone who carries the instincts of a Rotarian but has simply never been asked.

Your Zone sits at one of the world's great crossroads of cultures, faiths, and histories that have not always been easy neighbors.

That is precisely why this work matters so much where you are. Rotary does not ask people to set aside their differences before sitting down together; it asks them to bring their whole selves to the table and serve side by side regardless. **This month, the task is not only to grow numbers it is to extend that table further than it has ever reached.**

This is also the season to think boldly about new clubs. Across Zone 21 there are cities, university towns, and professional communities with no Rotary presence yet sometimes for reasons of distance, sometimes history, sometimes simply because no one has asked. A new club is a bridge built where one didn't exist between neighbors, generations, a region's past and its future.



I ask every Assistant Governor and club president to identify at least one place where a new club could take root this year. Rotary has always grown through courage, not convenience.

And let us hold our Rotaract clubs close. Across the Middle East and Eastern Europe, Rotaractors already lead with a fluency in change many of us are still learning. They are not apprentices waiting for permission they are Rotary, happening now. Mentoring them as partners, and bringing them fully into district leadership, is one of our most important investments this year. Somewhere in a Rotaract meeting tonight sits a future Zone leader who simply needs to be noticed.

So, I ask each Rotarian: choose one person this month. Bring them to a meeting. Let them feel what I felt that day, the unmistakable sense that a chair had been waiting for them all along.

Membership is not a line in a report. It is a table we keep extending, one seat at a time.

Together, let us build. Together, let us bridge. Together, let us serve.

RPIC's Message

Development Does Not Happen by Accident

Dear friends,

In my family, the journey into Rotary happened in reverse.

My youngest child entered the Rotary family first, as a charter member of Interact Club Burgas and later a Rotaractor. My younger daughter followed. Today, both are Rotarians. Only afterwards did curiosity lead me to Rotary Club Bourgas, in 2006.

The first attraction was human: friends, respected professionals, interesting personalities — people of integrity. The meaning of *Service Above Self* came later.

By 2012, Rotary seemed familiar: club service, district work, processes and communications. Then, at PETS in Plovdiv, Our District Secretary Dimitar and the DGE spoke about Rotary and The Rotary Foundation. Dimitar and I were friends through work — he brought Rotary knowledge; I brought IT experience. Yet that day he gave familiar information a new meaning.

The realisation was simple and lasting:
Information is not knowledge.

A thought formed: *One day, I want to stand where he stands* — not for the position, but to understand Rotary as he did.

4 years later, we stood together – he as DGE, and beside him I stood as district secretary-elect. The development was not in our titles. It was in the journey from knowing processes to understanding purpose.

August is Membership and New Club Development Month. We often

Stoyanka Georgieva (Tanya)
RPIC 2026-2029, Zone21b, Region 25



emphasise new: new members, new clubs, new numbers. This month, let us emphasise **development**.

Development begins where recruitment ends. It asks whether a new member will find purpose; whether a new club will understand its community; and whether both will remain active.

After several years without a new Rotary club in District 2482, the last Rotary year brought **four new clubs**. They came through **intention, leadership and sustained work**. Under the leadership of DG Plamen Tsvetkov, this showed what intention and persistence can achieve. Same is with District 2430, District 2483.

Public Image has a role in this development: not to advertise Rotary, but to make its meaning visible. When people understand what Rotary does and why it matters, visibility becomes attraction. When attraction is followed by trust and belonging, membership becomes development.

To those not yet part of Rotary: you do not need to understand everything before joining. Curiosity may be enough. Purpose can reveal itself later — through a project, a friendship or a person who inspires growth.

Let us welcome new members and build new clubs. Let us create the conditions in which people, clubs and communities can develop — and **create lasting impact**.

Meet the
Gamechangers

CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT



Champions

From Service to Story - Rotary's Growing Family with Altan

Every August, Rotary celebrates Membership and New Club Development Month. It is a time to think not only about inviting new members but also about helping them feel that they truly belong.

Membership is more than a number. It is about building a strong Rotary family.

People do not stay in Rotary because of rules or meetings. They stay because they build friendships, find purpose, and become part of something bigger than themselves. That feeling of **belonging** begins with sharing our stories.

Digital communication helps us reach many people. It is an important part of Public Image. But the most powerful message is still a personal conversation. When a Rotarian talks about a project that changed lives, a family that found hope, or the joy of serving others, people listen. **Stories create trust. Stories create inspiration. Stories create belonging.**

Across more than 200 countries and geographical areas, 1.2 million Rotarians are improving lives every day. Wherever there is hunger, disaster, disease, poverty, or the need for peace, Rotary is working to make a difference. We already have powerful stories. Our responsibility is to tell them clearly, honestly, and at the right time.

When we share our impact, membership growth becomes a natural result. New members are inspired to join, and current members are reminded why they became Rotarians in the first place.



This is especially important for younger generations. Generation Z wants to be part of organizations that create real change and lasting impact. They are looking for **purpose, action, and hope**. When we show them how Rotary improves communities and changes lives, we will attract more young leaders, more women, and stronger Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact clubs.

Every Rotarian is an ambassador for Rotary. Every conversation is an opportunity. Every story can inspire someone to serve.

This August, let us do more than talk about our projects. Let us tell the stories behind them. Because **service changes lives**, but **stories inspire people** to become part of that service.

Together, let us continue growing Rotary's family—one story, one friendship, and one new member at a time.

With love and respect,
Rtn. N.Altan Arslan
PP 05-06 Ankara Kızılay RC
PDG 18-19 D.2430
DMC 26-27 D.2430

Meet the Rotarians

***CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT***



Welcome to the Arch Klumph Society - Yaseen M. Jaffer District 2452 , United Arab Emirates

It is with profound gratitude and great admiration that District 2452 announces a monumental milestone for the region and the global Rotary family.

Yaseen Jaffer has officially joined the Arch Klumph Society – Trustees Circle, the Rotary Foundation's highest philanthropic recognition.

This prestigious honor is reserved exclusively for extraordinary donors whose generosity reflects both a long-term vision and a deep commitment to Rotary's enduring mission of Doing Good in the World.

This decision represents far more than an act of generosity; it is the expression of a clear vision, a lasting commitment to service, and a philanthropic legacy built with purpose and dedication over many years.

Thanks to this extremely generous gift, Mr. Jaffer will grow the **Yaseen and Fatima Jaffer Endowed Fund**, support the growth of the District 2452 SHARE Endowed Fund, and personally finance numerous District 2452 Global Grants over the coming years.

This monumental contribution will support opportunities within communities for generations to come, strengthening the capacity of both The Rotary Foundation and District 2452 to support sustainable projects, develop future leaders, and improve lives in areas where impact is most needed.



The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Faisal Abdulrahman Juma



Mr. Jaffer's commitment beautifully demonstrates the core values that define Rotary at its best: service, leadership, compassion, and an unwavering dedication to improving the lives of others.

The official recognition ceremony honoring new members of the Arch Klumph Society from around the world will take place during the Arch Klumph Society Weekend at Rotary International World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, in October 2026. District 2452 also looks forward to celebrating this remarkable achievement locally on an appropriate occasion in the near future.

The Regional Rotary Endowment/Major Gift Advisor for Region 25, along with Rotarians throughout the entire region, extends its deepest appreciation, respect, and gratitude to Yaseen Jaffer. He serves as an inspiring example of generosity, leadership, and enduring commitment to The Rotary Foundation.



An Interview of ARPIC Faisal Juma with Rtn Yaseen M. Jafferes

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Faisal Abdulrahman Juma

Q. Since you have been a dedicated member of the Rotary family for over twenty years. When did you realize that you wanted to transition your involvement from hands-on service to a long-term, endowment-based philanthropic strategy?

A. For more than twenty years, Rotary has been an important part of my life. Like many Rotarians, I began by participating in projects where you could immediately see the impact of your service. Those experiences taught me the true value of Rotary and the difference we can make together. As the years went by, I realised that while service projects change lives today, an endowment creates opportunities for generations to come. It is about ensuring that future Rotarians have the resources to continue serving long after our generation has passed the baton.

Throughout my career, I have always believed that lasting success is measured by the opportunities we create, the people we empower, and the legacy we leave behind. I have come to believe philanthropy should be approached in exactly the same way. An endowed fund is not simply a donation—it is about ensuring that the good we do today continues benefiting communities for many years to come.

Q. Could you share the story behind the Yaseen and Fatima Jaffer Endowed Fund? What specific values or legacy do you hope this fund represents for your family and for future generations of Rotarians?

A. The Yaseen and Fatima Jaffer Endowed Fund is deeply personal because it reflects values that my wife and I have shared throughout our lives. Service has never been separate from family—it has always been part of who we are.

Like many families, we have experienced personal challenges, including our journey with cancer. Experiences like these remind you how important compassion, hope and community support truly are. They reinforce the belief that when we are in a position to help others, we should do so with sincerity and humility.



One of our greatest joys has been seeing all of our children become Rotarians. It gives us confidence that the values of service, integrity and generosity will continue into the next generation.

I hope this fund reflects the belief that success is not measured only by what we achieve for ourselves, but also by the lives we touch and the opportunities we create for others. If our family can leave behind something that continues helping people, strengthens Rotary and inspires future generations to serve, then that is the legacy we hope to build.

Q. By choosing to support both your personal fund and the District 2452 SHARE Endowed Fund, you are creating a “dual-engine” approach to giving. What led you to balance your support between these two specific vehicles?

A. I see these two funds as complementary rather than separate.

Our family fund reflects our personal commitment and the values that we hope to pass on to future generations. The District 2452 SHARE Endowed Fund strengthens the long-term capacity of our District to respond to future needs and opportunities.

One preserves our family's legacy of giving, while the other strengthens the future of Rotary itself. Together, they allow us to support both the people closest to us and the institution that has given us so much over the past two decades.

Q. The Arch Klumph Society represents a lifetime commitment to “Doing Good in the World.” How does it feel to see your contributions move from immediate project support to creating the long-term capacity for sustainable change?

A. It is a very humbling experience. Recognition is certainly an honour, but what gives me the greatest satisfaction is knowing that these contributions will continue creating opportunities for service long into the future. Throughout my career, I have learned that the most worthwhile things take time to build. Strong companies, strong communities and strong institutions are all created through long-term commitment. I believe The Rotary Foundation represents that same philosophy. If these contributions help Rotary continue improving lives for decades to come, then that is far more rewarding than any personal recognition.

Q. You have committed to personally financing numerous District 2452 Global Grants. Are there specific areas of focus or community challenges—either locally in Bahrain or globally—that you are particularly passionate about tackling through these upcoming grants?

A. Bahrain is where my roots lie and where my journey began. The UAE has been home for the past three decades, where I have built my family, my business and much of my Rotary life. Through Rotary, I have had the privilege of serving communities across District 2452 and beyond, reinforcing my belief that the challenges we face—and the opportunities to serve—extend well beyond borders.

Healthcare is especially close to my heart because of my family’s personal experience with cancer. I have seen firsthand how timely care, compassion and community support can make a profound difference in people’s lives.

I also believe that education, vocational development and mentoring young entrepreneurs create lasting change because they equip people with the confidence and skills to shape their own futures.

As a businessman, I have spent my career building organisations and creating opportunities for others to grow.

Through our company, we are proud to support the UAE’s manufacturing vision through the **Make it in the Emirates** campaign, strengthening local industry, creating skilled employment and contributing to the country’s long-term economic development.

Whether through business or Rotary, my goal has always been the same—to help people realise their potential, strengthen communities and leave them better prepared for the future. That is the kind of impact I hope our Global Grants will continue to achieve.

Q. As a leader in your community, what would you say to other Rotarians in Zone 21 who are considering how to structure their own philanthropic legacies?

A. I would simply say that philanthropy is not about wealth—it is about intention.

Every Rotarian has the opportunity to leave a lasting impact, regardless of the size of the contribution. What matters is not how much we give, but whether we choose to think beyond ourselves and beyond today.

Rotary has given me lifelong friendships, unforgettable experiences and the privilege of serving communities in meaningful ways. Supporting The Rotary Foundation is my way of helping ensure those same opportunities remain available for future generations.



I would encourage every Rotarian to think about the difference they want to make ten, twenty or even fifty years from now. The greatest legacy we can leave is knowing that our commitment today will continue creating hope and changing lives long after we are gone.

Q. As you prepare for the upcoming recognition ceremony in Evanston this October, what is the most significant aspect of this honor for you personally?

The greatest significance is not the recognition itself but what it represents.

This honour reflects many years of service alongside fellow Rotarians, friends and family who have shared the same commitment to Service Above Self. No one achieves something like this alone.

I am especially proud that this recognition reflects not only a personal journey, but also the collective efforts of my family, my fellow Rotarians and District 2452. It reminds me that the greatest achievements are built together.

A. Looking ahead, how do you envision your continued role in shaping the impact of District 2452?

I hope to continue doing what I have always enjoyed most—bringing people together, mentoring future leaders and supporting projects that create lasting value for our communities.

I believe Rotary has an important role in connecting business leaders, professionals and younger generations. When we combine our knowledge, experience and resources, we create partnerships that strengthen communities and expand our collective impact.

If I can help encourage more young professionals to embrace Rotary, mentor future leaders and support initiatives that improve lives in meaningful and sustainable ways, I will consider that a worthwhile contribution.

Q. What is the future of Rotary in three words?

A. People. Purpose. Partnership.

Rotary will always be about **people**.

It must always be driven by **purpose**.

And its greatest impact will continue to come through **partnerships**.



Istanbul

District 2420



ARPIC Ayşe Mine Ergun
Rotary club Samsun, D2430



Peace Ambassadors Bring Hope for the Future in Lüleburgaz

Peace begins long before conflicts arise—it starts with **children learning to listen, understand and respect one another**. By nurturing empathy, cooperation and effective communication from an early age, Rotary is helping shape a generation equipped to build stronger, more inclusive and more peaceful communities.

With this vision in mind, the **Lüleburgaz Rotary Club** organised an inspiring **Peace Ambassadors Training programme for young people aged 11 to 14**, providing them with the knowledge and skills to become ambassadors of peace within their schools, families and communities.

Held in the beautiful surroundings of Lüleburgaz City Forest and led by experienced trainer Bülent Gizer, the programme brought together 27 students for a day of interactive learning and personal development. Rather than relying on traditional classroom teaching, the participants engaged in practical activities designed to encourage teamwork, active listening, empathy and respect for different perspectives.

Working together through a series of collaborative challenges, the students discovered the value of sharing ideas, resolving disagreements peacefully and achieving common goals through mutual understanding. These experiences strengthened their communication, cooperation and problem-solving skills while helping them recognise that diversity is a strength and dialogue is the foundation of lasting peace.

Beyond the individual lessons learned, the programme created a supportive environment where young people could build friendships,



develop self-confidence and experience the positive impact of working together despite different backgrounds and viewpoints. These are life skills that extend far beyond the training itself, influencing how participants interact within their schools, families and wider communities.

The initiative reflects Rotary's commitment to Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention, one of the organisation's seven Areas of Focus. By investing in young people today, the Lüleburgaz Rotary Club is helping cultivate future leaders who understand that peace is not simply the absence of conflict, but the presence of empathy, respect, cooperation and shared responsibility.

Through programmes like Peace Ambassadors Training, Rotary demonstrates that lasting peace is built one conversation, one friendship and one act of understanding at a time. By empowering young people to become compassionate leaders and responsible global citizens, the Lüleburgaz Rotary Club is creating a lasting impact that will continue to resonate for years to come, proving that the strongest foundations for a peaceful future are laid in the hearts and minds of the next generation.



Sarıyer RC Promoted Maternal and Child Health at the Kilyos Festival

Healthy children thrive when communities come together to support their physical, emotional and developmental wellbeing. By combining education, play and meaningful conversations, the **Sarıyer Rotary Club**

transformed a local festival into a vibrant platform for promoting healthier futures for children and their families.

During the Kilyos Festival, club members engaged hundreds of visitors through activities highlighting **Rotary's Maternal and Child Health** area of focus. Families were introduced to practical information about children's health and wellbeing, while also learning about Rotary's global **End Polio Now** campaign and its ongoing mission to eradicate polio worldwide.

Young visitors enjoyed a variety of interactive activities, including balloons, colouring stations and educational games that created a fun and welcoming atmosphere for learning. These moments of joy encouraged children to engage with important health messages while strengthening the connection between Rotary and the local community.

A key highlight of the event was a Psychological First Aid awareness session delivered by Aylin Orhan, Lecturer at Topkapı University, together with her team. Parents received practical guidance on recognising children's emotional needs, supporting healthy psychological development and building resilience during challenging situations. The session reinforced the growing importance of mental wellbeing as an essential part of child health and family life.



The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Ayşe Mine Ergun

By bringing together healthcare education, community engagement and child-friendly activities, the Sarıyer Rotary Club demonstrated that promoting health extends far beyond medical care. Preventive education, emotional support and informed parenting all play vital roles in helping children reach their full potential.

This initiative reflects Rotary's holistic approach to community service - addressing both physical and mental wellbeing while empowering families with knowledge they can apply in their everyday lives. Through meaningful partnerships and direct engagement with the public, the club continues to embody Rotary's People of Action spirit, creating lasting impact by helping children grow healthier, families become stronger and communities build a brighter future together.



PDG Gülperi Gürpınar Appointed to an International Role at TRF

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Ayşe Mine Ergun

Past District Governor Gülperi Gürpınar Appointed as Region 25 Endowment & Major Gifts Advisor
Past District Governor Gülperi Gürpınar, Chair of the Rotary International District 2420 Foundation Committee, has been appointed by **The Rotary Foundation as the Region 25 Endowment & Major Gifts Advisor for the 2027–2030 term.**

In this important international role, Gülperi Gürpınar will provide strategic guidance to **Region 25 in advancing** The Rotary Foundation's **Endowment and Major Gifts programs**, while contributing to the strengthening of regional collaboration and philanthropic development.

Region 25 encompasses Rotary Districts 2420, 2430, 2440 in Türkiye, along with Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Montenegro, Palestine, Serbia, Tajikistan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan, representing a diverse and extensive geographical area.

Within this role, Gülperi Gürpınar will support the development of The Rotary Foundation's Endowment and Major Gifts strategies across this broad region, fostering collaboration among Rotary districts and cultures. This appointment is a testament to Gülperi Gürpınar's extensive experience and leadership in The Rotary Foundation, reflecting the international recognition of her contributions. It also highlights the strong presence and active engagement of Rotary International District 2420 in Foundation initiatives at the global level.

As Rotary Yaşam, we warmly congratulate our Past District Governor Gülperi Gürpınar on this prestigious appointment and wish her every success in her new international responsibility..

District Governor Erden Gökmen of the 2026–2027 Rotary year congratulated Gülperi Gürpınar on this distinguished international appointment and wished her continued success in her new role.



Maternal and child health is more than one of Rotary's seven Areas of Focus—it is the foundation of healthy communities. When a mother is empowered, the positive impact extends to her children, her family, and future generations. Guided by this belief, we aim to develop projects together with our clubs throughout the 2026–2027 Rotary year that will create a lasting impact in our communities.

Through the **Rotary District 2420 Maternal and Child Health Program**, we will support our clubs in developing sustainable and measurable initiatives that address local needs by providing evidence-based resources, model project frameworks, and opportunities for collaboration. After all, Rotary's greatest strength lies in clubs that take action within their own communities.

This Rotary year, our work will focus on three key themes: Preventive Healthcare and HPV, Children with Special Needs, and Women's Empowerment and Family Health Literacy. Our goal is to reach more mothers, children, and families while implementing sustainable projects that make a meaningful difference in society.

Every project that touches lives leaves a lasting legacy for the future. I would like to thank all our clubs for their dedication to this journey and wish you an inspiring Rotary year filled with meaningful service and lasting impact.

Dr. Pınar Tokatlioğlu
Chair, Maternal and Child Health Committee
Rotary International District 2420
2026–2027 Rotary Year



Adana

District 2430



ARPIC Serdar Aydın
RC Adana Tařkõprü, D2430





ÇOCUK FELCİNİ BİTİRMEMİZE
ÇOK AZ KALDI!

END
POLIO
NOW

FARKINDALIK İÇİN GÖKSU'DA KÜREK ÇEKİYORUZ!

BİRLİKTE
KÜREK ÇEKİYOR,
UMUT
TAŞIYORUZ.



23.08.2026
PAZAR



SAAT:
09:00

İLETİŞİM: 0505 062 32 33

Connection Creates Lasting Impact

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Serfat Aydin

Here is a revised version in ethical and positive Rotary storytelling style:

Lasting impact begins when Rotary conversations turn into shared purpose, and shared purpose becomes action that strengthens clubs, communities, and the future we are building together. It is created not only through large projects, but also through every moment of listening, encouragement, planning, and fellowship that helps a club serve with greater confidence and vision.

With this spirit, District Governor Orhan Uludağ and Zeynep visited the Rotary Club of Akçakoca on 1 August 2026 as part of the official club visits. The visit opened with a meeting of the club's Board of Directors, creating space for focused dialogue on the club's priorities, responsibilities, and plans for the new Rotary year. This was followed by the regular club meeting, where Governor Orhan Uludağ shared the goals of District 2430 for 2026–2027 and reflected on the presidential message, Create Lasting Impact.

The meeting offered an opportunity for members to look ahead together — to discuss their service projects, exchange ideas, and consider how the club's work can continue to respond to real community needs. In a warm atmosphere of friendship and solidarity, the visit became more than a formal moment in the Rotary calendar. It was a reminder that strong clubs grow through connection, shared vision, and the commitment of members who choose to serve together. The visit concluded with good wishes and a renewed sense of fellowship as the Rotary Club of Akçakoca begins the new Rotary year with purpose and energy.



Partnerships Create Lasting Impact

Lasting impact is created when Rotary brings people, institutions, community initiatives and young leaders into the same circle of purpose. It begins with listening, grows through cooperation, and becomes stronger when every visit opens new possibilities for service, partnership and shared responsibility.

With this spirit, District Governor Orhan Uludağ and Zeynep visited the Rotary Club of Karadeniz Ereğli as part of the official club visits.

The programme included a courtesy visit to Fatih Yıldız, District Governor of Karadeniz Ereğli, where the value of dialogue with public institutions was emphasised. The visit then continued with the Elpek Dokuyan Eller Women's Cooperative, a Rotary Community Corps, and the Karadeniz Ereğli Interact Club. These meetings offered an opportunity to learn more about their ongoing work, recognise their contribution to the community, and exchange views on the goals of the new Rotary year.

In the evening, the club's Board of Directors meeting and regular club meeting focused on the priorities for 2026–2027 and the service projects planned for the year ahead. The programme also included a new member induction ceremony, marking a meaningful moment of growth and continuity for the club.

Bringing together public institutions, civil society, women's community enterprise and young people, the visit became more than a formal part of the Rotary calendar. It strengthened the connection between the club and the District, encouraged cooperation across different parts of the community, and helped align the club's energy with the shared commitment to Create Lasting Impact.

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Serfat Aydin



Izmir

District 2440





ARPIC Ayşe Mine Ergun
Rotary club Samsun, D2430



Ömer BAŞBUĞ
Rotary club Bodrum, D2440

Turkey's Rotary Family Launches the New Rotary Year at Anıtkabir with the Theme "Create Lasting Impact"

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Ayşe Mine Ergun

Every new Rotary year is an opportunity to renew our **commitment to service, leadership and lasting change**. Beginning that journey by honouring the values of vision, unity and progress sends a powerful message that meaningful impact is built upon strong foundations and a shared purpose.

To mark the official opening of the 2026–2027 Rotary year, members of Rotary, Rotaract and Interact from Rotary Districts 2420, 2430 and 2440 gathered at Anıtkabir, the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder of the Republic of Türkiye. United under Rotary International's annual theme, "**Create Lasting Impact**," the ceremony reflected the organisation's enduring commitment to service, peace and responsible leadership.

The commemorative programme included a wreath-laying ceremony, a moment of silence and the singing of the Turkish National Anthem, creating an atmosphere of reflection, respect and unity. Representatives from all three Rotary family programmes stood side by side, demonstrating that meaningful service transcends generations and that lasting impact is achieved when people of all ages work together towards a common goal.

More than a ceremonial gathering, the event symbolised Rotary's dedication to the principles that have guided its members for more than a century: Service Above Self, integrity, fellowship and a commitment to improving lives. Inspired by Atatürk's vision of a modern, progressive and forward-looking society, participants reaffirmed their determination to develop projects that strengthen communities, promote education, support peacebuilding and address local needs through sustainable action.

The presence of Rotary, Rotaract and Interact members also highlighted the importance of mentoring future leaders. By encouraging collaboration between experienced Rotarians and younger generations of changemakers, Rotary continues to ensure that its values, knowledge and spirit of volunteerism are passed on, creating an even greater impact in the years ahead.

As the 2026–2027 Rotary year begins, this inspiring gathering at Anıtkabir serves as a reminder that true leadership is rooted in service and that lasting change begins with a shared vision. United in purpose and inspired by both history and hope, the Rotary family across Districts 2420, 2430 and 2440 embarks on a new year determined to transform compassion into action, strengthen communities and create a lasting impact across Türkiye and beyond.



Rotary District 2440 and Küçük Club Association Launch Joint Initiative to Support Polio Eradication

When sport and service come together, they create opportunities to change lives far beyond the playing field. Through a new partnership built on shared values and a common humanitarian purpose, Rotary District 2440 Federation and the Küçük Club Association are transforming athletic participation into hope for children around the world.

The two organisations have officially signed a cooperation protocol in support of Rotary's End Polio Now campaign, reinforcing Rotary's long-standing commitment to eradicating polio worldwide. The initiative combines the unifying power of sport with Rotary's mission of humanitarian service, demonstrating that every community activity can contribute to a global cause.

As part of the partnership, Rotary members, their families, and members of Rotaract and Interact will participate in tennis training sessions led by national tennis coach Mustafa Azkara. The programme will culminate in a charity tennis tournament, bringing together participants of all ages in an atmosphere of fellowship, healthy competition and shared purpose.



The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Ayşe Mine Ergun

Funds raised through the initiative will be donated to the End Polio Now campaign, helping Rotary and its global partners continue the fight against a disease that is now closer than ever to being eradicated. Every contribution supports vaccination efforts, disease surveillance and public health initiatives that protect children and communities across the world.

Beyond its fundraising impact, the project strengthens collaboration between community organisations, promotes healthy lifestyles and encourages families and young people to engage in meaningful volunteer service. It also highlights the important role that sport can play in raising awareness, inspiring generosity and building stronger community connections.

By uniting sport with humanitarian action, Rotary District 2440 demonstrates that lasting impact is created when people come together around a shared vision. Every serve, every match and every donation moves the world one step closer to a future where no child will ever again suffer from polio—a powerful reminder that collective action remains Rotary's greatest strength.



Bursa KALDER and Business Partnerships Were Evaluated

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Ayşe Mine Ergun

In a meeting that brought together Rotary's service vision with a quality-focused approach, the potential for partnership in collaborative studies that will provide social benefit was evaluated. Rotary District 2440 Governor Aylin Olut Ötken, within the scope of institutional visits, visited Bursa KALDER and met with KALDER President and District 2440 Rotary E-Club Past President Serkan Ürkmez and Management Board members. In the meeting, collaborative projects to be developed in response to the community's priority needs were discussed, particularly on environmental protection, support for women's employment, and youth development. The opportunities for partnership in projects that will contribute to environmental conservation, support women's participation in business life, and promote youth development were evaluated. It was concluded that the meeting, in which the strong collaboration between institutions and Rotary's service understanding, which promotes a culture of quality, came to the fore, will contribute to joint projects.



Bursa RUMELİSİAD and Joint Projects Were Evaluated

Rotary District 2440 Governor Aylin Olut Ötken visited Bursa RUMELİSİAD and met with RUMELİSİAD President, Past President of Osmangazi Rotary Club Murat Evke, and Management Board and committee members. In the meeting, collaborative projects to be developed in areas such as environment, women's employment, and youth were discussed. Evaluations were made on sustainable social responsibility projects that will increase social benefit.

It was emphasized that joint projects to be carried out under the theme of "Lasting Impact Create Hope" in Rotary District 2440 continue to strengthen the collaboration between institutions, civil society organizations, and the business world.



Role Change in Interact: District Representation Task Handed Over to Atakan Yılmaz

A role change took place within the Interact community, which is actively operating under Rotary District 2440.

During the handover ceremony, the 2026–2027 Interact District Representation task was passed from Atakan Yılmaz to Ceylin Türkel, the Past Term Interact District Representative.

Governor Aylin Olut Ötken and Interact District Committee Chair Hande Tüfekçioğlu also attended the ceremony and shared their happiness and pride in witnessing the commitment and leadership of our young leaders.

While Atakan Yılmaz steps into the role as the new representative, the projects carried out during the past term and the goals for the new term were also shared



Collective Benefit Room Collaboration Meeting with Konak Municipality

District Governor Aylin Olut Ötken of Rotary District 2440 came together with Konak Municipality Mayor Nilüfer Çınarlı Mutlu within the scope of institutional visits.

In the meeting held, joint project ideas that Rotary's service projects contribute to the benefit of society with the social municipal work of Konak Municipality were evaluated. In particular, topics such as environmental protection, empowerment of women, education and access to education of girls, supporting students, and combating drug dependence were discussed.

It was emphasized that joint structures will produce sustainable solutions to the priority needs of society, and that these collaborations will play a strong role in creating lasting social impact.

Rotary District 2440 aims to reach wider audiences by producing projects that touch different segments of society together with local administrations through the "Making a Lasting Impact" theme of Rotary, and to contribute to a culture of volunteering.



Rotary Youth Exchange Program Students Meet at Orientation Camp

Within the scope of Rotary District 2440's Rotary Youth Exchange Program (RYE), students heading abroad gathered at the orientation camp organized before the exchange year.

District Governor Aylin Olut Ötken, who also attended the camp, shared the importance of representing Rotary's values while preparing young people for the international exchange program.

In the scope of Rotary Youth Exchange Program (RYE) carried out by Rotary District 2440, students heading abroad gathered at the orientation camp organized before the exchange year. During the program, young people will live cultural experiences, gain personal development as well as global citizenship awareness.

The students participating in the exchange program will not only discover their host countries and cities, but also represent Turkey and Rotary District 2440 at the same time as cultural ambassadors.

The Youth Exchange Program, which has been successfully sustained by Rotary for many years, continues to contribute to the development of young people with the support of different cultures.

End Polio Now Awareness Message Appeared in Cameras

Rotary District 2440 carried out a special awareness shoot on the topic of polio eradication, a global effort to completely eliminate childhood polio, with the aim of raising attention to the removal of polio from the world.

The shoot was carried out under the theme "End Polio Now." End Polio Now, one of Rotary International's most important global initiatives, aims to increase public awareness about polio and childhood paralysis through a special video and photo shoot. While the goal of completely eradicating polio worldwide is carried forward with powerful visuals, Rotary's years of determined efforts in this fight were once again highlighted. During the shoot, Rotarians coming together for the same purpose not only contributed to raising awareness, but also experienced the excitement of producing together in a positive atmosphere. In front of the camera, Rotary's solidarity, commitment and dedication to making a difference were reflected.

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Ayşe Mine Ergun



Business Partnership with TÜGİAD Was Discussed

The potential for partnership in collaborative projects between Rotary District 2440 and TÜGİAD was evaluated.

Rotary District 2440 Governor Aylin Olut Ötken visited TÜGİAD Bursa and met with TÜGİAD President Nilüfer Rotary Club Past President Kerem Kahveci and Management Board members.

In the meeting, areas of collaboration between the business world and Rotary's social service vision were discussed. Evaluations were made on projects that will support environmental sustainability, women's economic and social empowerment, and youth education and entrepreneurship journeys.

Under the theme of "Lasting Impact Create Hope," Rotary District 2440 continues to produce projects that strengthen business, public institutions, and civil society collaborations and create value for society.



Meaningful Support for End Polio Now in the Light of the Bosphorus

During the End Polio Now Bosphorus Cruise organized by the Bodrum Rotary Club, friendship and solidarity came together for the same purpose, and a significant contribution was made to the global fight to eradicate polio.

The End Polio Now Bosphorus Cruise, organized by the Bodrum Rotary Club with the participation of club members and many guests, was held in the unique atmosphere of Bodrum.

The event, which brought together social unity for a meaningful purpose, was organized to support Rotary's global campaign to completely eradicate polio from the world.

Throughout the night, participants shared the spirit of long-standing End Polio Now efforts and, at the same time, strengthened the spirit of friendship and solidarity.





Armenia



Bahrain



Cyprus



Georgia



Jordan



UAE



Lebanon



Palestine



Sudan

Beirut, Lebanon

District 2452



ARPIC Faisal Juma
Rotary club Salmaniya, D2452



Small Gestures, Lasting Impact: Rotary Club of Manama Brings Smiles to Young Patients at Salmaniya Hospital

*A simple gesture can create a lasting impact. As part of Rotary Child Health Month, the **Rotary Club of Manama, District 2452 – Bahrain**, brought moments of joy and encouragement to young patients receiving treatment at Salmaniya Hospital.*

Creating positive change through compassion and connection

At the heart of this project was the belief that child **healthcare** is not only about medical treatment, but also about **emotional wellbeing and creating a supportive environment for children and their families**.



Through this initiative, Rotary Club of Manama demonstrated the true meaning of Service Above Self, showing how community-driven action can create meaningful IMPACT by reaching those who need encouragement and care the most.

The smiles shared by the young patients reflected the power of kindness and the difference that even a small act of generosity can make in someone's life.

This initiative reflects Rotary's ongoing commitment to improving children's health and wellbeing. Through projects like this, Rotarians continue to transform compassion into action, strengthening communities and creating moments of hope where they are needed most.

The Rotary Club of Manama's contribution at Salmaniya Hospital is a powerful reminder that when people come together with a shared purpose, small gestures can create significant and lasting change.

Together, through service and compassion, Rotary continues to make a difference — one child, one smile and one community at a time.



A Milestone of Hope and Service: District 2452 - Palestine

The Rotary Club of Bethlehem is proud to announce the successful handover of advanced neonatal incubators to Caritas Baby Hospital, marking the completion of the “Sustainable Neonatal Care at Caritas Baby Hospital” and “Incubating Hope in Bethlehem” projects.

The handover ceremony was held on 16.07.2026 under the patronage of H.E. Hanna Hanania, Mayor of Bethlehem, and in the presence of H.E. Vladimir Kharoufeh, Mayor of Beit Jala; H.E. Laith Qumsieh, Mayor of Beit Sahour; and Eng. Nader Mauge, President of the Rotary Club of Bethlehem 2026–2027, together with distinguished guests, healthcare professionals, Rotarians, and members of the local community.

This landmark initiative reflects more than a decade of collaboration between the Rotary Club of Bethlehem and Caritas Baby Hospital, united by a shared commitment to improving neonatal healthcare for Palestinian children.

Through this project, two neonatal incubators were officially handed over to the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), significantly strengthening the hospital's capacity to provide life-saving care for premature and critically ill newborns and infants.

The project was led by the Rotary Club of Bethlehem (District 2452) and made possible through a Rotary Foundation Global Grant, with generous international support. We extend our sincere appreciation to the Rotary Club of Bari, which contributed USD 50,374, and the Rotary Club of Castelvetro, which donated USD 38,800, along with several Rotary Clubs across Districts 2110 and 2120 in Italy. Their remarkable generosity reflects the true spirit of Rotary's global fellowship and its commitment to saving lives.

The ceremony was further honored by the virtual participation of District Governor Mrs. May Monla, who addressed the audience in a heartfelt video message from Lebanon, highlighting the importance of international cooperation and Rotary's mission of Service Above Self.

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self ARPIC Faisal Abdulrahman Juma

The Rotary Club of Bethlehem extends its deepest gratitude to all our international Rotary partners, donors, Caritas Baby Hospital, The Rotary Foundation, and everyone who helped make this humanitarian project a reality.

Together, we are not only delivering advanced medical equipment - we are delivering hope, saving lives, and investing in the future of Palestine's children.



RAC of Bahrain organized a cinema day for the Al Sanabel Orphan Care Society D2452 - Bahrain

Sometimes, the greatest impact begins with a simple afternoon of laughter. A shared film, a warm smile and the feeling of belonging can create memories that last far beyond the closing credits. By investing in moments of happiness, Rotaract helps build stronger, more caring communities where every child feels valued.

On 18 July 2026, the Rotaract Club of Bahrain proudly launched its first service project of the 2026–2027 Rotary year by organising a Movie Day for the children of Al Sanabel Orphanage at Epix Cinemas, Dana Mall.

Bringing together Rotaractors and dedicated volunteers, the initiative provided the children with a fun-filled afternoon in a welcoming and inclusive environment. While the cinema experience was the highlight of the day, the project's true value lay in the meaningful connections created through conversation, shared laughter and genuine human kindness.

For many of the children, the event offered more than entertainment—it provided a sense of belonging, encouragement and the reassurance that their community cares about their wellbeing. These moments of joy contribute to emotional wellbeing and help build confidence, reminding young people that they are supported and appreciated.

The project also demonstrates the power of Rotaract to inspire positive change through simple yet meaningful acts of service. By engaging young leaders in hands-on community initiatives, the club strengthens the culture of volunteerism while promoting compassion, inclusion and social responsibility.

As the first project of the new Rotary year, the Movie Day set a positive tone for the months ahead, reflecting the Rotaract Club of Bahrain's ongoing commitment to serving the local community with empathy and purpose.

Every smile shared that afternoon is a reminder that service is not always measured by the size of a project, but by the hope it inspires. Through initiatives like this, Rotaract continues to prove that even the simplest acts of kindness can leave a lasting impact on individuals, communities and the future they share.

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Faisal Abdulrahman Juma



Changing Lives, One Vision at a Time! District 2452 - UAE

Clear vision opens the door to learning, confidence and opportunity. By helping children see the world more clearly, Rotary is investing in brighter futures—one pair of glasses at a time.

As part of Child Health Month in July 2026, the Rotary Club of Jumeirah, District 2452 – United Arab Emirates, organised a Vision Screening Campaign for the National Charity School. The initiative was led by Rotarian Saleh Al Shawa, coordinated by Club President Musa Al-Sadoon, and made possible through the generous partnership of Al Jaber Optical.

More than 400 students, teachers and staff received comprehensive eye screenings during the campaign. Those requiring corrective eyewear were provided with glasses, while 75 students experienced the life-changing moment of receiving their very first pair.

The initiative will have a lasting impact on the children's education, wellbeing and daily lives. Better vision enables students to participate more confidently in the classroom, improves academic performance and supports their overall development. At the same time, the campaign raised awareness of the importance of early eye care and preventive health within the school community.

This successful collaboration highlights the power of partnerships between Rotary, local businesses and community organisations to deliver meaningful, sustainable change. By restoring sight and creating new opportunities for learning, the Rotary Club of Jumeirah has once again demonstrated that Service Above Self is not only about meeting immediate needs—it is about empowering young people to realise their full potential and helping communities build a healthier, brighter future.

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Faisal Abdulrahman Juma



Rotaract Club of Bahrain Initiative Delivers Vital Preventive Healthcare Services to the Public

District 2452 - Bahrain

Good health begins with prevention. By making essential health screenings accessible to everyone, the Rotaract Club of Bahrain has helped community members take an important step towards healthier lives while reinforcing the value of early detection and preventive care.

On 24 July 2026, the Rotaract Club of Bahrain, in partnership with Al Hilal Hospital and the Rotaract Club of Salmaniya, organised a Free Medical Camp that provided 150 participants with comprehensive health screenings at no cost.

The camp included blood sugar, total cholesterol, kidney and liver function tests, uric acid testing and blood pressure measurements. In addition, every participant received a complimentary medical check-up voucher, encouraging continued attention to their health and wellbeing.

Beyond delivering valuable healthcare services, the initiative promoted greater public awareness of the importance of regular health checks and early diagnosis.

By removing financial barriers to basic screening, the project enabled more people to take proactive steps towards preventing future health complications.

The success of the Medical Camp also highlights the power of collaboration between healthcare professionals, community organisations and young leaders. Working together, they created a welcoming environment where service translated directly into healthier lives and stronger community connections.

Through initiatives like this, the Rotaract Club of Bahrain continues to demonstrate that meaningful service extends beyond immediate assistance—it empowers individuals, promotes healthier communities and creates a lasting impact through compassion, partnership and a shared commitment to improving quality of life.

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Faisal Abdulrahman Juma



Rotary Club of Seef Bahrain & Northern Governorate Partner for "Beyot" Housing Project District 2452 - Bahrain

A safe home is more than shelter—it is the foundation for health, dignity and hope. By helping families live in safer and more comfortable surroundings, the Rotary Club of Seef Bahrain is creating lasting change where it matters most.

In partnership with H.E. Mr Hassan bin Abdullah Al-Madani, Governor of the Northern Governorate, club members recently visited the "Beyot" (Homes) charity project to inspect the progress of ongoing home renovations for families in need.

The initiative focuses on improving living conditions through essential repairs, including the renovation of sanitary facilities, interior and exterior painting, and general maintenance. These practical improvements provide families with safer, healthier and more welcoming homes, while restoring a sense of security and dignity.

The project highlights the value of collaboration between Rotary and public institutions in addressing local community needs. By combining resources and shared expertise, the partnership delivers sustainable solutions that improve quality of life for vulnerable residents and strengthen the social fabric of the Northern Governorate.

Through the "Beyot" project, the Rotary Club of Seef Bahrain demonstrates that community service extends beyond immediate assistance. By investing in better homes, the club is investing in healthier families, stronger neighbourhoods and a brighter future—living Rotary's commitment to Service Above Self through meaningful, lasting impact.

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Faisal Abdulrahman Juma



Rotary Club of Salmaniya completed the first youth project District 2452 - Bahrain

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Faisal Abdulrahman Juma

Leadership is best learned through experience. By equipping young people with the confidence, skills and values to lead with integrity, the Rotary Club of Salmaniya is investing in the future of its community and empowering the next generation to make a positive difference.

As its first youth initiative of the 2026–2027 Rotary year, the club successfully organised a Mini RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) programme in partnership with the Northern Governorate. The workshop formed part of the Governorate's community service programme, enabling secondary school students to complete their required community service hours while developing essential leadership and personal development skills.

The interactive workshop was designed and delivered by Rotarian Reham Ayam, with the support of Past President Fareed Bushehri. Through engaging activities and discussions, participants explored key leadership qualities, teamwork, communication and the importance of serving their communities with responsibility and compassion.

The programme received highly positive feedback from both the Head of Community Engagement Programmes of the Northern Governorate and the participating students, recognising its practical value and inspiring approach to youth development.

By introducing young people to Rotary's principles of ethical leadership and service, the Rotary Club of Salmaniya continues to strengthen the connection between education and community engagement. The Mini RYLA programme demonstrates how investing in young leaders today creates confident, responsible citizens who will contribute to stronger, more resilient communities in the years to come.



Athens, Greece

District 2475



ARPIC Elena Janniki
RC Rodos-Kolossos, District 2475



Change of Leadership: Inaugural Address of Incoming District Governor H. Tinginagkas



Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

Rotary is not, first and foremost, an organization. It is people.

People who, despite the demands of everyday life, choose to devote their time, their thoughts, their experience, and their hearts to something greater than themselves—something that, at the same time, could not exist without them.

People who believe that the world becomes a better place not through grand declarations, but through consistent and meaningful acts of service. People who choose not to remain spectators, but to take action.

That is Rotary.

And that is our strength.

This Rotary year calls us to leave a lasting impact—to create something that will endure long after we have moved on to the next chapter of our journey. Something that will continue to touch lives, strengthen communities, and inspire people long after a project, an initiative, or even a year of service has come to an end.



Yet lasting impact never happens by itself. It is always preceded by Mobilization. Mobilization is the awakening within us—the moment when intention meets action. It is the moment when a thought becomes an initiative. When concern becomes responsibility. When an idea becomes a project.

It is the moment when someone decides that hoping for a better world is no longer enough and chooses instead to help create it. That is why I believe that Mobilization is the starting point, and Lasting Impact is the destination.

Between the two lies our shared journey. No meaningful change is ever achieved by one person alone.

No great challenge is overcome in isolation. No community is transformed without collaboration.

The history of Rotary is the history of collaboration. It is the story of people who came together around a common purpose.

For more than a century, people from different professions, generations, cultures, and backgrounds have chosen to work side by side for peace, health, education, environmental stewardship, community development, and human dignity.

Not because they were the same.

But because they were united by a common vision.

And it is that very same vision that unites us today.

In a world that is too often defined by division, Rotary reminds us of the power of harmony. It reminds us that we can disagree without becoming divided.

That we can follow different paths while sharing the same destination.

That we can embrace different perspectives while remaining faithful to the same values.

Harmony does not mean uniformity.

It means mutual respect.

It means trust.

It means recognizing that collective wisdom is always stronger than individual certainty.

And where harmony exists, great collective achievements become possible.

Achievements that no individual could accomplish alone.

Achievements that bear not the signature of one person, but the imprint of an entire community working together.

Change of Leadership: Inaugural Address of Incoming District Governor H. Tinginagkas

These are the projects that most authentically express our Rotary identity.
Because, in the end, we will not be remembered for the fellowship meetings we attended or the gala events we organized—whether large or small.

Nor will we be remembered for the titles we held.
We will be remembered for the difference we made in people's lives.
For the child who was given an opportunity.
For the family that found support.
For the community that became stronger.
For the hope that was transformed into reality.
That is the true measure of our success.
And that is why our responsibility is so great.
Not to do more for the sake of doing more.
This is not about quantity.
It is about ensuring that everything we do leaves a lasting impact on the world and on the communities we serve.
Through deeper collaboration.
Through greater participation.
Through stronger mobilization.
Because every member who is inspired, engaged, and actively involved adds another source of strength to our shared mission.
Every club that works together with other clubs multiplies its impact.
Every joint project designed with vision and sustainability becomes another link in a chain of positive change that extends far beyond our own time.

Dear Friends,
Rotary has always been a force of people of action.
People who do not wait for circumstances to become perfect.



The Journey in Doing Service Above Self ARPIC Elena Janniki

People who choose to mobilize.
To unite their strengths.
To create.
To serve.
To leave the world a little better than they found it.
That is our calling.
That is our legacy.
And that is the opportunity before us this year.
Let us mobilize more people.
Let us collaborate more closely.
Let us strengthen our harmony.
Let us create shared projects of substance and lasting value.
And through all of this, let us leave a lasting impact that will continue to inspire and serve people for many years to come.
Thank you for your service.
Thank you for your dedication.
And above all, thank you for proving, every single day, that when people unite around a common purpose and choose to take action, they truly can create lasting positive change—in the world, in their communities, and ultimately, within themselves.
Thank you.

Charalampos Tinginagkas
DG 2026-27
RID 2475



Proud Moment: Rotary District 2475 - Greece Delivers

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Elena Janniki

Rotary District 2475 has officially announced the successful delivery of a brand-new, fully customized training facility for the champion athletes of the "Dodekanisos" Wheelchair Basketball Team in Rhodes. This flagship infrastructure project marks the perfect, impactful conclusion to an incredible 2025–2026 Rotary year under the leadership of DG Stefanos Anastasopoulos.

-From Conference to Community Impact

This vital facility stands as a testament to sustainable fellowship, funded entirely by the proceeds of the Panhellenic Rotary Conference held in Rhodes this past April. Co-organized beautifully by the RC

of Rhodes (13434) and the RC of Rodos-Kolossos, the conference did far more than just spark great ideas - it left a permanent, life-changing footprint on the local host community.

-The True Gift of Service

While D2475 delivered the physical training space, it was the athletes who gave Rotary the greatest gift.

Spending time with the "Dodekanisos" team serves as a profound reminder to every single volunteer of three core truths:

Strength does not live in the legs—it lives in the soul.

Limits are not set by the body—they are set by the mind.

Courage, perseverance, dignity, and sheer will can defeat any obstacle.

A Multiplied Return

The handover ceremony highlighted the true magic of Rotary service, which never moves in just one direction. Rotarians arrived believing they were there to give these athletes courage, only to leave realizing that they were the ones who had received it.

The project concludes the year on a note full of deep emotion, inspiration, and hope.

Together, District 2475 proves once again that we do not just change lives - we are permanently changed by them !



When Compassion Rolls Forward

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Elena Janniki

Sometimes, changing lives begins with something as simple as a wheelchair.

For a patient undergoing cancer treatment, it offers more than mobility—it restores independence, dignity and confidence. For healthcare professionals, it enables safer and more efficient care. For a community, it is a visible reminder that kindness remains one of the most powerful medicines.

On 30 June 2026, the Rotary Club of Dionysos concluded its Rotary year with a heartfelt donation to the General Oncology Hospital of Kifissia "Agioi Anargyroi": a brand-new wheelchair, the club's second mobility donation to the hospital within the same Rotary year.

The presentation ceremony brought together Rotary members and hospital leaders, celebrating a partnership united by a shared commitment to serving people when they need support most.

While the donation itself is tangible, its greatest value lies in its continuing impact. Day after day, the wheelchair will help patients move with greater comfort, assist medical teams in delivering quality care and contribute to a healthcare environment where compassion is expressed through practical action.

This project also reflects Rotary's wider mission. Sustainable service is not measured by the size of a gift but by the difference it continues to make. By strengthening local healthcare, Rotary builds stronger communities, fosters public confidence and demonstrates how volunteer leadership can create lasting humanitarian value.

Every successful project also enhances Rotary's public image—not through publicity alone, but through authentic action that inspires others to serve. Partnerships with healthcare institutions strengthen community bonds and show that even relatively small interventions can generate significant long-term benefits.

As one Rotary year came to a close, the Rotary Club of Dionysos reminded us that every act of service has the power to move lives forward. In Rotary, compassion is not simply shared—it creates momentum, leaving a legacy that continues long after the ribbon has been cut and the photographs have been taken.



Panorama Advances Sustainability and Community Welfare with 250kg Recycling Drive - RC Voula - Panorama

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Elena Janniki

Environmental responsibility becomes even more powerful when it changes lives. By transforming everyday plastic waste into practical support for people and communities, the Rotary Club of Voula-Panorama has demonstrated how sustainable action can generate lasting humanitarian impact.

In July 2026, the club delivered 250 kilograms of collected plastic lids to the Municipality of Elliniko-Argyroupoli, continuing an initiative that combines environmental stewardship with meaningful community service.

The collected plastic is recycled, with its economic value directly funding the purchase of specialised wheelchairs for individuals with severe mobility challenges. At the same time, part of the recycling proceeds is allocated to the municipality's Voluntary Civil Protection Team, helping to provide essential equipment and specialised tools that strengthen local emergency response and public safety.

This innovative project demonstrates how a simple recycling initiative can produce multiple community benefits. It reduces plastic waste, promotes environmental awareness, supports people with disabilities and enhances the preparedness of local volunteers who protect their community during emergencies.

By bringing together environmental responsibility, social inclusion and civic partnership, the Rotary Club of Voula-Panorama has created a model of sustainable service that delivers benefits far beyond recycling itself. It is a powerful reminder that every small contribution can become part of something much greater—protecting the environment while improving lives and building stronger, more resilient communities.





ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΝΟΜΟΣ ΑΤΤΙΚΗΣ
ΔΗΜΟΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥ - ΑΡΓΥΡΟΥΠΟΛΗΣ



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ΠΡΟΣ: **Ροταριανός Όμιλος Βούλα Πανόραμα**

ΑΥΤ. ΤΜΗΜΑ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ
Ρεθύμνης & Διοδωκνήσου 37
Αργυρούπολη Τ.Κ. 16452
Πληρ.: Αναστασία Γκιντοίδη
Τηλ.: 213.2026.067
email: politikiprostasiada@elliniko-argyroupoli.gr

Θέμα: «Ευχαριστήρια Επιστολή προς Ροταριανός Όμιλος Βούλα Πανόραμα»

Αξιότιμοι Κύριοι και Κυρίες,

Το Αυτοτελές Τμήμα Πολιτικής Προστασίας και η Εθελοντική Ομάδα Δασοπροστασίας - Δασοφυλάκων Δήμου Ελληνικού Αργυρούπολης (ΕΟΔΠΕΑ), εκφράζουν τις θερμές ευχαριστίες τους για τη δωρεά πλαστικών καπακιών, η οποία συμβάλλει ουσιαστικά στην προστασία του περιβάλλοντος μέσω της ανακύκλωσης, ενώ παράλληλα ενισχύει το έργο της Εθελοντικής Ομάδας, καθώς τα έσοδα από την αξιοποίηση τους διατίθενται για την προμήθεια αναλώσιμων υλικών.

Η πολύτιμη προσφορά σας αποτελεί έμπρακτη απόδειξη κοινωνικής ευαισθησίας, περιβαλλοντικής συνειδήσης και στήριξης του εθελοντισμού.

Με εκτίμηση,

Ο Αντιδήμαρχος
Ανεκτικότητας, Πολιτικής Προστασίας & Πολιτικής Άμυνας

Βασίλειος Κρητικός

RC Voula-Panorama Partners with Hellenic Society for Multiple Sclerosis to Empower Patient Autonomy

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Elena Janniki

True service is measured by the opportunities it creates. By helping someone regain mobility and independence, Rotary does more than provide essential equipment—it restores confidence, dignity and the freedom to participate fully in everyday life.

On 2 July 2026, the Rotary Club of Voula-Panorama donated a specialised wheelchair to the Hellenic Society for Multiple Sclerosis, reaffirming its commitment to improving the lives of people facing mobility challenges.

The wheelchair was formally presented to the Society's President, Mrs Makrykosta, for immediate allocation to a person in urgent need, ensuring that the support would reach its beneficiary without delay.

This initiative reflects the shared commitment of the Rotary Club and the Hellenic Society for Multiple Sclerosis to reducing the barriers experienced by people living with Multiple Sclerosis. Access to appropriate mobility equipment enhances personal independence, improves quality of life and enables individuals to remain active participants in their families, workplaces and communities.

Beyond meeting an immediate need, the donation sends a powerful message about inclusion and compassion. It demonstrates how partnerships between Rotary and community organisations can create practical, sustainable solutions that empower people rather than simply assist them.

Through projects like this, the Rotary Club of Voula-Panorama continues to show that even a single act of generosity can open new possibilities, strengthen communities and reaffirm Rotary's enduring commitment to creating a world where everyone has the opportunity to live with dignity and independence.



Hosts Gala Performance to Support Mothers and Children in Thiva Correctional Facility - RC Dionysos

Music has the power to touch hearts—but when combined with service, it can also transform lives. The Rotary Club of Dionysos demonstrated this beautifully by turning an evening of culture into a meaningful humanitarian initiative for some of society's most vulnerable children.

At the Agios Stefanos Cultural Centre, the club hosted the gala "When Early Broadway Meets the Opera", bringing together Rotarians, community leaders and music lovers in support of infants and young children living with their incarcerated mothers at the Thiva Women's Correctional Facility.

Alongside a captivating programme of operatic favourites and Broadway classics, led by Rotarian Efi Adiline-Mombi, the event encouraged attendees to donate essential supplies. The response was remarkable, resulting in the collection of



The Journey in Doing Service Above Self ARPIC Elena Janniki

medicines, hygiene products, infant formula and personal care items to support the daily needs of mothers and their children.

Club President Eleni Vachari reminded guests that every child deserves dignity, care and hope, regardless of the circumstances into which they are born.

By combining artistic excellence with humanitarian action, the Rotary Club of Dionysos not only delivered practical support but also raised awareness of an often-overlooked social issue. The initiative stands as a powerful example of Rotary's commitment to protecting vulnerable families, promoting compassion and proving that culture can become a catalyst for lasting positive change.



Social Outreach Initiative by the Social Welfare and Solidarity Committee of the RC of Rhodes

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Elena Janniki

As part of its ongoing commitment to serving the community and guided by the principles of volunteerism, solidarity, and selfless service, the Rotary Club of Rhodes donated paper products and other consumable supplies to the "Pnoi" Creative Activity Center for Persons with Disabilities (KDAP-MEA), operated by the Municipal Non-Profit Organization (AMKE) of the Municipality of Rhodes.

This initiative represents yet another social responsibility action by the Club, aiming to provide tangible support to organizations that offer invaluable daily services to people with disabilities and their families. The donated materials will help meet the Center's operational needs and will be used in its creative workshops and everyday activities for its beneficiaries.

During the visit, members of the Rotary Club of Rhodes, together with former Assistant Governor Rachel Topalidou, toured the facilities of the "Pnoi" KDAP-MEA, were informed about its important work, and had the opportunity to meet with the scientific staff, who work with dedication every day to support, educate, and promote the social inclusion of the Center's beneficiaries.

The "Pnoi" KDAP-MEA is one of the Municipality of Rhodes' most important social care facilities, providing free creative, educational, and psychosocial support services to people with disabilities. Through a comprehensive program of creative, educational, athletic, and artistic activities, it promotes the development of skills, independence, and the active participation of its beneficiaries in community life.



Social Outreach Initiative by the Social Welfare and Solidarity Committee of the RC of Rhodes

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Elena Janniki

Deputy Mayor for Social Policy, Equality and Solidarity, and Preschool Education, Sawvina Papageorgiou, warmly thanked the Rotary Club of Rhodes for its donation, stating:

"The tangible support provided by the Rotary Club of Rhodes is a particularly important act of social awareness and solidarity. Every contribution to our Municipality's social care facilities substantially strengthens the work carried out each day for the benefit of our fellow citizens in need and helps maintain a high standard of care and support services.

Cooperation with organizations that consistently uphold the values of volunteerism, service, and social responsibility is an invaluable ally in our shared effort to build a society of equal opportunities, inclusion, and solidarity.

We sincerely thank the Rotary Club of Rhodes for its generous and meaningful contribution, which demonstrates that when the forces of the local community work together, the results are beneficial for everyone."

This initiative was undertaken at the initiative of Katerina Gianniou Athanasiou, a member of the Social Welfare and Solidarity Committee of the Rotary Club of Rhodes, and forms part of the Committee's ongoing social intervention program to support vulnerable social groups and strengthen organizations that provide important social services within the local community.

This collective effort demonstrates that when volunteerism, social awareness, and the willingness to serve come together, they can create a meaningful and lasting social impact.



RC Athina-Kolonaki/ Essential Donation to MERIMNA

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Elena Janniki

The Rotary Club of Athens-Kolonaki officially commenced its 2026-27 service calendar on July 10, 2026, by executing a vital humanitarian project targeting vulnerable children and families. Members of the club mobilized resources to deliver a substantial donation of material goods to MERIMNA, a highly respected, non-profit organization in Greece dedicated to pediatric palliative care and bereavement support.

Addressing Critical Local Needs- MERIMNA stands as a pillar of psychological support for children navigating the profound trauma of losing a loved one or battling life-threatening, chronic illnesses. Beyond psychological counseling, the organization renders critical palliative services to relieve suffering and improve the quality of life for young patients and their immediate families during severe crises.

The comprehensive donation packets consisted of:

Pharmaceutical and Medical Supplies: Crucial healthcare materials necessary for immediate clinical care and basic sanitary requirements.

Stationery and Paper Goods: Materials to support administrative office needs and youth counseling art-therapy workshops.

Essential Clothing Items: Functional attire intended directly for families under the care of the organization.

This service affirms that local community networks can effectively bridge systemic gaps to protect society's most vulnerable youth.



Rotary Club of Rhodes Continues Its Longstanding Support for the Municipality of Rhodes Women's Counseling Center Through a Donation of Food and Essential Supplies

The **Rotary Club of Rhodes** carried out another meaningful act of community service in July, Rotary's month dedicated to **Maternal and Child Health**.

On **9 July 2026**, the Club donated food and essential supplies to the **Municipality of Rhodes Women's Counselling Centre**, offering practical support to women and children served by the Centre and reaffirming its long-standing commitment to vulnerable members of the local community.

This initiative is part of the strong cooperation between the Rotary Club of Rhodes and the Municipality of Rhodes Women's Support Services. Under the Memorandum of Cooperation signed on **30 July 2025**, free medical examinations continue to be provided to the Centre's beneficiaries by physician members of the Club and collaborating doctors from various specialties.

The Women's Counselling Centre offers free psychosocial, social, legal and employment counselling to women who

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Elena Janniki

have experienced gender-based or domestic violence, as well as to women from vulnerable social groups. Its work empowers women, supports their safety and dignity, and helps them rebuild their social and professional lives.

The donation also strengthens the daily efforts of the Centre's staff, who serve with professionalism, dedication and a deep sense of responsibility.

Warm appreciation is extended to Deputy Mayor **Savvina Papageorgiou**, Deputy Head of the Directorate of Social Policy and Health **Christina Karagianni**, and all employees of the Centre for their continued commitment.

The President of the Rotary Club of Rhodes, Dr **Beatrice-Kalliopi Servou**, underlined that supporting such vital social services is a shared responsibility. Every act of solidarity helps build a more just, compassionate and secure society — one in which every woman knows she is not alone.

The initiative was organised by the Club's **Child Services Committee**, chaired by **Stella Roubeti**, with members **Nikolaos Oikonomou**, **Natasa Ragiou** and **Doukissa Chatzimichali**.



Rotary e- Club of Greece & RC Maroussi - Donation of Medicines, Baby Food, and Infant Formula to the Social Pharmacy of the Municipality of Heraklion

Continuity and Collaboration...

These are two values that Rotarians around the world uphold and serve with dedication. Once again, the Rotary Club of Maroussi and the Rotary eClub of Greece demonstrated their commitment to these principles through a meaningful joint initiative.

Collaboration

The collection of medicines, baby food, and infant formula was organized jointly by the two Rotary clubs to support the Social Pharmacy of the Municipality of Heraklion and help meet the immediate needs of vulnerable members of the community.

Continuity

Due to the high demand and significant shortages of these essential items, the collection campaign began during the previous Rotary year and was completed in the first days of the new one. In doing so, the two Rotary clubs once again demonstrated their commitment to the Rotary principle of continuity, ensuring that every project and initiative is carried through to completion regardless of the transition to a new Rotary year.

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Elena Janniki

Working together, the two clubs collected and donated ten boxes of medicines, baby food, and infant formula, making a meaningful contribution toward addressing the urgent needs of the Social Pharmacy of the Municipality of Heraklion. The donated supplies were received by Maria Prinarakis, Head of the Social Pharmacy, who warmly thanked both clubs for their valuable contribution, particularly during the challenging summer months. She also highlighted the longstanding and consistent support that the Rotary eClub of Greece has provided to the Social Pharmacy over the years.

On behalf of the participating Rotary clubs, Demosthenis Marakis, President of the Rotary eClub of Greece, emphasized that this donation marks only the beginning of a series of new initiatives and projects aimed at providing ongoing support to the Social Pharmacy. The meeting concluded in a warm and friendly atmosphere, with everyone exchanging best wishes for a wonderful, productive, and above all, healthy summer.



D2475 -Enhancing Accessibility: Rotary Clubs Donate Wheelchairs to the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Dodecanese (Rhodes)

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Elena Janniki

Within the framework of the "Give the Gift of Access 2.0" initiative, eight collaborating Rotary Clubs—Rotary eClub of Greece, RC Agia Paraskevi, RC Anoixi-Semeli, RC Kifisia-Kastri, RC Patras "Kostis Palamas," RC Preveza, RC Chalandri, and RC Psychiko—have continued their dynamic commitment to enhancing accessibility at key cultural and historical sites throughout Greece.

On the occasion of the 66th Panhellenic Conference of Rotary International District 2475, hosted on the island of Rhodes, representatives from the participating clubs officially donated two wheelchairs to the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Dodecanese.

The specialized equipment is designated to serve visitors with mobility impairments at two of the island's most significant cultural landmarks: the Archaeological Museum of Rhodes and the Archaeological Site of Ialysos. This contribution directly addresses the need for enhanced infrastructure, promoting equal access to Greece's rich cultural heritage for all demographics.



The official handover ceremony was attended by Ms. Elena Janniki, Assistant Rotary Public Image Coordinator for Zone 21B (ARPIC) and representative of the "Give the Gift of Access 2.0" program, alongside Ms. Eleni Farmakidou, Deputy Head of the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Dodecanese.

In her address, Ms. Farmakidou extended her gratitude to the eight participating Rotary Clubs, commending their civic dedication and highlighting the profound impact of the initiative. She emphasized that the donation ensures all citizens can experience Greece's cultural history without physical barriers, while simultaneously projecting a powerful international message of social responsibility, inclusion, and global solidarity.

The "Give the Gift of Access 2.0" program continues its nationwide campaign.

Throughout the summer season, additional wheelchair deployments are scheduled across Greece, with a strategic focus on remote, border, and underserved regions, reinforcing the core principle that accessibility is a universal right.



YOUTH IN ACTION: "Gift of Access 2.0" Enhances Athens War Museum Accessibility

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Elena Janniki

The Rotary initiative "Gift of Access 2.0" marked another milestone with the official delivery of wheelchairs to the Athens War Museum.

This handover carried deep symbolic weight, as the entire donation was funded exclusively by the kindergarten students of The Laughing House preschool! Cultivating Inclusivity Early

Throughout the school year, the children organized school bazaars to raise the necessary funds. Guided by their teachers and parents, the young students dedicated their proceeds to purchasing mobility equipment, turning the core values of equality, accessibility, and social inclusion into practical action.

Expanding Cultural Access

The donation ensures that the historic Athens War Museum remains fully open and accessible to all visitors.



Rotary organizers extended heartfelt thanks to the students, parents, and faculty of The Laughing House for proving that community impact has no age limit. Looking ahead, the program has already set its sights on its next destination, promising the young volunteers: "See you next year at a brand-new museum!"



CULTURAL INCLUSION: "Gift the Gift of Accessibility 2.0" Partners with Byzantine and Christian Museum in Athens

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Elena Janniki

Grounded in the belief that equal access to culture is a universal right, representatives from eight collaborating Rotary clubs recently visited the Byzantine and Christian Museum to officially donate a new wheelchair to the institution.

The donation was executed under the banner of the "Gift the Gift of Accessibility 2.0" program, a joint humanitarian initiative powered by the Rotary e-Club of Greece, RC Agia Paraskevi, RC Anoixi Semeli, RC Kifisia Kastri, RC Patras "Kostis Palamas," RC Preveza, RC Chalandri, and RC Psychiko.

The Rotary delegation was received by Dr. Kalliopi-Phaedra Kalafati, Deputy Director General of the Museum. The meeting focused on the critical role of community and institutional collaboration in eliminating physical barriers within public cultural spaces.

By integrating this new mobility resource, the Byzantine and Christian Museum reinforces its capacity to welcome visitors with mobility impairments, allowing them to experience the museum's historic collections with enhanced comfort, independence, and dignity.



The RC Rodos Kolossos, the RC of Rhodes and the South Aegean Fleet of the IYFR, convene a Joint Environmental and Cultural Initiative

On July 2026 the RC Rodos-Kolossos, the RC of Rhodes and the South Aegean Fleet of the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR), successfully executed a joint initiative on the island of Alimia in the Dodecanese in Greece.

The primary objectives of the gathering were to foster inter-club collaboration, strengthen fellowship, and promote awareness regarding the natural and cultural heritage of the Aegean region. The initiative drew a significant assembly of Rotarians, family members, and friends of the organization, providing a dedicated forum for communication, networking, and the exchange of operational experiences within a pristine natural environment.

Throughout the excursion, attendees engaged with the unique biodiversity of the area and conducted site visits to the historic settlement of Alimia and the chapel of Agios Georgios. A key highlight of the day was the observation of dolphins in their natural habitat, an experience that underscored the critical importance of environmental conservation and the preservation of regional ecological assets.

The event served as an ideal platform to reinforce institutional ties between the two local Rotary Clubs in Rhodes and the South Aegean Fleet of the IYFR, reaffirming fellowship as the foundational pillar for impactful community service. The presence of distinguished senior Rotary officials further elevated the event, highlighting the organizational emphasis on unity and active engagement within the global Rotary family.

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Elena Janniki

In a joint statement, the participating leadership expressed their sincere gratitude to Blutopia Marine Park for its flawless execution, professionalism, and hospitality, which proved instrumental to the overall success of the initiative. Through collaborative efforts that unite professionals, promote fellowship, and highlight regional cultural wealth, both clubs continue to advance the core tenets of Rotary International, creating a sustainable and meaningful footprint within their local communities.



Rotary Club Dionysos delivers essential supplies to Eleona Thiva Women's Prison - D2475

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Elena Janniki

Every child deserves care, comfort and hope, regardless of the circumstances into which they are born. By reaching out to mothers and infants living in difficult conditions, the Rotary Club of Dionysos demonstrated that compassion can make a meaningful difference even in the most challenging environments.

In July 2026, the club visited the Eleona Thiva Women's Correctional Facility to deliver 22 specially prepared care packages containing essential everyday items for incarcerated mothers and their babies.

The initiative was designed to improve the daily lives of young children spending their earliest years within the correctional facility while providing practical support to mothers facing the challenges of raising a child in confinement. By addressing basic needs with dignity and care, the project offered reassurance that these families have not been forgotten by the wider community.

Beyond the immediate assistance, the initiative highlights Rotary's commitment to protecting vulnerable groups and promoting compassion, inclusion and human dignity. It also raises awareness of the importance of supporting early childhood development, regardless of social circumstances.



The visit also served as a reminder that meaningful service often reaches those who are least visible. By supporting mothers facing the challenges of parenthood in confinement, the Rotary Club of Dionysos reinforced the importance of empathy, respect and equal human dignity for all.

Through initiatives like this, Rotary transforms compassion into action and demonstrates that even small gestures can have a profound and lasting impact. By offering practical assistance, hope and human connection, the Rotary Club of Dionysos continues to embody Service Above Self, creating brighter possibilities for vulnerable families and reminding us that no child should ever be beyond the reach of care and kindness.



Asen's Fortress, Bulgaria

District 2482



ARPIC Arkan Nihat
Rotary club Kardjali, District 2482



A Drop of Life, A Place to Belong: Rotary Family Revitalises a Community Space in Karnobat

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Arkan Nihat



Public spaces are more than places to pass through - they are where **communities come together, friendships grow and everyday life flourishes**. By transforming a neglected corner of a local park into a welcoming and accessible gathering place, the Rotary family in Karnobat has created a lasting gift for present and future generations.

On **5 July 2026**, the Rotary Club of Karnobat, together with the Rotaract Club of Karnobat, the Interact Club of Karnobat and the Municipality of Karnobat, officially inaugurated their successful District Grant Project, "A Drop of Life, A Place to Belong."

The initiative breathed new life into a public area in Karnobat's park, creating an attractive space where residents and visitors can relax, meet and enjoy free access to drinking water. As part of the project, the public fountain was fully restored, benches and pathways were renovated, the surrounding area was landscaped, and artistic features were added to create a more welcoming and vibrant environment.

The project demonstrates how cooperation between Rotary, young leaders and local authorities can produce sustainable improvements that benefit the entire community. By enhancing a shared public space, the initiative promotes healthier lifestyles, encourages social interaction and strengthens the sense of belonging among people of all ages.

Beyond its physical transformation, the project represents Rotary's commitment to creating lasting impact through practical, community-driven solutions. Every visitor who stops to rest, every family who gathers in the park and every person who enjoys fresh drinking water will benefit from this investment for years to come.

Through "A Drop of Life, A Place to Belong," the Rotary family in Karnobat has shown that even a single community space can become a symbol of cooperation, sustainability and hope—proving once again that meaningful service begins with local action and creates a legacy that lasts well into the future.



Creating Active Communities: Rotary Club Haskovo-Aida Invests in Health and Wellbeing

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Arkan Nihat

Great communities are built through spaces that bring people together. By creating opportunities for recreation, healthy lifestyles and social connection, Rotary helps transform public spaces into places where **people of all ages can meet, exercise and enjoy time together.** These investments continue to benefit communities long after the project is completed.

To mark the conclusion of a highly successful 2025–2026 Rotary year, the **Rotary Club of Haskovo-Aida** donated a permanent outdoor table tennis table to the citizens of Haskovo. Installed along the central promenade of Kenana Park, near the lake and the outdoor fitness area previously established by the club in 2019, the new facility further enhances one of the city's most popular recreational spaces.

Funded through charitable initiatives and community donations, and implemented in cooperation with the Municipality of Haskovo, the table has been designed for long-term public use. Constructed from reinforced high-strength concrete with a durable mosaic finish, it is built to withstand outdoor conditions while providing a safe and accessible sporting facility for residents and visitors alike.



The project forms part of a remarkable Rotary year under the leadership of President Plamen Petkov, during which the club successfully delivered five major community initiatives. Alongside the installation of the table tennis facility, members planted 47 American red oak trees as part of their ongoing environmental programme, organised free eye screenings for 381 preschool children, provided free prostate cancer screenings for 327 men, and engaged more than 100 schoolchildren in a sports initiative promoting healthy lifestyles and drug prevention.

Together, these projects reflect Rotary's holistic approach to community service—promoting public health, environmental sustainability, youth development and active living. As the club begins a new Rotary year under the leadership of Hristo Mikov, it continues to build upon a strong legacy of service, demonstrating how local action creates lasting impact and contributes to healthier, more vibrant and more resilient



Green Energy for Better Children's Recovery

A children's rehabilitation centre in Opitsvet, Bulgaria, can now reduce electricity costs and offer a greener, more **supportive environment for children with oncohaematological diseases**. This is the impact of a Rotary Global Grant led by **Rotary Club Sofia International, District 2482**.

The project created a solar park and bio-garden for the Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Oncohaematological Diseases. The solar park produces renewable energy and helps lower the centre's electricity expenses, allowing more resources to support rehabilitation services. The bio-garden, with 100 newly planted trees, creates a healthier outdoor space for learning, rest and connection with nature.

The project brought together 18 Rotary clubs and districts from nine countries — Bulgaria, the United States, Switzerland, South Africa, Greece, Serbia, England, Sweden and Germany. The main international partner was Rotary Club St. Simons, USA, with support from The Rotary Foundation, District 2482, donors and friends of the cause.



The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Arkan Nihat

With a total budget of USD 55,000, the project combined environmental responsibility, social support and education. It was officially opened on 31 May 2026.

In Opitsvet, Rotary friendship has become practical care: green energy, a living garden and better conditions for children, families and staff.

Their commitment inspired an even broader coalition of support. In total, 18 Rotary clubs and districts from nine countries—including **Bulgaria, the United States, Switzerland, South Africa, Greece, Serbia, England, Sweden and Germany**—joined forces to make the project a reality.

Supported by The Rotary Foundation, the initiative reached a total value of US\$55,000, demonstrating how Rotary's global network can unite around a shared humanitarian vision.

The project also became a catalyst for education. Training sessions for staff, children and their families introduced practical knowledge about renewable energy, environmental responsibility and sustainable lifestyles, ensuring that its benefits extend well beyond the physical improvements.



Plastic for a Book: Recycling That Opens Pages

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Arkan Nihat

Fifteen bags of plastic waste were collected for recycling, and nearly 500 books and educational materials reached the community in Ruse, Bulgaria. This is the impact of the third edition of “Plastic for a Book”, organised by Rotaract Club Ruse and Interact Club Ruse, District 2482, with the support and recognition of Rotary Club Ruse.

Held around International Children’s Day, the initiative invited local residents to exchange plastic bottles and other recyclable plastic waste for books. In one simple action, the campaign connected environmental responsibility with literacy, education and the joy of reading.

The distributed materials included children’s books, books for adults, mathematics workbooks, Danube-themed colouring books and 50 copies of Slavo-Bulgarian History.

The project encouraged people of different ages to take part — not as observers, but as active contributors to a cleaner and more educated community.

The campaign is part of the wider Danube Alliance and the international environmental programme End Plastic Soup, supported by Rotarians from the Netherlands. Similar actions were held in Ruse, Vidin, Svishtov, Vukovar, Galați and Budapest. Together, Rotary, Rotaract and Interact clubs across the Danube region collected more than one tonne of plastic waste for recycling.

In Ruse, young people are turning a simple idea into lasting habits: recycle more, read more, care more.



Danube Through the Lens: Art, Music and Community by the River

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Arkan Nihat

The riverside promenade in Ruse became an open-air gallery and cultural stage, inviting hundreds of visitors to rediscover the Danube through photography, music and shared community pride. This was the impact of “Danube Through the Lens”, organised by Rotary Club of Ruse, District 2482, with the support of the Municipality of Ruse, on the eve of the International Day of the Danube.

The evening opened with performances by Rotary scholarship recipients and students from the National School of Arts “Prof. Veselin Stoyanov”, giving young talent a public stage in the heart of the city.

The highlight was the award ceremony for the photography competition. The jury selected Ziba Chakaryan, Deyan Kolev and Nikolay Kovachev for their compelling visual interpretations of the river.

The celebration continued with an energetic performance by Ruse-based band PoPoKATe5I, while Toni Enchev from Rotaract Club Ruse kept the atmosphere friendly and engaging. Part of the programme marking the 90th anniversary of Rotary Club of Ruse, the initiative showed how Rotary can connect heritage, young talent, art and public space.

For one evening, the Danube became more than a river. It became a mirror of the community.



Giving Young Voices the Power to Prevent: Rotary Club of Ruse–Danube Inspires Youth-Led Action

Young people are among the most powerful advocates for positive change when they are given the opportunity to speak, create and inspire. Through its second annual campaign, "Addiction and Aggression – Let's Talk Openly," the Rotary Club of Ruse–Danube, in partnership with the Regional Department of Education – Ruse, empowered students to become active leaders in prevention.

Students from MG Media, the school television channel of Baba Tonka Mathematics High School, produced six original video reports exploring issues such as peer pressure, addiction, mental health, cyberbullying and the positive influence of sport and the arts. Using interviews and original reporting, they created engaging content that encourages open discussion among young people and raises awareness throughout the wider community.

The student journalists were recognised for their professionalism and civic engagement during an awards ceremony held ahead of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June.

By placing young people at the heart of the initiative, the Rotary Club of Ruse–Danube demonstrates that prevention is most effective when youth become creators of the message rather than passive listeners. The campaign continues to inspire healthier choices, encourage open dialogue and build a more informed, resilient and compassionate community—creating a lasting impact that extends far beyond the classroom.





INTERNATIONAL ROTARY MATHS FESTIVAL

A Maths Festival for children of grades 1 to 12
organised in Bourgas, Bulgaria, by the Rotary
club of Bourgas



PHOTO: NIKI DINOV

LOCAL ROUND



October 25, 2026



Different places around the world

INTERNATIONAL ROUND



April 17, 2027



Bourgas, Bulgaria

ROTARY GOLF CUP

СЪБОТА, 08 АВГУСТ | SATURDAY, 08 AUGUST

ФОРМАТ | Скрембъл в отбори по двама
FORMAT | Scramble in teams of two

Допълнително класиране за отбори с поне едни член на Ротари Клуб. Отборите с членове на Ротари клуб участват и в общото класиране!

Additional prizes for Teams with one or more Rotary Club members! Teams with Rotary members are also included in general ranking!

Старт на турнира и закуска
Start of the tournament and breakfast

Регистрация: 8:00

Старт: 10:00

Registration: 8:00

Start: 10:00

Награждаване и коктейл
Prize-giving ceremony & cocktail

Награждаване 16:00

Коктейл 16:30

Prize giving ceremony 16:00

Cocktail 16:30

Турнирна такса: 67 €
(Голф, закуска и коктейл)

Такса коктейл: 45 €

Participation fee: 67 €
(Golf, breakfast & cocktail)

Cocktail only: 45 €

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Belgrade, Serbia

District 2483



ARPIC Aleksandar Radojicic
RC Beograd Skadarlija, D2483



Uniting for ECO Good: Rotary District 2483 Creates Lasting Climate Impact

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Aleksandar Radojicic

Protecting the environment is about far more than preserving nature—it is about safeguarding public health, empowering communities and creating a sustainable future for the next generation.

Throughout the 2025–2026 Rotary year, Rotary District 2483 demonstrated this vision through its Rotary Climate Action – Unite for ECO Good programme, a district-wide initiative that combined environmental stewardship, education and community engagement.

Implemented under the patronage of the District Governor and coordinated by the District Climate Action Coordinator in partnership with the Rotary Club Novi Sad Eco-Art, the programme sought to improve climate literacy, promote sustainable lifestyles and encourage active citizenship, particularly among children and young people.

A key milestone was a district-wide survey involving Rotary and Rotaract clubs and individual members, which revealed growing engagement in environmental initiatives. More than 70% of participating clubs reported organising or planning tree-planting and greening projects, while many also promoted recycling, waste reduction, cycling and environmental education. The findings highlighted a strong foundation for future collaboration across the district.

The programme's flagship initiative, "Unite for ECO Good – Miloduh (Hyssop) for a Gentle Spirit," brought together more than 100 children, alongside teachers, parents, Rotarians and Rotaractors, through urban gardening, nature-inspired art workshops, educational activities and a children's art competition. By connecting climate action with mental wellbeing and outdoor learning, the project demonstrated that environmental responsibility can be practical, creative and accessible to all generations.

The programme's success was strengthened through collaboration with Rotary clubs, schools, kindergartens, youth organisations and community partners across Serbia and Montenegro. District 2483 also expanded its international visibility by participating in the MINGA Global Action Initiative and promoting its activities through the European Climate Pact, European Public Health Week, Rotary Showcase and other communication platforms.

By uniting education, partnership and practical action, Rotary District 2483 has shown that meaningful climate action begins at the local level. Through small but consistent initiatives, the programme is creating healthier communities, inspiring environmental responsibility and proving that Rotary can play a leading role in building a more sustainable future for generations to come.



**Rotaract club Beograd Centar - winning
second place for
Best Project in Europe during the 2025/26
Rotary year.**

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Aleksandar Radojicic

Dear Rotaract Friends,

We are pleased to present you with an overview of some of our most important projects and humanitarian initiatives carried out over the past period. We are proud of the results we have achieved and are happy to share them with you in the hope of inspiring and encouraging further cooperation and joint action!

LeuRota

LeuRota is a long-term humanitarian and public health initiative aimed at increasing the number of registered stem cell donors in Serbia. The project is implemented in cooperation with the organization LEUKA and provides direct support to people suffering from leukemia and other serious hematological diseases, for whom stem cell transplantation is often the only or most effective treatment option.

The initiative was launched during the 2022/23 Rotary year through a joint effort of Rotaract Club Belgrade Centar and Rotaract Club Subotica. To date, the number of registered voluntary donors has increased by 1,500 people. The project was also recognized for its impact, winning second place for Best Project in Europe during the 2025/26 Rotary year.



Rotaract club Stara Pazova Global Grant Project “I HEAR YOU”

The Global Grant project “I Hear You”, implemented by RotaractClub Stara Pazova, became the first Rotaract-led Global Grant project successfully completed in this part of Europe. It also marked the first collaboration of this scale between a Rotaract club from District 2483 and Rotary Club Chicago – Rotary One, the largest donor and one of the key partners of the project.

With a total value of \$39,239 raised through the support of Rotary districts from the United States, Rotary District 2483, Rotary Club Chicago - Rotary One, and private donors, the project aimed to improve the position of deaf and hard-of-hearing people in Serbia.

Implemented in cooperation with the Association of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing People of Serbia, City Organizations in Belgrade and Niš, the project included four educational weekends and 11 days of lectures, workshops, and professional training. A special contribution was made by Florian Rojba, internationally recognized interpreter of International Sign Language and board member of the World Federation of the Deaf, who shared his expertise with participants.

Through education, cooperation, and strengthened support networks, “I Hear You” represents the true spirit of Create Lasting Impact - creating a more inclusive society for years to come.



Rotaract club Beograd Singidunum - Fashion Show

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Aleksandar Radojicic

Our traditional, twelfth annual Humanitarian Fashion Show was held on April 16 at Red Queen Restaurant, whose hospitality, professionalism, and inspiring interior design added a special touch to this memorable event. As every year, all of our partners and collaborators who contribute to making this complex event possible generously donate their services and do not charge for their work that day, thereby making their own contribution to the humanitarian cause.

This year, our program featured outstanding performances by Vračar Social Dance Club, the oldest dance club in Serbia! We were also honored to welcome our dear Governor, Veliša Stamatović, whose speech will remain a memorable part of the evening. The makeup artists and hairstylists responsible for creating the looks of our models, as always, did an incredible job. Professional models walked the runway, joined side by side by our special guests of honor, actresses Miona Marković and Srna Đenadić.

More than 15 Serbian designers presented their creations to the local audience, supporting the humanitarian character of the fashion show. Budoar, Mykash, Milova, Ercegovac, and Ines Atelier were just some of the names that brought the world of fashion to the heart of Belgrade that evening.

More than 20 pieces, ranging from elegant dresses and suits to bags and accessories, were sold at the charity auction. The proceeds were donated to Zvuci Srca, an organization actively working to promote the inclusion of



of people with various forms of disabilities by employing them in its establishments and giving them the opportunity to feel included and live their lives with dignity, just like everyone else. This year's donation is intended for the renovation and furnishing of the organization's space at Čuburska 12 in Belgrade.

More than €3,000 was raised through the project. The rest of the evening was made even more special with fireworks, a beautiful cake by Anči Kolači, and a riverside party featuring the incredibly talented DJ Maria.



Rotaract - FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION: CREATING LASTING IMPACT FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

Every mother and child deserves access to knowledge, support, and quality healthcare. Through Rotary projects and partnerships, Rotarians work to improve maternal and child health by promoting education, prevention, and early support systems that empower women and protect future generations.

In Serbia, Rotaract Clubs of Belgrade Čukarica, Bg Centar, Novi Sad, and Subotica have been creating lasting impact through initiatives focused on women's reproductive health and well-being. The Body Temple Project, launched in 2023, created a digital platform dedicated to educating young women, breaking the stigma around menstruation, and encouraging open conversations about pregnancy, childbirth, and reproductive health. The project was recognized as the best District initiative at the 2023 Rotaract District 2483 Assembly.

Building on this mission, the Big Pink Project was introduced in 2024 in cooperation with Rotary Club Belgrade Čukarica. Through youth dialogue and education, the project promotes awareness of reproductive, mental, and child health, connecting local efforts with a global movement supported by Rotary partners.

By sharing knowledge, creating safe spaces for discussion, and connecting communities with experts, Rotaractors continue to create healthier futures for mothers, children, and families.



Tirana, Albania

District 2485



DPIC Nora Siqeca
District 2485 (Albania&Kosovo)



Basketball Tournament Brings Mitrovica's Youth Together

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
DPIC Nora Sigecca

On July 4, Rotary Club Mitrovica, with the support and sponsorship of Kosovo Leadership Academy, organized a basketball tournament for lower secondary school students from grades 6 to 9 across the city of Mitrovica.

Held in honor of the 250th anniversary of the independence of the United States of America, the event also served as an expression of gratitude for the continuous support the United States has provided to Kosovo.

The tournament promoted sports, teamwork, cooperation among schools, and the active engagement of young people in healthy activities. It brought together students, parents, teachers, donors, volunteers, and community members, demonstrating the positive impact that can be created through collaboration.

The event was further enriched by the presence of guests from the United States, who supported the smooth organization of the tournament and expressed their appreciation for the work of Rotary Club Mitrovica.

Funds raised through donations and beverage sales will be used to purchase sports equipment for several schools in Mitrovica, extending the benefit of the initiative beyond the tournament itself. At the conclusion of the event, medals were awarded to the winning teams, together with the tournament trophy and the Most Valuable Player award.

Through this initiative, Rotary Club Mitrovica combined youth engagement, community service, and international friendship in a meaningful celebration of sport and cooperation.



End Plastic Soup: Young People Develop Solutions to Plastic Pollution in Prishtina

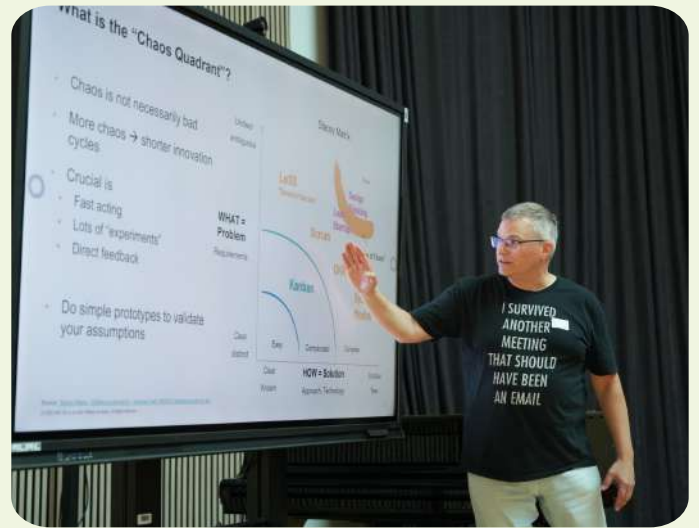
The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
DPIC Nora Sigeqa

Young people from Kosovo, Germany, the Balkans, and other European countries came together in Prishtina from 6 to 12 July 2026 for the international workshop “Plastic Soup in the City: The Impact of Urban Planning on the Environment.” Organized by the Rotary Intercountry Committee Germany–Kosovo and hosted in cooperation with the University of Prishtina, the workshop focused on plastic pollution and the role of urban planning in creating cleaner and more sustainable cities.

Through expert lectures, interactive workshops, and collaborative sessions, participants examined how plastic waste affects urban environments and worked together to develop practical ideas for improving waste management and reducing pollution.

The program combined academic learning with intercultural exchange, bringing together young people from different countries and creating opportunities for cooperation, dialogue, and lasting international connections.

The initiative reflected Rotary’s commitment to protecting the environment, empowering young people, and connecting communities across borders to address shared challenges.



United for a Cleaner Coastline

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
DPIC Nora Siqueca

Interact Club Tirana, supported by Rotary Club Tirana International continued its commitment to environmental protection through the third beach cleanup activity at Lalëz Public Beach, organized on 22 July 2026 under the #RIVERCLEAN project.

The activity brought together members of the club, young Interactors, and volunteers from Horizons Together, who collected an impressive 226 kilograms of waste in a single day. Their joint effort demonstrated the value of involving young people directly in community service and environmental action.

Beyond the cleanup itself, the initiative raised awareness about reducing single use plastics, protecting waterways such as the Tarin Stream, and encouraging sustainable habits that help prevent waste from reaching rivers and seas.

The participation of Interactors added a strong youth dimension to the activity, showing how Rotary can inspire the next generation to take responsibility for their communities and the environment. The initiative was implemented within the framework of the #RIVERCLEAN project, funded by the European Union in Albania.





Discover

In our special Newsletter Edition

The **New Clubs** of Rotary Zone 21B

coming this August



***CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT***

District Governors' Corner

Charalampos Tinginagkas
District Governor 2026-2027
Rotary International
District 2475 - Greece
Monthly Message August



Harmony (Homonoia) – The Power of Togetherness

In every meaningful endeavor, there comes a moment when we realize that no one is enough on their own. No matter how clear the vision, how strong the intention, or how courageous the desire to serve, there comes a point when individual will must connect with something greater. It must become a shared heartbeat. It must become trust. It must become together.

This is the true meaning of **homonoia**—harmony of purpose.

Harmony does not mean uniformity. It does not mean that we all think alike or move forward without differences. It means that, despite our diverse experiences, ideas, and life journeys, we choose to serve a common purpose with respect, generosity, and open hearts. It means placing the value of the common good above ourselves.

In Rotary, this choice lies at the very core of our identity. We are a global community of people of action, but before we become a force for action, we become a community of trust. And trust is never something we can take for granted. It is cultivated. It is built gradually through the way we listen, collaborate, disagree with respect, and stand beside one another.

Rotary's greatest strength is not only the projects it carries out. It is the fact that those projects are born from relationships. They emerge when people choose to unite their talents—not to seek recognition, but to serve. They are created by people who understand that genuine change is never an individual achievement but a collective accomplishment.

That is why harmony is not a secondary consideration. It is not simply a pleasant atmosphere. It is the foundation upon which lasting impact is built. Only when people trust one another can they create something that endures. Only when they are united by shared values and purpose can they transform good intentions into sustained service.

This Rotary year calls us precisely to make that transition. Mobilization is the moment when intention meets action. Yet mobilization is never a solitary act. It is an invitation. It is something that spreads. It is the moment when one person ignites a spark and soon discovers that the flame has become shared by many. How many times has a project begun with a single member's simple idea and grown into the mission of an entire club? How many times has a small vision flourished because others believed in it? How many times has the power of together given a community not only practical help, but also a renewed sense of unity and dignity?

Harmony also has a deeper dimension. It transforms us as individuals. It teaches us not to seek the leading role, but meaningful participation. Not to worry about personal recognition, but about our shared progress. To rejoice when someone else lights the way, knowing that in doing so, our own path is illuminated as well. In a world that too often encourages division, suspicion, and isolation, Rotary offers a different model—the model of collaboration, friendship, integrity, peaceful coexistence, and creative synergy. This model is not merely an ideal. It is a daily practice. It is reflected in the way we work together when we truly honor our values.

Charalampos Tinginagkas
District Governor 2026-2027
Rotary International
District 2475 - Greece
Monthly Message August

Let us remember that the communities we serve need more than resources. They need examples. They need to see people who are able to communicate, unite, and create together. They need to witness that togetherness is a source of strength. That collective action does not diminish the worth of the individual; it multiplies it.

Harmony, therefore, is not only about us. It is also a message to the world. It is proof that there is still room for trust. That a shared vision is still possible. That people can be different and yet move forward together toward a purpose greater than themselves.

Perhaps therein lies one of the most meaningful forms of impact we can create this year—not only through what we accomplish, but through the way we choose to be together. With respect. With understanding. With generosity. With a shared sense of mission.

For when the “I” finds its rightful place within the “we,” service acquires a different kind of strength. It becomes wiser. More enduring. More deeply human.

And then, indeed, we are able to create something that will last.
Thank you.

Charalampos Tinginagkas
DG 2026-27
RID 2475



Aylin Olut ÖtkenDistrict
Governor 2026-2027
Rotary International
District 2440 - Türkiye
Monthly Message August

**Before Gaining a Member,
Protect the Member**

Dear Rotary Family,

Every year, in the month of August, we focus on membership in Rotary. Most of the time, the first question that comes to our minds is, "How do we gain new members?"

However, in recent years, in Rotary International's membership studies, a very powerful message comes to the forefront: The most successful clubs are not those with the most members, but those that best protect their members.

Because Rotary's true strength is not in numbers, but in how much its members feel they belong to the club.

One may be invited to Rotary; however, remaining in Rotary is a result of meaningful service appreciation, and feeling valued. In Rotary, International's research shows that only forming new committees is not enough. People join for fellowship, meaningful service, personal growth, and to create value together.

Therefore, the role of our membership committees is not simply to find new members. Our primary duty is to ensure that every member says, "Being in this club is an important part of me."

Every new member should have a mentor, an active role in projects, their ideas should be listened to, and their successes should be recognized. Because, when we look at the issue, retaining an existing member is much more valuable than recruiting a new one.

Let us remember: Gaining a member is a success. Protecting a member is a culture. Rotary's future is not built only by new members, but by members who enthusiastically serve every year.



Our knowledge, commitment, support, and experience are the pride of our clubs and our region.

This August, let's ask ourselves only "Which new member did we gain?" Instead, let's ask:

- Which of our members did we listen to more?
- Which of our members did we thank?
- Which of our members did Rotary inspire to come alive again?
- Which of our friends made the statement "I'm glad I'm in Rotary, I'm proud to be a Rotarian"?

Let us ask ourselves these questions as Rotarians, evaluate ourselves, and make the feelings of value, appreciation, and happiness that Rotary provides permanent in our clubs and in the hearts of those we serve.

Happy Membership Month to all Rotarians who strengthen our clubs, increase our impact, and make a lasting difference from within. I sincerely wish you a month filled with Rotary love and appreciation.

*With Rotary Love and Respect,
Aylin Olut Ötken
Rotary District 2440 Governor*

Alexander Petrov
District Governor 2026-2027
Rotary International
District 2482 - Bulgaria
Monthly Message August

"When People Feel They Belong, Clubs Grow"

Dear fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors,

The first month of the Rotary year is already behind us. For me, July was a month of travel, conversations and, above all, meetings with like-minded people. I had the pleasure of connecting with Rotarians from across Bulgaria and gaining a closer insight into the life of their clubs, the projects they are delivering, the challenges they are overcoming, and the dreams that continue to inspire them.

In the Rotary Clubs of Burgas, Burgas–Primorie, Sozopol, Burgas–Pyrgos, Varna, Varna–Euxinograd, Provadia, Vidin, Sevlievo, Troyan and Lovech, I encountered different communities united by the same spirit – the desire to serve others and to make a lasting difference. I also had the honour of attending the charter presentation ceremony of the Rotary Club of Kozloduy, a powerful reminder that Rotary in Bulgaria has a bright future and that our values continue to attract active and committed people. I was also privileged to take part in the installation ceremonies of the club boards and presidents of Rotary, Rotaract and Interact clubs across Zone 5, as well as in Veliko Tarnovo, Harmanli and Sevlievo. These occasions remind us that leadership positions are temporary, but friendship, continuity and service endure.

My sincere thanks go to all these clubs for their warm hospitality, the open and meaningful conversations, and the ideas we shared. Everywhere I travelled, I found yet another reason to believe in the strength of District 2482.



August is Membership and New Club Development Month.

Whenever we speak about membership, we often begin with numbers, measuring success by how many new members we have welcomed, how many we have retained, or how many new clubs we have established. Numbers matter because behind every one of them stands a person who accepted an invitation, walked through the club doors for the first time, and sought friendship, purpose, belonging or an opportunity to serve. Every individual who joins Rotary carries within them the potential to become an inspiring leader and a force for good.

That is why membership development does not begin with completing an application form. It begins with genuine care for people, with our willingness to recognise those who already share the values of selfless service, to invite them into our clubs, involve them actively, listen to their ideas and, most importantly, give them a reason to stay.

Our responsibility is to create an environment where every new member feels part of the club from their very first day. They should know that they are valued, that their voice matters, and that they are part of Rotary's global family. A strong club is not one where everyone thinks alike, but one where people of different ages, professions and experiences work together towards a common purpose.

Alexander Petrov
District Governor 2026-2027
Rotary International
District 2482 - Bulgaria
Monthly Message August

Every club needs new people, fresh ideas and diverse perspectives. Let us therefore open our doors to younger generations, encourage greater participation by women, and actively seek members from different professions and backgrounds. Rotaractors have already demonstrated that they are valuable partners. Let us entrust them with greater responsibility so that they may continue to grow alongside Rotary.

Membership development also means caring not only for those who are joining us, but equally for those who are already part of our clubs. Let us honestly ask ourselves: Do we truly know our fellow members? Do we understand what inspires them? Are we creating opportunities for them to serve according to their talents and interests? Do we notice when someone begins to drift away? Are our club meetings meaningful, engaging and something members genuinely look forward to?

Membership development is not a theme for August alone. It is a continuous commitment to building a club culture founded on trust, friendship and a genuine sense of belonging.

People may first be attracted by a project, but they remain because of the people. They may join because of a worthy cause, but they stay when they discover friendship. They may admire Rotary's proud history, but Rotary truly comes alive when they experience the joy of serving others. The weeks ahead beautifully reflect these very dimensions of Rotary. On 7 and 8 August, the Rotary Club of Bansko–Razlog warmly invites us to its Summer Festival and traditional Golf Tournament in the foothills of the Pirin Mountains.

These are cherished events in our Rotary calendar, offering wonderful opportunities to strengthen friendships, build new connections and enjoy what is perhaps Rotary's greatest gift – time spent together.

On 22 August, we will commemorate the 149th anniversary of the Shipka Epic by taking part in the 15th Rotary Hike, organised by the Rotary Club of Gabrovo. Shipka reminds us that freedom, dignity, remembrance and unity continue to bind us together today. As we climb the mountain side by side, we not only honour our history but also show future generations that belonging to a community means preserving its memory and values.

Dear friends,

This Rotary year calls upon us to Create Lasting Impact. That impact is not measured solely by what we build, donate or report. It is equally reflected in the people who choose to stand beside us. Every new member brings a new idea. Every new idea creates a new opportunity. Every thriving club brings hope to its community.

Therefore, this August I invite every club to embrace one simple challenge: identify at least one person whose character, professional excellence and standing in the community could make Rotary even stronger. Invite them to meet our members, discover our projects and experience the values that unite us.

And I have one more appeal to each of us. Let us look around our own club and ask whether there is a fellow member who may need a little more encouragement, attention or support to realise their full potential in service. Because the true strength of membership does not lie in extending an invitation, but in ensuring that every person feels valued and needed. When people find their place within the club, the club grows, the community is transformed, and Rotary truly creates lasting impact.

Yours in Rotary,
Alexander Petrov
District Governor 2026–2027
Rotary District 2482 Bulgaria

Florentina Dushi
District Governor 2026–2027
Rotary International
District 2485 Albania & Kosovo
Monthly Message August



Dear Rotarians of District 2485 Albania Kosovo,

August is Membership and New Club Development Month, and I'd like to share one simple thought: Rotary is about people. Every one of us is here because someone believed in us, invited us, and made us feel that we belonged. Today, we have the opportunity to do the same for someone else.

Growing Rotary isn't about numbers, it's about expanding our ability to serve. Every new member brings fresh ideas, new energy, and another caring heart committed to making a difference.

Membership doesn't end with an invitation. It grows when people feel welcomed, valued, and inspired to contribute. Each conversation, each act of kindness, and each invitation helps shape the future of our clubs.

I encourage you to share your Rotary story. Tell someone why you joined, what keeps you involved, and how Rotary has enriched your life. Across Albania and Kosovo, we have an incredible opportunity to strengthen our clubs, deepen our friendships, and increase our impact in the communities we serve. The greatest strength of District 2485 is you. Thank you for your commitment, your leadership, and your service. This month, let's each reach out to one new person, welcome one new voice, and continue building a Rotary that reflects the very best of who we are.

Together, we don't just grow Rotary, we grow hope.

Yours in Rotary,
Florentina Dushi

Yours in Rotary Service,
Florentina Dushi
District Governor 2026–2027
District 2485 Albania Kosovo

May Monla Chmaitilly
District Governor 2026–2027
Rotary International
District 2452
Monthly Message July

“Lead with Impact – Serve with Passion”

Dear Rotary family,
Dear Rotaractors and friends,

As we begin this new Rotary year, I invite each one of you to embrace a simple yet powerful call: Lead with Impact – Serve with Passion.

In alignment with the vision of Rotary International and this year’s presidential message, “Create Lasting Impact,” we are reminded that everything we do should go beyond the moment—toward sustainable, meaningful change in the lives we touch.

Across our diverse and vibrant 9-country district, we are united by one vision—to energize our clubs, empower our members, and create meaningful, visible change in our communities.

This year is not about doing more.
It is about doing what we do — better, stronger, and with purpose.

We will grow. Not just in numbers, but in connection and belonging—welcoming young professionals, Rotaractors, and alumni into a Rotary that inspires and retains.

We will give. By strengthening our support to The Rotary Foundation, we transform generosity into sustainable impact—from global grants to the promise of a polio-free world.

We will empower youth. Because they are not only the future of Rotary—they are its present energy and leadership. Through mentorship, leadership programs, and new peace initiatives, we will walk alongside them.



We will tell our story. Every club, every project, every life touched—these are stories that deserve to be seen, heard, and celebrated. A stronger public image means a stronger Rotary.

We will innovate. By reimagining our clubs, strengthening strategic planning, and responding to real community needs, we ensure Rotary remains relevant, dynamic, and impactful.

And above all, we will learn and lead—with integrity, with ethics, and with a deep commitment to service and international understanding.

My dear friends,
This year is a shared journey.

A journey toward stronger clubs, engaged members, inspired youth, and visible impact. A journey toward a more united and purposeful district.

Together, let us not just serve—Let us inspire.
Let us lead.
Let us create impact that lasts.

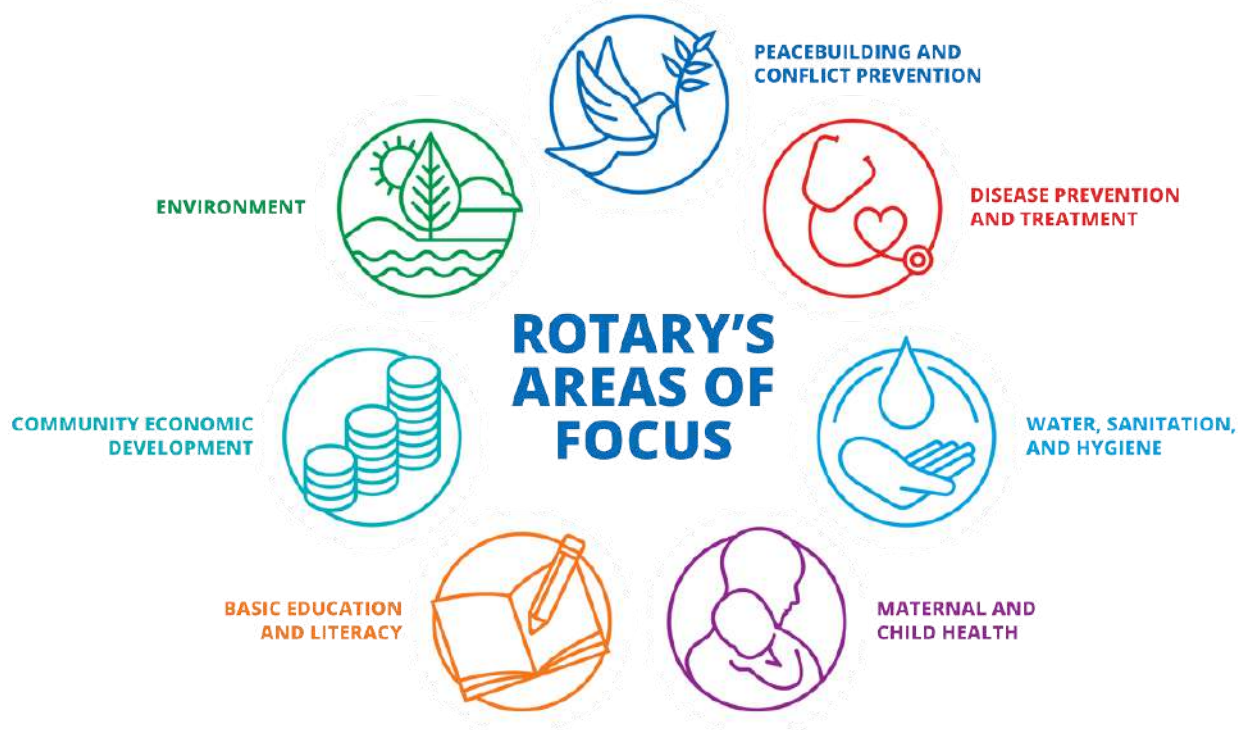
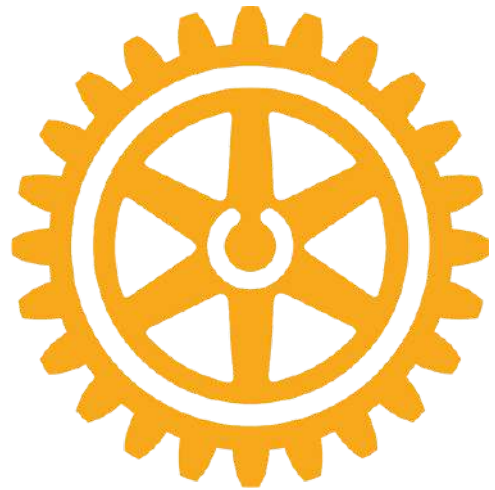
And in full alignment with our global Rotary vision, we are here to Create Lasting Impact.

Because together,
We Lead with Impact...and Serve with Passion.

Thank you.

May Monla Chmaitilly
District Governor 2026–2027
Rotary International District 2452

The Rotary Foundation



Trustee Chair's Message



Jeniffer Jones

Foundation Trustee Chair 2026/2027

Care without borders

As I sat beside my father in the hospital, listening to the quiet rhythm of machines that now spoke more steadily than his own voice, life felt stripped down to its essentials. Serious illness has a way of doing that. It reveals what matters most, and it reminds us — sometimes gently, sometimes painfully — of what should matter to all of us.

My father was facing advanced cancer. The path was uneven and often cruel, yet even in that difficult space I was struck by a simple truth: Every person, everywhere, deserves access to care that honors their dignity. Not just treatment but compassion. Not just medicine but the assurance that their life holds value. Watching nurses move with practiced grace and doctors offer both honesty and hope, I was struck by the thought that millions will never experience this level of support. Not because their lives matter less but because access to care remains uneven across countries and communities.

This is not a political argument; it is a human one.

Every family deserves the same chance at healing. Through my years in Rotary, I have come to understand that The Rotary Foundation shows us how this belief is shared across cultures and nations.

At a time when international development funding for disease prevention and treatment is contracting, vital health projects risk losing momentum. Our Foundation — and you, our members — provide the community-driven support needed to keep that from happening. We are funding vaccines in Pakistan, training health workers in Mozambique, and strengthening fragile health systems in Guatemala. Through the Foundation, international cooperation is not an abstract ideal. It is a responsibility, achievable when people choose to act with generosity, partnership, and shared humanity. I am so proud of our collective leadership.

Sitting there, holding my father's hand as he drifted in and out of sleep, I was reminded of how fragile and precious life is. The measure of a just world is not found in its wealth or its power but in how fiercely it protects the vulnerable. My father's fight was personal; sadly, he died in June. But the fight for equitable, compassionate health care that honors every life equally is universal. It belongs to all of us. Through your generosity and commitment to our Foundation — and through the simple act of caring across borders — we move closer to a world where no one is left behind.



END
POLIO
NOW

End Polio Now Coordinator



There are few initiatives in Rotary that have become so closely intertwined with the identity of our organization as the global effort to eradicate polio. Yet, despite the extraordinary progress achieved over the past four decades, it is not uncommon to hear a sincere question from Rotarians: **Why should this still matter to me?** The question usually comes from members who have never seen a child affected by polio, who live in countries where the disease disappeared generations ago, or who understandably feel that the problem belongs to another part of the world. Others wonder whether their own contribution, particularly if they are able to give only a modest amount, can truly make a difference in such a vast global undertaking.

These are reasonable questions, but they are built on a misconception that polio eradication is primarily about geography or finance. In reality, neither determines our responsibility. Whether we live in Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania or the Americas, whether our district raises thousands or millions of dollars, whether we have personally met a polio survivor or know the disease only from photographs in history books, the **eradication of polio concerns each of us because it represents something far greater than the elimination of a single disease.**

Nikola Božić

Rotary E-Club of Serbia, D2483

EPNC 2024-2027, Region 25

Why Polio Eradication Matters to Every Rotarian

One of the questions I hear most often from Rotarians is "Why should polio still matter to me?"

Rotary did not become involved in polio because the disease was widespread in every country, nor because every Rotarian had a personal connection with it. We became involved because we recognized that a preventable disease should not continue to shape the lives of children simply because they happened to be born in a particular place. That conviction eventually evolved into one of the **most ambitious humanitarian commitments ever undertaken by a volunteer organization.** Once such a promise has been made, it ceases to belong only to those living closest to the problem. It becomes a shared moral commitment of the entire organization.

There is another reason why every Rotarian should care. The success of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative has never depended solely on vaccines or medical expertise. It has depended just as much on **trust, partnerships and persistence.** Governments, international organizations, health workers and philanthropic partners continue to work alongside Rotary because, over decades, Rotary has demonstrated that it does not abandon difficult goals simply because they become more difficult to achieve. That reputation has become one of Rotary's greatest assets.

Why Polio Eradication Matters to Every Rotarian

By EPNC Nikola Božić, D2483

Every contribution to PolioPlus, every advocacy meeting, every presentation in a Rotary club and every conversation that keeps the subject alive reinforces that trust.

This is particularly important because the final phase of eradication is, paradoxically, the moment when commitment is most severely tested. When the number of cases declines dramatically, public attention naturally shifts elsewhere. Donors begin to ask whether the work has already been completed. Members who have heard about polio for many years may begin to feel that the campaign has lasted too long. Yet history repeatedly reminds us that infectious diseases exploit complacency more effectively than they exploit borders. **Until transmission has stopped everywhere, no country can consider itself permanently protected.**

It is therefore tempting to measure our individual role by the size of our donation or by the influence we happen to possess. Rotary teaches us a different lesson. One member may have the capacity to make a major gift, another may contribute only a few dollars. One may speak with ministers of health, another may simply tell Rotary's story during a club meeting. One may organize a fundraising event, another may encourage a young Rotarian to become involved in PolioPlus. None of these contributions is sufficient on its own, yet together they create something far greater than the sum of their parts. **The history of polio eradication is, in many ways, the history of countless individual acts of service woven together into one global achievement.**

Polio eradication is about trust :

Governments, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the Gates Foundation, Gavi, and many other partners continue to work alongside Rotary because they trust us. They trust that Rotarians will keep showing up, not only when the headlines are dramatic, but also during the difficult years when progress slows, when fundraising becomes harder, and when public attention moves elsewhere.

Perhaps this is why the campaign continues to matter even to those who will never witness a case of polio. It reminds us that Rotary is at its best when it acts not as a collection of clubs or districts pursuing separate interests, but as a **worldwide community capable of sustaining a common purpose across generations.** The fight against polio has become a demonstration of what is possible when commitment outlives convenience and when solidarity extends beyond national borders.

One day, the world will celebrate the certification of global polio eradication. Historians will rightly describe it as one of the greatest public health achievements in history. Rotarians, however, will know that it was something more. **It will stand as evidence that an organization built on fellowship and service was able to make, and keep, a promise to the world's children.** That is why polio eradication concerns every Rotarian, regardless of where they live, how much they are able to give, or whether they have ever encountered the disease.

It concerns us because, **in fulfilling that promise, we also define who we are.**





***CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT***

Regional & International Events

Speaking for Youth, Speaking for Peace

By Foteini Papadimou ARPIC Zone 21B District 2475

When I received the invitation to speak at the Rotary International Convention 2026 in Taipei, my first reaction was gratitude, followed very quickly by a profound sense of responsibility. Standing before more than 37,000 Rotarians at the Taipei Dome was an extraordinary honor, but it was also a reminder that this moment was never about one individual. It was about representing the voices of young people around the world and highlighting the role they play in creating a more peaceful future.

Walking onto that stage, I looked across a sea of people united by a shared commitment to Service Above Self. It was impossible not to feel inspired. In that moment, I wasn't simply speaking to an audience. I was speaking to a global family that has spent decades proving that meaningful change begins with ordinary people who choose to act.

Beyond the stage itself, one of the most rewarding parts of the Convention was the opportunity to meet Rotarians and Rotaractors from every corner of the world. Every conversation offered a new perspective. Whether we were discussing service projects, exchanging ideas about engaging younger generations, or simply sharing stories from our communities, I was reminded that although our cultures, languages, and experiences may differ, our values remain remarkably similar. Those connections reaffirmed that Rotary's greatest strength lies not only in its projects, but in its people.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Rotary is its ability to connect generations and cultures. Throughout my journey, I have experienced firsthand the encouragement, trust, and mentorship that Rotarians offer to young leaders. Those experiences have shaped not only my leadership but also my understanding of service. They have shown me that leadership is not defined by age, titles, or recognition. It is defined by the willingness to serve others and to create opportunities for those who will come after us.

Having the opportunity to share a message about youth empowerment and peace on Rotary's largest stage reinforced my belief that young people are not simply the future of Rotary, they are already helping shape its present. Around the world, young leaders are bringing fresh ideas, challenging old assumptions, and demonstrating that compassion, collaboration, and innovation can overcome even the most complex challenges.

As inspiring as it was to address thousands of Rotarians, what I will remember just as vividly are the moments between the sessions: exchanging pins, continuing conversations over coffee, celebrating our different traditions, and discovering how much we can learn from one another. Those moments reminded me that Rotary International Conventions are far more than annual gatherings. They are places where friendships begin, partnerships are formed, and ideas grow into initiatives that reach communities across the globe.

Representing my country, my district, and the countless young people whose voices deserve to be heard was a privilege I will never take for granted. I returned home with renewed motivation, lifelong friendships, fresh ideas, and an even stronger belief that when people come together with a shared purpose, there is no limit to the positive impact we can create.

Taipei was not the end of a journey. It was a reminder that the greatest impact is still ahead of us. As Rotarians and Rotaractors, we each have the opportunity to inspire, mentor, and empower the next generation. When we do, we are not only strengthening our organization, we are helping build a more compassionate and peaceful world.

For that opportunity, I will always be grateful.





INTERCOUNTRY
COMMITTEES
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Intercountry Committees and Fellowships

Uniting Rotarians Across Borders

Building Bridges of Friendship and Cooperation Beyond Borders: The "Rotary Citadels" Mission Connects Greece and Romania

By Elena Janniki ARPIC Zone 21B District 2475, Greece

The **Greece-Romania Inter-Country Committee (ICC)** has successfully concluded its "Rotary Citadels" mission. At the beginning of July 2026, a delegation of 24 Rotarians and friends representing nine Greek Rotary Clubs completed an impactful cultural and fellowship journey across Romania.

Led by the newly inaugurated District Governor of District 2475, Haralampos Tiginagas, the expedition traveled through Bucharest, Transylvania, Moldavia, and Wallachia, establishing a strong foundation for future international collaboration.

The mission served as a vital platform for cross-border institutional cooperation, resulting in two major international twinings:

- **RC Kifissia Politeia (Greece) officially partnered with RC Targu Neamt Cetatea Neamtului (Romania).**
- **RC Heraklion-N. Kazantzakis (Greece) established an official alliance with RC Bucharest Okto (Romania).**

These new twinings aim to facilitate long-term collaborative community service projects and cultural exchanges between the two nations.

Highlighting Rotary's commitment to youth development and the arts, students from the Komotini Art High School in Greece attended an international painting camp in Slănic Moldova, Romania.

This initiative demonstrates how regional Rotary initiatives can fuel international youth opportunities, while their participation was made possible by the proceeds of the "Nature – Culture – Life" Photography Festival of District 2475.

The logistics and itinerary were orchestrated by RC Kifisia-Politeia, with the organizational support provided by the Greece-Romania Inter-Country Committee.

Special recognition and institutional gratitude are extended to:

- Christina Kartsiotou and Sever Ciubuca, Chairs of the Greece-Romania ICC, for their leadership.
- Cristian Liviu Ilie, District Governor of District 2241, for his support.
- The numerous Romanian and Ukrainian Rotary clubs whose exceptional hospitality and flawless cooperation ensured the mission's success.

A Foundation for Future Cross-Border Initiatives

Coinciding with the commencement of the new leadership tenure for Rotary District 2475 in Greece under DG Haralampos Tiginagas, this journey serves as a launchpad for future cross-border community service.

By moving beyond geographic boundaries, the "Rotary Citadels" mission reinforces Rotary's global mission to create sustainable opportunities for peace, fellowship, and international unity.

The website of the ICC Greece-Romania:

<https://icc-greece-romania.gr/>



Rotary Friendship Across Borders: District 2440 Fellowship Groups Strengthen Ties in Slovenia

The greatest journeys are not measured by the kilometres travelled, but by the friendships created along the way. When people from different cultures come together with a shared commitment to service, understanding and fellowship, they build bridges that extend far beyond national borders. This spirit was at the heart of a memorable international gathering organised by Rotary District 2440 in Slovenia.

From 2–6 July 2026, members of District 2440's Strong Feet Trekking Fellowship and Shutter Photography Fellowship travelled to Slovenia for an inspiring programme that celebrated friendship, cultural exchange and a shared passion for nature and photography. Organised by District 2440 ICC Türkiye–Slovenia Coordinator Mert Rüstem, the visit brought together 21 participants, including Rotary members and their families, creating an atmosphere of fellowship that reflected the very essence of Rotary.

A defining moment of the programme was the joint meeting between Turkish and Slovenian Rotarians, attended by representatives of Rotary District 1912 and the Carniola Rotary Club. More than a ceremonial gathering, the meeting strengthened long-standing international relationships through the exchange of club banners, the sharing of successful community service projects and meaningful discussions about future collaboration.

The participants also confirmed their intention to renew the official friendship agreement between the two districts and continue reciprocal visits in 2027, reaffirming their shared commitment to international understanding and sustainable partnerships. These connections create opportunities for future humanitarian initiatives, cultural exchange and the sharing of innovative ideas that strengthen Rotary's impact in both countries.



Beyond the meetings, the programme offered participants the opportunity to discover some of Slovenia's most remarkable destinations, including Ljubljana, Lake Bled, Postojna Cave, Predjama Castle, Piran and Kranjska Gora. Through trekking and photography activities, members experienced the country's rich cultural heritage and breathtaking landscapes while building friendships through shared experiences.

The journey also highlighted the unique role of Rotary Fellowships and Intercountry Committees in bringing people together beyond traditional club meetings. By connecting members through common interests and international cooperation, these programmes foster goodwill, promote peace and encourage lifelong friendships that transcend geography, language and culture.

As the visit concluded, participants returned home with far more than beautiful photographs and unforgettable memories. They carried with them stronger international friendships, fresh inspiration for future service projects and a renewed belief that Rotary's greatest strength lies in its ability to unite people across borders.

This inspiring gathering demonstrated that fellowship is not simply a Rotary value—it is a powerful force for peace, understanding and collaboration. Through every conversation, every shared experience and every new friendship, Rotary members from Türkiye and Slovenia continued to create lasting impact, proving once again that when communities connect, the possibilities for service become truly limitless.



Bulgaria and South Africa Strengthen Rotary Ties Through a New ICC Partnership

On 17 June, during the meeting of the Rotary Club of Sofia International, an agreement establishing the Intercountry Committee (ICC) Bulgaria–South Africa was officially signed, marking the beginning of a promising partnership founded on friendship, peace and international cooperation. During the meeting, the new Global Grant project, "Surgery for Life," led by the Rotary Club of Vidin in partnership with the Rotary Club of Sofia International, was also presented.

The signing took place during the visit of our dear friends from the Rotary Club of Blouberg – Helene Visser, Jacqueline Claddon and Graham Claddon. The agreement was signed by PDG Nina Miteva, National ICC Coordinator for Bulgaria, together with the ICC Chairs of both countries – Hristina Malchevska (Assistant Governor) and Helene Visser (Past Assistant Governor).

The international visit was made possible through the invaluable support of Claude Badan, President of the Rotary Club of Sofia International, together with club members Inna Badan, Teodor Totev, Domagoj Stefan and Boris Boynov, a former Rotarian. Their dedication and warm hospitality played a significant role in ensuring the success of the visit and in strengthening the growing partnership between Bulgaria and South Africa.

The occasion also celebrated the successful completion of the Global Grant project "Paradise for Children," implemented with the generous support of District 9350 (South Africa), together with additional contributions from the Rotary Club of Blouberg and the Rotary Club of Port Alfred. On 18 June, the South African delegation visited the Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Onco-Haematological Diseases in the village of Opitsvet, where they witnessed first-hand the project's positive impact on the children and their families.

This important milestone is yet another example of the power of international cooperation within Rotary. It demonstrates how partnerships between clubs and districts across continents can create sustainable solutions, deliver meaningful humanitarian projects and bring lasting benefits to local communities.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our friends from South Africa for their support, trust and friendship. Their commitment to service and international cooperation has made possible both the establishment of this new ICC partnership and the successful implementation of the Global Grant project.

Together, we continue to demonstrate that Rotary friendship knows no borders and that Service Above Self is far more than a motto—it is a daily commitment that transforms lives, strengthens communities and creates lasting impact around the world.



Leading the Way: Rotary LEAD Fellowship Shines in Taipei

By Faisal Juma ARPIC Zone 21B District 2452

The Rotary LEAD Fellowship is an officially recognized global community dedicated to enhancing the leadership capacity of Rotarians and Rotaractors. Through digital resources and premier events, the fellowship empowers members with the skills and knowledge needed to drive positive change worldwide.

The fellowship made a remarkable impact at the recent Rotary International Convention in Taipei across three distinct areas. First, it hosted the pre-convention Global Leadership Retreat right in Taipei, where members gathered for dynamic workshops and activities designed to inspire stronger leadership under the timely theme, “Lead with Uncertainty.” Next, the fellowship organized an insightful breakout session during the convention. The panel featured three international leaders sharing diverse perspectives on leadership, including Past District Governor Dora Kemou from Greece, who delivered a powerful talk on “Women who lead with courage, connection and change.”

Finally, the LEAD fellowship booth was a hub of energy within the House of Friendship. Dedicated members manned the space, welcoming visitors and inducting a wave of new members—who each received a special fellowship pin. The booth saw fantastic support from Zone 21, with visits from leaders like Hasan Akbayrak and Gunes Ertas. Excitingly, new inductees into the fellowship included Ayda Ozeren and PDG Dora Kemou herself.

Adding to the regional pride, PP Faisal Juma from Bahrain has been elected as the Chairman Elect, making him the very first Rotarian from Zone 21 to take the helm and "LEAD" the fellowship forward.

Beyond the convention, the fellowship offers year-round programs. Members meet every third Saturday of the month for online leadership meetings featuring experienced speakers from all walks of life, including RI Directors, Past District Governors, Rotarians, and Rotaractors. Members can also accelerate their personal growth through structured programs like the Mentorship initiative and collaborative Mastermind groups besides the Global Leadership Retreat.

Connect with the Fellowship:

- Website: rlead.org
- Facebook: @rotarylead
- Instagram: @rotary.lead
- LinkedIn: Rotary Fellowship of Leadership Education and Development





LEADERS' TOOLBOX

One practical guide for clubs and district teams

ONE PAGE. ONE SKILL. ONE ACTION.



What is...?



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Practical Guides



Quick Answers

*A practical chapter for ideas,
tools and human-friendly guidance.*

Protecting Our Youth

Photographing and Publishing Images of Minors in Rotary Project Work

ARPIC Elena Janniki, Team legal advisor

As Rotarians, our commitment to Service Above Self extends far beyond our physical community projects. It encompasses how we represent and protect the vulnerable populations we serve.

Rotary International strictly mandates that the safety and dignity of minors take absolute priority over public relations. Public image is a powerful tool for expanding Rotary's reach and attracting future generations of changemakers. However, true public image excellence is built on a foundation of trust and safety.

Rotary Zone 21B spans multiple countries and legal systems, so this note is written on an international, not single-jurisdiction, basis.

Two layers of law converge on the same practical answer wherever a Rotary project takes place:

- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 16) ratified almost universally, protects a child's privacy and image against arbitrary or unlawful interference, and requires that decisions concerning a child be taken with proper regard for the child's best interests and the authority of their parents or guardians.
- Data protection law in the country where the project takes place: in EU/EEA member states this is the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and its national implementing law; outside the EU/EEA most countries have an equivalent data-protection or privacy statute.

Nearly all of these regimes treat a child's image as personal data and require the consent of the parent or legal guardian, given in advance, as one of the standard lawful grounds for publishing it.

Because club-to-club legal detail will vary, the practical solution is to design one consent form to the highest common standard (broadly, the GDPR model — specific, informed, advance, revocable consent) so that it comfortably satisfies stricter regimes and remains valid for less strict ones. This avoids maintaining a different legal text per country.

- The core recommendation: The Written Consent

Rotary clubs should never rely on verbal consent obtained on the day of an event. The consent form should be a fixed, pre-approved template that is:

- prepared and legally reviewed before the project is scheduled
- brought in printed or digital form to every activity involving minors
- signed by the parent or legal guardian before any photography or filming takes place, not after
- kept on file by the club for as long as the images may be used, with a record of who signed and when

- What the consent form should cover

- Exactly how the image may be used e.g. Rotary club social media, District, Zone publications, press
- Whether the child may be named or only shown without identifying captions

Protecting Our Youth

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ARPIC Elena Janniki, Team legal advisor

- A statement that consent is voluntary, can be withdrawn at any time, and that withdrawal will lead to removal of the image from future use where reasonably possible
- Signature, printed name, date, and contact details of the parent/guardian.

- Practical checklist before any project with minors

- Consent form finalized in advance — not drafted on-site
- A designated club member responsible for collecting and safekeeping signed forms
- No camera or phone used to photograph a child until that child's form is confirmed signed
- Separate, simplified process for group/crowd shots where individual children are not identifiable. This generally falls outside consent requirements, but confirm with legal counsel if any child is recognisable.

- One template, used consistently

It is worth adopting one single consent template across the districts or zone rather than leaving each project lead to draft its own. This ensures consistency, reduces legal exposure, and makes it easier to brief volunteers once rather than project by project.

-Rotary provides comprehensive resources for clubs and districts that participate in youth programs:

- [Rotary Youth Protection Guide](#)
- [Protecting Youth Program Participants](#) (online course)
- [Electronic and Online Safety Considerations](#)
- [Developing a Crisis Management Plan](#)
- [Rotary Code of Policies, section 2.120.](#)

Rotary International cares to create a safe environment for all vulnerable population.

Disclaimer:

This note provides general guidance aligned with the Rotary Code of Policies and does not constitute legal advice. It is a practical, international-level summary, not legal advice on any specific case. Users must secure local counsel review to ensure compliance with regional data-protection and parental-consent laws.

AUGUST 2026

What Is the Arch Klumph Society?

The Arch Klumph Society (AKS) is The Rotary Foundation's highest level of recognition for donors. It recognises individuals, families, or organisations whose **cumulative outright contributions to The Rotary Foundation total at least US\$250,000**. Membership is lifelong.

The Arch Klumph Society is a **recognition society for The Rotary Foundation's most generous donors**, whose support enables the Foundation to fund programmes, grants, and sustainable projects around the world.

Who Was Arch Klumph?



The Society is named after **Arch C. Klumph**, the sixth president of Rotary International and the person regarded as the father of The Rotary Foundation.

In 1917, he proposed the creation of an endowment “**for the purpose of doing good in the world.**” This initiative later developed into what we now know as **The Rotary Foundation**.

Levels of Recognition

- **Trustees Circle:** US\$250,000–US\$499,999
- **Chair's Circle:** US\$500,000–US\$999,999
- **Foundation Circle:** US\$1 million–US\$2,499,999
- **Platinum Trustees Circle:** US\$2.5 million–US\$4,999,999
- **Platinum Chair's Circle:** US\$5 million–US\$9,999,999
- **Platinum Foundation Circle:** US\$10 million or more

Members may be formally inducted into the Arch Klumph Society. Their portraits and biographies featured in the interactive **Arch Klumph Society Gallery** at One Rotary Centre in Evanston, Illinois, USA.



An important distinction should be made: **Arch Klumph Society membership generally recognises contributions that have already been made**, while the **Bequest Society recognises documented future gifts to The Rotary Foundation through estate plans or wills.**





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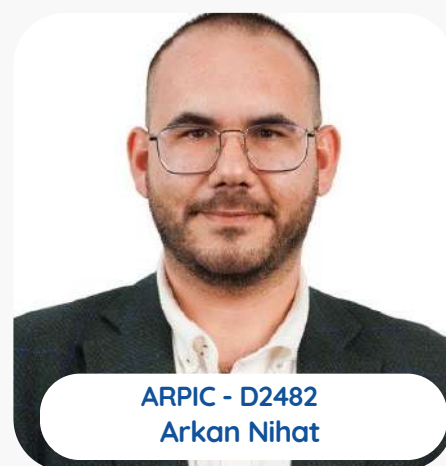
RPIC 2026-2029
Tanya Georgieva



PRPIC 2023-2026
PDG N. Altan Arslan, D2430



ARPIC - D2483
PDG Aleksandar Radojicic



ARPIC - D2482
Arkan Nihat



ARPIC - D2420, D2430, D2440
Ayşe Mine Ergun



ARPIC - D2475
Elena Janniki



ARPIC - D2452
Faisal Juma



ARPIC - RAC
Foteini Papadimou



ARPIC - RAC
Cemre Başkır



ARPIC - D2420, D2430, d2440
Serdar Aydın

Meet the Advisors & Supporters





Discover

In our special Newsletter Edition

The **New Clubs** of Rotary Zone 21B

coming this August

CONTACT US!

If you have questions or would like to share projects for publication in the Zone 21B newsletter, please reach out through the contacts below:

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🇮🇹 You are welcome to contact the assistants assigned to your districts and send in your questions or projects to be featured in the Zone 21B newsletter.

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<https://www.rotaryzone21.org>



Rotary Public Image Building Your Online Presence Find us on



If you want your stories to be published or you need training, and invitation for seminar and events, please contact your Assistant Rotary Public Image Coordinator for assistance