



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



"Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves."
– Paul Harris

October is a month when we focus our efforts on building a sustainable economic future and strengthening the communities in which we live. This theme is not merely a calendar focus – it lies at the very heart of our organisation's mission. Economic and community development means giving people the opportunity to realise their potential, to create value for themselves and for others, and to play an active role in transforming the world around them.

At the core of this process lies opportunity – the opportunity for education, for professional growth, for entrepreneurship and innovation. When people are given the support and tools to bring their ideas to life, communities thrive and economies become more resilient. Rotary initiatives around the world show that even small steps can create great change. Training programmes, microloans for entrepreneurs, and support for local businesses are just a few examples of sustainable solutions that leave a lasting impact on society.

Community development is inseparable from economic progress. Mutual support, solidarity and cooperation are what turn a community into a vibrant and sustainable one. When we strengthen social bonds, we give people the confidence that they are not alone in their efforts to build a better life. Rotarians take on this role with the clear understanding that change begins with the individual, yet its results can be seen across the whole community.'

October also reminds us of the responsibility we bear as part of the global Rotary network. Every initiative, every project, and every hour of service contributes to long-term results. It is essential that we act strategically – investing in knowledge, resources, and support that create lasting value. This is how we can build an environment where young people see a future, families live with dignity, and the values of compassion and cooperation become a foundation of everyday life.

Let this month be a time to reflect on our role and on the opportunities we create for others. Let us inspire and motivate by turning ideas into concrete actions, creating real change where it is needed most.

Together, we can build communities where economic stability, social trust, and lasting prosperity can truly flourish.

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FRANCESCO AREZZO
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT
RY 2025-2026

What Community-Led Development Looks Like

October is the month when Rotary focuses its attention on building prosperous and sustainable communities. It is also a time that perfectly reflects one of Rotary's core values – leadership.

To be a leader means to inspire and empower others to take charge of their own progress. This is at the heart of Rotary's economic development projects.

A powerful example of this can be found in southern India, where Rotarians helped women from the Adivasi tribe acquire sewing skills so they could earn a living and regain their place in society. Historically, widowed or abandoned women in this region have lost their social status and were often rejected or blamed for their misfortunes. Opportunities for work or education were extremely limited.

This year, the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland, Ontario, partnered with clubs from Districts 3203 and 3234 in India and with the Indian organisation Sevalaya Trust to provide sewing machines and training for 80 Adivasi women. The participants learned to make traditional Indian garments – sari blouses, kurtis, and salwar suits – and in doing so, they gained the ability to support themselves and their families.

Each woman received a certificate of completion, and the machine supplier committed to providing free long-term maintenance.

The project brought not only income but also dignity to women who had previously been marginalised. This is Rotary leadership in action – when local people find their own solutions to their needs, and we stand beside them in support. Our role is not merely to donate or impose outside models, but to encourage self-reliance, skills development, and sustainable entrepreneurship.

This October, I invite all Rotarians around the world to reflect on economic leadership within their own communities:

- Who is taking the initiative for local economic development?
- Where might there be hidden talents that could be nurtured through training or mentorship?
- How can your club create new opportunities through partnerships with local businesses, vocational schools, or savings groups?

Leadership does not always mean being at the forefront. Sometimes it is found in listening, in working side by side, and in amplifying the voices of others. This approach lies at the very heart of Rotary's philosophy and underpins our lasting impact on community development.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE - OCTOBER

By building capacity – whether through microcredit groups, vocational training, or entrepreneurial programmes – we enable people to shape their own futures. When communities take ownership of their own development, change becomes sustainable.

Let us lead with good intentions and support with open hearts. By fostering local leadership, we can create opportunities that ripple outward – touching individuals, families, and entire societies.

Together, we can build economies that work for everyone and create development projects that stand the test of time.

Francesco Arezzo

President, Rotary International



ROTARY FOUNDATION CHAIR MESSAGE - OCTOBER



Born from Friendship

Friendship in Rotary often bears fruit that can change the world. When I was selected as Rotary's President-nominee, I served on the Board of Directors alongside then-Vice President Olayinka "Yinka" Hakeem Babalola of Nigeria.

My wife, Susanne, spent time with Yinka's wife, Preba "Pressy" Babalola. Yinka and Pressy support The Rotary Foundation not only as members of the Arch Klumph Society, Benefactors, and Major Donors, but also as Rotarians deeply engaged in the Foundation's projects.

**HOLGER KNAACK
CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
THE ROTARY FOUNDATION**

The friendship between Susanne and Pressy led to the joining of their clubs. And this October, as Rotary observes Economic and Community Development Month, I thought it best for Pressy Babalola herself to share, in her own words, the impact of their collaboration:

"Obuama, Nigeria, was severely affected by COVID-19. Many families – especially women and young people – were left without stable income or opportunities. The community urgently needed practical support and long-term solutions.

My club, the Rotary Club of Port Harcourt Passport, decided to take action. We partnered with the Rotary E-Club Hamburg-Connect and our districts to launch a global grant project aimed at empowering people with skills that restore hope and dignity.

Over 250 women and young adults were trained in fish farming, poultry farming, snail breeding, and bead making. Local trainers led hands-on workshops, equipping participants with the skills to start their own businesses. Families now have sources of income, and mothers can send their children to school. Young people are earning a living, training others, and contributing to the local economy.

Women who were once stagnant now run their own businesses, teach others, and have found new meaning and purpose. The project continues to grow, creating not just jobs, but confident leaders within the community."

ROTARY FOUNDATION CHAIR MESSAGE - OCTOBER

This is what change looks like when dedicated Rotarians work together with the support of The Rotary Foundation.

Economic and community development is an area of strong and inspiring projects for many reasons. Within our clubs, we have professionals who understand how business can strengthen local economies. These projects can be applied almost anywhere and often produce quick, tangible results. The Foundation also provides the backing of a dedicated professional staff and the expertise of the Cadre of Technical Advisers.

What began as a simple dinner conversation became a global grant that is transforming lives. Isn't it remarkable that in Rotary, the friendships we build can lead to opportunities capable of transforming lives for generations to come?

Holger Knaack

Chair, Board of Trustees, The Rotary Foundation





N. ALTAN ARSLAN

PP 2005-2006 RC ANKARA KIZILAY

PDG 2018-2019 D2430

RPIC 2023-2026 ZONE 21B

Child's Health, A World's Future

As we all know, this month is a special time for Rotary to focus on economic and community development. It is a period to think about new and inclusive ideas that can improve the well-being and prosperity of nations.

One of the most important foundations of a country's development is the health of its people—especially its young population and children. A strong health system and healthy new generations are the best guarantee for the future of any nation.

At this point, we must remember Rotary's great achievement: the fight against Polio. Started almost 40 years ago, and later joined by UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and the Gates Foundation, this program has become one of the greatest success stories in the history of civil society.

Every year on October 24th, World Polio Day, the Rotary family comes together to raise awareness of this global struggle. From Interactors to Rotaractors, from Rotarians to our partner clubs, I believe it is our duty to join hands and tell the world once again about the power of this achievement.

It should not be forgotten that this effort is something that not even many governments could achieve on their own. It may sound bold to say "only Rotary could make this possible," but it is true that Rotary—organized in more than 200 countries and regions, with millions of volunteers and strong financial contributions—has played a decisive role in bringing this disease to the edge of eradication.

That is why the fight against Polio holds such an important place in building a healthy society, which is the cornerstone of economic and community development.

Our duty is clear: as every year, this October 24th we must raise our voices again and remind the world of the importance of Rotary's historic fight. Because every single child who grows up without the fear of paralysis is a victory for all humanity.

"Together, a world without Polio is possible."

Let's be together next month.

Rtn. N.Altan Arslan

PP 05-06 Ankara Kızılay RC

PDG 18-19 D.2430

RPIC 23-26 Region 25

ICC & Public Image Summit Athens 2025

Dear Rotarian Friends,

The International ICC & Public Image Summit, to be held in Athens from November 13–16, 2025, is not just an event—it marks a major moment for Rotary International in Greece.

Prominent Rotary leaders from around the world will be with us.

It will be a gathering of leaders, ideas, and shared missions.

A gathering with a clear purpose: to demonstrate what Rotary means in action—unity, service, impact, and peace for the benefit of peoples.

This year, Greece—with its radiant light and rich culture—becomes the symbol of this revival.

And we are all called to welcome our fellow Rotarians and host them as true Rotarians should: with pride, dignity, enthusiasm, and unity.

Let us all come together—
Not just to attend, but to take the lead.
To show that Rotary is active, strong, and visible.

The Organizing Committee warmly awaits you in Athens for a constructive, high-quality conference, filled with friendship—and the spirit of Greece.

A promotional poster for the ICC & Public Image Summit. The background is a photograph of the Parthenon in Athens, Greece, under a clear blue sky. A white dove with an olive branch is flying in the upper right. The text is overlaid on the image.

ICC & PUBLIC IMAGE
PEACE & FRIENDSHIP
SUMMIT

ATHENS - GREECE
13-16
NOVEMBER
2025
ROYAL OLYMPIC HOTEL

Rotary 
District 2475

UNITE FOR GOOD

TAKE ACTION. GIVE LIFE.
UNITED FOR WORLD PEACE

www.royalolympic.com

THE SIXTH EDITION OF THE ZONAL VIDEO COMPETITION

“THE POWER OF GOODNESS”

Dear friends,

It is a pleasure to share that this Rotary year we will once again celebrate the zonal video contest “The Power of Goodness”, now in its sixth edition, jointly organized by Zones 21 and 22 of Rotary International.

What began as a simple initiative to highlight Rotary’s impact in local communities has become a meaningful tradition and one of the most anticipated events in our zones. Each year, the contest brings together inspiring stories that showcase commitment, empathy, and service above self from Rotarians across Europe and beyond.

At its heart, this contest reminds us that kindness is a transformative force. It connects people, changes lives, and brings light where it is most needed. Even the smallest gesture can spark a ripple of hope and inspiration far greater than we imagine.

✨ New this year — a SPECIAL category will honor projects that distinguish themselves through innovation, long-term impact, and unique contribution to the community. This is a chance to shine a spotlight on exceptional initiatives that go beyond expectations.

Details on deadlines and participation will be shared soon, with the contest set to launch in the autumn. As always, entries will be evaluated for creativity, impact, clarity of message, and alignment with Rotary values.

Rotary clubs from Zone 21 have a proud record of participation, presenting initiatives in education, public health, environmental protection, and more. Let us once again demonstrate that the spirit of service continues to thrive in our communities and inspire others to join us on this journey.

Now is the time to begin preparing your entries — concise, compelling videos that capture the essence of your projects and the difference they make. This contest is not only an opportunity to share your achievements but also to amplify the stories that unite and motivate us all.

Together, let us celebrate goodness — for the sixth year in a row, with renewed energy, creativity, and passion.

– **Arkan Apturahman, ARPIC D2482 Bulgaria**



Last Submission Date: 16 March 2026
<https://thepowerofgoodness.com>



NEW CATEGORY



NEW CATEGORY



Last Submission Date: 16 March 2026
<https://thepowerofgoodness.com>

GUIDELINES FOR FILMING A VIDEO FOR COMPETITION

“THE POWER OF GOODNESS”

1. **Plan the filming in advance.**

As you prepare your project or event, decide who will be responsible for filming, what equipment will be used, and which shots will be needed. Assign a dedicated person or team for this task.

2. **Use a drone when possible.**

For outdoor activities, aerial shots provide dynamics and add a professional look to the video.

3. **Include interviews.**

Record short interviews with participants, volunteers, organizers, or beneficiaries. Ask what the project means to them, how it made them feel, or what inspired them.

4. **Tell a story, not just document.**

Focus on emotions, action, and outcomes. Show people, not only activities.

5. **Capture the preparation phase.**

Behind-the-scenes footage of volunteers packing, organizing, or coordinating creates authenticity and highlights the effort behind the cause.

6. **Gather short statements.**

Even one or two sincere sentences from someone whose life has been touched can be very powerful. Seek authenticity rather than long monologues.

7. **Ensure good lighting.**

Whether indoors or outdoors, light is essential. Avoid dark rooms or shooting directly against the sun.

8. **Use stable equipment.**

Unsteady shots are distracting. If you don't have a professional camera, use a tripod or stabilizer for your phone.

9. **Film in horizontal format.**

For higher quality and compatibility with platforms such as YouTube, always shoot horizontally.

10. **Include close-up shots.**

Faces, smiles, and hands in action bring warmth and humanity to the story.

11. **Ensure clear sound.**

Use an external microphone if possible. In noisy environments, consider recording separately or adding narration afterwards.

GUIDELINES FOR FILMING A VIDEO FOR COMPETITION

“THE POWER OF GOODNESS”

12. Show the final result.

Present the completed project, the happy participants, and the overall impact achieved.

13. Build a timeline through your shots.

Show “before, during, and after” the event. This structure helps tell a complete story.

14. Capture audience reactions.

Smiles, applause, and emotions are living proof of the project’s impact.

15. Include children and youth (with consent).

If children are part of the initiative, ensure parental consent for filming. Their smiles often speak louder than words.

16. Add supporting images or archives.

If your project has history, use “before and after” comparisons, documents, or older photos to show progress.

17. Use music to enhance emotion.

Neutral, uplifting music reinforces the message. Make sure to use licensed tracks or free-to-use libraries.

18. Add English subtitles, especially when people are speaking.

Even short statements should be subtitled to ensure clarity and accessibility.

19. Display names and roles.

When showing someone speaking, add their name and role for context.

20. Start and finish with identity elements.

Open with a short title/intro and close with your club’s logo.

21. Include a message or a quote.

A powerful line or inspiring quote at the end can leave a lasting emotional impression.

22. Prepare a clear script before editing.

Decide what story you want to tell, in what sequence, and with which footage.

23. Show the impact achieved.

Highlight how lives were improved or what was accomplished. This is the heart of the contest — the lasting mark of kindness.

24. Respect Rotary branding.

Use the official Rotary logo, fonts, and colors. Guidelines are available at brandcenter.rotary.org.

You are not alone in this process! Contact us if you have questions!

– Arkan Apturahman, ARPIC D2482 Bulgaria

ARPIC SERTAÇ GÜMÜŞ ON.....

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF



ARPIC SERTAÇ GÜMÜŞ
DISTRICT 2452

BACK - TO - SCHOOL PROJECT - ROTARACT CLUB OF KYRENIA COSMOPOLITAN - CYPRUS D2452

The Rotaract and Rotary Club of Kyrenia Cosmopolitan continue their full support to the community.

As part of the club's Back-to-School Project due to Rotary's Theme Basic Education and Literacy Month, the members had the pleasure of delivering donations to a school in need.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported this meaningful initiative. Together, we make a difference!

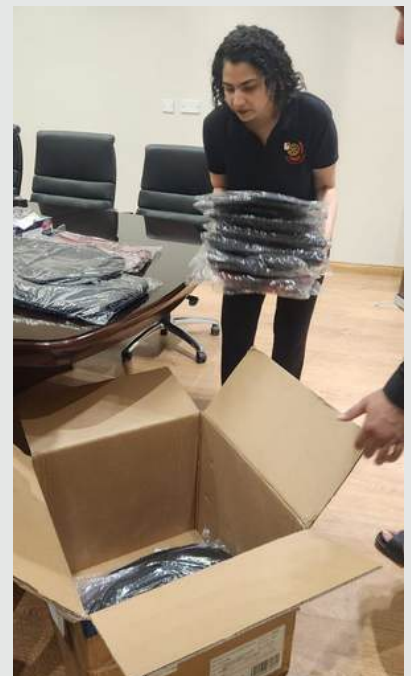
#Rotaract #Rotary #BackToSchool #CommunitySupport
#ServiceAboveSelf #KyreniaCosmopolitan



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

BACK TO SCHOOL JOINT PROJECT IN BAHRAIN - D2452

The Rotary Club of Salmaniya, the Rotary Club of Seef Bahrain and Isaca Bahrain Chapter successfully completed the School Bag Project, distributing school bags to children through several charitable organizations. The beneficiaries included Al Kawther Society for Social Care, A'ali Charity Society, Al Sanabel Orphan Care Society, Capital Charity Association, Riffa Women's Cultural Society, Tree of Life Charity Society, and the Capital Governorate. This initiative aims to support students as they begin the new academic year, ensuring they are equipped with the tools they need to succeed.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

UNITED IN PINK* ROTARACT CLUB BAHRAIN _D2452

United in Pink

Event date: 9 Oct 2025

Event time: 5pm-7pm

Location: Water Garden City

The Rotaract Club of Bahrain participated in “United in Pink”, an awareness event dedicated to support breast cancer awareness. The initiative was part of the club’s ongoing commitment to community health and empowerment, held in line with global Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Attendees came together to participate in the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk, share information on early detection methods, support survivors, and encourage regular screenings. The event also featured ribbon distribution, interactive conversations, and photo sessions to raise awareness on social media and within the community.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARACT CLUB BAHRAIN - BLOOD DONATION - BAHRAIN D2452

Blood Donation Drive

Event date: 17 Oct 2025

Event time: 7am-12pm

Location: King Hamad University Hospital

The Rotaract Club of Bahrain, alongside the ATM society, collaborated with King Hamad University Hospital to organize an incredibly successful blood donation drive, where 110 donors came forward to give blood, potentially saving hundreds of lives. Also food and drinks were distributed to donors, helping them stay hydrated and mitigate any side effects. This initiative reflected Rotaract's strong commitment to community service and humanitarian impact, promoting both health awareness and social responsibility. Club extended heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated nurses and staff of King Hamad University Hospital for making this initiative possible and also expressed their sincere thanks to the ATM Society for their efforts in helping attract donors for this cause.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

DR. MARIOS ANTONIOU OF RC OF NICOSIA SALAMIS AT ROTARY PEACE CENTERS ANNUAL MEETING AT BRADFORD UNI. - D2452 CYPRUS

Rotarian Dr. Marios Antoniou of the RC of Nicosia Salamis, District 2452, participated in the annual meeting of the Rotary Peace Centers Committee, on which he has served since 2023. The meeting was held from September 24 to 26, 2025, at Bradford University in England, one of the Fellowship's partner universities. During the meeting, committee members finalized the selection process for the next cohort of Rotary Peace Fellows across the various peace centers worldwide. The agenda included discussions on fellowship matters, as well as an introduction to the newly established Rotary Peace Center at Symbiosis International University in Pune, India.

Importantly, the committee also reviewed the program's future goals and strategic growth initiatives. Dr. Antoniou's participation underscores his ongoing commitment to Rotary and the Rotary Peace Centers, as well as his dedication to promoting international peace and supporting the development of future leaders focused on conflict resolution and global understanding.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

WATER DISTRIBUTION PROJECT - D2452 BAHRAIN

On 3 October 2025, the Rotaract Club of Bahrain, alongside the Rotary Club of Salmaniya, partnered with the Ghanaian Community to support the diligent migrant workers in Manama. As part of this effort, 2,500 water bottles were handed out, of which 1,500 were kindly provided by Al-Osra Supermarket. This initiative is a reminder that even the smallest gestures can affirm kindness, solidarity, and appreciation to those who keep our societies functioning, and whom we cannot live without.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

WELLNESS IN ACTION PROJECT - D2452 BAHRAIN

Wellness in Action!

The Rotary Club of Salmaniya and Rotaract Club of Bahrain, in partnership with Al Hilal Hospital, hosted a free Wellness Camp in Muharraq. Attendees received vital health checks, doctor consultations, and took important steps toward healthier living

This initiative proudly supports UN SDG 3: Good Health & Well-being



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

CLEAN UP BAHRAIN, CLEAN UP THE WORLD! - D2452 BAHRAIN

Rotary Clubs in Bahrain rolled up their sleeves with the slogan "Clean up Bahrain, clean up the world!" and helped make Janabiya Beach shine again — one piece of trash at a time.

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

SDG 14: Life Below Water

SDG 15: Life on Land

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

PIZZA DAY WITH SPECIAL CHILDREN - RC SALAMANIYA D2452 BAHRAIN

A Heartwarming Day with Children from the Down Syndrome Society

On October 5th, several members of the Rotary Club of Salmaniya spent a heartwarming day with children from the Down Syndrome Society at Cico's Italian Restaurant, thanks to the generosity of Khalifa Al Zayani, who kindly sponsored the event.

The day was filled with joy, laughter, and creativity. The children first learned how to draw their pizzas, then had the wonderful experience of making their own. Each child received a thoughtful gift and proudly took home their freshly made pizza. And a big thank you to our Community Service Director, Seema Baqi, for organizing this special day.

It was a beautiful and memorable day that touched everyone's hearts, reminding us how simple moments of inclusion and joy can create truly magical experiences.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

FOSTERING THE NEXT GENERATION: RC SEEF BAHRAIN CELEBRATES NEW DELMON EARLYACT CLUB BOARD - D2452 BAHRAIN

On 9 Oct 2025, the Rotary Club of Seef Bahrain showed its support for the next generation of leaders at the recent ceremony for the Delmon School EarlyAct Club's new board. with District 2452 DDG Faisal Juma in attendance, the event marked a fresh start for a year of impactful community service.

The incoming board, led by new President Aya Mohammed, is composed entirely of elementary school students from Delmon School. Leaders from both the Rotary Club of Seef Bahrain and the Delmon Earlyact club expressed their excitement for a continued partnership, looking forward to a productive year of collaborative projects.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

BAHRAIN BREAST CANCER AWARENESS WALK-A-THON ROTARY CLUB OF SALMANIYA EVENT REPORT

The Rotary Club of Salmaniya was proud to participate in the Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk-A-Thon organized by the Bahrain Cancer Society at Water Garden City in Seef District. The event took place on Friday, 24 October 2025, with participants gathering from 4:30 PM and beginning the walk at 5:30 PM. The walk brought together a vibrant mix of survivors, families, supporters, and community leaders united under one message of hope, early detection, and support for those affected by breast cancer.

We were deeply honored to collaborate closely with the Bahrain Cancer Society in this meaningful initiative. This partnership allowed us to amplify outreach and reinforce the importance of early screening, which continues to save countless lives. It is inspiring to know that more than 2.8 million women around the world are surviving breast cancer, a number that has tripled in the past 60 years. Events like this remind us of the power of awareness and community engagement in advancing health and wellness.

Our participation helped bring Rotarians together in service and fellowship. Members walked side by side, proudly representing Rotary's commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. It was a moment of unity and compassion that showcased the spirit of Rotary in action.

We extend our appreciation to the dedicated volunteers, healthcare professionals, and organizers who made this event a success. The Rotary Club of Salmaniya looks forward to continuing this partnership and supporting future initiatives that promote public health and strengthen our community.

Together we walk with purpose. Together we support survivors. Together we stand for a healthier future for Bahrain.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY CLUB OF MANAMA, INTERACT - D2452 BAHRAIN

On 24th of October, 18 of our dedicated Interactors came together to bring their Feed the Workers project to life in collaboration with WeCareBahrain. Together, they distributed 300 complete meals, including water, juice, and fresh salads, to workers in a camp in Buri.

As the Interactors knew many workers were lacking basic hygiene items, they also decided to distribute 300 toothbrushes and toothpaste, and they reached out to Peninsula Farms, who generously donated goat milk soaps to complete these hygiene essentials.

Adding to the day's impact, Kim's Hospital graciously agreed to join the effort, setting up a medical station where workers received free health check-ups and dental vouchers.

The Interactors showed remarkable teamwork not only in setting up this project but in making sure it is a true success. It was heartwarming to witness once again how a simple act of care can bring joy to those who need it most.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

END POLIO NOW - D2452 LEBANON

As usual every year during October month, the Rotary clubs in Lebanon joined efforts to support the Polio Vaccination Campaign.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and RC Keserouan, the four ROTARY clubs of Tripoli launched the campaign in different dispensaries in the Tripoli.

At the Al-Iman Center, and the Makarem Al-Akhlaq Center in Mina, free vaccinations were provided along with gifts for the children.

Eradicating polio is a global goal of Rotary and we will continue the mission till the virus gets eliminated.

A delegation of Rotarians from France assisted also to this initiative.

ROTARY Doing Good to the World



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY CLUBS UNITE FOR WORLD POLIO DAY! 🌍 - D2452 CYPRUS

On Saturday, 25th October, the Rotary Clubs of Kyrenia Liman, Nicosia Sarayonu, Kyrenia St. Hilarion, and Kyrenia Cosmopolitan came together to host a Polio Awareness Day at Silver Rocks, Kyrenia.

Members from all four clubs, along with their friends and families, joined this meaningful fundraising event in the spirit of fellowship and service.

All proceeds from the day will be donated to the Rotary Polio Fund, supporting Rotary International's ongoing mission to eradicate polio worldwide.

We were also honoured to have Assistant Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator Tastan Altuner, who shared inspiring insights on Rotary's remarkable progress in eliminating polio globally — and reminded us that our work continues until the world is completely polio-free.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

DG PETER ASHDJIAN'S OFFICIAL VISIT - D2452 CYPRUS

A Night of Fellowship and Celebration ✨👏

On Monday, 27th October, following District Governor Peter Ashdjian's official visit to the Rotary Clubs of Kyrenia Liman, Nicosia Sarayonu, Kyrenia St. Hilarion, Kyrenia Cosmopolitan, and the Rotaract Club of Kyrenia Cosmopolitan, all clubs came together for a joint gala dinner in honour of our District Governor at the Sky Roof Hotel in Nicosia.

A touching highlight of the evening was the twinning ceremony between RC Kyrenia Cosmopolitan and RC Eskisehir Yazlikaya (Turkey). Presidents Alpay Celebi and Ayşegül Unugur delivered heartfelt speeches and exchanged twinning certificates, symbolising unity and international friendship. 🌍💙

The evening also marked special moments of recognition and growth, with District Governor Peter Ashdjian proudly pinning new members — Rotarian Ayşenur Kayınbaşıoğlu and Rotaractor Berke Taşeli. In addition, Rotarian Çilem Vural of RC Kyrenia Liman was honoured with the prestigious Paul Harris Award for her outstanding service and dedication. ⭐

The night was filled with warmth, fellowship, and the true spirit of Rotary, concluding with an inspiring closing speech by our District Governor, reminding us of the enduring values and purpose that unite all Rotarians



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

DG PETER ASHDJIAN'S OFFICIAL VISIT - D2452 CYPRUS



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF



**ARPIC MARIA MASTORA
DISTRICT 2475**

**RID 2475
DG'S MONTHLY LETTER (OCTOBER 2025)**

**MESSAGE OF RID 2475 DG
STEFANOS ANASTASOPOULOS**

Dear Rotary Friends,

October, a month dedicated to Economic and Community Development, reminds us that real progress is not measured only in numbers and indicators, but in the opportunities, we create for the people around us. Development is not a privilege; it is a responsibility. And in Rotary, development means empowering people to drive their own progress, to stand tall, to envision, to build, to dream. This month, dedicated to Economic and Community Development, is perfectly aligned with the essence of Rotary Leadership. Leadership is not power, it is inspiration. It is not control; it is empowerment. And we serve this empowerment every day, through economic and community development projects that give our societies sustainable strength and a future.

The program of visits to the Clubs continues intensively and is full of life. Every meeting, every person, every smile reminds me of the vitality, continuity, and dynamism of Rotary in Greece. I see clubs that are evolving, seeking cooperation, and wanting to make a real difference. I see Rotarians with passion, ideas, and a desire to create. Rotary in our country is building on the strong foundations laid by previous generations and moving forward with a new pace, renewed energy, and confidence.

One of the most solid foundations for this progress is education. This year, the District is investing more than ever in knowledge, because it is only through education that connections are forged—with Rotary, with people, with society. Two educational seminars were already held in October, in Thessaloniki and Patras, with excellent participation and enthusiasm. The presence of a new generation of speakers stood out — young people who bring fresh energy, knowledge, and a willingness to contribute. It is moving to see rooms full of Rotarians learning, discussing, and getting to know each other. Education is the lifeblood of Rotary; it is what keeps our spirit alive and allows us to make the most of our organization's tools, programs, and opportunities.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

DG'S MONTHLY LETTER - OCTOBER 2025

MESSAGE OF DG 2025-26

STEFANOS ANASTASOPOULOS

The "Plant Our Future" program continues dynamically, with the participation of dozens of Clubs from every corner of Greece. Every new tree planting is an act of faith in life, a message of responsibility and sustainability to future generations.

At the same time, the large Global Grant for the Agia Sofia Children's Hospital is currently being implemented and will significantly enhance the hospital's ability to perform accurate histological tests on children with cancer — a project that is truly a labor of love.

In addition, the bone marrow donation program has already begun with the planning of informational and awareness-raising events in collaboration with universities and associations, opening yet another avenue for humanity and scientific contribution.

October culminates with World Polio Day on October 24, a symbolic day for Rotary. For more than three decades, Rotary has led the largest humanitarian health campaign in history. Together with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the CDC, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, we have reduced cases by 99.9% and vaccinated more than 2.5 billion children. Polio Plus is not a thing of the past; it is living proof of what people can achieve when they unite for a common cause.

Our District honored this day with a splendid event at the War Museum on October 23, which we will discuss in detail in our next letter. Polio Plus is not just a program; it is the soul of Rotary in action.

Through all these projects, actions, trainings, and trips, one feeling remains constant: the belief that Rotary in Greece is evolving, growing stronger, and inspiring. We are joining our forces, our ideas, and our hearts; we are turning will into action, knowledge into work, and work into hope.

This is the Rotary we want: Rotary of Connection, Cooperation, and Heart.

Rotary that renews itself, educates itself, and unites for Good.

Because only United for Good can we truly change the world.

With Rotarian love,

Stefanos Anastasopoulos

RID 2475 Governor 2025-2026_

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475

Continuing Education Seminar – Thessaloniki, October 13, 2025

The Continuing Rotary Education Seminar in Thessaloniki was a great success, attended by RID 2475 DG Stefanos Anastasopoulos, and with the participation of Rotary Clubs from all Northern Greece.

The event was hosted in the beautiful and welcoming premises of the Thessaloniki Medical Association, in the heart of the city, in Aristotelous Square—a place steeped in history, light, and rhythm, which perfectly matched the spirit of the day.

The turnout was impressive and the atmosphere unique – full of vitality, enthusiasm, and inspiration. Rotarians from every corner of Northern Greece exchanged ideas, experiences, and dreams. New friendships were formed, old ones were renewed, and everyone left with a renewed faith in the values of Rotary and the power of cooperation.

The speeches were substantive and inspiring, covering the broad spectrum of Rotary's activities—from membership development and public image to service initiatives and Rotary's role in contemporary society.

Thessaloniki, with its open spirit, hospitality, and characteristic warmth, proved once again that it is a vibrant and dynamic Rotary hub that inspires and unites.

Warm congratulations to the Thessaloniki East and Panorama Clubs for their excellent co-organization and hospitality, to the speakers for their inspiring presentations, and to all participants for their lively presence and unparalleled Rotary spirit.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RC THESSALONIKI ALEXANDER THE GREAT

On October 11, 2025, RC Thessaloniki "Alexander the Great" delivered a hospital bed with electric lift and special mattress to the First Propaedeutic Clinic of Internal Medicine at the AHEPA University General Hospital of Thessaloniki, enhancing the quality of patient care.

The ceremony was attended by the Hospital Administrator, Mr. Panagiotis Panteliadis, RID 2475 DG Stefanos Anastasopoulos, accompanied by his wife, AG Rachel Topalidou, PDG Theodoros Aspasidis, AG Efi Terzi, and Neurology Professor rtn Thomas Tegos.

BODof the Club was represented by President rtn Mary Theodoropoulou and Vice President rtn Ioanna Pazarentzou.

This initiative is tangible proof of the ongoing commitment of RC Thessaloniki "Alexander the Great " to supporting the public health system and in recognizing the work of professionals in the sector.

Rotary honors and supports all those who strive daily for health and human dignity.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - e-Club Greece

PROGRAM "GIVE THE GIFT OF ACCESS" - VISIT AND PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAM TO THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND DEPUTY MINISTER I. FOTILAS.

On October 8, the coordinators of the "Give the Gift of Access" program, rtn George Stavropoulos and rtn Marina Arvaniti Georgantzi, both members of the Rotary E-Club of Greece, had the pleasure of visiting the Ministry of Culture, which is responsible for the program, in order to present it to Deputy Minister Mr. Iasonas Fotilas.

During the meeting, which took place in a particularly warm atmosphere, last year's program "Give the Gift of Access 1.0" and how it was implemented was explained, while at the same time the launch of the "Give the Gift of Access 2.0" Program was announced. This new program will be implemented during the current Rotary Year.

The Minister praised the Rotarians' willingness to support access for people with mobility difficulties and was particularly impressed by the professional manner in which the program was implemented. The Minister suggested that, in addition to museums and archaeological sites, other cultural venues should also be included in the current phase of the program.

Finally, Mr. Fotilas assured us of the Ministry of Culture's support for our efforts, emphasizing the importance of the program and its contribution to the promotion of Greek culture.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC THESSALONIKI EAST, PANORAMA, KALAMARIA, ALEXANDER THE GREAT

Rotary Clubs of Thessaloniki spread the message about the importance of early prevention against breast cancer, with the Team of RID 2475 . for Race for the Cure, from the Tower of Trigoni.

The Rotary Clubs of Thessaloniki, "Thessaloniki East," "Panorama," "Kalamaria," and "Alexander the Great", declared their support for an event that concerns all of us.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KALAMARIA

RC Kalamaria is launching its new digital presence through the website www.rotarykalamaria.gr, with the aim of strengthening its public image and further promoting the philosophy of Rotary International.

The website was created to offer the public a clear understanding of what Rotary is, what its goals and areas of focus are, but also to highlight the initiatives of RC Kalamaria in the local community and beyond.

At the same time, through special features and articles, the members of the Club will offer knowledge, advice, and opinions drawn from their professional experience, providing inspiration and useful information in broader social and professional fields.

With this new effort, RC Kalamaria continues to serve with dedication the timeless values of Rotary: fellowship, professional excellence and service to society.



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THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC SANTORINI OIA

It was with great pleasure and honor that RC Santorini Oia hosted a special Rotary event in Santorini, which was a great success and highlighted the principles and values promoted by Rotary.

A total of 33 Rotarians participated in the event, 20 of whom were from Germany, representing the following clubs and the IYFR:

International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR) Nord-Ost, represented by Commodore Paul Staginsky.

RC Rostock, represented by PP Claus Niessen and Secretary Philippe Niessen.

RC Schwerin, represented by MPs Stephan Sollberg and RC Parchim, represented by President Martin Doller, Rear Commodore of IYFR Germany.

RC Wittstock, represented by PP Criss Weiss.

Rotary Club Neuruppin, represented by PPt Thomas Weber.

Mr. Martin Doller from the German delegation gave a speech emphasizing the importance of international fellowship and friendship between clubs.

On the Greek side, were present the entire BOD of RC Santorini Oia, as well as members of the Club. Greetings were given by President Ioanna Alafouzou and Vice-President Arsenis Moutsos, in his capacity as Rear Commodore. In addition, a greeting was read by the Commodore of IYFR Greece, Rachel Topalidou.

During the evening, a banner exchange took place, and the possibility of twinning and developing joint cooperation actions between the Clubs was discussed.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC THESSALONIKI EAST

Donation of a color Laser Multifunction Printer was offered to the 2nd Special Primary School of Thessaloniki - Panorama.



Θεσσαλονίκη, 30-9-2025

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ ΚΑΙ
ΑΘΛΗΤΙΣΜΟΥ
ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑΚΗ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΕΚΠ/ΣΗΣ
ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΗΣ ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙΑΣ
Δ/ΝΣΗ ΠΡΟΤ/ΘΜΙΑΣ ΕΚΠ/ΣΗΣ ΑΝΑΤΟΛΙΚΗΣ
ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ
2^ο Ειδικό Δημοτικό Σχολείο Θεσσαλονίκης

Τοιχ. Διεύθυνση: Ελευθερίου 22
Τηλεφωνικό Κέντρο: Προσφυγική Οδός
Τηλέφωνο: 2310318405
Διευθυντής/ας: 2310318405
e-mail: mak2@2dim-esl-thess.sch.gr

ΠΡΟΣ
Ροταριανός Σύλλογος Θεσσαλονίκης

ΘΕΜΑ: « Ευχαριστήρια επιστολή »

Σας ευχαριστούμε από καρδιάς για την ευγενική προσφορά σας να διαθέσετε ένα έγχρωμο πολυμηχάνημα Laser στο σχολείο μας. Ευχόμαστε να έχετε υγεία και προσωπική και επαγγελματική ευημερία και να συνεχίσετε με τον ίδιο ζήλο το κοινωνικό σας έργο.

Με εκτίμηση
Ο Σύλλογος Διδασκόντων
&
Η Διευθύντρια
του 2^{ου} Ειδικού Δημοτικού Σχολείου Θεσσαλονίκης
Πρεμίδα Ουδωρία

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC IRAKLIO KAZANTZAKIS

Donation of School Supplies to the Association of Large Families of Heraklion

RC Iraklio Kazantzakis donated school supplies to the Association of Large Families of Heraklion, with the aim of supporting families ahead of the new school year.

The items were delivered on September 18th, 2025, to the offices of the Association of Large Families of Heraklion, Crete,

(the fifth largest association in Greece) in the presence of the entire BOD of the Association of Large Families. The members of the Rotary Club expressed their desire to continue actively supporting large families in the city, recognizing the increased needs they face, especially during this period.

A delegation representing the RC Iraklio Kazantzakis attended, consisting of President Dimitris Vasmaris, Secretary Popi

Paterianaki, Dean Maria Tsimitaki, and member Stella Tsakonikou. They stated that:

"Education is the right of all children, and it is our duty to do everything in our power to ensure equal opportunities for all. With this initiative, we aim to stand by families who are struggling on a daily basis and contribute, even in a small way, to alleviating their hardship."



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KIFISIA

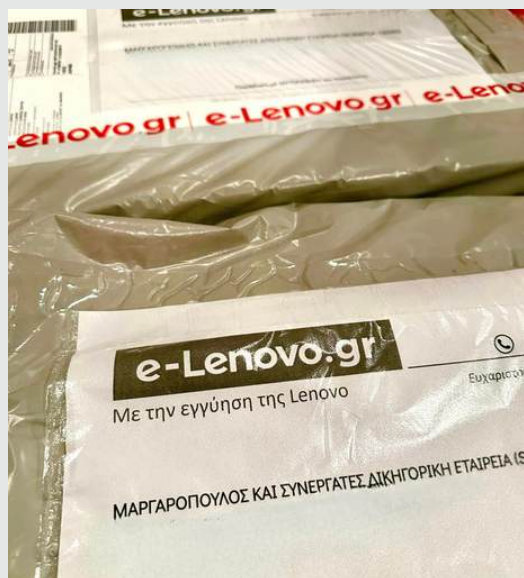
On September 25, RC Kifissia donated to the Agia Triada Primary School in Boeotia a modern interactive whiteboard with all the necessary equipment for more lively and creative teaching.

A computer, kindly donated by the law firm "Margaropoulos and Associates," which warmly embraced our effort.

Each student received a personal hygiene kit with basic cleaning products and educational material that teaches children simple but important rules of personal hygiene — an innovation of our Club that helps children acquire proper care and health habits from an early age.

And finally, an encyclopedia and 70 books of general interest to strengthen the school library and give children the joy of traveling with the power of knowledge.

The most beautiful gift and the greatest satisfaction for us were the children's drawings, which they gave us with love, as well as the traditional treats (liqueur, mountain tea, and other local delicacies) offered to us with emotion by the school's Parents and Guardians Association.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC IRAKLIO CANDIA

The four-day visit of 16 Rotary colleagues from Serbia and Montenegro was a great success. with a special feature of their visit being their participation in the hospitality and fellowship program, which unites us after the signing of the ICC Agreement, which we had the honor of carrying out a few months ago at their headquarters.

The leader of their group is Pero Duletic, President ICC Montenegro & Serbia with Greece., and Coordinator RID 2483. The guests stayed at the HOTEL CACTUS ROYAL in Stalida, Heraklion, owned by Nikos Chalkiadakis, a member of our club. The entire program of RC Heraklion –Candia, coordinated by RID 2475 PAG. and President of I.C.C. Greece – Serbia and Montenegro, Ioannis Samniotis, from October 10 to 14, 2025.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC IRAKLIO KAZANTZAKIS

Donation of School Supplies to the Social Services Department of the Municipality of Gortyna
RC Iraklio Kazantzakis carried out another meaningful initiative by donating school supplies to the Social Services Department of the Municipality of Gortyna in the Regional Unit of Heraklion, Crete, with the aim of supporting poor families living in the interior of the country, in view of the new school year.

The items were delivered on September 16, 2025, at the headquarters of the Municipality of Gortyna in Agioi Deka, at the offices of the Social Services Department. The items were received by the head of the service, Ms. Amvrazi, from the president of our RC, Dimitris Vasmaris. There was an exchange of views, recognizing the increased needs faced by some families, especially during this period, and to help, even if only a little, to alleviate their hardship. Because education is the right of all children, and it is our duty to do everything in our power to ensure equal opportunities for all.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KOROPHI

The Afidnes Volunteer Forest Firefighters Association (SEAD) has been active in the Afidnes area for more than 10 years, with more than 80 active members. With courage, camaraderie, and self-sacrifice, these members volunteer their services not only to protect forests but also to protect homes and human life itself, playing a significant and multifaceted role. Of course, their equipment is funded exclusively by donations from associations, companies, and individuals.

RC Koropi, wishing to honor these volunteers, continued this year with the valuable cooperation of the German Rotary Club of Dieburg - Babenhausen, with a donation of €6,795.20 for the purchase and installation of a radiolink repeater station.

The handover took place on October 17 at the SEAD facilities in Kapandriti, in the presence of the representative of the German Rotarians, Rotarian pP of the Dieburg-Badenhausen Rotary Club, Dr. Antonios Spanidis, and members of the Rotary Club of Koropi.

Actions to be continued...



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - e-CLUB GREECE

Delivery of medicines to the social pharmacy of the Municipality of Heraklion by the Rotary eClub of Greece

Our commitment to providing ongoing assistance to the social pharmacy of the Municipality of Heraklion is clear and long-standing, with the delivery of medicines to social pharmacies throughout our country being a regular activity of our Club.

The Rotary eClub of Greece made another donation of medicines to the social pharmacy of the Municipality of Heraklion, inaugurating another year of cooperation.

The medicines were received by the Secretary and representative of our Club, rtn Demosthenes Marakis, and were handed over to the social pharmacy, renewing our appointment for the next delivery of pharmaceutical and medical supplies to the facility.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS

RC Rhodes supports the General Hospital Cardiology Clinic of Rhodes with state-of-the-art equipment

Faithful to its principles and values for over 63 years, the Rotary Club of Rhodes continues to serve the community with discretion, integrity, and respect, providing both moral and material support to individuals, institutions, and organizations.

On Monday, September 29, 2025, following consultation with the physicians in charge of the Cardiology Clinic, the Rotary Club of Rhodes donated a ****Philips Ultrasound Workstation****, a modern system that fully meets the diagnostic and clinical needs of the Clinic.

This important donation significantly upgrades the Clinic's infrastructure and supports the work of its medical staff, as it allows them to digitally record, store, and access patients' ultrasound and other examination data over time. This enables them to review previous results when needed, analyze new data, compare findings, and carry out a range of procedures that enhance patient care.

The Ultrasound Workstation offers DICOM 3.0 bidirectional communication compatibility with all ultrasound units in the department, regardless of manufacturer. It provides reporting functionality for the performed studies and enables A4 color printing in Greek. The system includes a comprehensive structured reporting package for producing high-quality standardized echocardiography reports, as well as specialized software for storing and retrieving three-dimensional image studies or DICOM PDFs, and for categorizing patient files according to specific characteristics or medical conditions.

The system also offers remote technical and operational support via the internet, reducing the hospital's operating costs. It includes a computer with a DVD writer and a 23-inch monitor.

The effort to acquire and donate this workstation began two years ago under the presidency of Ioannis Chalikias, continued under Nikos Retsas and was successfully completed during the presidency of Beatriki-Kalliopi Servou.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC VOULA PANORAMA

On October 21, 2025, RC Voula Panorama donated clothing and footwear to the association "RETO - PROKLIHIS ELPIDAS" Association, a non-profit organization with a public benefit and social focus on marginalized and drug-addicted individuals, with the aim of reintegrating them into society.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 RC MARATHONAS NEA MAKRI

RC Marathon-Nea Makri in collaboration with volunteers from the Provathos Fire Department, organized a barbecue at the department's excellent facilities.

The event was attended by members of our Club, volunteer firefighters, friends of firefighters, and many friends of the Rotary Club, as well as RID 2475 Secretary, who conveyed a message from our Governor.

We enjoyed delicious plates, all made and offered with love by our members and their spouses.

The greetings from RID 2475 DG Stefanos Anastasopoulos, our President, and the Governor of PY.SEF, S. Damianoglou, once again highlighted the value of volunteerism and giving – especially to the young people who participated with enthusiasm.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to this extremely successful event—and especially to the volunteers of PY.SEF for their hospitality, their great work, and the collaboration that began with RC Marathon-Nea Makri



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KALAMATA FARAI & SANTORINI

On Sunday, October 19, 2025, the Rotary Clubs Kalamata - Farai and Santorini delivered to the Primary School of Pelopion, school supplies and educational material. The school and the residents of the area had suffered major damage due to last summer's fires.

The material was received by the Principal of the school Mrs. Papanikolaou Evgenia, who thanked the clubs through a letter but also with the promotion of the action in the local media.

The offer included notebooks, stationery, handicraft materials and essential school supplies, distributed to all young students of the school and brought back smiles to them.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KOROPi

RC Koropi honored our national holiday on October 28th and laid a wreath, as every year, at the Koropi War Memorial.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KIFISSIA KASTRI

RC KIFISSIA-KASTRI delivered notebooks to the Social Grocery Store of the Municipality of Kifissia for students whose families are beneficiaries of the municipality.

The Deputy Mayor for Social Services, Ms. Maria Salmatani Kefala, received the notebooks and thanked the members of rc Kifisia Kastri BOD, rtn Gina Marda Stasinopoulou and rtn Gina Papavasiliou, who represented our Club.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC DIONYSOS

RC DIONYSOS delivered mattresses to the Avlona Youth Detention Center for the needs of the inmates. Conditions are difficult and needs are increased, but the young age of the inmates calls for a second chance to change their way of life. We can all help. We would like to thank President Kalliopi Oikonomou and the members of BOD Maria Paradeisi Zerde, Elda Flega, Potoula Maravegia, and Gioula Lakafosi, for their contribution. The donation was received by the administration of the organization, represented by Deputy Administrator Mr. Spyros Karakitsos.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF



**ARPIC ARKAN APTURAHMAN
DISTRICT 2482**

**Plamen Tsvetkov
District Governor 2025-2026
Rotary International
District 2482 - Bulgaria
Monthly Message October**



We are entering the month of October – a month in which Rotary focuses its attention on economic and community development. Without strong and sustainable communities, there is no future. Leadership is the key that drives this growth.

Leadership is our daily action through which we inspire and guide – it is not a title. A true leader recognizes the community in need of support and provides strength and direction. A leader does not dominate. He lifts the people around him to a higher level – with patience, personal example, and consistency. This is exactly how we can build economic stability and a future in which our young people see opportunities here, in Bulgaria.

We speak of young people in the Future tense! Our Rotaractors and Interactors are here, they are the Present! They bring energy, ideas, and leadership potential that move us forward. Supporting them means investing in the future of Rotary and of our society.

Friends, let us be bold and seek partnerships – with municipalities, schools, and businesses. The projects we develop together create a better environment for education, health, and culture. Wherever Rotary is present, there is development.

October is also the month of one of Rotary's greatest causes – the eradication of polio. On October 24, we observe World Polio Day. The fight is not yet over. Every donated dollar is a chance for one child to be protected. Let us, the Rotarians of our District, also contribute to the PolioPlus Fund, because as long as the disease is not eradicated everywhere, no child is safe.

Here is the link where you can make your donation to the PolioPlus Fund:

<https://my.rotary.org/en/donate>

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Plamen Tsvetkov District Governor 2025-2026

Rotary International District 2482 - Bulgaria Monthly Message- October

And one more important note – in October and November, we will have the Zone Assemblies. These are not formal meetings. They are the place where we exchange ideas, learn from each other, and build friendships. Bring more people from your clubs – teams working on projects, new Rotarians, volunteers – your friends. The more of us there are, the stronger the connection between clubs and the district will be, and the faster we will turn ideas into action. I thank all the clubs that hosted my visits in September. In every club, I witnessed dedication, friendship, and inspiration. This is the true strength of Rotary – people who turn ideas into action.

Dear friends, let October be a month of leadership, service, and courage. Let us be people of action who bring hope and change to our communities.

With respect and friendship,

Plamen Tsvetkov

District Governor 2025–2026

Rotary International, District 2482 – Bulgaria

**END
POLIO
NOW** **WORLD POLIO DAY
IS 24 OCTOBER**



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Leadership as a Journey

Leadership is a journey—it is not a momentary state or a position held. It begins from within—with a clearly defined purpose and the willingness to lead others in a direction you believe in. A true leader doesn't need recognition or a prominent place in the hierarchy. They are the natural, often invisible presence people instinctively look to in times of uncertainty.

At the heart of leadership lie values that are revealed through action. Integrity, empathy, and courage—these are the three pillars on which trust is built. They are not declared with words but proven through consistency and the choices made in difficult moments.

Every form of leadership begins with a vision. It is the clear sense of direction you wish to pursue. A vision that remains only in your mind is merely a dream. To come to life, it must be shared and understood. People need to see themselves in it in order to walk the path together.

A leader knows how to communicate in a way that hears not only what is said but also what is left unspoken. They understand different perspectives and weave them into a shared understanding. When they speak, they do so with clarity and honesty—building trust and confidence.

Leadership is also the care for the growth of those around you. It is the ability to recognize potential and to create space for it to unfold. To encourage. To support. To step aside and share the spotlight when someone else is ready for it.

To be a leader means to walk with purpose and persistence, with a willingness to serve a cause greater than yourself. It is a continuous journey of learning—alongside the people who walk with you.

The greatest recognition comes in the moment they continue confidently—even without you.

Tanya Georgieva – DPIC, D2482 Bulgaria

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club POMORIE and the educational institutions in Pomorie share a common cause – “Extend a Hand, Not Aggression”

An innovative therapeutic game created by psychologists and educators was presented in the hall of “Ivan Vazov” Secondary School in Pomorie. The game is a practical tool for school specialists — a means through which children can talk about what they experience without fear. The training seminar was part of the project “Extend a Hand, Not Aggression” and was organized by Rotary Club Pomorie and the “Insight-IPM” Association.

Rotarians, teachers, and psychologists from various educational institutions in the municipality took part, all wholeheartedly committed to the topic of protecting children's rights and mental health in the school environment.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY CLUB POMORIE AND THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN POMORIE SHARE A COMMON CAUSE – “EXTEND A HAND, NOT AGGRESSION”

In a world where aggression often becomes a response to insecurity, stress, and social tensions, violence prevention is of particular importance. All attendees took an active part in the seminar, excellently led by Nedyalka Baeva and Angelina Meranzova–Veliyanova. The project “Extend a Hand, Not Aggression” was created with the mission of preventing violence among children and young people by promoting empathy, respect, and positive communication. The project is implemented within the framework of INSPIRE: Improving National Support for Prevention, Intervention, and Response to Violence Against Children, and Empowering Victims, and is co-funded by the European Union and the “Workshop for Civic Initiatives” Foundation (WCIF).



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY CLUB NOVA ZAGORA

OPENS THE SCHOOL YEAR WITH GIFTS FOR FIRST-GRADERS ONCE AGAIN

For another year, Rotary Club Nova Zagora marked the start of the school year by giving gifts to first-graders.

September 15th in Nova Zagora was filled with many smiles and unforgettable excitement. As in previous years, on the first day of the new school year, Rotary Club Nova Zagora delighted the city's first-graders with sets of educational materials.

This year, the lucky recipients were the young students from "Lyuben Karavelov" Primary School, "Petar Beron" Primary School in the village of Karanovo, "P.R. Slaveykov" Primary School in the village of Korten, and the primary school in the village of Sadievo.

The festive atmosphere in the schoolyards, the flowers, the happy teachers, the ceremonial music, and the streets filled with smiling, hurried children once again touched the heart of every resident of Nova Zagora.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY CLUB BANSKO–RAZLOG DONATES 38 HOSPITAL BEDS TO RAZLOG GENERAL HOSPITAL CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY!

Rotary Club Bansko–Razlog has donated 38 hospital beds to Razlog General Hospital (MBAL Razlog).

The donation was made possible thanks to the partnership between Rotary Club Bansko–Razlog and a clinic in Murnau, Germany, as well as the support of Razlog Municipality. The beds will be used in the surgery and intensive care departments of MBAL Razlog and will contribute to improved treatment conditions and patient care.

Heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helped make this initiative a reality. Together, we are making our community a better place to live!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY CLUB POMORIE

WITH THE INITIATIVE “THE GOOD EXAMPLE”

A good example is even more powerful when organizations and institutions stand behind it! With great enthusiasm, the members of Rotary Club Pomorie contributed by engaging both children and adults in the cleanup initiative.

Thanks to everyone's combined efforts, the area between the Museum of Salt and the Pomorie Stadium is now clean and pleasant for walking!

Together, we continue making Pomorie a better place to live!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY CLUB SOFIA–BALKAN

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT SOFIA–BALKAN

On September 27 and 28, the Fifth International Wheelchair Basketball Tournament “Sofia–Balkan” was held at the sports complex in Gorni Malina, organized by BCIK Sofia–Balkan. For two days, the hall was filled with emotion, intensity, and sportsmanship — numerous duels, interceptions, fast counterattacks, and fierce battles under the basket. In the final standings, our team deservedly earned third place.

In their first match, Sofia–Balkan achieved a convincing victory against the Greek team Panserraikos. In the second game, they lost by only 12 points to the strong Turkish team Tuzla Bel. The decisive match for third place began evenly — basket for basket — but with determination, persistence, and excellent play, our heroes prevailed with a 20-point lead.

A special highlight of the tournament was its youngest participant — eight-year-old Emo, who, with his dedication and energy, contributed to the victory alongside the starting players.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY CLUB SOFIA-BALKAN

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT SOFIA-BALKAN

The event was not only a sports celebration but also an opportunity for valuable meetings and conversations. The President of Rotary Club Sofia-Balkan, Ivaylo Vasilev, and Past President Krasimir Veselinov had the chance to meet and speak with both the players and coaches of the teams, as well as with Tzena Konstantinova and her daughter Valeria. Tzena is the wife of the late Past President of the club, Svetlyo Syarov — the man under whose leadership the basketball team was created and whom he dedicatedly managed for many years.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY CLUB SOFIA

MEETING OF FOUR ROTARY CLUBS

What could be a more inspiring start to the new Rotary year than a journey and a gathering that fills us with energy for future good deeds!

On September 26, 2025, a meeting of four Rotary clubs was held in Rome: Italy (RC Rome-EUR and RC Formia–Gaeta), Bulgaria (Rotary Club Sofia 1933), and Germany (RC Munich-Friedensengel). The event took place in an amazing atmosphere of friendship, accompanied by the exceptional hospitality of the hosts from Rotary Club Rome-EUR. Fifty Rotary friends attended the gathering.

In the true spirit of Rotary, club banners were exchanged between the host club and the visiting clubs. Rotary Club Sofia 1933 presented a special gift to each club — a book on the history of Sofia, elegantly decorated with beautiful Bulgarian embroidery.

The President of Rotary Club Sofia, Kiril Kalev, gave a brief presentation about the club's rich history and the history of Rotary in Bulgaria. He introduced the club's current projects as well as its ambitious vision for a new global grant project that could become part of an extensive international system.

The evening concluded with a cocktail filled with positive emotions, smiles, and the sharing of ideas and causes!

Inspired by the motto of this Rotary year, "United for Good," the Rotarians from Sofia, Rome, Formia–Gaeta, and Munich once again proved that they are a bridge connecting communities and people with a common mission: to place service above self!

The historical tour of the Eternal City was guided by Veneta Nenkova, a Rotarian from Dobrich who has lived and worked in Rome for many years. She provided a new perspective on Bulgarian history through the archives of the Vatican. We are eager to support and promote the cause of uncovering the lesser-known historical facts related to Bulgaria's imprint on the history of Italy and ancient Rome.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY CLUB BALCHIK

SUPPORTED THE CLOSING OF THE 2025 SAILING SEASON FOR CHILDREN!

With joy and pride, we were part of the official awarding ceremony for the young sailors who demonstrated perseverance, discipline, and a true love for the sea throughout the year.

These children are the future of Balchik — an example of sportsmanship, friendship, and inspiration for their peers.

Rotary Club Balchik was pleased to support the event and the awards for the young champions, because we believe that investing in young people is the strongest wind in the sails of the future.

Congratulations to the coaches, parents, and organizers for their dedication and commitment!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

REPORT ON THE DONATION OF MBOT ROBOTS AND TEACHER EDUCATION IN ŠABAC



ARPIC ALEKSANDAR RADOJICIC
DISTRICT 2483

On October 9, 2025, mBot robots were donated at the Center for Professional Development in Šabac and an accredited seminar was held for teachers and professors of primary and secondary schools from Šabac. The attendees were greeted by the Mayor of Šabac Aleksandar Pajić and our hosts Marko Panović, Director of the Center for Professional Development in Šabac, and Aleksandar Letić, President of the Rotary Club of Šabac. On behalf of the organizers, the attendees were informed about the following donations and the festival "With Knowledge for the Future" by Past Governor Vladimir Matić and nominated Governor of the National Assembly Vladimir Lalošević. Our main partners for the festival "With Knowledge for the Future" from the Klett Publishing House, Director Gordana Knežević Orlić and Ilija Ćosović, informed the teachers how they can all use their services in monitoring the seminar and festival. Special thanks to Mayor Aleksandar Pajić for the support of the City of Šabac in the implementation of not only this seminar but also for all the actions of the Rotary Clubs of Šabac and Belgrade Čukarica.



RC Belgrade Skadarlija: Wind at their backs

The traditional action "Wind at their backs" of the Rotary Club Belgrade Skadarlija was successfully carried out by sailing in the Ionian Sea. This year, members of the clubs RC Singidunum, RC Sava, RC Čuprija Morava, RC Kotor and RC Čačak participated, which further enriched the atmosphere of togetherness and humanity. 3 catamarans and almost 30 participants. The action was carried out in the spirit of the mission "Unite for Good", which is also this year's goal within the Rotary community. The participants had the opportunity to visit the islands of Paxo, Antipaxo and Corfu, and to promote humanitarian values, friendship and an active lifestyle through sailing. At the very beginning, the entire fleet was hosted by the Rotary Club Preveza with a good atmosphere and fellowship in the Rotarian spirit, where we exchanged gifts and flags, as well as ideas and agreements on joint actions.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RC Belgrade Skadarlija: meeting with RC Kerkyra Kapodistrias from Corfu.

While sailing in the Ionian Sea, Rotary Club Belgrade Skadarlija organized a meeting with Rotary Club Kerkyra Kapodistrias from Corfu. In addition to members of the fleet and Rotarians from RC Kotor, Singidunum, Sava, Cacak and Cuprija - Morava, the meeting was attended by the Honorary Consul of Serbia in Corfu, the Deputy Mayor of Corfu, and the President of the Greek-Serbian Friendship Association. The exchange of ideas and work on joint projects, as well as networking and socializing, were the main topics.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RC Kraljevo: Rotary Club Kraljevo visits fraternal club Sibiu

Leading children from the Judo Club "Mašinac" from Kraljevo to an international tournament in SIBIU, Romania, as friends and sponsors of the club, five members of RK Kraljevo visited the fraternal club SIBIU and held a joint meeting. Both clubs, since their last gathering in Kraljevo, have rejuvenated their membership, so this was an opportunity for new members to get acquainted with the long-standing fraternal cooperation. After a welcoming speech and an exchange of flags and other gifts, Miodrag Rajković, secretary of the Rotary Club Kraljevo, informed the members of RK Sibiu in detail about all the joint projects of the fraternal members and the club's activities. The new host members were particularly interested in the RK Kraljevo Monograph, which, among other things, presented the joint activities of the two clubs. The hosts from Sibiu said that this year the club is celebrating 30 years since its charter, and they especially emphasized its participation in the erection of a monument to Samuel Brukenthal, the former governor of Transylvania. Kraljevo Rotarians invited the hosts to participate in the Kraljevo Wine Fair and the Vrnjačka Banja Carnival next year.



RC Zrenjanin: Visit of Rotarians from the USA to Rotary Club Zrenjanin

On September 24, 2025, the Rotary Club Zrenjanin had the honor of hosting a delegation of Rotarians from the United States of America. The visit was programmed as a combination of getting to know the city and a working meeting, with the aim of strengthening international cooperation and exchanging experiences. Before the official meeting, the hosts from RC Zrenjanin organized a short but informative tour of the most important landmarks of Zrenjanin for the guests. The delegation visited the City Hall and the National Museum of Zrenjanin, where they learned about the history and architectural significance of these spaces, as well as the Cathedral Orthodox Church and other local landmarks. During the tour, the guests had the opportunity to hear stories about the cultural and historical heritage of Banat, which gave the visit additional context and warmth. After the tour, a working meeting was held in the hall of the Vojvodina Hotel between the members of the Rotary Club Zrenjanin and the members of the American delegation. The meeting took place in a constructive and friendly atmosphere. During the meeting, concrete contacts were established and it was agreed to continue intensive communication to develop possible projects. As an immediate next step, it was agreed that representatives of both sides would exchange additional materials and project proposals, in order to determine the possibilities for joint application for relevant grants and for the organization of exchange programs. The visit further strengthened the ties between domestic and international Rotarians and opened up space for real international cooperation in the coming period.

24.09.2025 - RC Zrenjanin: Donation of mBot robots and training for teachers

The Rotary Club of Zrenjanin has continued its support for global grants that have been implementing the project "Knowledge for the Future" for years. This year, as part of the activities, a visit was organized by Rotarians from the USA who are partners in these projects. As a central part of the visit on 24.09.2025. a ceremonial awarding of mBot robots for elementary schools in Zrenjanin and the surrounding area was organized, as part of the project "Knowledge for the Future". This initiative is being implemented in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Zrenjanin, the Rotary Club of Belgrade Čukarica and Rotary District 2483, and with the support of the City of Zrenjanin, the Ministry of Education and the Institute for the Advancement of Education. Those present were greeted by the President of the Rotary Club of Zrenjanin Siniša Pandurov, PDG Vladimir Matić, PDG Hamsa Thota on behalf of District 6920 Georgia / USA and the Mayor of Zrenjanin Simo Salapura. In addition to the donation itself, with the support of the City of Zrenjanin, accredited training was organized for 25 teachers and professors of primary and secondary schools from Zrenjanin and 21 teachers and professors of schools from surrounding towns, with the aim of acquiring practical knowledge for the application of robotics in teaching. In this way, the donation takes on full meaning - because teachers become ready to transfer the acquired knowledge in a real environment and motivate students to develop creativity, critical thinking, logical reasoning and teamwork through robotic tasks. This is the fourth year in a row that the Rotary Club of Zrenjanin has been implementing this activity, which builds continuity and strengthens the foundations of modern education in the local community. The results so far show that students are interested in such programs, and teachers emphasize that the donation significantly enriches the teaching process.

Reception at the Mayor's Office

In the Baroque Hall of the City Hall in Zrenjanin, a delegation of Rotary District 2483, Rotarians from the USA and the Rotary Club of Zrenjanin was ceremonially received by Mayor Simo Salapura. The meeting was attended by representatives of the local government, as well as members of the Rotary community, emphasizing the successful cooperation of the city and the Rotary Club of Zrenjanin to date. The Mayor emphasized that he always supports such Rotary projects, which are largely focused on the areas of education and social responsibility, which fully coincides with the priorities of the local government. The conversation emphasized the importance of the partnership between the city and the Rotary Club, as well as the readiness for joint action in the coming years, with an emphasis on projects that contribute to youth and the development of the local community.

24.09.2025 - RC ZRENJANIN: DONATION OF MBOT ROBOTS AND TRAINING FOR TEACHERS



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RC BELGRADE TERAZIJE: RETURN VISIT TO ROTARY CLUB LAUSANNE-OUEST

From September 28 to October 1, 2025, members of the Rotary Club Belgrade Terazije visited Switzerland, where they returned the visit to their friends from the Rotary Club Lausanne-Ouest. The delegation consisted of President Nikola Stojanović with his wife Bojana, Club Secretary Andrija Ranković with his wife Milica, and incoming President Aleksandar Bolić. The visit was a continuation of the friendly relations that began in March, during the stay of the members of the Lausanne-Ouest Club in Belgrade, on which occasion we jointly presented a van to the Center for the Protection of Children and Infants with Special Needs on Zvečanska Street in Belgrade. At the regular meeting of the local club, President of the Rotary Club Belgrade Terazije Nikola Stojanović presented the projects and activities of our club, and the future District Governor 1990, Jean-François Richter, also addressed the attendees. On that occasion, the club presidents exchanged Rotary flags and agreed to continue cooperation through joint projects and future donations, with the aim of strengthening the international Rotary partnership. During their stay, the club members visited the Dubois Family Winery on the shores of Lake Geneva and the Rolex Educational Center at the University of Lausanne, as well as the La Gruyère region, where they toured cheese and chocolate museums. A special part of the visit was a meeting with members of the Serbian Business Club "Archibald Rice" in Switzerland, with an exchange of experiences and discussion of future cooperation opportunities. The visit ended with a tour of Geneva and strengthened the long-term friendship between the Belgrade Terazije and Lausanne-Ouest clubs, confirming the common values of Rotary - friendship, humanity and community service. The Belgrade Terazije Rotary Club extends sincere gratitude to the friends from the Rotary Club Lausanne-Ouest for their warm hospitality and attention. We owe a special thanks to Kristijan Šer, Marko Ivanov and Žarko Stević, who selflessly dedicated their time to show us the beauty of Switzerland and make our stay unforgettable. Their warmth and dedication are the best example of the Rotarian spirit of friendship and connection.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RC Bijelo Polje: Enhancing the space and painting the walls in several kindergartens in Bijelo Polje

The Rotary Club Bijelo Polje, as it has done many times before, responded to a call for help in a humane project. Namely, it is about improving and decorating the premises in one of the kindergartens in Bijelo Polje. In addition to the club's financial assistance, for the purchase of necessary materials and the like, one of the members of RC Bijelo Polje, academic painter Dražen Konatar, personally participated in the design and creation of decorations for the environment of that preschool institution.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RC Belgrade International: Music without Borders - Workshops for Children with Autism

Thanks to the support of the Rotary Club Belgrade International and Rotary District 2483, a series of music workshops were held at the Anton Skala Elementary School for children with autism. The workshops were filled with emotion, rhythm and togetherness - moments in which music and laughter became the universal language of understanding. Musicians from the DiA Music Center and Artysh Lab introduced the children to the world of instruments - keyboards, violins, flutes and accordions. The children participated in the performance, played children's instruments, sang and danced to the rhythm of the music. Each workshop was a combination of joy, play and creativity, and at the end everyone danced a waltz together. A particularly touching moment was the performance of a former student, Nemanja Mitić, who delighted his younger friends with his songs and music. The final performance brought special excitement – the children proudly showed what they had learned, and the hall was filled with smiles, applause and sincere warmth that accompanied every note. We owe our gratitude to the school and teachers, therapists, parents, District 2483 and members of the Rotary Club Belgrade International, but above all to the children, who once again showed us that music truly speaks to the heart.



RC LESKOVAC: MAGAZINE DONATION TO THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

In the spirit of its motto "Choose to be a light", the Rotary Club Leskovac has carried out another humane and educational work - the donation of the 161st issue of the international magazine Rotary to the National Library in Leskovac. This prestigious magazine, published in English, offers readers the opportunity to improve their language skills, but also to broaden their horizons about humanitarian work, culture and the lives of people around the world. Its pages feature authored texts and experiences of Rotary clubs from different countries, making it an inspiring and interesting read for all generations. Club President Aleksandar, together with members Vidosav, Milorad and Nada, handed over the magazines to the library representatives, Maja and Aleksandar, on Friday, October 3, 2025. With this gesture, the Rotary Club Leskovac once again demonstrated its commitment to the community, encouraging the spread of knowledge, humanity and the light that connects people of good will



RC NOVI SAD - DUNAV

Donation of school supplies to children undergoing treatment at the Institute for Child and Youth Health Care of Vojvodina

The Rotary Club of Novi Sad - Dunav marked September — the month of primary education and literacy — by donating school supplies to children undergoing treatment at the Institute for Child and Youth Health Care of Vojvodina. Our goal is to support their education and encourage smiles and hope in the upcoming school days.



RC SENTA: TRADITIONAL “SMILING APPLE” CAMPAIGN

On October 10th and 11th, the Rotary Club of Senta organized the traditional “Smiling Apple” campaign at the main town market. The wives of club members collected donations from citizens, and everyone who participated received a smiling apple as a symbol of gratitude. All funds raised will be used to develop and improve the work of kindergartens in Senta. This campaign has been held in Senta for ten years in a row, and thanks to its success, clubs from other countries have also taken it on board, making it an internationally recognized humanitarian initiative.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RC KOTOR: SOCIALIZING WITH RESIDENTS OF THE HOME IN BIJELA

On Saturday, October 11, the members of the Rotary Club of Kotor organized a traditional excursion for residents of the Public Institution "Mladost" Children's Home in Bijela. The children had the opportunity to visit Tivat Airport, where they spent an unforgettable morning in the role of real passengers. During the visit, they visited Terminal 2, checked in and received their boarding passes, and employees of the Airport of Montenegro patiently explained to them how airport procedures work. The children then went through document control and security control, visited the departure gate and learned firsthand what the pre-flight passenger process looks like. On the platform, they observed the planes up close, entered the Air Montenegro plane, where they were greeted by the crew and captain. Each child entered the cockpit and had the opportunity to learn how the pilot controls work – and even to “choose” their destination, the one they had previously entered on their boarding pass. The gathering continued in the fire department vehicle, where the little ones had the opportunity to see how the airport protection and rescue service works, as well as to observe takeoffs and landings from close range. The trip continued with a visit to the special nature reserve “Tivatska solila” where the children, accompanied by professional guides, enjoyed walking and observing birds and crabs in the reserve, as well as a VR presentation. Airports of Montenegro and the Public Company for Maritime Domain Management provided the children with appropriate gifts – as a nice memento of a day filled with smiles and new experiences. The gathering ended with a lunch organized by the “Vukšić” Business Center in Radanovići. This year’s action was coordinated by RC Kotor member Renata Bergam Grandis. Rotary Kotor thanks the hosts of the trip, sponsors and friends of the club for their help in the organization, gifts, logistics and hospitality: “Airports of Montenegro”, “Public Company for Coastal Zone Management”, “Meridian DMC” and “PC Vukšić – D’event Hall for Ceremonies”.



RC ĆUPRIJA MORAVA: CELEBRATION OF THE 21ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT

On the occasion of the festive celebration of the 21st anniversary of the discovery of the relics of Saint Despot Stefan Lazarević, an official visit, guided tour and charity lunch were organized in his foundation, the Manasija Monastery. As part of the celebration of the 21st anniversary of its renewal, the Rotary Club of Ćuprija-Morava took part and, with its members, friends and associates, made a modest material contribution to the renovation of the guest house. Although the weather conditions were not in favor of the event, more than 70 benefactors from Serbia, Montenegro and Bulgaria had the opportunity to see for themselves and enjoy the blessing of Resava. The current and former governors Veliša Stamatović and Aleksandar Radojičić graced the gathering with their presence. Immense gratitude to the hosts, the monastery brotherhood led by Archangel Pavle, for the opportunity to be of use to the community. Their dedication from the reception to the farewell left a strong impression on those gathered as the best invitation to visit and help Manasija on all other days. Immediately after the donation campaign at the Manasija Monastery, a gala dinner was organized. After his address, President Goran Jelcic took the opportunity to award the most deserving people in the past period with awards. The Governor of District 2483 Veliša Stamatović was presented with a charter and a gold coin with an engraving, and his assistant Danilo Guberinić was presented with a letter of appreciation. After the awarding of the charters and letters of appreciation, an unforeseen circumstance occurred due to the loss of electricity in the entire municipality of Despotovac. What seemed like an inconvenience at first glance turned into an advantage by the end of the evening, as the celebration continued with cake and candles and the guests continued their conversations/agreements without any disturbance.



PRE REM EVENT IN NIŠ

This year's PRE REM event, held in Niš, was attended by Rotaractors from several clubs in the region. During the gathering, the participants had the opportunity to visit some of the most important historical sites in southeastern Serbia – Mediana, Čele-kula and Čerg – and to get to know the rich cultural heritage of this region in an authentic way.

This event was a real combination of education, fellowship and fun, bringing new acquaintances, beautiful memories and even stronger ties within the Rotaract family.

We thank the hosts for the warm welcome and excellent organization – see you at the next meeting!

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

REM SKOPJE 2025 – ROTARACT EUROPE TOGETHER

The delegation of Rotaract District 2483 participated in the Rotaract Europe Meeting (REM) in Skopje, North Macedonia, where our representatives spent several inspiring days in the spirit of fellowship, education and international cooperation.

We are particularly proud of the fact that the ERIC secretary from our district was also in the delegation, which confirms the high level of engagement and recognition of our team within the European Rotaract.

During REM, participants:

- attended workshops and lectures,
- established contacts and friendships across Europe,
- presented District 2483 at the traditional Country Booth.

At the E.R.I.C. General Assembly for the current Rotary year, we voted for:

- next REM Karlsruhe,
- Peace Workshop,
- ERIC assembly and board update,
- as well as announcements of upcoming international events (Taipei, Interota).

The meeting ended with a glamorous gala dinner in the spirit of togetherness and Rotaract energy.

We would like to thank the hosts from Skopje for the excellent organization and hospitality!



DISTRICT ASSEMBLY 2483 – NOVI SAD IN THE SIGN OF ACTION AND INSPIRATION

On October 18 and 19, the District Assembly of Rotaract District 2483 was held in Novi Sad, bringing together members of clubs from all over Serbia and Montenegro. During the two days, the atmosphere was filled with energy, dedication and a vision for the future.

Speakers, including DG Veliša Stamatović and DRR Nikola Jelenković, emphasized the importance of cooperation and joint action. PDG Zorica Jestrović and PDG Nikola Božić presented the importance of the RI Foundation and key Rotaract projects such as End Polio Now.

Milena Albijanić's workshop on the topic of leader authenticity attracted special attention, which provided participants with concrete tools for developing leadership skills and teamwork.

The event was also enriched by international presence – friends from Croatia and Bulgaria presented their actions and projects. The working part of the Assembly was rounded off with a wine dinner and socializing, in the true spirit of Rotaract.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF



ARPIC FARUK MUSTAFA GULER
DISTRICT 2430

6TH ANNUAL POLIO AWARENESS DIVE PROJECT.

As the Silifke Rotary Club, we are delighted and proud to organize the 6th annual Polio Awareness Dive Project.

This year, the project, further strengthened by contributions from the Mersin, Toros, Akdeniz, Kizkalesi, and Olba Rotary Clubs, successfully realized the project with the participation of our district governor, Can Cigirgan, his wife, district officials, Rotarians, and volunteers.

We fly the Polio flag in our region's unique bays and then dive to the flag placed underwater.

Proceeds from the event are donated to the Polio Fund.

The day-long event also raises significant awareness for other boats and people swimming in the area



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ADANA GÜNEY ROTARY CLUB, WE HAVE VISITED STUDENTS STUDYING IN A SCHOOL LOCATED AT ANTAKYA'S DISADVANTAGED NEIGHBORHOODS — AN AREA SEVERELY AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE.

As Adana Güney Rotary Club, we have visited students studying in a school located at Antakya's disadvantaged neighborhoods — an area severely affected by the earthquake.

During our visit, we have determined that a water tank in an education and art center which is run by a local association had been damaged.

To ensure that the center can continue its activities under healthy, hygienic, and clean conditions, we have provided a new, clean water tank.

Because we are aware that water is life, and every child has the right to access clean water.

We hope that this little touch will turn into great hopes. We will continue to support children living and studying in these disadvantaged areas.

Receiving photos of the children smiling in front of the new water tank, as a way of thanking us, has brought us priceless happiness.

Tolga Taşkın
Adana Güney Rotary Club
President



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

SEYHAN ROTARY CLUB: “I’M GOING TO ATATÜRK” PROJECT COMPLETED

A Meaningful Visit from the Seyhan Rotary Club: “I’m Going to Atatürk” Project Completed

The Adana Seyhan Rotary Club has successfully completed one of the most special projects of its 2025–2026 term, marking its 50th anniversary — the “I’m Going to Atatürk” project. Under the term’s theme, “Let’s Unite for Good,” the club proudly fulfilled its mission of visiting the Great Leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and taking young people who had not yet had the chance to visit Anıtkabir, the mausoleum of Atatürk.

In collaboration with the club’s pride, Seyhan Rotary Anatolian High School, and under the leadership of term president Ömer Gökçe and the board of directors, the project brought together 167 students and 8 teachers. With the participation of Seyhan Rotaract Club members and Rotarians, a total of 185 participants took part in the trip. Before visiting Anıtkabir, the students also had the opportunity to tour Middle East Technical University (METU) and Hacettepe University.

As part of the visit, a wreath was laid at Atatürk’s Mausoleum, and a moment of silence was observed in his honor. Members of the Seyhan Rotary Club once again expressed their deep love, respect, and gratitude to the founder of the Republic of Türkiye, Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

Reaffirming their strong commitment to the values of the Republic, the Seyhan Rotary Club emphasized their determination to continue advancing on the path of modern civilization shown by Atatürk, to instill these values in younger generations, and to keep working devotedly for the future of the country.

With respect, remembrance, and gratitude...



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ADANA GÜNEY ROTARY CLUB AND THE ADANA KOZA ROTARY CLUB "I'M GOING TO ATATÜRK" PROJECT

As part of the "I'm Going to Atatürk" project, our middle and high school students from the Adana Child Protection Agency, in collaboration with the Adana Güney Rotary Club and the Adana Koza Rotary Club, toured Anıtkabir, the National Struggle Museum, the First and Second Parliament Buildings, the MTA Nature Museum, and Ankara Castle.

It was a source of pride to be in Ankara and the presence of Atatürk for the first time.

It was a meaningful journey for these children, a chance to learn about our history and the foundations of our Republic.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

OUR BOLU PARENT-CHILD CAMP ENDED WITH UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES

Our journey, which began with the motto “Together in Nature, Our Hearts Closer,” was filled with rich experiences for both our children and us, the parents.

In the heart of nature, between games, workshops, conversations, and shared moments, we experienced the joy of laughing, creating, and discovering together. At times, we shared stories around the campfire , and at others, we worked side by side with our children in handmade workshops. Love, nature, and unity were present in every moment.

A special thank you goes to our children...

In the mini bazaar we organized for the needs of Çobankaya Primary School, they worked hard, “coming together for kindness,” and achieved great success, raising wonderful funds. The school will now have its own library

I whole heartedly thank all the children who made this day meaningful with their efforts, joy, and sincere dedication

We would like to thank all the participants, volunteers, and supporters who made this beautiful experience possible.

We look forward to meeting at many more wonderful camps together...

Melih Örnekbaş

Rotary 2430th District

2025-2026 President of Bolu Rotary Club



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF
OUR BOLU PARENT-CHILD CAMP ENDED WITH UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES



Bolu
Rotary
Kulübü



İYİLİK
İÇİN
BİRLESİN



Bolu
Rotary
Kulübü



İYİLİK
İÇİN
BİRLESİN



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OUR BOLU PARENT-CHILD CAMP ENDED WITH UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES

Our journey, which began with the motto “Together in Nature, Our Hearts Closer,” was filled with rich experiences for both our children and us, the parents.

In the heart of nature, between games, workshops, conversations, and shared moments, we experienced the joy of laughing, creating, and discovering together. At times, we shared stories around the campfire , and at others, we worked side by side with our children in handmade workshops. Love, nature, and unity were present in every moment.

A special thank you goes to our children...

In the mini bazaar we organized for the needs of Çobankaya Primary School, they worked hard, “coming together for kindness,” and achieved great success, raising wonderful funds. The school will now have its own library

I whole heartedly thank all the children who made this day meaningful with their efforts, joy, and sincere dedication

We would like to thank all the participants, volunteers, and supporters who made this beautiful experience possible.

We look forward to meeting at many more wonderful camps together...

Melih Örnekbaş

Rotary 2430th District

2025-2026 President of Bolu Rotary Club



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF FROM SKILLS TO STRENGTH: A JOURNEY OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AT MERSIN KIZKALESİ ROTARY CLUB

At Mersin Kızkalesi Rotary Club, we believe that true social transformation begins when women are given the opportunity to learn, create, and be seen. On October 6, we visited the Sewing Workshop at Karacaoğlan Public Education Center—a project brought to life during the 2014–2015 Rotary year through Matching Grants initiated by Past Club President Atilla Şahin on behalf of our club.

This workshop is more than a room filled with sewing machines. It is a safe space where disadvantaged women rediscover their confidence, develop new skills, and take the first steps toward economic independence. Before our visit, the machines were repaired, materials were replenished, and the workspace was carefully prepared—because every woman who walks through those doors deserves not just a tool, but a chance.

During the visit, we were honored to be joined by our 2025–2026 District 2430 Governor L. Can Çığırhan and his spouse Suar, District Secretary for Club Service Projects Özge Yalçın, Assistant Governor for Group 17 Clubs Ali Özcan, Assistant Governor for Group 16 Clubs Nihal Yücesoy, as well as our esteemed members and their spouses.

We observed the beautifully handcrafted products of the trainees and listened to the stories behind each stitch. What we witnessed was more than craftsmanship—it was courage, resilience, and solidarity. In this workshop, women are not only producing; they are rebuilding their lives and supporting one another with pride and dignity.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Director of Karacaoğlan Public Education Center, Mr. Faik Sözer, to the dedicated instructors, and to all Rotary friends who walked this path with us and welcomed us with warm hospitality.

Yet, empowerment is not only about economic opportunity—it is also about health, awareness, and the ability to protect one's future.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF FROM SKILLS TO STRENGTH: A JOURNEY OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AT MERSIN KIZKALESİ ROTARY CLUB

Early Diagnosis Saves Lives: Awareness for a Healthier Tomorrow

Continuing our mission to support and uplift women, we organized the “Early Diagnosis Saves Lives” seminar with the participation of the trainees from Karacaoğlan Public Education Center. Because we know that a woman who is informed is a woman who is empowered—and awareness can be the difference between fear and hope.

During the seminar, Prof. Dr. Candan Öztürk delivered an insightful presentation on Breast Cancer, and Opr. Dr. Aslı Bilekdemir provided essential information on Cervical Cancer and HPV Awareness.

With remarkable participation, the session became more than a lecture—it became a moment of unity, courage, and realization. Together, we learned that early detection is not just a medical concept; it is an act of self-love, protection, and survival.

We sincerely thank our esteemed physicians for their invaluable contributions, our Governor L. Can Çığırman and his spouse Suar Çığırman, District Secretary Özge Yalçın, Assistant Governors Ali Özcan and Nihal Yücesoy, and all our Rotary friends and participants who supported this meaningful initiative.

As Mersin Kızkalesi Rotary Club, we remain committed to standing beside women—teaching new skills, creating opportunities, raising awareness, and building a future where every woman has the strength to rise, lead, and thrive.

President of Mersin Kızkalesi Rotary Club
Filiz Derkuş Kaplancık & Aydın



**THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF
LEND YOUR VOICE, SHOW THE WORLD!" – ACCESSIBLE AUDIO BOOK
STUDIOS FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED
ANKARA YILDIZ ROTARY CLUB**

Ankara Yıldız Rotary Club brings literature to life for the visually impaired.

In an inspiring initiative under Rotary's focus area of Basic Education and Literacy, the District 2430 Ankara Yıldız Rotary Club has launched "Lend Your Voice: Accessible Audio Book Archives for the Visually Impaired."

The project established two 2.5m x 2.5m recording studios equipped with professional ventilation, light, sound insulation, acoustic panels, and computers. These compact soundproof booths offer volunteers a comfortable, accessible space to record books for the Turkish Foundation for the Blind's digital library.

Each recording is supervised by trained coordinators to ensure consistent quality and professional audio standards. By providing these facilities, Ankara Yıldız Rotary Club replaces low-quality home recordings with sustainable, publishable archives that promote inclusion and lifelong learning.

The initiative also enhances digital literacy for volunteers, who learn audio-editing and uploading skills, while visually impaired individuals gain broader access to literature and educational materials.

Special focus is given to students preparing for university entrance exams, ensuring that essential study materials are available in audio form.

The project's official opening took place on October 18, marking a proud milestone in community collaboration and accessibility.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

As Adana Güney Rotary Club, we carried out a meaningful event in Antakya, Defne.

- Dr. Nida Terkuran gave a presentation on “Preventing Substance Addiction.”
- Clinical Psychologist Fulya Özbilen spoke about “The Invisible Side of Motherhood / Seeing the Unseen.”
- Psychologist Aylin Özkan shared her talk titled “Healing Hearts.”

We reached out to 65 children living in container cities, providing them with winter clothing and bringing smiles to their faces.

Together we healed, together we grew stronger.

Tolga Taşkın

President, Adana Güney Rotary Club



CONTACT US!

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

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

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