



DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT



We believe good health care is everyone's right. Yet 400 million people in the world can't afford or don't have access to basic health care.

Disease results in misery, pain, and poverty for millions of people worldwide. That's why treating and preventing disease is so important to us. We lead efforts both large and small. We set up temporary clinics, blood donation centers, and training facilities in underserved communities struggling with outbreaks and health care access. We design and build infrastructure that allows doctors, patients, and governments to work together.

Our members combat diseases like malaria, HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, and polio. Prevention is important, which is why we also focus on health education and bringing people routine hearing, vision, and dental care.

DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT

Rotary December Theme: Disease Prevention and Treatment

Every December, Rotary International focuses on **Disease Prevention and Treatment**, highlighting its commitment to building healthier communities worldwide. This theme emphasizes Rotary's role in addressing one of humanity's most pressing challenges: ensuring access to healthcare, improving preventive measures, and providing effective treatments.

The Global Burden of Disease

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), millions of lives are lost every year to preventable diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS. Additionally, chronic diseases like diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular conditions continue to rise, particularly in underserved regions. Rotary clubs worldwide are stepping in to close gaps in healthcare access, deliver essential medical supplies, and support long-term initiatives to combat these health crises.

Rotary's Key Initiatives in Health

Rotary's disease prevention and treatment programs are diverse and impactful. Here are some of the cornerstone efforts:

1. **Polio Eradication** - Rotary's flagship initiative, PolioPlus, has made incredible strides in eradicating polio. Since 1988, the program has reduced polio cases by 99.9%, providing vaccinations to billions of children and creating a robust network for disease surveillance.
2. **Access to Healthcare** - Many Rotary clubs fund and build health facilities in remote and impoverished areas. Mobile clinics, medical camps, and telemedicine programs ensure that even the most isolated communities receive timely care.
3. **Preventive Measures** - Prevention is at the heart of Rotary's health initiatives. Clubs organize vaccination drives, distribute mosquito nets to combat malaria, and promote education about hygiene and sanitation to curb communicable diseases.
4. **Training Healthcare Workers** - A skilled workforce is essential to an effective healthcare system. Rotary provides scholarships, training workshops, and resources to medical professionals to enhance their capabilities.
5. **Chronic Disease Management** - Rotary projects focus on raising awareness and offering treatment options for conditions like diabetes and cancer. By partnering with hospitals and NGOs, Rotary clubs provide early detection services, patient counseling, and subsidized treatment plans.

Presidential Peace Conference

Led by Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick, the 2025 Rotary Presidential Peace Conference in Istanbul, Türkiye, 20-22 February 2025, will be an opportunity for the Rotary community and our partners to build on Rotary's contributions to promoting peace by exploring:

- Peace in a polarized world
- Technology, media, and peacebuilding
- Environmental issues in peacebuilding
- Making peace last

The conference will also recognize the launch of the new Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center in partnership with Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul.

The three-day conference includes keynote speakers, panel discussions, and breakout sessions that will highlight the many ways Rotary members, program participants, partners, and community leaders can advocate for peace; share stories, insights, and ideas about building peace locally and globally; and foster meaningful conversations about promoting peace within our communities and beyond.

Don't miss this special, one-time event focused on ways to take action to advance the cause of peace and explore important issues of our time, including creating sustainable peace and healing in a divided world



In Loving Memory



Vesna BAUR

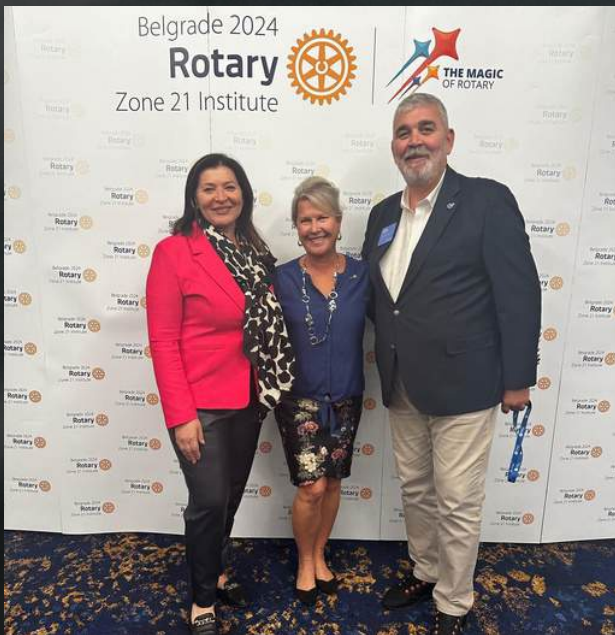
ARPIC Zone 21B

District 2483

Serbia and Montenegro

"Goodbye dear friend, may you rest in peace, we will always remember you here, rest in peace."

In Loving Memory of Vesna Baur



In Loving Memory of Vesna Baur

WE ARE SO SORRY

Just two days before the new year, we lost a beloved Rotarian friend. Vesna was not only a great Rotarian but also a true lady, a warm-hearted friend, kind, and full of love.

Time teaches us many things, and one of them is that good people stay in our lives through the good memories they leave behind.

I am sure that Vesna touched the hearts of everyone she met. For us, the Magic Team, the mark she left is even deeper and will never fade.

Dear Vesna, we will never forget your big, loving heart, your warm smile, and your special friendship. You will always be in our hearts.

-RPIC N.ALTAN ARSLAN

Why Vesna ?

You were so young, so full of life, potential and willingness to offer. It is so unfair to leave this world so suddenly!

For the short time I had the honour to work with you , your kindness, integrity and refinement of your soul were more than evident.

I am so sorry to not to hear from you anymore, not to exchange ideas and ways of service with you.

I will always think of you with respect and love
Rest in Peace dear friend Vesna.

-ARPIC MARIA MASTORA

In Loving Memory of Vesna Baur

WITH DEEP SORROW,

It is always difficult to find the right words when we lose a loved one or a dear friend. I still cannot fully grasp that we have lost such an extraordinary friend. I had the privilege of knowing Vesna through our collaboration as Assistant Rotary Public Image Coordinator of Zone 21B. She was a true example of professionalism, dedication, and kindness. Her innovative ideas, thoughtful approach, and warm demeanor left a lasting impression not only on me but on everyone who had the pleasure of knowing her.

The loss of Vesna is a heavy burden for us all to bear. Yet, we must hold on to the light and inspiration she brought into our lives. Her spirit will live on in the meaningful work she encouraged and in the treasured memories we carry in our hearts.

Farewell, Vesna. May you rest in peace. We will forever remember you as a remarkable, kind, and radiant individual who inspired us to strive for greater dedication and care for the world around us.

-ARPIC ARKAN APTURAHMAN

The first time we met face to face with Vesna was almost a year ago at Peace and Mental Health Forum organised by Rotary Public Image Zone21B (Magic Team) in Belgrade. She was such a nice, helpful, genuinely friendly elegant lady.

While we were in Belgrade, me, PDG RPIC Altan and PDG Alaeddin were waiting for a taxi and it started to rain. We were desperate to find a taxi but there wasn't any available. Just then, a car came and stopped in front of us. We looked one another as we couldn't understand why the car stopped as We couldn't see the driver due to rain. Then she lowered the window and said, hurry up and come in. It was our dear helpful friend Vesna, who apparently saw us across the road and turned around and came to pick us up.

We were all devastated with the shocking news that she passed away suddenly. My deepest condolences to her family, Roatary friends and loved ones. May her soul rest in peace . So long dear Vesna...

-ARPIC SERTAÇ GÜMÜŞ

In Loving Memory of Vesna Baur

ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS

This month, we sadly lost a wonderful friend, a dedicated Rotarian, and a remarkable woman. As a member of the Magic Team, I had the privilege of meeting Vesna at the previous Rotary Zone Institute in Bucharest, and over time, I got to know her even better.

As our friendship deepened, I truly appreciated her grace and her caring nature. It is hard to accept that she is gone so soon.

Though she may not be with us physically, she will never be forgotten. Vesna will always remain in our hearts.

Your absence will be profoundly felt. May your soul find peace in the heavenly realm. Rest in peace.

-ARPIC NISA ILDIZ ÇELEBIOĞLU

Life can be so cruel that it can overshadow our best moments. As the Magic Team, we are deeply saddened by the loss of our loving friend Vesna. Her absence is a great loss not only for our team, but for everyone she touched.

When we remember her, a smile will cover our faces. Because Vesna, was a person who embraced life with love and spread happiness to those around her. The marks she left on life will never be erased, and we will always feel her presence in the spirit of the Magic Team.

Dear Vesna, we will never forget you. Rest in peace.

-ARPIC MUSTAFA GÜLER

I had the opportunity to get to know Vesna in the short period of 7 months we worked together. I got to know Vesna as an extremely hard-working, honest and well-intentioned friend, and I was convinced that we would do good things together.

However, Vesna's untimely passing away made me extremely sad and negative. It was a surprise. We will miss our friend Vesna very much. Dear Vesna, Rest in Peace


-ARPIC PDG ALAEDDIN DEMIRCIOGLU

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

To adapt, as laid out in Rotary's Action Plan, we must occasionally step out of our comfort zone and try something new. Here are two examples of clubs that adapted — one with heart and one through critical thinking and strategy.

The Rotary Club of Chandigarh Mid Town, India, led with heart earlier this year. To engage members and grow membership, Club President Nitin Kapur personally called every former member of the club and invited them to a gathering billed as an alumni meetup.

Eight former members attended, and the results were stupendous. The visitors had a chance to connect once more — not only with current members but with the sense of camaraderie and belonging that membership gave them. By the end of the evening, the club welcomed six of the former members back into the Rotary family.



STEPHANIE A. URCHICK
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT
RY 2024-2025

Club President Kapur showed courage when he reached out to the alumni. Not only did he adapt and try something new but he had the strength of character to show the club's alumni how much they still meant to the family of Rotary. That bravery paid off.

People want to feel needed and appreciated. People want to feel that they belong. And they might never feel that way if we don't have the courage to tell them.

Meanwhile, the Rotary Club of Seoul-Hansoo, Korea, has been experimenting with different club models to great effect. Over the past four years, Seoul-Hansoo has created and maintained four satellite clubs — a service club, an interest-based club for musicians, a cause-based club that mentors professionals, and a club for college students.

These satellite clubs are part of a five-year plan the Seoul-Hansoo club implemented to increase membership through innovation.

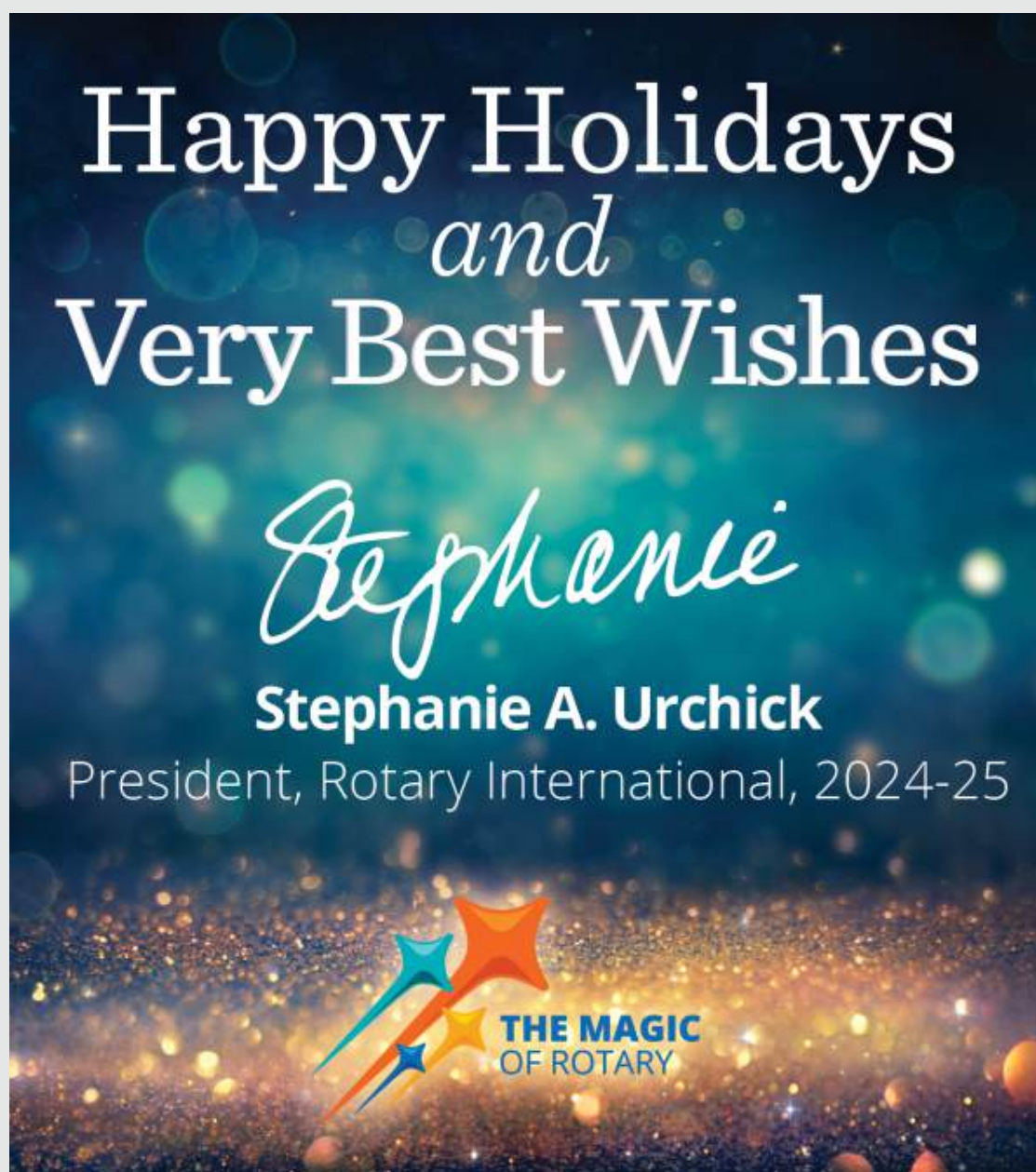
What's the secret to founding and maintaining so many satellite clubs? Membership between Seoul-Hansoo and its satellite clubs is fluid and synergistic. Many members of the satellite clubs attend the sponsor club's meetings. And many of the sponsor club's members participate in the satellite clubs.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

Additionally, the focus of each satellite club is no accident. Each one appeals to different interests of people in the sponsor club and in the community, attracting existing and potential members. This is an excellent strategy to both retain and attract members because it offers flexibility. If someone is interested in joining but they can't make it to the sponsor club's meetings, they have plenty of options to choose from.

These are just two examples of how we can adapt with our hearts and minds. Every club is different, so I encourage you to reach out to members of your club and of the community around you. Ask them about the club experience and what you can do to improve.

Talk to enough people and you might find ways that you can adapt and spark The Magic of Rotary in your club.



Rotary Presidential Peace Conference 2024

As we all know, one of Rotary's seven areas of focus is Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention/Resolution, which is a core mission of Rotary International. This area aims to promote peace, strengthen social understanding, and prevent conflicts through projects, education, and leadership opportunities.

Rotary's efforts in peacebuilding not only aim to resolve conflicts but also encourage social solidarity and justice to make peace sustainable.

The Bahçeşehir University Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center is a strategic institution that advances Rotary's work in this area. In collaboration with this center, the Rotary Presidential Peace Conference, led by Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick, will take place in Istanbul from February 20-22, 2024.



N. ALTAN ARSLAN

PP 2005-2006 RC ANKARA KIZILAY

PDG 2018-2019 D2430

RPIC 2023-2026 ZONE 21B

This event will explore various aspects of peace, develop new solutions, and raise awareness about peace efforts and conflict resolution. This conference highlights Rotary International's commitment to embracing peace as a universal value and ensuring its sustainability. It is also unique as it is the only conference to be organized under Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick's leadership during the 2024-25 Rotary year. This important event will bring together peace leaders, academics, business representatives, young professionals, and Rotary members from all around the world to support efforts for building peace.

The key topics of this conference are;

- Peace in a Polarized World
- Technology, Media, and Peace building
- Environmental Issues in Peace building
- Making Peace Last

I warmly invite you, my dear Rotarian and Rotaractor friends, to join this significant event. I also encourage you to invite academics, young leaders, civil society representatives, and all peace advocates who wish to actively contribute to global peace. Let's Take Action for Peace Together!

DO GOOD IN THE WORLD

Rtn. N.Altan Arslan

PP 05-06 Ankara Kızılay RC

PDG 18-19 D2430

RPIC 23-26 Region 25



CAN ERBILGIN 'JON'
PAST PRESIDENT, ROTARY CLUB
OF NEW YORK (2016-17)

The Rotary Bell: A Tradition Forged in Friendship

Have you ever wondered why Rotary presidents open and close meetings by ringing the iconic Rotary bell? Let's journey back in time to uncover the legendary story behind this cherished tradition—a tale born from camaraderie, competition, and a spirit of unity.

In the early 1920s, a friendly rivalry unfolded between the Rotary Club of New York and the Rotary Club of London. The challenge? To see which club could host the most visiting Rotarians in a single Rotary calendar year. When the dust settled, the Rotary Club of New York emerged victorious, earning a truly remarkable prize: the "Attention Bell."

This bell wasn't just any bell—it hailed from the British auxiliary warship Patrol No. 20 and was mounted on oak timber taken from Admiral Nelson's legendary flagship, Victory. In 1922, the president of the Rotary Club of New York, Robert L. Hatch, proudly rang this prized bell to open and close a meeting, inadvertently establishing a tradition that continues to this day.

Although the original bell was tragically stolen during a fire in the Colonial Room at the Roosevelt Hotel, New York City, in 1978, the spirit of the tradition endured. In 1992, a new bell, equally steeped in history, was gifted to the club by the Rotary Club of London. This replacement bell, from the British submarine chaser H.M.S. P20, was presented by Ken Standish, then-president of the London Club, on June 17, 1992.

Interestingly, Rotary by-laws do not mandate the ringing of a bell to start or close meetings, yet this tradition has become a hallmark of Rotary culture—a powerful symbol of unity, continuity, and shared purpose.

Who could have imagined that a friendly competition nearly a century ago would spark a tradition that continues to inspire Rotarians around the world? This story reminds us that our actions, however small or grand, can resonate far beyond the moment, leaving a legacy for generations to come.

As Rotarians, may we always be mindful of how we treat one another and our communities, knowing that even the simplest gestures can echo through time.





AYLIN ÖZKAN
MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE
CHAIR
DISTRICT 2430 TÜRKİYE

Mental Health Committee

Since September, we have been on the ground in the earthquake-affected region for one week every month, working tirelessly to provide support, heal wounds, and foster solidarity.

Our efforts in Hatay continue at full speed.

Between **December 2-8**, we visited the neighborhoods of Aşağıokçular, Orhanlı, and Tavla in collaboration with Defne Municipality.

In Aşağıokçular, we gathered at Eren Küçükkaya Kindergarten with parents, Antalya Perge Rotary President Mr. Süleyman, and members of their board. Perge Rotary Club deeply touched us all by wrapping children in the warmth of their donated coats.

In partnership with Hatay Metropolitan Municipality, we carried out the following activities at the Kore Container Settlement:

- **For children aged 4-6 and 7-8:** We provided privacy education.
- **For parents:** We conducted awareness sessions on "The Role of Parents in Privacy."

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to my dedicated committee members, Nida, Fulya, and Müge, for their invaluable contributions.

Our **January 2025** program has been finalized. We will continue to share updates and progress with you every month.

In solidarity,
Mental Health Committee Chair
Aylin Özkan

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

**Rotary Presidential Peace Conference
February 20–22, 2025, Istanbul**

My Dear Rotary family,

As a valuable member of Rotary International, I would be delighted to invite you to the Peace Conference program to be held within Istanbul Bahçeşehir University on 20-22 February 2025 and the opening ceremony of the 8th Peace Center to be opened within this scope.

This opening, which will be held at a time when the world needs peace the most, will herald the beginning of a process full of educational activities on the possibility of peace and peace strategies. The Peace Center aims to raise awareness of individuals and communities about peace and to offer sustainable solutions.

The opening ceremony will be held at Bahçeşehir University on February 20-22,2025. Your participation will increase the meaning of this important event and support the steps taken for peace.

I hope you will be with us on this meaningful day, and I look forward to your participation.

Kind regards,

ARPIC Alaeddin Demircioğlu

Register now

Rotary 

SAVE THE DATE

Healing in a Divided World
PRESIDENTIAL PEACE CONFERENCE

Istanbul, Turkey • 20-22 February 2025

Learn more at Rotary.org/istanbul25



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Presidential Peace Conference February 20–22, 2025, Istanbul

Dear fellow Rotarians and Rotaractors of District 2452,

From February 20th to 22nd 2025, Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick will be hosting a Presidential Peace Conference (Healing in a Divided World) in Istanbul at Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel & Conference Centre, Türkiye to mark the opening of the newest Rotary Peace Center at Bahçeşehir University.

You will have an exceptional opportunity to connect with fellow Rotarians and peacebuilders to explore how we can promote peace and healing in our divided world.

As you are aware, our District 2452, spans over nine countries and three continents and unfortunately we have many ongoing conflicts and wars in several countries which affects us all in a negative way.

I would like to invite and encourage you to register and come join us to participate in this special, one time event to support Rotary's mission of promoting peace.

Masters of Ceremonies are Rotary Peace Fellow Nahla ElShall and our Rotaractor and Rotarian Emil Moawad. There will be many valuable keynote speakers, panel discussions, and breakout sessions.

The conference program will include plenary and breakout sessions built around the following four topics;

- 1: Peace in a polarized world
- 2: Technology, media, and peacebuilding: From conflict to connection
- 3: Sustainable development: Environmental issues in peacebuilding
- 4: Making peace last

There will be a breakout session under the first theme of "Peace in a polarized world" with focus on Cyprus on 21 February sponsored by D2452.

The 2025 Presidential Peace Conference will:

- inform and inspire participants through conversations and presentations that share knowledge, suggestions, and considerations for peacebuilding projects, programs, and initiatives
- create dialogue and facilitate connections to further exchange ideas, consider new perspectives, and form fellowships and partnerships
- showcase the strategies, examples and leadership of Rotary members, alumni and participants who are addressing these issues locally and globally.

Looking forward to see you there and leave you with a kind reminder of Rotary's vision statement.

"Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves."

Kindest Rotarian Regards

-ARPIC Sertaç Gümüş

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Healing in a Divided World
PRESIDENTIAL PEACE CONFERENCE

Istanbul, Turkey • 20-22 February 2025

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THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Presidential Peace Conference February 20–22, 2025, Istanbul

The letter addressed to D-2475 Club Leaders

Dear Club Presidents,

Dear Club Secretaries,,

The new Rotary Peace Center in Istanbul is a reality! It is hosted in Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, Turkey.

As we, in Rotary, continue to work towards a world of peace, understanding, and collaboration, I am encouraging you to participate in the upcoming Istanbul Presidential Peace Conference, which will take place from 20 to 22 February 2025 in Istanbul, Turkey, in the new Rotary Peace Center premises.

This conference, organized under the leadership of 2024-25 Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick, will be an opportunity to bring together Rotarians, peacebuilders, and change-makers from across the world. The conference will also recognize the launch of our newest Rotary Peace Center in partnership with Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul.

The aim is to foster dialogue, share knowledge, and strengthen Rotary's commitment to advancing peace in every corner of the globe. Given the importance of this event and Rotary's pivotal role in peace-building, your participation would be a significant contribution and would be almost appreciated.

As we know, Rotary's work in peacebuilding is not just a responsibility—it is a privilege. By attending the Istanbul Conference, we reaffirm our dedication to the Rotary mission of peace, and take a collective step towards creating a better, more harmonious world.

I encourage you to take part in this transformative event, and bring your ideas, insights, and passion for peace to this vital gathering. To register and learn more about the event, please visit the link:

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://rotary-icc.org/events/rotary-presidential-peace-conference-istanbul-20-22-february-2025/&ved=2ahUKEwja9dfghJ2KAxXQxgIHU4ZH3AQFnoECB0QAQ&usg=AOvVaw2XZioApEzn76jWB8fhybOg>

Together, we can continue to be a force for good and contribute meaningfully to the cause of global peace.

Looking forward to seeing you in Istanbul!

-ARPIC Maria Mastora

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SAVE THE DATE

Healing in a Divided World
PRESIDENTIAL PEACE CONFERENCE

Istanbul, Turkey • 20-22 February 2025

Learn more at Rotary.org/istanbul25



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Presidential Peace Conference February 20–22, 2025, Istanbul

We believe that peace is fundamental to a better future. One of Rotary's seven areas of focus is Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention/Resolution—a mission that is increasingly relevant in today's world.

We believe that peace is fundamental to a better future. One of Rotary's seven areas of focus is Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention/Resolution—a mission that is becoming increasingly relevant in today's complex and dynamic world.

Today, we are all witnesses to how essential peace is. Our primary goal is to promote peace, strengthen social understanding, and prevent conflicts through impactful projects, educational initiatives, and leadership opportunities. By fostering cooperation and dialogue, we can address global challenges and create sustainable solutions for a more harmonious future.

I am delighted to invite you to the Rotary Presidential Peace Conference, which will take place on February 20–22, 2025, in Istanbul, Turkey, under the auspices of Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick. This three-day event provides a unique opportunity for Rotarians and our partners to come together and amplify our contributions toward advancing peace

Key Highlights of the Conference:

1. Marking the Opening of the New "Otto and Fran Walter Peace Center in partnership with Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul. This represents a significant step toward greater understanding and collaboration.
2. Inspiring lectures, panel discussions, and interactive sessions over the three days, exploring diverse ways Rotary members, program participants, partners, and community leaders can contribute to building and promoting peace.
3. Discussions and sessions will cover topics such as:
 - Peace in a Polarized World
 - The Impact of Technology and Media on Peace
 - Environmental Challenges and Sustainability
 - How to Make Peace Enduring

Do not miss this incredible opportunity to participate in this transformative event in Istanbul. Together, we can strengthen our efforts to address global challenges and create a more peaceful and equitable world for future generations.

TOGETHER, we can create a better world!

**Yours in Rotary,
ARPIC Arkan Apturahman**

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THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

**Rotary Presidential Peace Conference
February 20–22, 2025, Istanbul**

Dear Rotarians,

Rotary Peace Centers, established to contribute to peace and conflict resolution worldwide, is an education and research program. These centers enable individuals with leadership potential to participate in master's or professional certificate programs in areas such as peace studies, conflict resolution and international relations.

The main goals are; To provide participants with knowledge and skills to make peace sustainable. Peace centers play an important role in peacebuilding by providing the opportunity to specialize in areas such as conflict management, international development, negotiation and leadership, and to have graduates lead social transformation by creating a peace network on a global scale.

Peace centers support the education processes of their graduates by providing financial support and enable them to serve in their communities or internationally as peace ambassadors.

The Rotary Peace Center in Istanbul will lead the training of individuals specialized in conflict resolution, leadership, international relations and peacebuilding and will be part of a global network supporting this important mission.

In the event to be held in Istanbul on February 20-22, 2025, we will share Rotary's vision of peace, as well as introduce the center's goals and future projects.

Your participation will be a great honor for us and will also enable individuals devoted to peace to come together and create a strong synergy.

With the hope of building a more peaceful world together.

ARPIC Mustafa Faruk Güler
Zone 21B District 2430 Türkiye

Register now



SAVE THE DATE

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THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

**Rotary Presidential Peace Conference
February 20–22, 2025, Istanbul**

My Dear Rotary Family,

It is with great joy and honor that I invite each of you to an extraordinary event in a truly remarkable city! From February 20–22, Rotarians from across the globe will come together at the Presidential Peace Conference to celebrate the establishment of our newest Rotary Peace Center, in partnership with Bahçeşehir University in the vibrant city of İstanbul, Türkiye.

Under the visionary leadership of Rotary International President Stephanie A. Urchick, this transformative conference will provide a platform to deepen Rotary's commitment to fostering peace. Together, we will delve into critical topics such as peace in a polarized world, the role of technology and media in peacebuilding, addressing environmental challenges, and ensuring the sustainability of peace initiatives.

This gathering is more than just a meeting; it is a unique opportunity to collaborate, innovate, and amplify our shared mission of building a more peaceful future.

Let us come together in İstanbul, Türkiye, and unite as a powerful force for good. Together, we can create lasting change and inspire a brighter, more peaceful tomorrow.

I eagerly look forward to welcoming you all to the Presidential Peace Conference!

-ARPIC NISA ILDIZ ÇELEBIOĞLU

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF



ARPIC ALAEDDIN DEMIRCIOĞLU
DISTRICT 2420/2430/2440

Adana Koza Rotary Club -18th Term Community Leaders Are Coming (TLG): Leaders on Campus

Within the framework of the cooperation protocol signed between Çağ University and Adana Koza Rotary Club, RC of Adana Koza organized the “18th Term Community Leaders Are Coming: Leaders on Campus” vision-building and leadership training seminars on November 26–27, 2024. The program commenced with opening remarks by Çağ University Rector Prof. Dr. Ünay Ay and RI 2430 District Governor Kerem Muradi. Students from the Faculties of Law, Economics and Administrative Sciences, Arts and Sciences, and the Vocational School participated in this educational event, equipping themselves with training to support their personal and professional development.

During the seminars and sessions, distinguished business professionals, educators, and experts—each a leading figure in their respective fields—volunteered as speakers. Their contributions aimed to foster the development of a new generation of leaders, inspire young minds, and provide students with broader and richer perspectives.

Additionally, three parallel sessions, held under the coordination of the Career Center on November 27, offered valuable training tailored to students from different faculties. At Adana Koza Rotary promotional booth, an information has been interacted and shared with numerous young attendees. The program was further enriched with performances by the Music Club of the University during lunch breaks.

Leadership training event was shared with the public through media coverage, appearing in nine local and one national newspaper articles.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

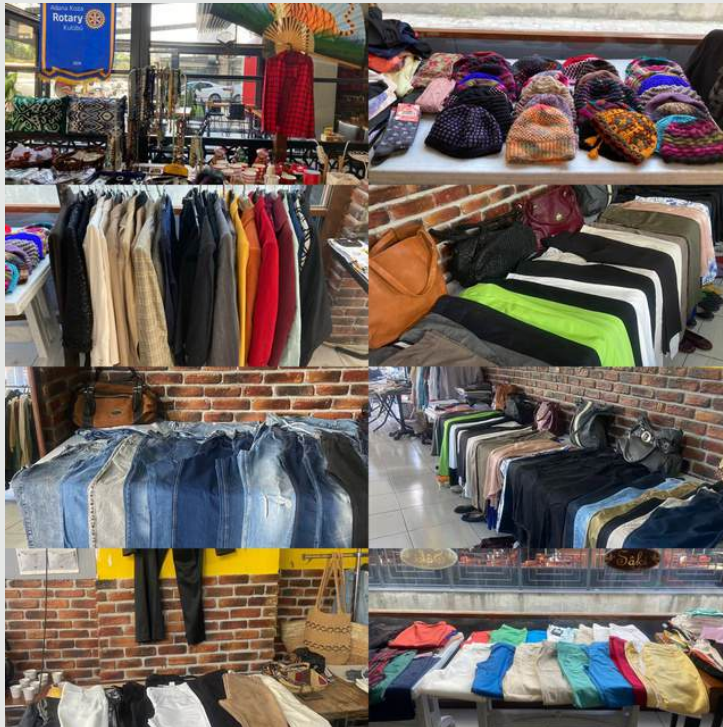
**Adana Koza Rotary Club -18th Term Community Leaders Are Coming (TLG):
Leaders on Campus**



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

FUND-RAISING FOR UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS,RC OF ADANA KOZA,D.2430

On November 15-16, 2024, RC of Adana Koza has organized “One Step from You, One Step for the Future” sales event to make pre-owned, donated clothing and household goods available for use; aiming to reduce consumption, protect the environment and meet essential needs of the community. The revenue generated from this fund-raising event was transferred to the club’s scholarship fund for university students and enabled us to support education and empower young people. This project, a true example of teamwork among Adana Koza RC family members, also received valuable support from a group of Çukurova University students who volunteered their time for community service.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

HEALTH & NEW YEAR FESTIVAL,D.2440

Rotary District 2440 Health Committee has successfully organized a Health Festival on Dominik Street under the leadership of the Health Committee.

During the event, basic health services were provided to our people, including eye and dental screenings, body mass analysis and healthy nutrition by our Nutrition and Diet Specialist, information on water, sanitation and hygiene, Eşrefpaşa Hospital Home care services, blood donations by the Red Crescent, and Basic Life Support Training by Ege University Emergency Medicine Specialists. The importance of preventive health measures was emphasized and studies in this area were completed. All screenings, which were carried out under the guidance of expert health teams in the field, were an important step towards improving public health.

Our Polio Committee provided services on Polio, the Organ Transplantation Committee emphasized the importance of organ donation and shared studies in this area with our people. Our Best Friend Committee shared their support for our furry friends by distributing pet food.

We are determined to walk hand in hand towards a stronger future for a society consisting of healthy individuals. "We are together, we are strong together!"



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

""MASTIC TREE PLANTATION" by RC of Terra Madre from D.2440

My Mastic Tree Çeşme" Project is an afforestation project that aims to bring the Mastic Trees, which are on the verge of extinction, back to the soil in Çeşme District and is supported by Çeşme District Governorship, Çeşme Municipality, Çeşme Hoteliers Association, Alaçatı Tourism Association, Çeşme Chamber of Tradesmen and Çeşme Peninsula Environment Association.

With the tree planting ceremony held on December 22, it is planned to plant 20,000 Mastic Trees by the end of 2025 and 100,000 in five years in the green areas belonging to Çeşme Municipality and Gum Afforestation Areas belonging to the National Real Estate Directorate with the donations of volunteers and environmentalists.

Within the scope of this project, which seriously supports women's employment and creates 12 months of employment, an exemplary business model is emerging regarding the "home employment" of our women living in Çeşme for the cleaning of the harvested Gum Mastics.

Within the scope of the "101 Mastic Tree Planting Project in the 101st Year of Our Republic" jointly organized by Rotary International District 2440 , Rotary Club of Terra Madre and Rotary Club of Çeşme, a "Rotary District 2440 Region Introduction Sign" will be placed in the area where the trees will be planted and the names of each donor will be hung on the trees one by one with tree signs.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ADANA KOZA ROTARY CLUB "REVIVING FORGOTTEN LOCAL CUISINES" WORKSHOP

On October 28, 2024, at our "Reviving Forgotten Local Cuisines" workshop held at Kristalin Home Cooking, we learned about the history and cooking methods of two traditional dishes: Walnut Karakuş Dessert and Tahini Stuffed Cabbage Rolls, through hands-on practice. Our guest, Prof. Dr. Şirin Saraçoğlu, who has prepared her thesis on Adana's local cuisine and is currently conducting an inventory study on the origins and recipes of Adana dishes, joined us during the workshop and made significant contributions by sharing her research.

The workshop aimed to raise awareness of and preserve Adana's culinary heritage, and ensure the transmission of these recipes to future generations, emphasizing the importance of the region's cuisine as an integral part of Adana's cultural heritage. The event attracted great interest and participation.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ENDING POLIO EVENT,RC OF ADANA KOZA

Rotary Club of Adana Koza celebrated “World Polio Day” on October 24. Starting on October 20, on club’s social media platforms they started presenting a variety of social media graphics, gifs, animations, videos and posts to promote Rotary’s fight to end polio both in English and in Turkish for the whole week.

Apart from the social media use, club members organized an “End Polio Now” awareness-raising event at one of the biggest shopping malls in the city on 24 October. And invited the public to join them for the fight against polio. They prepared a promotion stand for Rotary Club of Adana Koza where a variety of materials were displayed and distributed to raise awareness about the importance of the vaccination to protect every child from Polio and Rotary’s fight to eradicate this disease; such as an End Polio Now Backdrop; an End Polio frame for the visitors for taking pictures; End Polio popcorn boxes for children to take home and brochures.

In the promotional brochure, not only polio facts and Rotary’s ongoing fight against this disease was shared but also promoted Rotary’s 7 areas of focus and vision statement.

Additionally, a fund raising event was organised with the motto; “Earth’s Dance with Fire for a Healthy Future”. Standing on the fertile Anatolian lands with 8000-years-history of ceramics, a fund was raised via ceramic objects designed and produced by Rotary Club of Adana Koza family members who shaped clay with their hands through fellowship to bring hope for Ending Polio.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ENDING POLIO EVENT,RC OF ADANA KOZA

**ÇOCUK FELCİNE SON**

Adana Koza
Rotary
Kulübü

**ROTARY SİHRİ**

**END POLIO NOW**

Awareness Raising for Ending Polio



ÇOCUK FELCİNİN ORTADAN KALDIRILMASI İÇİN 5 NEDEN

- KURTULAN YAŞAMLAR**
Bugün çocuk felci nedeniyle her 5 saniye bir 19 milyon kişi hayatını kaybediyor. Hayatını kaybedenlerin 13 milyonu 5 yaş altı çocuk.
- GELECEĞE YATIRIM**
Bu hastalığı ortadan kaldırmak 10 milyar dolar gerektirir. 10 yıl içinde çocuk felci her yıl 200.000 kadar çocukla dünya boyu veda eder. Çocuk felcinden önce her 5 yılda, şimdi çocuk felci için daha fazla yatırım gerekiyor.
- ÇOCUK SAĞLIĞI**
Çocuk felci polio virüsüyle ve aşılanma kampanyaları çocukları korumak için yapılır. Bu kampanyalarla dünya boyu her 1000'den bir çocuk polio virüsüne yakalanır. Çocuk felcinden önce her 5 yılda, şimdi çocuk felci için daha fazla yatırım gerekiyor.
- SAGLIK HARCAMALARINDA AZALMA**
Çocuk felcinden önce her 5 yılda, şimdi çocuk felci için daha fazla yatırım gerekiyor. Çocuk felcinden önce her 5 yılda, şimdi çocuk felci için daha fazla yatırım gerekiyor.
- TARİHİ BAŞARI**
Çocuk felcinden önce her 5 yılda, şimdi çocuk felci için daha fazla yatırım gerekiyor. Çocuk felcinden önce her 5 yılda, şimdi çocuk felci için daha fazla yatırım gerekiyor.

Önce kendi içimizde, sonra yaşadığımız toplumlarımızda ve nihayetinde tüm dünyada kalıcı değişimi yaratmak üzere bir araya geldik ve hastalığı geçirmiş bir dünya hedefliyoruz.

- 1 Çocuk felci çoğunlukla 5 yaş altı çocukları etkiler.
- 2 Tedavisi yoktur ancak çocuk felci eylemleri önlenir.
- 3 Sadece iki ülkede hastalık hala endemik durumdadır.
- 4 1988'den bu yana vakaları %99,9 oranında azaltıldı.
- 5 Çocuk felcini sonuna dek ortadan kaldırmaya kadar her çocuk risk altındadır.

ÖNCELİKLİ 7 ODAK ALANIMIZ

Adana Koza Rotary Kulübü



Adana Koza Rotary Kulübü

**ÇOCUK FELCİNE SON**

Adana Koza
Rotary
Kulübü

**ROTARY SİHRİ**

**END POLIO NOW**

Fund raising for Ending Polio



Adana Koza Rotary Kulübü

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

VISION ADDING PROJECT AWARD, RC of Varyant

The Guide Magazine presented Rotarian Dr. Mustafa Kemal Nas on behalf of Rotary Club of Varyant. Rotarian Mustafa Kemal Nas was honored to receive the Vision Adding Project Award for the Eye Scanning Project led by him

This award is a result of Rotary Club of Varyant's mission to contribute to society and projects carried out under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Nas. The Eye Screening Project is an important step that touches human life and improves public health. Members of Rotary Club of Varyant worked with great dedication to conducted this project, and this award is the best indication that member's efforts are appreciated.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

“Second hand market and New Year Festival” by RC of Adana Güney from D.2430

As the Adana Güney Rotary Club, we conducted our second-hand product sale project called "Magic Wardrobe" from October 16 to 19, 2024, aiming to provide scholarships for students affected by earthquakes. The people of Adana showed immense interest in the Magic Wardrobe, which we prepared for with great diligence over the months. I owe a debt of gratitude to all friends who supported the project with their labor and hearts. Believing that each garment represents hope and every hope a future, we started providing scholarships to 20 earthquake-affected students with the income generated from this project.

Approximately a month later, on November 23, we held our Christmas Fair with the goal of lighting up the futures of our girls through the Magic of Rotary. For 30 years, the Adana Güney Rotary Club has been a signatory to many strong projects both nationally and internationally. The traditional Christmas fair, held as a revenue-generating activity for these powerful projects, is not just a shopping event but also a very meaningful activity that contributes to the education of disadvantaged girls in our country, inspired by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's saying, "A society that leaves its women behind is doomed to stay behind." It fosters collaboration with members, families, many stakeholders, and other non-governmental organizations. During the unforgettable fair, participants, club members, and friends who came shopping competed with each other to provide scholarships for our girls. In the new year, 10 more girls moved closer to their dreams with a Rotary education scholarship.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

İzmir Konak Rotary Club Chess Tournament

This year, the 8th of İzmir Konak Rotary Club Tournament was held on 1 December 2024 at Havagazi Factory in İzmir. İzmir Metropolitan Municipality gracefully accepted to be the location sponsor. This tournament is significant as it is organized with the Chess Federation and it affects the ratings of the athletes. This year 140 licensed athletes competed in the tournament in four different categories. Alper Tezcan became at the top in Category A. Barış Ayzer Örnek, Zümrüt Egehan and Zeynep Sümeyye Demirtaş received gold medal in consequencevely in categories B, C, and D. The awards were presented by Mert Korur, the governor of District 2440, Pınar Aksoy, the President of İzmir Konak Rotary Club, and other club members.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club of Nicosia Lefkothea sends 2.7 tons of Medicines to Lebanon. D2452

The RC of Nicosia Lefkothea would like to thank and express its gratitude to the leading Pharmaceutical Company in Cyprus, Medochemie Ltd, through the positive response of its Chairman & CEO Dr. Andreas Pittas, to help the people of Lebanon by donating 2.7 tons of medicines of a six-figure value, which RC Nicosia Lefkothea has undertaken to send to Lebanon.

In this effort, Andreas Charalambous was contacted who is the Chairman of Air Trans and Fellow Rotarian of the RC of Nicosia, as well as two Lebanese Rotary Clubs, RC de Beyrouth and RC Beirut Center.



ARPIC SERTAÇ GÜMÜŞ
DISTRICT 2452

Air Trans provided the transportation and handling of the medicines in Cyprus and at Larnaca Airport. RC Nicosia Lefkothea is also thankful for the support they received from their counterpart Rotary Clubs in Lebanon which, through the Lebanese Minister of Health, arranged for the transportation of the medicines on Middle East Airlines free of charge and to clear through customs at Beirut Airport. It has been reported in delight that the medicines have been delivered to the Ministry of Health warehouse ready for distribution to the hospitals.

The corresponding Rotary Clubs of Lebanon will undertake the delivery of medicines to hospitals in the affected areas.

RC Nicosia Lefkothea would like to acknowledge the contribution of their members Past President Popi Kanaris, Deputy District Governor Demetris Pantazis, Assistant Governor Panicos Nicolaides, Past President Adib Mounla and all the other members who contributed to this project.

This is the second time that Medochemie, in collaboration with RC Nicosia Lefkothea, has been very generous in sending medicines to the affected parts of Lebanon. The last time was in September 2021 when Lebanon suffered a very deadly explosion of a fuel tanker.

RC Nicosia Lefkothea D2452, is a member of Rotary International which comprises of 46,000 Rotary Clubs throughout the world and an aggregate of 1.4 million members.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Interact Club of Manama organizes food drive - Bahrain D2452

Interactors, the youth division of Rotary Club of Manama, held a heartwarming charity food drive last Friday, 29th of November, under the dedicated supervision of Laetitia Vanden Ameele, member of Rotary Club of Manama. - District 2452, Bahrain

We extend our heartfelt thanks to We Care Bahrain for their invaluable logistical support and express our sincere gratitude to our generous sponsor, Zain Telecom, whose support made this initiative possible.

Finally, a warm thank you goes out to Kim Health Hospital for their partnership and unwavering commitment to the wellbeing of our community. Together, we continue to make a positive difference



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotaract Club of Bahrain organizes Pearl Hunting Activity

The Rotaract Club of Bahrain organised a unique pearl hunting activity to celebrate and preserve Bahrain's rich pearling heritage. This event typically takes place in the coastal waters of Bahrain, where participants engage in the traditional practice of oyster opening, a skill that dates back centuries.

In addition to offering a hands-on cultural experience, the event helps raise awareness about the history and environmental significance of Bahrain's pearling industry. The proceeds from the event often support the club's various community projects and charitable initiatives, making the experience both educational and impactful for local communities. It's a perfect blend of tradition, teamwork, and giving back to society.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The Rotary Club of Salmaniya organized “A DAY AT THE FARM” with children from The Dreams Society at the Al Jasra Organic Farm.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club Tripoli - Maarad organised a Polio Vaccination Campaign

Rotary Club Tripoli - Maarad in the presence of President Yasser El Sayed and Dr. Joseph Rachkidi organized a successful Polio vaccination campaign on 19 December 2024!

The community's children were educated by the members of RC Tripoli - Maarad about the importance of vaccination and took a significant step towards a polio-free future.

The message given by the members of RC Tripoli - Maarad; "Every effort counts in the fight against this disease! Let's continue to spread awareness and protect our children! "



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Four Rotary Clubs organised a "Christmas & New Year Party" to raise funds for Global Grant Project (GG2568623) - Cyprus D2452

On December 9th, RC of Kyrenia Liman, RC of Nicosia Sarayönü, RC of Kyrenia St.Hilarion and RC of Kyrenia Cosmopolitan organized the "Annual Christmas & New Year Dinner" to celebrate the coming New Year, at the Shell Wii Restaurant. The aim was to raise funds for the Humanitarian Global Grant Project for New Born Babies (GG2568623). The Host Club RC of Barbaros Metropolitan D-2420 and International Partner RC of Nicosia Sarayonu D-2452 will be supplying two Advance Incubators for Newborn babies to Marmara University Hospital.

64 Rotarians from Cyprus Rotary together with some friends of Rotary attended the evening. The event was honored by the attendance of PDG Kevork Mahdessian and his lovely wife Vart, DGE Peter Ashdjian, DDG Demetris Pantazis, PDDG Tastan Altuner, PDDG Caterina Kalavas, PDDG Dincer Cagin, AG Gultac Ozsan, and AG Panicos Nicolaides. Rotarians from RC of Larnaca Kition, RC of Nicosia, RC of Nicosia Lefkothea, RC of Kyrenia and RC of Nicosia Aspelia attended the evening to represent their clubs. Guests enjoyed the culinary delights of the restaurant and spent the night with warm fellowship conversations while mingling.

Two new members from RC of Nicosia Sarayonu, namely Erdal Sarper and Bahar Ersozer and one new member from RC of Kyrenia Liman Club; Hulya Gokoglu were pinned by PDG Kevork Mahdessian, DGE Peter Ashdjian and DDG Demetris Pantazis.

Sale of raffle tickets increased the raised funds and brought joy to the winners of valuable gifts. Overall funds raised was 1,120 USD.



**LET'S BE DEAR TO LIFE:
ADVANCED INCUBATORS
FOR "ELBW" INFANTS**

Background
Incubators provide a controlled environment that mimics the mother's womb, which is crucial for regulating the body temperature of these fragile infants and protecting them from infections. Micropremature infants, due to their extremely low birth weight (ELBW) and underdeveloped organs, require specialized medical equipment to ensure their survival and healthy development. The Project Focused on mainly two advanced incubators for Marmara University Pendik Research and Teaching Hospital in Anatolian side of Istanbul. Approximately 7000-20000 babies are born annually, with 60-70 of them weighing less than 800 grams. The NICU also treats term babies with severe respiratory difficulties, congenital abnormalities or hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy.

Values
-Investing in advanced care technology for ELBW infants will significantly improve their survival and health outcomes.
-By supporting families and reducing healthcare costs, this project aligns with our commitment to providing the highest standard of care and contribution for the overall well-being of our community and economy.
-The students and interns of the Medical Faculty will also benefit from the state-of-the-art technology system in their education and career.



**GG 2568623
HUMANITARIAN
PROJECT
FOR
NEW BORN BABIES**

**Please contact with us
for more information**

Host Club:
Rotary Club of Barbaros Metropolitan,
D-2420.

International Partner:
Rotary Club of Nicosia Sarayonu,
D-2452.

Goals

- Reducing the neonatal and newborn mortality rate
- Improving access essential medical services, trained community health workers and health care providers

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Clubs of Bahrain Organized a Christmas Dinner - The Rotary Clubs of Manama, Salamaniya and Seef Bahrain jointly organised a Christmas dinner



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The Rotary Club of Salmaniya completed the Art Workshop for the Bahrain Deaf Society District 2452 - Bahrain

The Rotary Club of Salmaniya organized an Art Workshop for the Bahrain Deaf Society at their headquarters, where members of the society joined and expressed their talent and creativity.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The Rotary Clubs of Salmaniya and Seef Bahrain distributed blankets and heaters to charity societies as part of the Winter Relief Program. The project was initiated when one of the charity societies requested a donation of heaters and blankets for their beneficiaries due to the sudden change in weather.





Nikos Margaropoulos
District Governor 2024-25
RID 2475 / GREECE
MONTHLY MESSAGE
NOVEMBER 2024

ARPIC MARIA MASTORA
DISTRICT 2475

My dear Rotarian Family,

From July 1st and over five months (as no visits were made in August), I visited almost all Clubs in the District, with only three visits scheduled for January. It was a very demanding period, but also particularly pleasant and constructive. I was greatly satisfied to observe a high level of fellowship within the Clubs and willingness to cooperate with other Clubs and the District.

We laid the foundation for even more work in service to our fellow community members and society in general. We discussed plans to strengthen the membership base of the Clubs and to continue and increase their contribution to the Rotary Foundation.

Many visits were made only with the Rotarians of each Club, though I didn't decline celebratory gatherings that included non-Rotarians.

At each visit, I had the opportunity to speak about Rotary, its history, composition, and the characteristic of Rotarians as Leaders in their field who voluntarily offer Wisdom, Work, and Wealth to their fellow community members. Also about Rotary's work, whether at Club level, national, or global level, about the Rotary Foundation and its exceptional management performance that ranks it among the top worldwide, and certainly about how each one of us is the Face of Rotary, projecting to society not only its service but also its high moral values.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

At the end of this Rotary year, we will publish an edition featuring the total work of service of Clubs in our District, so we can proudly showcase it as it deserves. Because often we focus on promoting each Club's work, but however significant it may be, it cannot compare to the total work of service of Clubs in our District. Let's remember that few non-Rotarians connect the work with a specific Club - most perceive it as Rotary's work of service in general.

At the beginning of the month, we had the opportunity to welcome the President-Elect of Rotary International, Mario Camargo, and his wife Denise, who had the chance, both in Athens and Thessaloniki, to visit organizations that Rotary in Greece has supported with donations and grants, to tour both cities, and attend Club events.

I particularly want to thank the Rotary Clubs of Halandri and Kifisia-Kastri, who very willingly responded, with exceptional success, to my invitation during my already scheduled visits to host the President-Elect, and also the Metropolitan Club for the corresponding major event in Thessaloniki. Also, the five Clubs from Thessaloniki that welcomed the President-Elect to the city and joined him for lunch. Finally, Governor Elect Stefanos Anastasopoulos and his wife PAG Rachel Topalidou who, for more than three days, as appointed Aides from our District to the President-Elect and his wife, were the face of the District, providing, with exceptional willingness and consistency, every facilitation to them.

We begin the New Year committed to our goal and vision to strengthen Rotary in our District, ready to successfully face all challenges, creating the conditions for it to become even bigger, even stronger in the years to follow.

I wish all of you, and our families, that Christmas brings light and love to our hearts, and in the New Year we continue to serve others above self, sharing the Magic of Rotary.



Nikos Margaropoulos
District Governor 2024-25
RID 2475 / GREECE

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC & ROTARACT AGIA PARASKEVI

Offer to unaccompanied children from Ukraine

Rotary Club and Rotaract Club Agia Paraskevi, once again, offered 6 boxes of clothes and 10 individual bags for each child filled with wafers. These are the unaccompanied children from Ukraine, who stay at Nisos Structure, and whom RC has adopted with the promise to take care of them!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODES

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SEMINAR

The Seminar - Open Workshop on the Application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technologies in the professional field, organized by the Rotary Club of Rhodes, was concluded with outstanding success. The event took place on Saturday, November 30, 2024, at the welcoming premises of Rodion Paideia (Kallipatira Hall). The seminar's keynote speaker, Mr. Yiannis Angelakis, founder of Engage Media, captivated the audience with his in-depth knowledge and engaging presentation.

The President of the Rotary Club of Rhodes, Mr. Nikos Retsas, warmly thanked all attendees for their enthusiastic participation, which highlighted the keen interest in Artificial Intelligence. As he aptly noted, "AI is not just the future – it is the present." He also expressed his gratitude to the sponsors who supported the event: Rodion Paideia, Ciel Inc., Island City Hotel, and Melissokomiki Dodecanese.

During the seminar, participants had the opportunity to delve into practical AI applications, from automating daily tasks to creating impressive projects with just a few steps. Mr. Angelakis's four-hour presentation, kept the audience engaged, sparking lively discussions and numerous questions.

The seminar was not only an exceptional learning experience but also carried a strong philanthropic purpose. All proceeds from the event will be donated for the purchase of equipment for the Cardiology Department of the Rhodes General Hospital.

The Rotary Club of Rhodes extends its heartfelt thanks to all participants who embraced this initiative, proving that knowledge and social contribution can harmoniously go hand in hand.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KIFISSIA POLITEIA

With great pleasure, members of RC Kifissia-Politeia welcomed the children and their caregivers from "Workshop", an association of parents, guardians and friends of disabled people, at the Vathis tavern in Kifissia, on Wednesday, December 4th. In a beautiful Christmas atmosphere, the President of the Rotary Club Christina, dressed as Santa Claus, distributed gifts to the children and the Vice President Regina distributed chocolates.

We would like to thank the owners of the tavern Ioannis Vathis and his mother Ioanna for offering dinner and warm hospitality as well as "Workshop" for the gifts offered.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC ATHINAI / DISTRICT GRANT

HAND-OVER CEREMONY OF SPECIAL SUPERCOMPUTING SYSTEM TO ELEPAP (Hellenic Society for the Protection and Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons)

RC Athinai, a Founding Member of ELEPAP Foundation, under the auspices of D-2475 and the co-assistant of R.C.Athinai-Notos & R.C. Parnitha, donated a state-of-the-art supercomputer system that will contribute to the provision of high-level services of the pioneering Gait and Movement Analysis Center of ELEPAP.

On Tuesday, December 3rd, at the International Day of Disability, the Handover Ceremony of the project took place, in the presence of DG rtn Nikos Margaropoulos and in the context of the completion of the District Grant 2024-25 that RC Athinai had undertaken. Ms. Maria Pyrgeli, Scientific Director of ELEPAP, Ms. Annie Efstathiou-Maniati, regular member of the Board of Directors of ELEPAP, Mr. George Krasaris, General Director of ELEPAP, together with the head of the Center, bioengineer Mr. George Grimas, warmly welcomed the DGN rtn Babis Tinginagas, the AG rtn Yianna Apostolakou, the President of RC Athinai rtn Anastasios Ballas and the Treasurer rtn Yiannis Pouspourikas, the President of RC Athinai-Notos rtn Konstantinos Kottikias, the Dean and President of the Action Committee of RC Parnitha rtn Christina Driva, and the RC Athinai member rtn Vassilis Charalambakos.

The supercomputing system will substantially contribute to the extraction of comprehensive assessments and gait analysis findings, aiming that each child reaching their full potential and being integrated smoothly and equally into the society.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF



RID 2475 - RC KOROPOLI Support of Animal Welfare Association

Rotary Club Koropi, as every year, supports Animal Welfare Association of Artemida by offering small items for the Christmas bazaar as well as animal feed.



RID 2475 - RC ANOIXI SEMELI

On the occasion of Christmas, the members of RC Anoxia-Semeli, continuing a tradition of many years, collected long-life food which they offered to the Holy Church of Prophet Elias, in Rodopoli, for the meals offered by the church.

In the photo, the tireless Father John, who is carrying out a great religious and social work, and the President of RC Anooixi-Semeli rtn Aspasia Martini-Vardaka.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC MARATHON-NEA MAKRI

Blood donation Campaign

RC Marathon – Nea Makri, with a strong sense of social responsibility and as part of its Disease Prevention and Treatment initiatives, organized a Blood Donation Week in November under the inspiring motto: "Be Someone's Hope, Donate Blood."

This initiative not only received great support but also enthusiastic participation from the following Rotary Clubs in our District:

1. Rotary Club of Alexandroupolis,
2. Rotary E-Club Greece,
3. 2475 District Rotaract Greece,
4. Rotary Club of Patras – Kostis Palamas,
5. Rotary Club of Volos – Argo, and
6. Rotary Club of Athinai – Lycabettus
7. 2475 Rotaract District

In collaboration with the aforementioned clubs and with the invaluable support of the District Blood Bank Coordinator, RC Marathon – Nea Makri succeeded in extending the initiative into nearly a month-long blood donation campaign. The results were remarkable: the Blood Bank of RID 2475 was significantly reinforced; now boasting a positive balance of blood units.

This initiative highlights the power of unity and collaboration. Through collective action, we can bring hope and life to those in need. Together, we can—and do—make a difference!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - ROTARACT

Blood donation

D-2475 Rotaract participated to the Blood Donation campaign initiated by RC Marathon-Nea Makri.



ΕΛΛΑΣ
Rotaract
2475 Π.Δ.Ρ.



ΔΩΡΙΣΕ ΤΟ ΑΙΜΑ ΣΟΥ ΚΑΙ
ΣΩΣΕ ΜΙΑ ΖΩΗ.

Σύσσωμη η 2475 Ροταράκτ Περιφέρεια
Ελλάδος με τους Ροταράκτ Ομίλους
στηρίζουν τη πρωτοβουλία του
Ροταριανού Ομίλου Μαραθώνα-Νεά
Μάκρη να ενισχύσει τη Τράπεζα Αίματος
της 2475 Περιφέρειας Διεθνούς Ρόταρυ.

| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Λεωφόρος Θηβών 314, Αιγάλεω, 12243 (Αίθουσα ΕΚΕΑ) | Τετάρτη 27/11 & Πέμπτη 28/11 | 14:00- 19:00 |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------|

Κωδικός Τράπεζας Αίματος: 12941



**Γιατί ο Ροταράκτορας το έχει στο
αίμα του να σώζει ζωές!!**

Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες στείλτε μας
email: secretariat@rotaractdistrict2475.gr
rotaract2475@gmail.com

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KERKYRA

Award ceremony for the outstanding students of the Philharmonic Orchestras of Corfu

With the brilliance that suits the occasion, RC Kerkyra awarded for the 35th consecutive year the students of the three Philharmonics of our city, who distinguished themselves in the respective internal competitions of their schools.

This year's awards were given to Melina Papaioannou (violin) and Kostas Sourvinos (percussion), students of the Corfu Philharmonic Society, to Cornelia Rouva (flute), student of the "Mantzaros" Philharmonic Society and to Michalis Kontis (percussion), student of the Philharmonic Union "Kapodistrias". Each award comes with a cash prize.

Present chief musicians, music teachers, presidents and representatives of the boards of philharmonics, the parents of the awardees and friends of Rotary.

The President of the Rotary Club Dimitris Ericos, emphasized the importance of philharmonics in the development of bonds of friendship and cooperation between musicians, while praising their social role in the cultivation of fair play and musical excellence that has led countless Corfiot musicians to staff remarkable orchestras in Greece and abroad.

Speaker of the evening, past president Andreas Kalogeras, who presented the thoughts of the Emeritus Professor of the Ionian University, Mr. Nikos Papadimitriou on the wanderings of a modern Odysseus who recognizes his Ithaca on the island of the Phaeacians, to the sounds of the philharmonic orchestras.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KERKYRA

Award ceremony for the outstanding students of the Philharmonic Orchestras of Corfu



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC PIRAEUS EAST Rotary Fellowship

On December 1st, RC Piraeus-East, in the context of Rotary fellowship, visited the "Oenotria Gi" estate of Mr Lazaridis. All participants were impressed both from the exterior of the estate and the guided tour of the museum, as well as from the tasting that followed. Present were rotarians from RC Piraeus East, other RC's and friends.

After the visit, a lunch followed in a local restaurant.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC ALEXANDROUPOLIS

Rotary Club of Alexandroupolis has achieved to be recognized as a 100% Paul Harris Fellow Club by contributing to the Rotary Foundation and serving above self.

ALEXANDROUPOLIS
Rotary
CLUB



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS KOLOSSOS

RC Rhodes-Kolossos stands next to the children of the isolated one-room schools of the Dodecanese, putting solidarity and support in education into practice.

On the initiative of the Awards and Education Committee, a special action was organized, including the donation of educational material and technological equipment to the schools that need it most.

On December 6th, RC Rhodes-Kolossos purchased and sent 3 Tablets, 3 self-study books for English learning (Winnie's World - Educational English Learning System for children 4 years old and above) and three basketballs to the 2 primary schools 1.Telendos and Arki and 2. Karditsa!

The material was selected following research and consultation with the teachers of the schools, which was carried out by the Awards and Education Committee, consisting of two excellent Rotarians, Kostas Tsolakidis - Professor Emeritus of the Aegean University and Katia Zachariou - a dentist surgeon. We congratulate both for having completed the work of their committee.

At Rotary, our goal is to empower children, teachers and the quality of education in the most remote corners of our country.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC THESSALONIKI ALEXANDER THE GREAT XMAS Bazar

Konstantia Giouletzi has built a special Bazaar of Love, exclusively for Rotary Club "Alexander the Great Hellas", starring Minnie Mouse.

In this special occasion present were Rotary leaders, rotarians as well as friends of Rotary. Also present the former Regional Governor of Central Macedonia Panagiotis Psoriasis,

Thank you for your support and your love!!!!

The proceeds will be donated to charity.

TOGETHER WE MAKE the LOVE....Action



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS KOLOSSOS

Relief of floods victims

The President of RC Rhodos-Colossos rtn Mary Ayakatsika congratulates the members of the Club rtn Marirena and Loukas Georgas for their valuable contribution to the relief of our fellow citizens after the devastating floods that hit our island.

Specifically, they provided the Municipality of Rhodes with 10 rooms for the accommodation of citizens affected by the severe natural disaster.

We are proud of all the members of our Club who help and assist wherever there is a need.

In Rotary we serve above self!



Best Western Plus Hotel Plaza



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KIFISSIA

Wireless communication equipment

RC Kifissia delivered wireless communication equipment to Agios Stefanos Volunteer Fire Protection Association, significantly enhancing the association's ability to conduct 24-hour surveillance and respond promptly to the area's needs.

This initiative highlights the importance of collective effort and collaboration in safeguarding the natural environment and ensuring the safety of citizens.

It serves as a prime example of how voluntary organizations, supported by local authorities and equipped with modern technology, can strengthen their mission and provide invaluable service to the community.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC PENTELI

Support of families in need via Social Grocery

RC Penteli, supporting the local community since its foundation, collected long lasting items for the 121 beneficiary program families of the Municipality of Penteli Social Grocery.

We wish love and Happy Holidays to all the Members of the Rotary Family and our friends.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC DIONYSOS

Bazar at Panhellenic Association f Parents of mentally retarded Children

On December 7th and 8th was held with great success the well-established bazaar at PEGGAP-NY (Panhellenic Association of Parents and Guardians of Mentally Retarded Children) in cooperation with the Friends of PEGGAP "Spring of Life", organized by RC Dionysos.

To the big number of gifts, mosaic paintings, utilitarian objects, decorations, books, etc., on our stands were added the creations of the beneficiaries of the structure as well as the Christmas delicacies made by the staff of the PEGAP.

The bazaar as every year follows the children's party with Christmas songs and storytelling, accompanied by the children's choir of Kifissia.

In the spirit of inclusion RC Dionysos awarded the well-known multi-award winning Special Olympic Gold Athlete Konstantinos Triantafyllou and the Panhellenic Champion Athlete Association "Diagoras Anoixis" Panagiotis Emmanouilidis.

The PEGKAP-NY honoring the companies-sponsors of the Structure awarded, Dionysus Marbles "DIONYSOMARBLE" and "EL PACK "S.A.

Our Rotary Club thanks for the sponsorships the companies "SKLAVENITIS" and "SKAG" especially Mrs. Poppy Skagia. Special thanks for the presentation of the celebration and the participation in the organization of the program to CHRISTOS FERENTINO.

The proceeds of our event will be donated to the support of the program of PEGAP-NY operation.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC DIONYSOS

Bazar at Panhellenic Association of Parents of mentally retarded Children



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS KOLOSSOS Support of Rhodes Orphanage

On December 6th, 2024 members of RC Rhodes-Kolossos visited with much joy and love the Orphanage of Rhodes, for a special action full of Christmas Magic.

The Club's Committee for the Support of Sensitive Social Groups, with Rotarian Sandra Nezi as Chairperson and members Katia Kanari, Adriana Hadjilazarou, Dora Koutsospyrou, Marirena Georgas and Katia Zachariou, designed and created a Christmas atmosphere for the children. Together with the children, we created wonderful Christmas decorations and constructions with colors and lots of gold dust, filling the space with smiles and imagination! Hot chocolate and delicious cookies completed this festive experience, warming our hearts on a day that reminded us of the importance of giving and love.

The Christmas afternoon ended with gifts purchased individually for each child and personal hygiene items donated for all the children accommodated in the structure.

The cooperation and support of the Rhodes Orphanage with similar actions by RC Rhodes-Kolossos has started many years ago. Every time we hold an event together with the children, we experience the same joy and emotion! We feel that we can really offer some of the magic of Christmas to those who need it most.

Rotary Club of Rhodes -Kolossos and President Mary Ayakatsika congratulate the Club's Support Committee for Vulnerable Social Groups and thanks the President of the Child Care Centre, Mrs. Maria Korakaki, Social Operator Mrs. Margarita Sarika as well as the staff of the Rhodes Orphanage for supporting us to organize this event.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS KOLOSSOS
Support of Rhodes Orphanage



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC SAMOS

"Important donation to the Social Grocery of Samos by RC Samos ."

On December 17th, as every year, on Christmas and Easter period, RC Samos made an important donation of meat and fine wine from the internationally award-winning company VAKAKIS WINES to the Municipal Social Grocery of Samos, in order to cover the needs of hundreds of families of our fellow citizens of Samos in need.

RC Samos was represented by PP rtn Emmanuel Isidorou and PP rtn Dimitrios Kyriazis .

RC Samos, for many years, has always stood by the suffering fellow human being, supporting Families, Public and Private Bodies, Health, Education, Security Corps and Voluntary Associations, for the benefit of our Local Society in general.

The Rotarians from Samos are well-known and recognized personalities of the local Society, and always put into practice the motto of Rotary International "Service Above Self" in every circumstance, wherever and whenever it is needed.

Warm congratulations to the Municipal Social Grocery of Samos and its administrators, as with all seriousness and absolute transparency, with the support of all of us, they offer for many years to our fellow citizens of Samos, throughout the year, food and clothing, maintaining social cohesion.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC e-CLUB in collaboration with RCs Chalandri, Preveza, Psychiko *Program: "Give the Gift of Access 1.0"*

In the context of the Avenue of Community Service, for the current Rotary year, Rotary eClub of Greece, in collaboration with RCs Preveza, Chalandri and Psychiko, have designed and implemented a new program that offers unhindered access to visitors with mobility difficulties to museums and archaeological sites in Greece.

The program is called "Give the Gift of Access 1.0" and concerns the procurement and donation of wheelchairs that will meet the needs of visitors to museums and archaeological sites in our country.

The program is funded exclusively by resources of volunteer Rotarians and specifically by the Rotary Clubs eClub of Greece, Preveza, Chalandri and Psychiko. The "Give the Gift of Access 1.0" program will benefit more than 14 museums, archaeological sites and monuments throughout Greece, specifically in the regions of Macedonia, Epirus, Peloponnese, Crete and Attica.

After a relevant survey on the level of visitor numbers and the needs of each institution, one to three wheelchairs will be donated to these sites to meet their needs.

The wheelchairs offered by Rotary Clubs are of a special type, certified and with the latest safety standards. Also, in some cases, they satisfy the special building needs and standards set by certain Museums.

On Saturday, December 14th, 2024, in the context of the opening of the new wing of the Aigio Museum, in the presence of the Minister of Culture, Ms. Lina Mendoni, the Deputy Minister of Culture, Mr. Jason Fotilas, the Governor of Western Greece Region, Mr. Nektarios Farmakis, the Head of the department of Antiquities of the district of Achaia, Ms. Annita Koumoussi, His Excellency Metropolitan of Aigialeia and Kalavryta, Mr. Ieronymos, the State and military leadership, the authorities of the Prefecture of Achaia and the city of Aigio, the first delivery of wheelchairs to the Aigio Museum took place.

Later that same day, the second delivery of wheelchairs to the Archaeological Museum of Patras followed.

The day ended with the third delivery of wheelchairs that took place at the ESIEPIN Press Museum in the presence of the ESIEPIN Board of Directors, as well as the museum manager, Mrs. Katerina Tsirou. The Rotarians present donated the wheelchair, while a special tour and display of rare historical exhibits of the Press Museum awaited them.

It was a pleasant surprise to find and display by the Museum's experts exhibits on Rotary topics (newsletters of Clubs and the region, relevant publications from the local and not only press).

The events were attended by, from the Rotary eClub of Greece, PAG Georgios Stavropoulos, PE Yiangos Inglesis, PP Maria Wetli, from RC Preveza, PDG Aris Zachos, from RC Chalandri, PDG Mariza Economou and President Teti Ralli, and from RC Psychiko, President Takis Farmakis. Also, the events were honored with their presence by AG Christos Asimakopoulos and rtn Anna Gruzi from RC. Patras.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC e-CLUB in collaboration with RCs Chalandri, Preveza, Psychiko
Program: "Give the Gift of Access 1.0"





**ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ «ΧΑΡΙΣΕ ΤΟ ΔΩΡΟ
ΤΗΣ ΠΡΟΣΒΑΣΗΣ 1.0»**

ΜΙΑ ΔΩΡΕΑ ΣΧΕΔΙΑΣΜΕΝΗ
ΚΑΙ ΥΛΟΠΟΙΗΜΕΝΗ ΑΠΟ ΤΟΥΣ
ΡΟΤΑΡΙΑΝΟΥΣ ΟΜΙΛΟΥΣ:

2475 ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑ
ΔΙΕΘΝΟΥΣ ΡΟΤΑΡΥ
2024 - 2025

eCLUB - GREECE
ΠΡΕΒΕΖΑ
ΧΑΛΑΝΔΡΙ
ΨΥΧΙΚΟ



**«GIVE THE GIFT
OF ACCESS 1.0» PROGRAM**

A DONATION PLANNED
AND IMPLEMENTED BY
ROTARY CLUBS OF:

2475 ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT
2024 - 2025

eCLUB - GREECE
HALANDRI
PREVEZA
PSYCHIKO



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC NEA SMYRNI

RC Nea Smyrni, faithful to the principles and values of Rotary International, once again stood by our helpless fellow human beings and in view of the Christmas - New Year holidays, undertook to offer them food, delivering for this purpose food and goods to the Charity Fund of the Holy Church of Agia Paraskevi (Holy Metropolis of Nea Smyrni).

The above important action, which has been implemented by RC New Smyrni continuously for the last 25 years, was undertaken and implemented this year by the founding member of the Club, rtn Manolis Paparigopoulos.



ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΣΜΥΡΝΗΣ
ΕΝΟΡΙΑΚΟ ΦΙΛΟΠΤΩΧΟ ΤΑΜΕΙΟ
ΙΕΡΟΥ ΝΑΟΥ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗΣ
ΝΕΑΣ ΣΜΥΡΝΗΣ

Εν Ν. Σμύρνη τη 17/12/2024
Προς ΡΟΤΑΡΥ ΝΕΑΣ
ΣΜΥΡΝΗΣ
Τ.....

Το Ενοριακό Φιλόπτωχο Ταμείο του Ιερού Ναού Αγίας Παρασκευής
Νέας Σμύρνης, σας ευχαριστεί διά την ευγενή προσφορά σας υπέρ
των γερόντων και λοιπών αδελφών μας, που έχουν ανάγκη συμπαρά-
στάσεως.

Μετά τμής
Η ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ

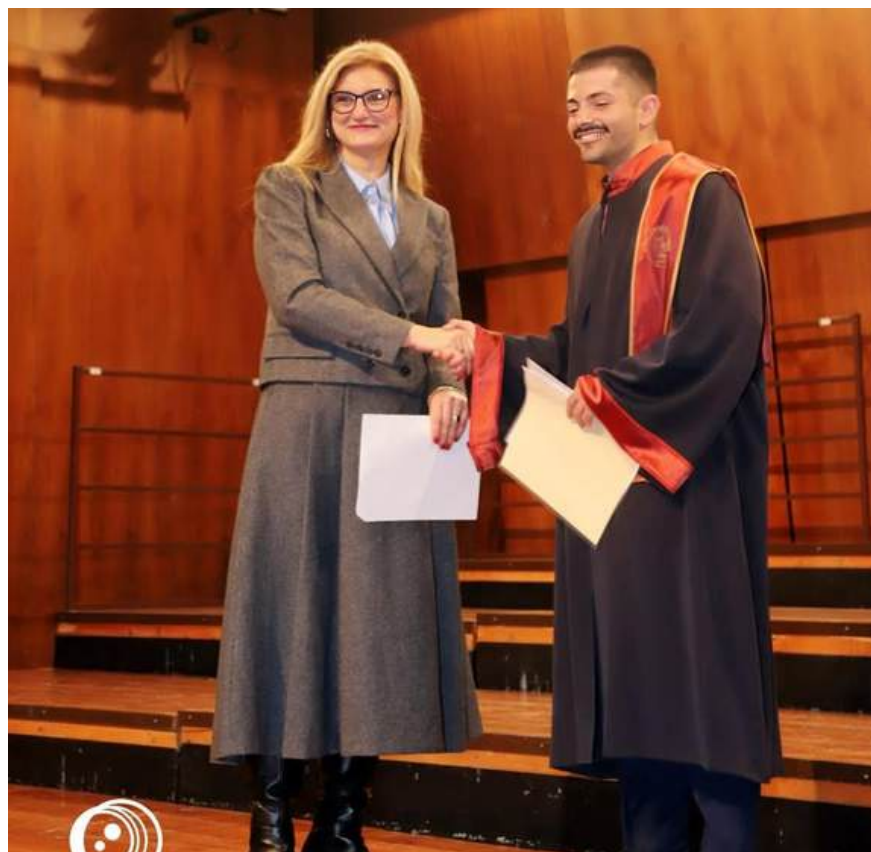
THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KERKYRA

Awards of Excellence

The Rotary Club of Kerkyra, for another year, presented awards of excellence to the first graduates of the Ionian University, during their swearing-in ceremony. A tradition that has been kept for more than 10 years and makes us proud.

The President, the BOD and members of C Kerkyra wish them all the best for their careers and many more excellence in their lives. The awards as always were accompanied by a cash prize.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KIFISSIA KASTRI Participation in the win cancer campaign

RC Kifissia-Kastri participates in the win cancer campaign and makes cards that will be given to patients of cancer hospitals who will spend the holidays in hospital.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC PIRAEUS EAST

ISO 9001-2025 certification to Hadjipaterio Foundation

On December 19, RC Piraeus-East, in the context of public benefit action and through its member PAG Ilias Papageorgiou, visited the "Hadjipaterio" Foundation in Metamorfosi Attica and delivered as a donation, as we have committed to do every year, the ISO 9001-2015 certification concerning the Quality Management System which is necessary for the Foundation's proper operation.

The certificate was received on behalf of the Foundation by its President, Mr. Marinos Agiasmenos.

The delivery of the certificate was attended by, DGE Stefanos Anastasopoulos, RC President Thomas Tassios, RC Vice President Vasiliki Panagopoulou and President-elect Elias Papageorgiou.

The "Hadjipaterio" Foundation, which is a donation of the Hadjipatera family, currently serves 80 children who, due to immaturity / brain damage or other causes, have difficulties mainly in movement but often also in other areas, such as intelligence, speech, senses and thus in their adaptation to the environment.

The President of "Hadjipaterio" Foundation, Mr. Marinos Agiasmenos and the director Mrs. Georgia Polychronopoulou guided us to the facilities and informed us about the history of the Foundation and other needs that have arisen.

Our Rotary Club will be a supporter of the Foundation within its capabilities.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC DIONYSOS

Support of prisoners of " Youth Detention Center"

RC Dionysos faithful to the principles of love and giving for the fellow human beings, on the occasion of Christmas offered blankets and clothing to the prisoners of the "Youth Detention Centre" in Avlona.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC ATHINAI

Meal with salespersons of street magazine "Schedia"

On December 17th, President RC Athinai rtn Anastasios Ballas, Vice President rtn Ioannis Koimtzoglou, and rotarians members of RC Athinai, Ioannis Varotsos, Tassos Panagiotopoulos, Lisa Pentheroudaki, Georgios Roussis, Stavros Triantafyllidis, offered a festive light meal of solidarity to forty of our fellow human beings, salespersons of the magazine "SCHEDIA", the only Greek street magazine and member of the International Network of Street Papers (INSP), which represents 122 street magazines from 41 countries, with 14,000 homeless unemployed salespersons and 6,000,000 readers worldwide.

The RC Athinai Members were welcomed by Mr. Alefantis, journalist and Founder of the magazine and after having meal with the "people in red vests", who come from socially vulnerable population groups (homeless, unemployed and, in general, people living below the poverty line), they listened carefully to their difficult daily lives and bent over their needs. In view of the festive season, let us give the opportunity for social contact and interaction with our vulnerable fellow human beings.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC VOLOS ARGO Gifts to Volos Orphanage

The members of RC Volos "Argo" once again stood next to the Volos Orphanage, offering gifts of love to the children hosted in the respective structures.

Present were President rtn Konstantinos Karagiannis, Vice President rtn Nikolaos Servetas, Treasurer rtn Ioannis Tsikountouridis and President of Rotary Foundation Committee rtn Theophilos Voulgaris.

The President of the Volos Orphanage Mr. Konstantinos Theodorou thanked the President and the Members of RC Volos "Argo" for their donation



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 RC ATHINAI LYCAVITTOS & KIFISSIA POLITIA Outing in the center of Athens

The Rotary clubs Athinai-Lycabittos and Kifissia-Politia organized, with great success, a Christmas outing in the center of Athens, on Saturday, December 21st. Our guide rtn Dora Spahi, member of RC Athinai-Lycabittos, with her eloquent speech, took us on a trip to ancient Athens from 2c BC to the present day as we walked and visited the important monuments such as the Acropolis, Hadrian's Library, the Roman Agora and the old Metropolis.

Afterwards we had lunch at the traditional ouzo café "Oraia Hellas"

We would like to thank Rotarian Dora, DGE Stefanos Anastasopoulos, President of RC Heraklion Crete Giorgos Lapidakis, the Rotarian Ulrich Dukes from Switzerland, the members of the Clubs and all the friends who participated.

The amount we collected will be used to buy essentials that will be delivered to the Reception & Solidarity Centre of the Municipality of Athens (K.Y.A.D.A.).



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC ATHINAI Charity Christmas Dinner

On December 14th, RC Athinai organized its annual Christmas Charity Dinner at the award-winning Hytra restaurant, in the garden of Athens Music Hall, with the goal of supporting the great project undertaken by the Club, i.e. the renovation of the second floor of Aglaia & Panagiotis Kyriakou Children's Hospital.

This year, this event was planned in our effort to combine culinary delights with closer interpersonal contact between the members and friends of our Club and to promote the radical renovation of the currently unused second floor of the Panagiotis & Aglaia Kyriakou Children's Hospital, so that it can serve as a place to accommodate families of children who are hospitalized for a long time and do not have the financial means to be housed in Athens. The President rtn Anastasios Ballas spoke about the importance of this donation and thanked everyone who supported the event and RC Athinai. The attendees enjoyed the chef's imaginative menu and received rich gifts from our raffle.

The event was honored by the presence of DG rtn Nikos Margaropoulos and a multitude of Rotarians and friends of the Club, members of the BOD and friends of the company ARISTON DEVELOPMENT GROUP, and associates of the company ELPEN.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC PERISTERI ANTHOUPOLIS

Donation to Social Grocery

On December 18th RC Peristeri Anthoupolis, supporting the local community, collected and delivered isothermal clothing and other goods to the Social Grocery Store of the Municipality of Peristeri, for covering the needs of the beneficiaries of our Municipality.

Our Club, for the benefit of the Local Community, from the first day of its establishment, has always stood by our fellow human beings, supporting and putting into practice the motto of Rotary International:

"Service Above Self"!

We would like to thank the Deputy Mayor for Social Policy, Mrs. Mary Tsiota-Markou, for her cooperation.

The Rotary Club was represented by:

President 2024-2025 Ioannis Makris, PP Anna Loulakaki and member rtn Anastasios Terzopoulos.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC PSYCHIKO

Children of SOS Village to Electric Railway Museum

On December 21st, RC Psychiko, went with the children of the SOS Children's Village at the Electric Railway Museum as part of the annual Christmas celebration that the club prepares every year for the children.

The programme included a guided tour of the Museum to hear about the history of the Electric Railway since it first operated as a steam train, its electrification in 1904 and the tramways. The event was followed by a theatrical play about the train by actor Michael Melissi.

Rotary

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ
ΣΤΟ ΜΟΥΣΕΙΟ ΤΩΝ ΤΡΕΝΩΝ

με τα παιδιά του παιδικού χωριού SOS Βάρης

ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ 21/12/2024 ΩΡΑ: 11-15

ΣΤΑΘΜΟΣ ΤΡΕΝΩΝ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΑ

ΔΙΟΡΓΑΝΩΤΗΣ: Ρ.Ο. ΨΥΧΙΚΟΥ

Η εκδήλωση περιλαμβάνει ξενάγηση, σάντουιτς με ζεστό ρόφημα και θεατρικό παιχνίδι.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - Rotary e-Club Greece with assistance from RC Chalandri & Psychiko
Preparation of a festive meal

Preparation of a festive meal offered to our fellow human beings in need, by the Rotary E-Club of Greece with the assistance of the Rotary Clubs of Halandri and Psychiko

Serve Above Self!!!!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KIFISSIA-KASTRI

Offer of Christmas pies

RC Kifissia-Kastri , as every year, delivered to the Social Grocery of N.Erythrea 70 Christmas pies for the beneficiaries of the municipality.

We wish Happy Holidays to all with Health and Empathy!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC IRAKLIO EL GRECO

Support of a family

RC Iraklio El Greco had the honour to support a family that is fighting a difficult battle, by offering Christmas gifts: overalls, sports shoes and toys for their three children.

The mother of the family, who bravely faces a cancer, is an example of strength. This action is part of our Club's support to the Iraklion Branch of the Hellenic Cancer Society, which has been by the family's side from the very first moment, providing support and hope.

The gifts were handed over by our Club's President Nikos Angelakis, Secretary Maria Amanakis, our Dean Yannis Christodoulakis and our Founding President and President of the Hellenic Cancer Society, Litsa Christodoulakis to the father of the family, with the wish that this Christmas will fill their home with light and joy.

We thank our member, Maria Kanaki for offering part of the donation, the Hellenic Cancer Society for its support and all those who support solidarity actions. Together we can make a difference!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC IRAKLION

Health Contribution to Primary Health Care

RC Iraklion continued this year its long-standing health contribution to primary health care and following approval of relative public administration of Crete and the cooperation with the Municipality of Viannos, took place a visit to the Medical Center of Viannos. The voluntary medical action referred to the free examination of patients by a team of doctors, members and friends of RC Iraklion. The patients examined were approximately one hundred and twenty. The participating doctors had the following specialties: were: Endocrinologist, Orthopaedic Surgeon, Pulmonologist, Otolaryngologist, Neurologist, Cardiologist, Urologis and General Surgeon. RC Iraklion thanks the doctors for their voluntary participation.

The message of this activity is that prevention saves lives and improves people's quality of life.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC ATHINAI NOTOS

Annual Meal for residents of Athens Nursing Home

RC Athinai-Notos organized the annual love meal for the residents of the Athens Nursing Home, which took place at the Vathis Tavern in Kifissia. Members of our Club, the President of the Nursing Home Spyridon Hamakiotis, the General Director Konstantinos Soldatos, the Legal Advisor Alexandros Papatsoris, as well as the staff of the social service attended the event. Warm thanks to Taverna Vathis and the Vice President of our Rotary Club Leonidas Tolis for their kind sponsorships. A tradition of 30+ years continues.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC ATHINAI NOTOS

Event for collecting funds for RF Polio Plus Fund

RC Athinai-Notos successfully held a celebration event at the Athenian Club, with a speech by DGE Stefanos Anastasopoulos, with topic "Is Rotary necessary today?". The aim of this event was all proceeds to be given to the Rotary Foundation's PolioPlus fund.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KERKYRA

Food distribution to vulnerable families

RC Kerkyra proceeded to food distribution to vulnerable families in cooperation with the Holy Metropolis of Corfu. We thank the social worker of Corfu Metropolis for the excellent cooperation. We wish a Good Creative Year with more offer to our fellow human beings, Peace, Prosperity and Health around the world.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KORINTHOS **Friendship and proceeds collect**

In the spirit of the holidays and at the invitation of RC Korinthos President Michael Michaelides, on Sunday December 29th, members of our Club and their families met for a festive Brunch. All the proceeds collected will be donated to our charitable work. Club secretary, Marios Vourliotakis, offered to the attendees a beautiful notebook and pencil with Rotary and club's logos.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Margarita Bogdanova
District Governor 2024-2025
Rotary International
District 2482 - Bulgaria
Monthly Letter - December

Dear friends,

May the New Year bring us even more opportunities for service, new friendships, and success in our mission to do good.

I wish you and your families peace, joy, and much love.

Let us welcome the year with hope and a willingness to move forward together!

Happy New Year 2025!



ARPIC ARKAN APTURAHMAN
DISTRICT 2482

МАРГАРИТА БОГДАНОВА
Дистрикт гуверньор 2024-2025
Ротари Д-2482 България

Rotary
District 2482



Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the balance sheet of the past year—a task we willingly or unwillingly undertake at the close of December—we step into the new year with renewed plans and aspirations.

For us Rotarians, the month of January is dedicated to professional service. Regardless of our chosen profession, we are leaders in our respective fields, which is precisely why we were nominated and accepted into Rotary.

The choice of a profession is shaped by both attitude and circumstance. I must admit that teaching was not my initial vision for a career. I dreamt of becoming a nurse (like my mother), a singer 😊, and a host of other things. However, after graduating from university and being invited to serve as an assistant, I discovered that teaching was my true calling.

I still vividly remember my first seminars with students. I prepared diligently, yet I was overwhelmed with anxiety about putting myself out there.

Even today, teaching continues to inspire and excite me because each group of students is unique, and the challenges facing modern education constantly evolve. The world truly feels like a global village, and much of my time is spent collaborating on joint projects with colleagues from universities across Europe and beyond. It's particularly thrilling to discover fellow Rotarians among my colleagues and to connect with Rotarians from other districts who share common professional interests.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Margarita Bogdanova District Governor 2024-2025 Rotary International District 2482 - Bulgaria Monthly Letter December

We can celebrate Professional Service Month in many meaningful ways. Here are some ideas for projects dedicated to professional service:

- **Business Open Days:** Club members can organize visits to their workplaces or organizations to showcase their professional skills and activities. Invite schoolchildren or students to explore specific professions on-site and share case studies and examples from your practice.
- **Professional Support for the Community:** Club members can provide free professional services to individuals in need, such as legal advice, financial literacy education, or health consultations. Organize a consultation day with pre-registration to ensure a smooth and efficient process.
- **Professional Workshops for Children and Youth:** Focus on professions that interest young people, such as programming, design, medicine, or engineering. Conduct hands-on workshops, demonstration simulations, and practical problem-solving activities to engage and inspire them.
- **Professional Meetings with Inspiring Personalities:** Invite local or national leaders to share their professional journeys in an informal setting. They can discuss the challenges they have faced and how they overcame them, offering inspiration and valuable insights.

All of these projects can be implemented with a minimal budget and have a long-lasting positive effect on the community, as well as on the public image of the club.

Once again, I announce the theme of February: Peace, Conflict Prevention and Resolution. One of the most significant international events in February is the Istanbul Peace Conference (February 20-22, 2025), which will be held under the patronage of Stephanie Urchick, President of Rotary International.
<https://www.rotary.org/en/2025-rotary-presidential-peace-conference>

Don't forget to register to celebrate with friends from all over the world the 120th anniversary of the founding of our organization - Rotary International.

I conclude with one final wish for everyone:

May 2025 be a year of generosity and kindness!

May we find greater joy in giving than in receiving.

And may we work together to create a world filled with goodness!

December 1, 2024

Margarita Bogdanova
District Governor 2024-2025
Rotary International
District 2482-Bulgaria

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF GREETINGS FROM DGE PLAMEN TSVETKOV

Dear Friends,

The most wonderful and bright holidays, Christmas and New Year, are approaching. These are days when everyone is surrounded by family and friends, boldly dreaming of the future.

During these moments, each of us looks back and reflects on the past 12 months, hoping to start something new in the coming year.

I strongly believe that in 2024, we Rotarians from District 2482 created a better world together, worked hard, and achieved the goals we had set.

We proved that we are capable of overcoming difficulties and moving forward.



Each of us can be proud of personal achievements. In the context of Rotary, they are shared, because we are friends and share the same values of growth and progress. Beyond personal accomplishments, today we also celebrate our collective ones – those that gave opportunities to those in need, helped our communities develop, touched hundreds of families and lives, and made our clubs more recognizable.

I hope that in 2025, we will continue working together. Let us remain united and dedicated to goodness, fairness, and truth. Let us come together for the wonderful causes that Rotary exists to serve and for the good deeds it accomplishes.

I wish you and your families peace, health, prosperity, and much success in 2025.

With deep respect,
Plamen Tsvetkov
District Governor Elect
District 2482, Bulgaria

**THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF
GREETINGS FROM DGN ALEKSANDER PETKOV**

Dear Rotarians and Friends,

As the brightest holidays of the year, Christmas and New Year, approach, I want to extend my heartfelt wishes to all of you.

May the magic of Christmas fill your homes and hearts with warmth, love, and joyful moments. The festive Christmas days are a time for family, friends, and creating unforgettable memories.

The year 2025 is just around the corner, bringing new opportunities for personal growth, strengthening our community, and fulfilling our mission of service above self.

I believe that together, we will continue to build a better future, inspired by our shared values and goals.

Thank you for the dedication, energy, and love you invest in everything we do as a Rotary family. I wish you health, prosperity, and inspiration in every new day! May 2025 be a successful, peaceful, and joyful year for all of us.

Happy holidays and a happy New Year!

Warm regards,
Alexander Petrov
District Governor Nominee
District 2482, Bulgaria



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY CLUB **HARMANLI**



Rotary Club of Harmanli gathered friends and together they provided funds for the cause "Prevention of eye diseases in children".

Rotarians thank all their friends who responded to the call!



The Rotary Club of Harmanli is the godfather of the "Friends" group in the Alen Mak kindergarten in the town. Every godparent at Christmas brings a gift! The group of kids received laminate flooring for their new classroom.

ROTARY CLUB **DIMITROVGRAD**



Rotary Club of Dimitrovgrad donated a total of 64 air purifiers for all groups of kindergartens in Dimitrovgrad municipality.

For the health of our children!

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY CLUB BOTEVGRAD



Rotary Club of Botevgrad held a Christmas charity celebration and cause with care for the community.

The purpose of the event was to raise funds for the club's cause "Supporting round-the-clock healthcare in the municipality of Botevgrad".

ROTARY CLUB KARDZHALI



Rotary Club of Kardzhali held a round table with Professional High School of Economics "Aleko Konstantinov" in Sofia Kardzhali.

They discussed the advantages of the dual training system and the opportunities it provides for cooperation between educational institutions and business.

ROTARY CLUB STARA ZAGORA-BEROE



Rotary Club Stara Zagora-Beroe with a donation of 100 portions of fish for health and well-being on the occasion of St. Nicholas Day.

The aim is to support the spirit of the community and promote charity in the region.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

CHILDREN AND ROTARIANS FROM **ROTARY CLUB STARA ZAGORA** CREATED CHRISTMAS MAGIC TOGETHER



Children from the **6th grade of Sveti Nikola Primary School** in Stara Zagora and their class teacher **Mariana Stoyanova** together with **Rotarians from Stara Zagora** created Christmas magic in the **Home for adults with physical disabilities in the town.**



This heartfelt initiative, **full of goodwill and togetherness**, touched the hearts of all participants.

The children made Christmas special for the people in the home. They themselves made beautiful Christmas cards with warm wishes and bright thoughts, and presented them personally. Rotarians supported the noble cause with specially prepared Christmas gifts.



The little students sang for their hosts and received little surprises - Christmas decorations and handmade bracelets.

The main goal of this initiative was to teach young people about charity and to unite children around a common cause - to give joy to people who need just a little attention and empathy.



The Christmas spirit that the students and the Rotary Club of Stara Zagora brought to the Home for Adults with Physical Disabilities proved that with a little effort, but a lot of heart, we can make the world a better place.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY CLUB STARA ZAGORA SUPPORTED THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL "PROF. DR. STOYAN KIRKOVICH" FOR INNOVATIVE CAPILLARY ELECTROPHORESIS SYSTEM



The acquisition of the device is a **significant step** for the University Hospital "Prof. Dr. Stoyan Kirkovich". It will **support** the work of the **clinical diagnostic laboratory** and doctors will have better tools for **early diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of diseases**. This will have a direct positive effect on the quality of health care in Stara Zagora and will provide access to modern diagnostic methods. for an innovative capillary electrophoresis system.

This initiative is further evidence of the important role **Rotary clubs play in improving people's lives through philanthropy and supporting innovation**. It proves the commitment of the Rotary Club of Stara Zagora to **healthcare**. It underlines the importance of empathy and solidarity in society. In celebration of its 30th anniversary, the club celebrated its successes and demonstrated that the true value of celebration is in leaving a mark.

The Rotary Club of Stara Zagora expresses its gratitude to all who contributed to the realization of this important initiative. Together we can create a future full of hope and compassion.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY CLUB OF SVISHTOV SUPPORTED SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES



For Christmas and New Year holidays **Rotary Club of Svishtov** provided the festive meal for **socially disadvantaged families**. The donation was accepted by Reni Chobanova, head of the Child Protection Department at the Social Assistance Directorate, Svishtov. **May there be peace, love and kindness all over the world, comfort in our homes, warmth in our hearts and hope in our eyes.**

This year, under the project of the Rotary Club of Svishtov, more than 500 children underwent preventive eye examinations. An eco-initiative was also organized to collect old plastic toys in exchange for receiving children's books.

ROTARY CLUB AYTOS BROUGHT JOY TO ITS FELLOW CITIZENS



For all residents and guests of the Rotary Club of Aytos.

The Three Brothers rock phenomenon, illuminated with the colors of the national flag.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY CLUB GABROVO DELIGHTED ITS FELLOW CITIZENS WITH A TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The third edition of the Christmas concert, organized by the **Rotary Club of Gabrovo** and partners, once again united Gabrovo residents in the spirit of the holidays.

The concert has established itself as a message of **kindness, love and peace**. Participants were young and older singers, **more than 50 children** - choristers from the Children's Choir of the Rotary Club of Gabrovo, children from kindergartens and solo performers.

Their performances touched the hearts of everyone and created an unforgettable atmosphere on the eve of the holidays.

Impressive was also the inclusion of the **Church Choir** at the Holy Trinity Church, which under the conducting of **Bistra Mamuleva** brought depth and solemnity to the performances.

The talented children of the Rotary Club of Gabrovo choir, under the **direction of Daniela Hristova**, also contributed with their energetic and exciting performances, enriching the musical experience of all present.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY CLUB GOTSE DELCHEV SUPPORTED THE COMMUNITY



The traditional charity Christmas evening of Rotary club Gotse Delchev raised funds for a great cause **To create better conditions in the Pensioner's Club in Gotse Delchev.**

Together with their partners, the Rotarians will turn it into a cosy place for pensioners to share a peaceful old age.

The club would like to thank all those who attended, all people with good hearts!

ROTARY CLUB PLEVEN CENTRUM - EVENT WITH CAUSES



Rotary Club Pleven Centrum held a fundraising event for two causes - supporting the production of a **feature film about Emil Dimitrov** and holding a **School Assembly to present Pleven schools in the fields of arts, sports, literature, engineering, science, digital technology and entrepreneurship.**

The club's annual awards for achievements in various fields were also presented.

A scholarship of 1000 BGN was awarded to Kaloyan Todorov, a student from the Mathematics High School in Pleven.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY CLUB OF GABROVO - TRIBUTE TO THE DONOR



In the courtyard of the Vocational Technical High School "Dr. Nikola Vasiliadi" in Gabrovo took place the official opening of a monument in honor of the prominent benefactor and donor, patron of the school. This marked the end of a long-standing project. Members of the **Rotary Club of Gabrovo** were part of the initiative.

A legacy that inspired generations

The will of Dr. Nicolas Vassiliadi of June 10, 1881, written in Bucharest.



The unveiling of the monument was accompanied by a solemn water ceremony. A guard of honour by high school students added to the significance of the event, underlining the young people's respect for the personality of Dr. Vasiliadi.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

TOUCH OF FOLKLORE WITH **ROTARY CLUB DOBRICH**

More than **500 students** from schools in Dobrich were guests and participants of the **first educational concert**, performed by the **Professional Folklore Ensemble "Dobrudja"**.

A unique bouquet of folklore performances gave young people the chance to experience the authentic art that has survived through the centuries. A **series of educational concerts** was launched to ignite the spark for native art in the young people of Dobrich and the region.

The initiative is of the **Rotary Club of Dobrich** and partners. The unique performers of the Dobrudja Ensemble will continue and be by the side of the children of Dobrich in 2025.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

INTERACT CLUB **PLOVDIV PHILIPPOPOL**



This Christmas, the light of kindness and compassion lit up the holidays of families in need, thanks to the initiative "Buy and Give", organized by Interact Club Plovdiv-Philippopol in partnership with Kaufland Bulgaria.

The youth provided food and non-food items for the elderly and the social dining room.

With this initiative IAC Plovdiv - Philippopol shows how young people can be an engine of positive change in society.

"Buy and Give" proved once again that with a little effort and a lot of heart we can together make Christmas a holiday for everyone.



INTERACT CLUB **HARMANLI**



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

SABO NIKOLOV: THE BULGARIAN WHO ACHIEVED THE AMERICAN DREAM



At the American Center of the Sofia City Library, a biographical book about the first Bulgarian Rotarian, Sabo Nikolov, was presented. The book was written by the historian of Rotary International District 2482 – Bulgaria, Tsvyatko Kadijski.

The book was published on the initiative of the Rotary Club of Panagyurishte, Nikolov's hometown, with the active participation of the club's president, Stoyan Hristov.

Bulgarian Rotarians gratefully welcomed the hosting of the event by the American Center in Sofia, which enabled the large audience to learn about the life and work of this extraordinary individual and his contribution to development.

At the beginning of the evening, Stoyan briefly shared how the idea of writing a book about this remarkable son of Panagyurishte came about. Following this, Tsvyatko introduced the audience to many new details, previously unknown to the Bulgarian public, about the story of this semi-literate orphaned farmhand who left for America at the age of 16.

Through hard work, Sabo Nikolov earned an education at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute. In the Institute's Yearbook for the Class of 1896, it is written: "He is the only Bulgarian we know. But if all his compatriots are like him, then Bulgarians are very good people." He gained practical experience at Norton Company and rose to the position of senior partner and vice president of the renowned engineering company Leland-Gifford. He invented an exceptionally precise method for grinding machine parts.

In 1917, he patented a belt for power transmission in metal-cutting machines, which today is of great interest to collectors. A respected citizen, enterprising industrialist, philanthropist, and benefactor for numerous public causes in Worcester and Putnam, he lived there until the end of his life. For his donation of over \$100,000 to Worcester Polytechnic Institute, he was honored with the title of "Founder-President." He was regularly elected as a trustee of the Worcester Academy of Mathematics and Science. For the Worcester Trade School, he established the annual "Sabo Nikolov Award."

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

SABO NIKOLOV: THE BULGARIAN WHO ACHIEVED THE AMERICAN DREAM

Sabo Nikolov was the initiator and donor behind the construction of the airport, the radio station, and the nurses' home in Putnam. He also donated a plot of land for the construction of the city's water reservoir. Nikolov was a member of the Putnam Chamber of Commerce. For us Bulgarians, it is heartwarming to learn from the records of the Chamber's re-election board on May 26, 1926, that the participants were captivated by a Bulgarian folk song performed by Sabo Nikolov himself.

What could Sabo have been thinking as he sang that night? Could the semi-literate orphan who once herded flocks near Karaglar, chopped wood for Pastor Marsh in Plovdiv, cared for Pastor Sleeper's luggage on his journey to America, worked for meager pay just to learn a trade, took out loans, and sold books to complete his higher education, have ever imagined that he would one day stand as an equal before the elite of Massachusetts and be invited to sing a song from his small, impoverished Balkan homeland?



What was Sabo thinking when he sang her that night? Was it the semi-literate orphan who had herded near Karaglar, chopped wood for Pastor Marsh in Plovdiv, cared for Pastor Slipper's luggage on the way to America, worked for a pittance, only to learn a trade, took out loans and sold books to get a college degree ever imagined that he would stand before the Massachusetts elite as an equal and be invited to sing them a song from the poor little Balkan country?

He married Grace Durfee, by father a direct descendant of the pilgrim Thomas Durfee, who arrived in 1620 in New England on the ship Mayflower. It is a great honor for Szabo that, as part of the family, his name appears in a seminal reference work in U.S. history, the "Index to Mayflower Descendants" (the only English name in there!).

A great lover of motoring, the ingenious American inventor and designer "Uncle Henry" (Henry Leland, with whom he had a close business and personal relationship) specially designed a custom Cadillac for him. Among the many innovations are folding seats that can turn a coupe into a bedroom - something that didn't appear in mass production until several decades later. A new, previously unknown aspect of Szabo's life is his passion for travelling.

He is a tireless traveller - he has toured the Pacific coast of the USA, Canada and Mexico, the Caribbean, South America, the Mediterranean, on expeditions to Greenland, Spitsbergen, Iceland. His film about Lapland was a great success in the USA.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

SABO NIKOLOV: THE BULGARIAN WHO ACHIEVED THE AMERICAN DREAM

The book also includes the Rotary history of Sabo Nikolov. He was the first Bulgarian Rotarian (admitted to the Worcester Rotary Club, USA, in 1915). As the president of the Putnam Rotary Club (where he moved in 1923), he represented the club at the 25th Jubilee Convention of Rotary International in Chicago in 1930. He worked tirelessly to promote and develop Rotary in Bulgaria and to represent the country in the global Rotary community.

Sabo Nikolov passed away in 1957 in the USA and was buried in the family tomb of the Durfee family in Putnam.

The reader also learns about his contributions to Bulgaria's development. He financially supported Bulgarian students in the USA, Germany, and France. Among them was the remarkable Bulgarian scientist, public figure, and Rotarian Dimitar Atanasov, the last president of the Sofia Rotary Club before its ban in 1941. Through his donation, the Phytopathological Laboratory and the Vegetation House at the Agronomy Faculty were built. His funds also enabled the construction of the surgical department building and equipped the gynecology unit at the hospital in his hometown of Panagyurishte. The disinfection machine he donated was used until 1979! In his will, he established a fund that is still used today to support the hospital's activities.



In his presentation, Tsvyatko noted that through numerous exhibitions, lectures, and books, Bulgarian Rotarians remind the current generation of this extraordinary individual. One of the highlights is the monument to Sabo Nikolov, erected in 2005 by the Rotary Club in Panagyurishte.

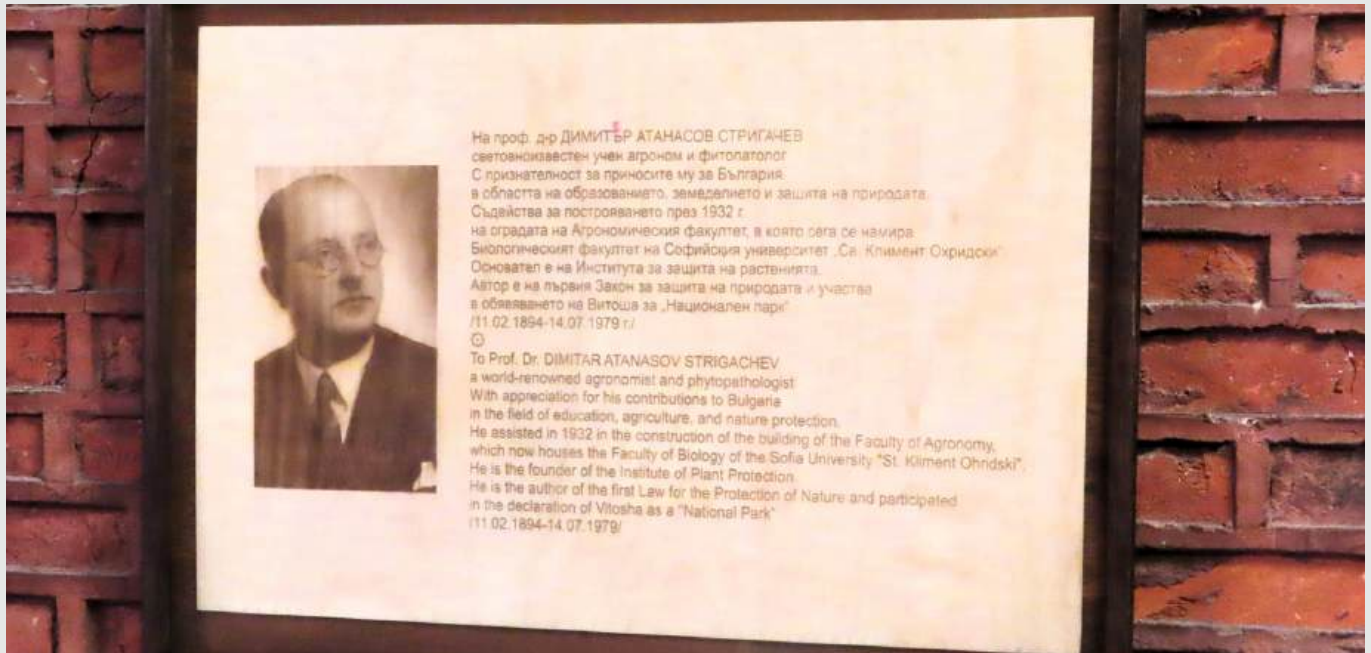
It is also worth mentioning that in 2023, the historian of Rotary-Bulgaria donated his entire collection, "Rotary in Bulgaria 1933-1941," to the Sofia History Museum. This collection includes all artifacts and documents related to Nikolov preserved in Bulgaria, including a magnificent portrait of him painted by Konstantin Shturkelov. The newly published book Sabo Nikolov is yet another contribution to immortalizing the memory of the first Bulgarian Rotarian.

Three days before the book's presentation, a 30-minute radio program aired on Radio Sofia featuring a conversation between Tsvyatko Kadijski and host Lili Goleminova. Evidently, the story of Rotarian Nikolov sparked great interest, as Goleminova later shared: "The article was the most-read piece on our website for three days!" At the request of the U.S. Embassy's Cultural Attaché, Mr. Eric Brazil, information about Sabo Nikolov and the book's presentation at the American Center was prepared and sent for publication on the Embassy's website.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

A WELL-DESERVED, THOUGH BELATED, RECOGNITION

On the occasion of the 130th anniversary of the birth of Prof. Dimitar Atanasov – scientist, public figure, and Rotarian – and in connection with the celebration of the Day of National Enlighteners, the Agricultural Academy, in cooperation with the Faculty of Biology and the Faculty of Agronomy, organized a Scientific Session and an exhibition. The event highlighted the professor's scientific contributions, the rich archive he left behind, and his impact on practical agronomy.



A special guest was the historian of Rotary Bulgaria, Tsvyatko Kadijski, who introduced the audience to the Rotary life of the last president of the Sofia Rotary Club before its ban in 1941. Excerpts from Toni Bachurova's film Uprooted to the Core were also screened. Awards for the competition on the topic "Prof. Atanasov and His Contributions" were presented. It was particularly gratifying to learn that just days before the celebration, on October 1, a beautifully crafted commemorative plaque was unveiled in the main lobby near the entrance to the auditorium of the Faculty of Biology (formerly Agronomy). The plaque, set in an oak frame on a birch base, features a portrait of Atanasov and information about him in both Bulgarian and English.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

“Love Scarves Project” Brings Warmth and Creativity to Orphanage Children İstanbul-Bakırköy Rotaract Club, District 2420

On December 1st, Bakırköy Rotaract Club carried out one of its cherished annual projects, the "Scarf of Love" event. This heartwarming initiative took place at the Istanbul Kocamustafapaşa Orphanage, where we shared a memorable day with the children.

As part of the project, we brought winter scarves for the children and decorated them together. The children unleashed their creativity, selecting their favorite embellishments and turning simple scarves into personalized works of art. The joyful atmosphere was filled with laughter, teamwork, and a sense of togetherness.

We were delighted to be joined by members of the Ulus Interact Club, who participated in decorating the scarves alongside us. This collaboration not only enhanced the event but also strengthened the bonds between Interact and Rotaract members.

The "Scarf of Love" project continues to be a reminder of the power of small acts of kindness and the joy of giving, especially during the winter months. We look forward to carrying this tradition forward in the years to come, spreading warmth and love wherever we can.

ARPIC NISA ILDIZ ÇELEBIOĞLU
ROTARACT
DISTRICT 2420/2430/2440



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Supporting Maternal and Child Health: A Step Forward in Rotary's Focus Areas - Etiler Rotaract Club- D2420

As part of Rotary International's seven areas of focus, the Etiler Rotaract Club has taken a meaningful step toward promoting maternal and child health, along with hygiene awareness.

In the earthquake-affected region, we have committed to providing monthly supplies of hygienic pads to 10 young girls. This initiative aims to address the basic hygiene needs of these girls and foster a sense of dignity and confidence.

Building on this commitment, we extended our efforts on November 18th and December 11th, reaching out to meet the needs of girls attending a high school in Hatay. During these visits, we provided essential support to ensure they have access to proper hygiene products, emphasizing sustainability in our aid efforts.

We are grateful to the school principal, who plays a crucial role in helping us maintain a consistent delivery of these supplies to the girls every month. Their support allows us to establish a sustainable network of assistance, ensuring these young girls are never left without the care they deserve. Together, we strive to make a difference—one step at a time.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

HOPE FOR HATAY - Galatasaray Rotaract Club- D2420

On December 7, 2024, the Rotary 2420 District Galatasaray Rotary Club, the Rotaract 2420 District Galatasaray Rotaract Club, and the Rotary 2430 District Adana Koza Rotary Club organized a joint initiative at Değirmenyolu Primary School in the Defne province of Hatay. This event was held in collaboration with club members and aimed at engaging with students and their families.

During the event, primary school students were provided with educational sessions on eye and dental health, while 8th-grade students participated in a "Heal Your Life" program. Additionally, awareness was raised on the subject of emotional control. The parents were also informed about the importance of breast cancer awareness and the HPV vaccination.

Following the educational sessions, the students and participants engaged in various recreational activities in the school yard, including playing games, singing songs, and sharing local delicacies brought by the attendees.

This event, organized in the aftermath of the earthquake in Hatay, was a heartfelt effort to express solidarity and offer hope to the students. Through this initiative, we were able to bring smiles to the children's faces and provide a sense of encouragement in these challenging times.



**ROTARY : POWER OF GOODNESS
ZONE 21 VIDEO COMPETITION**



Launch Date: February 23, 2025

Submission Deadline: April 23, 2025

The Public Image Team of **Rotary International Zone 21** proudly organizes for the fifth consecutive year the Video Competition “Rotary: The Power of Goodness”!

The goal of the video contest is to showcase inspiring stories of completed Rotary projects that are changing the world for the better and to promote the 7 Areas of Focus of The Rotary Foundation.

Conditions:

- Video length: minimum 2 minutes, maximum 3 minutes.
- Videos will be judged on inspiration, message content, and technical execution (sound and picture quality).
- Content must adhere to the Rotary brand guidelines.

Criteria:

1. Creativity and impact on the community
2. The message conveyed through the video
3. Technical execution

Evaluation Process:

1. Zonal Jury
2. “Grand Jury”

Tell Our Stories

RPI Zone 21 Social MEDIA Networks

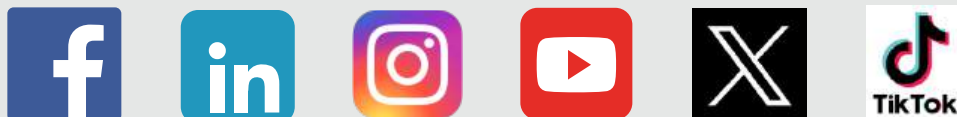
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