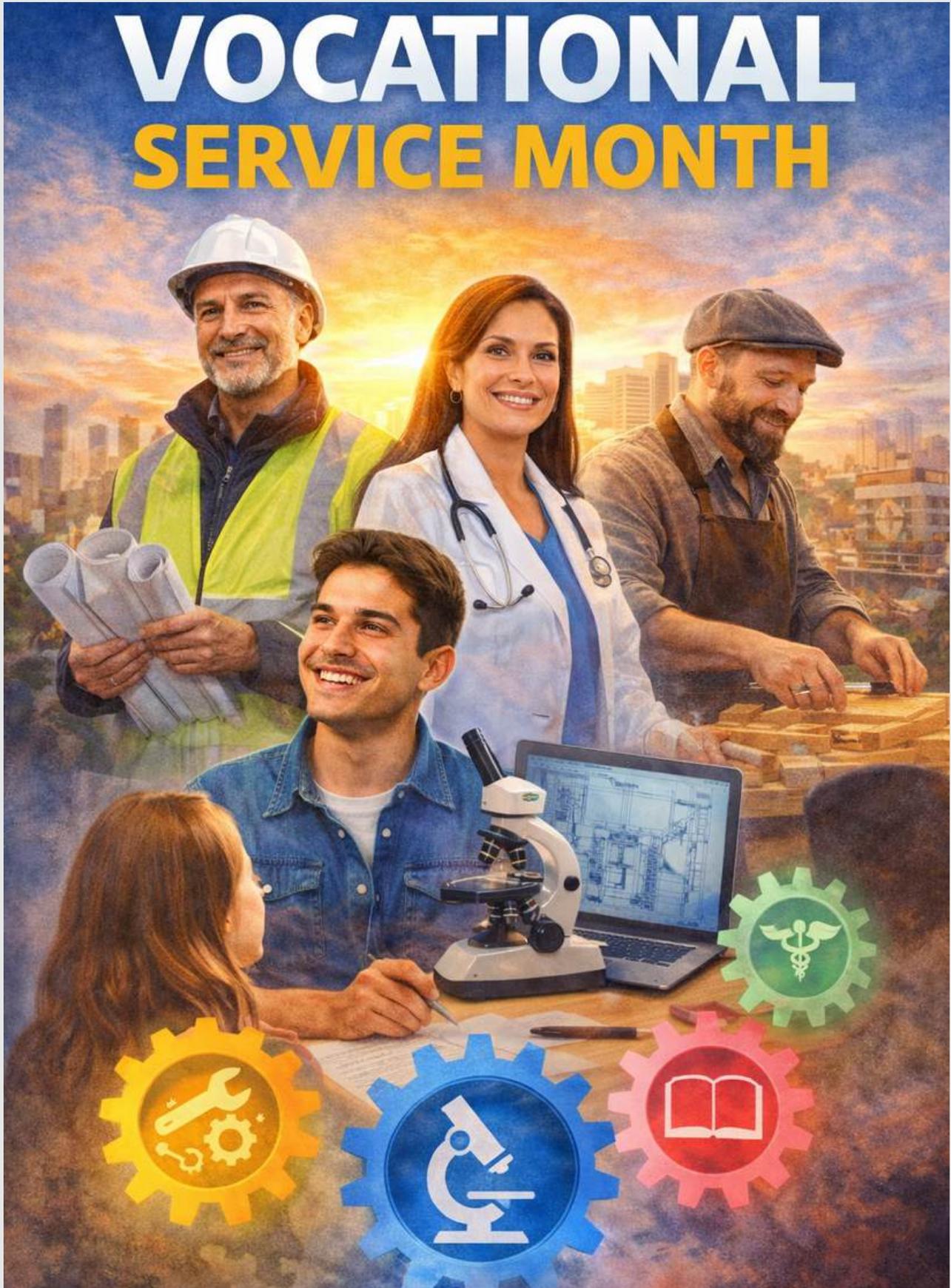




VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH



VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

January arrives like a quiet invitation — to pause, to look inward, and to rediscover the purpose that lives within our professions. Vocational Service Month is not just about careers or skills; it is about the stories that shaped us, the lessons that moulded us, and the passions that guide us forward.

Every Rotarian carries a vocation, yet no two journeys look the same. Some of us built our lives through craft and discipline. Others through innovation, compassion, resolve, or restless curiosity. What unites us is the belief that talent becomes meaningful when it is shared — and that knowledge becomes powerful when it lifts someone else.

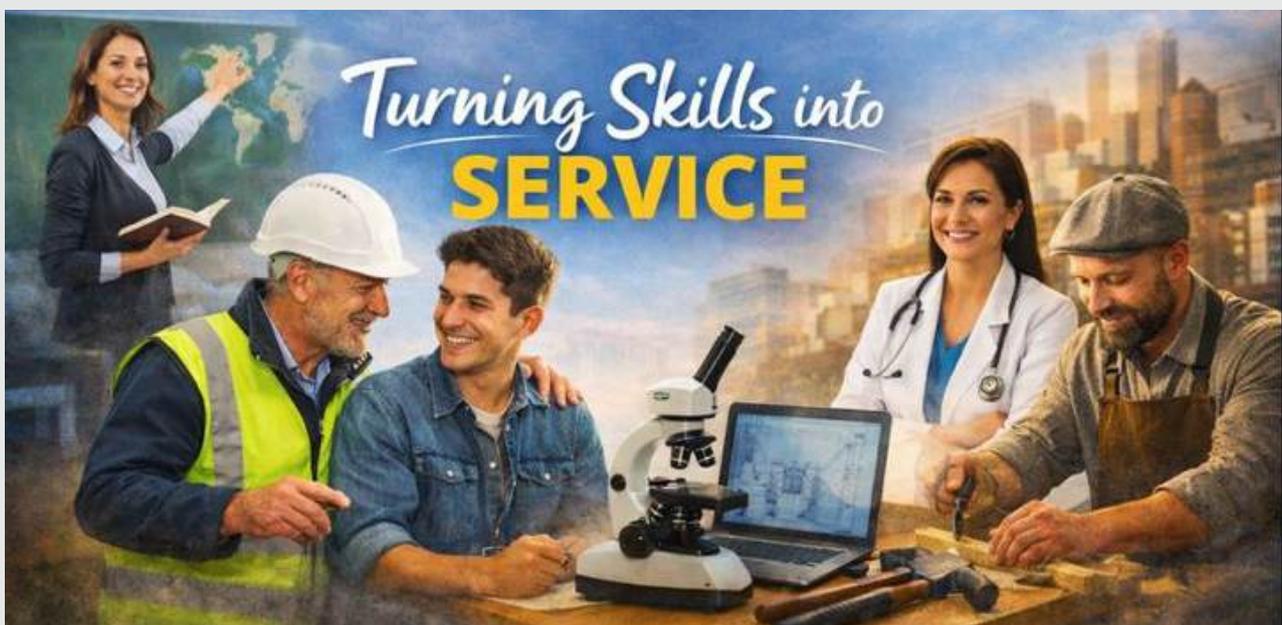
Throughout Zone 21, we see this truth every day. A young person, uncertain of their path, finds clarity because a Rotarian listened. An entrepreneur dares to dream because someone offered guidance rather than judgement. A student discovers they are capable of more than they imagined because a mentor believed in them. These moments do not simply improve communities — they shape destinies.

Ethics remain the compass at the heart of Vocational Service. The Four-Way Test is not merely recited; it is lived. It reminds us that integrity is not an achievement, but a practice. And in an age where trust is fragile, Rotary's commitment to fairness and truth becomes a quiet act of courage.

Yet the deeper calling of Vocational Service is transformational. It asks: What do you hold that the world needs? It challenges us to turn ability into opportunity, and experience into empowerment. It whispers that each of us — regardless of background or profession — has something irreplaceable to offer.

As we step into a new year, may Vocational Service Month awaken our sense of possibility. Let us mentor boldly, serve generously, and lead with integrity. Let us be the hands that guide, the voices that encourage, and the hearts that believe.

For when talent meets purpose, service becomes legacy. And that is the quiet, enduring power of Rotary.





FRANCESCO AREZZO
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT
RY 2025-2026

More than job training

In a garage outside Salinas, California, young people who are learning to restore classic cars are doing more than developing a skill — they are reclaiming their futures. This training program provides mentorship and, for some, a path away from gang involvement toward meaningful employment. Graduates leave with certifications, practical experience, and hope. This is what Rotary’s Vocational Service Month celebrates each January — the power of bringing together people with unique skills to do good in the world. It reminds us that integrity isn’t just about our actions matching our words. Integrity is in everything we do.

The California automotive program has been such a success because it was built on integrity. Members of the Rotary Club of Carmel-by-the-Sea didn’t assume they knew what the community needed. They listened. They learned there was a shortage of skilled mechanics as well as a large number of young people lacking job training. They recognized that technical skills alone wouldn’t be enough, so they partnered with Rancho Cielo, a nonprofit offering counseling and support services alongside vocational training. That is The Four-Way Test in action. Those four simple questions help us not judge others but guide us toward genuine, effective service.

Consider our commitment to ending polio. For nearly 40 years, we have promised the world’s children we will eliminate this disease. Despite obstacles, we persist, and today we are closer to defeating the virus. Keeping this promise is the very definition of integrity. The same integrity must drive our vocational service. With 1.2 billion young people in emerging economies reaching working age in the next decade and only 420 million jobs projected, we face a critical gap. Communities long excluded from economic opportunities need our support.

But support doesn’t mean imposing our will. It means listening to local needs, building partnerships, and designing projects that communities can sustain themselves.

You have knowledge that can transform lives. Whatever your profession, your expertise combined with Rotary’s values creates lasting change. The question isn’t whether you have something to offer, it’s how you’ll use your skills to serve.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE - JANUARY

This January, I encourage you to ask how your club can address vocational needs in your community. What skills do your members have that could change someone's life? How can your networks open doors for young people? What partnerships can create sustainable jobs?

Let integrity guide you. Let The Four-Way Test light your path. And let the young people in California and the multitudes worldwide who need job skills remind you why vocational service matters.

Let us celebrate putting our professional skills to work for humanity with integrity at the heart of everything we do.



2026-27 ROTARY PRESIDENT, OLAYINKA HAKEEM BABALOLA

THE GAME CHANGER

MEET YOUR 2026-27 ROTARY PRESIDENT, OLAYINKA HAKEEM BABALOLA

Olayinka “Yinka” Hakeem Babalola is sitting on the wrong side of his desk, staring at the tiny squares on the laptop perched in front of him. He’s just finished speaking on a call with 300 Rotaractors from the African continent and other parts of the world, Rotary’s president-elect explains as he turns down the volume. “They held a celebration for me because I’m a past Rotaractor,” he says. By seeing Babalola, himself once in their shoes, embarking on the highest position in Rotary, who knows how many of the 300 he will inspire. It’s early October, less than two months since the Rotary International Board of Directors selected Babalola to lead Rotary, in a special session in late August after the resignation of RI President-elect SangKoo Yun, who died shortly after, following months of cancer treatment.

It’s only the second trip to Rotary headquarters for Babalola, of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi in Nigeria, since his selection. His office is nearly empty, void so far of all the gifts Rotary leaders tend to accumulate during their travels as an incoming president.



Image credit: Monika Lozinska

While he’s new to the position, he has a long history with Rotary, starting as a Rotaractor in 1984 and then as a Rotarian in 1994. “One thing is for certain, preparing me for this role are my many years of engaging with Rotary” — over four decades, he says. “Not many people who get to this position have that privilege.”

In that time, he’s served not only as RI vice president and a member of the RI Board of Directors but also as an active leader and participant in RI committees such as the [End Polio Now](#) Countdown to History Campaign Committee and the [Nigeria PolioPlus Committee](#). Babalola was a trustee of [ShelterBox](#). His Rotary honors include the Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World, the Service Above Self Award, and a Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service. He and his wife, Preba, a member of the Rotary Club of Port Harcourt Passport, are Arch Klumph Society members.

THE GAME CHANGER

MEET YOUR 2026-27 ROTARY PRESIDENT, OLAYINKA HAKEEM BABALOLA

That's all on top of his professional life. He worked for 25 years in the oil and gas industry, holding senior positions with Shell. He is the founder of two companies: Riviera Technical Services Ltd., an oil and gas infrastructure delivery company, and Lead and Change Consulting, an executive coaching and organizational performance advisory group. Rotary magazine senior staff writer Diana Schoberg sat down with Babalola to find out more about the president-elect.

He was inspired to join Rotary because of something he saw on TV.

On summer break between his last year of high school and his first year of college, Babalola was hanging out at home watching TV when a well-dressed man on the screen caught his eye. The man was wearing all white, and "his English was something else," Babalola recalls. Curious, he listened more closely. The man was talking about Rotary. "It was the first time I heard anything about Rotary," Babalola says. "Like with most TV interviews, it probably lasted one or two minutes, but he made an impression on me." Fast forward to Babalola's second year at the university, when the school's public image director, a member of the Rotary Club of Bauchi, approached him with a proposal: Would Babalola like to help organize a Rotaract club at the school? "I still tell people I have no idea why he approached me," Babalola says. He recalled the well-spoken man in white and asked if the director was somehow connected. It turns out the director knew the man on TV, who was the past district governor. Babalola was sold on the connection and went on to become the Rotaract club's charter president.

He met his wife at a Rotaract meeting.

After finishing up his university education, Babalola moved to Port Harcourt and joined the community-based Rotaract Club of Trans Amadi. At one event, he recalls noticing a beautiful woman, the president of a university-based club. He pointed her out to a friend and said, "That's the one." He was right.

But Yinka and Preba aren't the only members of their family who have been involved in Rotary. Their oldest daughter was the charter president of the Interact club at her secondary school. She moved to North America for college and today belongs to the Rotary Club of Winnipeg in Manitoba. Another daughter was the president of her university's Rotaract club.

THE GAME CHANGER

MEET YOUR 2026-27 ROTARY PRESIDENT, OLAYINKA HAKEEM BABALOLA

His nickname is “the game changer.”

Babalola served as district governor in 2011-12 while employed by Shell, a multinational energy company. This was unlike his predecessors, who were either retired or running their own businesses while they held that role. He knew things had to change for him to be successful.

At his first meeting with the assistant governors and committee chairs, he asked them to include what would be the “game changer” in their proposals: how they used to do things, and how their approach would change going forward. “If they have no answer,” he says, “the proposal is thrown away. They need to present it again.

“It occurred to people that this guy actually wants something different,” he continues. “I’m called the game changer, but the ideas that changed the game were not mine.”



President-elect Olayinka Hakeem Babalola stands outside Rotary’s headquarters building with Rotary Foundation Trustee Martha Peak Helman and RI Vice President Alain Van de Poel.

Image credit: Monika Lozinska

He raised \$80,000 with a text message.

Part of Babalola’s effort to make changes as district governor involved his use of technology. On 1 November, the start of Rotary Foundation Month, he woke up around 3 a.m. and sent a request to a district group on a BlackBerry messaging app asking everyone on the platform to give something to the Foundation that day, no matter how small. Then he went back to sleep. When he woke up a few hours later, he made his own donation and posted the evidence. Within a few hours, the group had raised \$80,000. “Usually, you would gather people together, you’d talk to them, and ask for it,” he says. “But with technology, you could ask virtually.”

That year, every club throughout the district gave something to the Foundation. The nearly \$1 million raised was, he says, the highest amount ever from a district on the African continent for The Rotary Foundation.

THE GAME CHANGER

MEET YOUR 2026-27 ROTARY PRESIDENT, OLAYINKA HAKEEM BABALOLA

He wishes he had more time to go scuba diving.

Babalola is certified to dive to 30 meters and has done some diving in the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, and the Atlantic. He's looking forward to someday diving in Hurghada, a resort city on Egypt's Red Sea coast that's known for its marine life, iconic wrecks, and high visibility in the water. "The reefs are wonderful," he says.

He also enjoys other outdoor pursuits including swimming, gardening, and bird-watching. One of the most interesting birds he's seen is the Ibadan malimbe, a rare songbird with bright red feathers around its head and face that is found only near his hometown.

The 2026-27 presidential message is Create Lasting Impact.

If you need it, here's a refresher on Rotary's vision statement: "Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves." This Rotary year, Babalola explains, RI has been focusing on that first word, "together," through the message Unite for Good. In 2026-27, members will tackle the next part of the vision statement: creating change that lasts.

Lasting change across the globe is an easy idea for most Rotary members to understand, he says. "They can give you examples: our polio eradication work, our peace centers, global grants," he says. "When you talk about lasting change in communities, they know because they do things in their own communities. But each time I've been in a gathering of Rotarians and asked them about lasting change in themselves, usually the room goes quiet."



THE GAME CHANGER

MEET YOUR 2026-27 ROTARY PRESIDENT, OLAYINKA HAKEEM BABALOLA

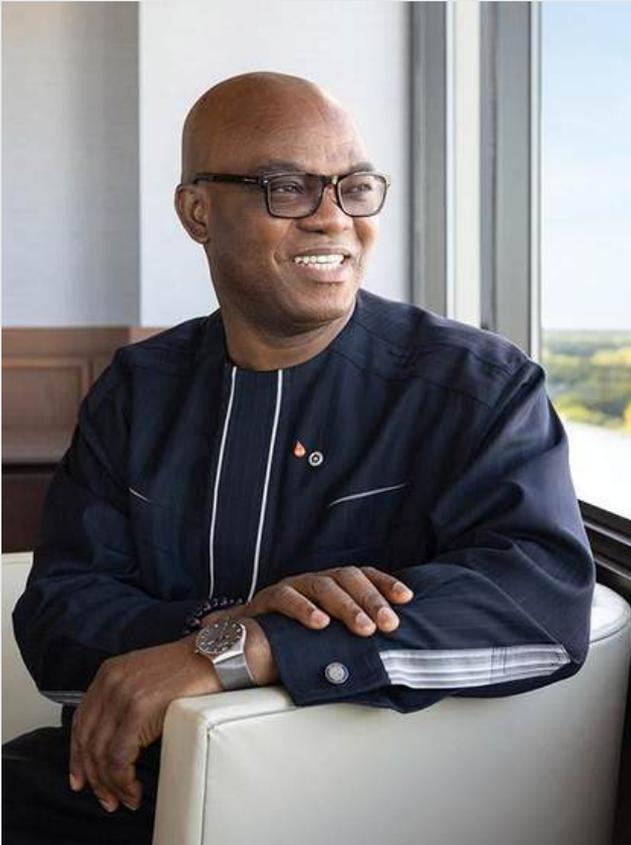


Image credit: Monika Lozinska

He thinks a key to growing Rotary is realizing the effect it has on you.

While members can and should measure the impact of a project, Babalola wants to see that idea flipped, too. “How has doing all of that impacted you?”

He can clearly see how Rotary has changed his own life. “I had a privileged upbringing — a good education in a place where many did not have that opportunity,” he says. “Rotary grounded me. It pulled me out of my privileged world and put me in touch with the realities of my community.”

Many Rotary members have their own stories about how their membership has changed their lives for the better, how it humbled them or brought them closer to their fellow human beings. Babalola encourages them to share those stories.

“If we are going to grow this organization, we must let people understand how membership can make a lasting impact on their own lives,” he says. “That’s one of the things I’m hoping that I can help communicate.”

Rotary made him a diplomat.

As a Rotary director in 2018-20, Babalola represented more than 80 Rotary countries and geographical areas — over a third of the Rotary world — including countries in Africa (where at least 1,000 languages are spoken), the Middle East, and parts of Europe. The zones he represented included politically sensitive areas such as Israel, Lebanon, Ukraine, and Afghanistan. “There are certain skills you end up building,” he says.

For example, at a Rotary institute he convened in Egypt, he received a phone call from a senior government official about a map of Africa used at the event. The map, which he’d found on the internet, showed Western Sahara as a separate country, which Morocco does not recognize. Egypt supports the position of Morocco. “That kind of situation brings a certain awareness straight to you,” he says.

He’s the second president from Africa.

“It means a lot for the people of that continent,” he says. And, he adds, everyone seems ready to do the work to support him. “I’m used to delivering results. We need to deliver results,” he says. That’s what he’s been preaching at the Rotary institutes he’s attended. “I’ve told them, stop talking about things. Just do it. If it works somewhere, copy it shamelessly. Don’t be afraid to fail — be afraid not to try.”

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN ORLANDO

The Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair-elect Jennifer Jones' speech at the International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA.

Ravishankar, Paola — on behalf of The Rotary Foundation and the countless lives this gift will touch, thank you.

Your generosity is not just transformational — it's visionary.

It tells the world that service, compassion, and bold action still lead the way. And it reminds all of us here that when humble generosity meets vision, the impossible becomes possible.

Ladies and gentlemen, once again, a big round of applause for Ravi and Paola.

Today, I want to speak about gratitude — not just as a feeling, but as a force. A force that moves people to act, to give, and to change the world. There is no better moment than this one to reflect on its power.

The Rotary Foundation is more than just an organization to me. It is a heartbeat, a force of change that turns hope into reality. We witness the undeniable power of service, the way compassion ripples across communities, breaking barriers and lifting lives. Rotary is not just a movement. It's a family, united by empathy and the belief that kindness is an action.

As Rotary leaders, we often focus (and rightly so) on strategy, service, and stewardship. Today, I want to lean into something quieter and yet just as powerful: gratitude.

Every thank-you note, every phone call, every story shared is a way to say to our donors, you matter. Your gift matters. And together, we're making a difference.

My friends, each year we set a comprehensive fundraising goal — one that includes our gifts to our Annual Fund, our Endowment Fund, and our PolioPlus Fund. I am pleased to share with you that our goal for 2026-27 is US\$500 million. While this is an ambitious goal, we know that we can achieve it. We did it last year. And I think we got a little bit of a kick start (nod to Ravishankar) this afternoon.

Let's talk specifically about PolioPlus. This is where each of us can make a tangible difference.

Here's my personal challenge to you: Mentor five clubs in your district that have never hosted a polio fundraising event. Help them create one. When each of those clubs raises just US\$1,500, that amount is matched 2-to-1 by the Gates Foundation, turning it into \$4,500. That's real leverage. That's real impact. And with your leadership, it brings us closer to our \$50 million annual PolioPlus goal.

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN ORLANDO

The Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair-elect Jennifer Jones' speech at the International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA.

Tonight, as we gather for our polio Deliver on the Promise Dinner, I know we'll be inspired. Inspired by stories of progress. Inspired by the passion in this room. And inspired by the knowledge that with just a bit more effort — and a lot more gratitude — we can reach our goals and change the world.

In late December of 2021, as president-elect, I had to take part in the easiest hard decision I ever made: to hold the 2022 International Assembly as a virtual-only event due to COVID-19.

The omicron variant was spreading fast, and gathering global leaders wasn't just risky — it was irresponsible.

I had a good cry, as did many of the governors-elect, whose bags were already being packed.

One of those leaders was Debbie. Fast-forward to May 1st of the following year, when Debbie was two days away from hosting her district conference, an event she was really excited about — and another she would not attend.

Debbie and her husband, Russell, were driving down a busy two-lane highway in North Carolina when a car in the oncoming lane suddenly veered across the center line, heading straight for them.

Russell, an experienced drag racer even at 80 years old, had seconds to decide. To the left: a line of cars. To the right: a ditch and a concrete culvert. He gripped the wheel, held his lane, and prayed.

The car hit them head-on. The driver lost her life. Debbie and Russell survived.

And then, as Debbie shared with me, blessings began to reveal themselves.

An off-duty state trooper had been trailing the reckless driver. He witnessed the crash, and within minutes, ambulances were on the scene. At the hospital, he told Russell that, had he swerved left, they would've collided with another car, possibly killing everyone involved. That car had a grandmother and two small children inside.

Another miracle: an orthopedic nurse happened to be in the line of cars. She saw Debbie's arm — broken, bone protruding — and calmly reset it with a stick and Russell's belt. The hospital said her quick action made all the difference.

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN ORLANDO

The Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair-elect Jennifer Jones' speech at the International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA.

Debbie missed her district conference. She endured pain and recovery. But through it all, she saw the hand of grace. And today, she and Russell remain committed to service. She told me that giving to The Rotary Foundation gives them immense joy and they have recently established the Russell and Debbie Doby Endowment Fund for their district — knowing that, even in tragedy, lives can be saved, and hope can be restored.

Their generous gift is at the Arch Klumph Society level, and today, during this session, we celebrate their official installation into the Arch Klumph Society. Please join me in welcoming and sharing gratitude with Debbie and Russell.

I also want to share with you today the story of Moh Eid.

Moh was formerly a humanitarian response specialist for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in Palestine and now serves as a program officer for the Rotary Peace Centers, supporting peace fellows at Makerere University in Uganda and Bahçeşehir University in Türkiye.

He is also an engaged member of the Evanston Lighthouse Rotary Club, which meets at our international headquarters.

Last May, I read a social media post from Moh.

He shared the heartbreaking loss of his brother Ibrahim, a humanitarian aid worker, killed alongside a colleague who worked for the Red Cross. Ibrahim was devoted to helping victims of war, even after sustaining an injury the previous year.

Allow me to share an excerpt of his social media post:

Just like that, my family lost our brother.

But I'm holding to a special memory, three years ago I was in Türkiye for work, and he was in Jordan for work too.

We made plans for him to come and spend time together in Istanbul. I didn't know that would be the last time I'd see him in person. But I'm grateful it happened. I'm grateful for the memories we made!

Thank you, Ibrahim, for 32 years of love, fun, childhood wrestles that I wish I won less of them, and countless adventures. I'm grateful for the wonderful soul you were in this world. May you rest in peace, Habibi!

These words spoke to me. They showcase that we are all the same regardless of language, culture, or country. We all want the same things for our families — love and peace.

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN ORLANDO

The Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair-elect Jennifer Jones' speech at the International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA.

As Rotary members, we stand united in fostering peace, not just through words, but through action.

Today, I want to share with you a very special action, one created by Chuck and Stocking. Chuck is a member of the Rotary Club of Toledo, Ohio, USA.

Deeply moved by Moh's loss, Chuck decided he wanted to find a way to support his friend. In doing so, he has created the Ibrahim Eid fund to support peace fellows at the Makerere peace center in Kampala, Uganda. Chuck's goal is for this to be a million dollar fund, and a few weeks ago, they personally made the first gift of \$100,000.

My friends, please help me extend immense gratitude to Moh Eid, Chuck, and Carol Stocking.

Peacebuilding is at the core of our programs, embedded in every initiative and program and project supported by The Rotary Foundation. We strive to create environments where peace can flourish and build cycles of impact that sustain change.

Every day, through the work of our Foundation, lives are spared, hearts are lifted, and communities are strengthened. Rotary is not divided; we are one, united in the pursuit of a better future for all.

Find your passion within the Foundation's programs. Whether it's health, clean water, education, environmental relief, or peace, each effort contributes to a world where kindness prevails.

I want to leave you with one final story.

Some time ago, I was visiting my brother. We went shopping one afternoon, and the only thing I wanted to purchase was a gratitude journal. This was a trend a few years ago, where you would write down three things a day that you were grateful for — the premise being that it helped you to manifest the power of positive thinking. I thought this was a good thing.

We were in a lovely little boutique when I found "my book." Very quietly, I said to my husband, "This is my gratitude journal." I looked around a bit more and then went up to the counter to pay. I watched as the clerk went down to one end of the counter and took out this beautiful tissue paper and carefully wrapped the book.

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN ORLANDO

The Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair-elect Jennifer Jones' speech at the International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA.

He then went to the other end of the counter, where he found a blue box with gold lines all over the top. He finished it off with an elaborate ribbon and then came forward to give it to me.

He said, "I couldn't help but overhear what you said — that this is going to be your gratitude journal. I want to be your first entry in your book. I want you to write that the man that sold me this book made it an even more beautiful experience." He is indeed the first entry.

Governors-elect and partners, when you arrive in your breakout rooms in just a few moments, you will find a personal gift from President-elect Yinka and myself — a gratitude journal and note cards. And tonight, you will receive an email with a two-page gratitude toolkit. This kit contains sample gratitude language and best practices for emails, calls, personal notes, and much more.

At Rotary, gratitude isn't just a gesture. It's a reflection of our values. When we thank our donors, we honor their belief in a better world and recognize their role in making it possible.

Let me close by sharing what will be the three entries in my own gratitude journal today.

The first, with gratitude to Ravishankar and Paola for your life-altering gift and, most importantly, for your generous and kind hearts.

The second entry, with gratitude to Debbie and Russell for your bravery, perseverance, and your profound love of Rotary.

And the third, in gratitude to Moh, Chuck, and Carol. Moh for your beautiful brother. And Chuck and Carol for being healing humans.

My friends, I will be forever grateful to walk this journey with each of you. Because when we lead with gratitude, we don't just raise funds — we raise hope.

Let gratitude be our compass. It fuels purpose, deepens fellowship, and strengthens the legacy we build together.



N. ALTAN ARSLAN
PP 2005-2006 RC ANKARA KIZILAY
PDG 2018-2019 D2430
RPIC 2023-2026 ZONE 21B

January – Creating Hope Through Our Professions

January holds a special place in the Rotary calendar. It is the month when we focus on Vocational Service and remember that our professions are powerful tools for service. In Rotary, our work is not only how we earn a living. It is how we build trust, show integrity, and serve our communities with dignity and care.

During Vocational Service Month, Rotary Clubs all around the world organize meetings, visits, and ceremonies. Through these activities, we say thank you to professionals who lead by example, who respect ethical values, and who use their knowledge to make life better for others. These moments remind us that every profession, when guided by honesty and compassion, can become a source of hope.

This month also invites each of us to stop for a moment and reflect. In Rotary, this reflection is guided by the Four-Way Test, which helps us measure our thoughts, words, and actions in our professional and personal lives. We ask ourselves:

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

The Four-Way Test is not only a set of questions. It is a daily guide that helps us make ethical decisions, build trust in our professions, and strengthen our communities. When we follow this test, our work becomes more meaningful and our service becomes more impactful.

The same spirit was clearly felt at the **International Assembly in Orlando**, where all **District Governor Elects** came together. Under the leadership of **RI President-Elect Yinka Babalola**, the Assembly became a place of learning, sharing, and inspiration. It was not only about plans and programs, but also about values, vision, and purpose.

ZONE 21B ROTARY PUBLIC IMAGE COORDINATOR MESSAGE

For the 2026–27 Rotary Year, President-Elect Yinka Babalola shared a strong and simple message with all of us:

“Create Lasting Impact.”

This message encourages us to think beyond short-term results. It asks us to focus on actions that continue to make a difference long after a project is completed. Lasting impact means changing lives in a way that truly lasts.

We know from experience that lasting impact does not always come from big projects. Sometimes it starts with a small step taken in the field, a kind word, a professional decision made with ethics, or a service activity done with care. These small steps can change the future of a child, strengthen a family, or bring hope to an entire community.

With this understanding, our excitement is growing as we prepare for the **Public Image & Polio Awareness Summit**, which will take place in **Adana from 12 to 15 March**. This summit brings together Rotary leaders, Public Image professionals, and Polio advocates from different regions. Many inspiring speakers have already confirmed that they will join us in Adana, ready to share their experiences and knowledge.

The summit will be an important opportunity to strengthen Rotary’s public image and to communicate our Polio story more clearly and more strongly. While the world celebrates the results of the fight against Polio, it is our responsibility to ensure that Rotary’s role in this historic success is well understood. At the same time, we must continue to raise awareness until Polio is fully eradicated.

We believe that **hope grows when it is shared, and impact becomes lasting when it is created together**. By using the power of our professions, our communication skills, and our Rotary values, we can inspire others and build a better future.

As we move forward with excitement and hope, let us remember that each of us has a role to play. Through our professions, our service, and our commitment, we can continue to create lasting impact — in our communities and in the world.

Warm Rotary regards,

&

With love and respect,

Rtn. N.Altan Arslan

PP 05-06 Ankara Kızılay RC

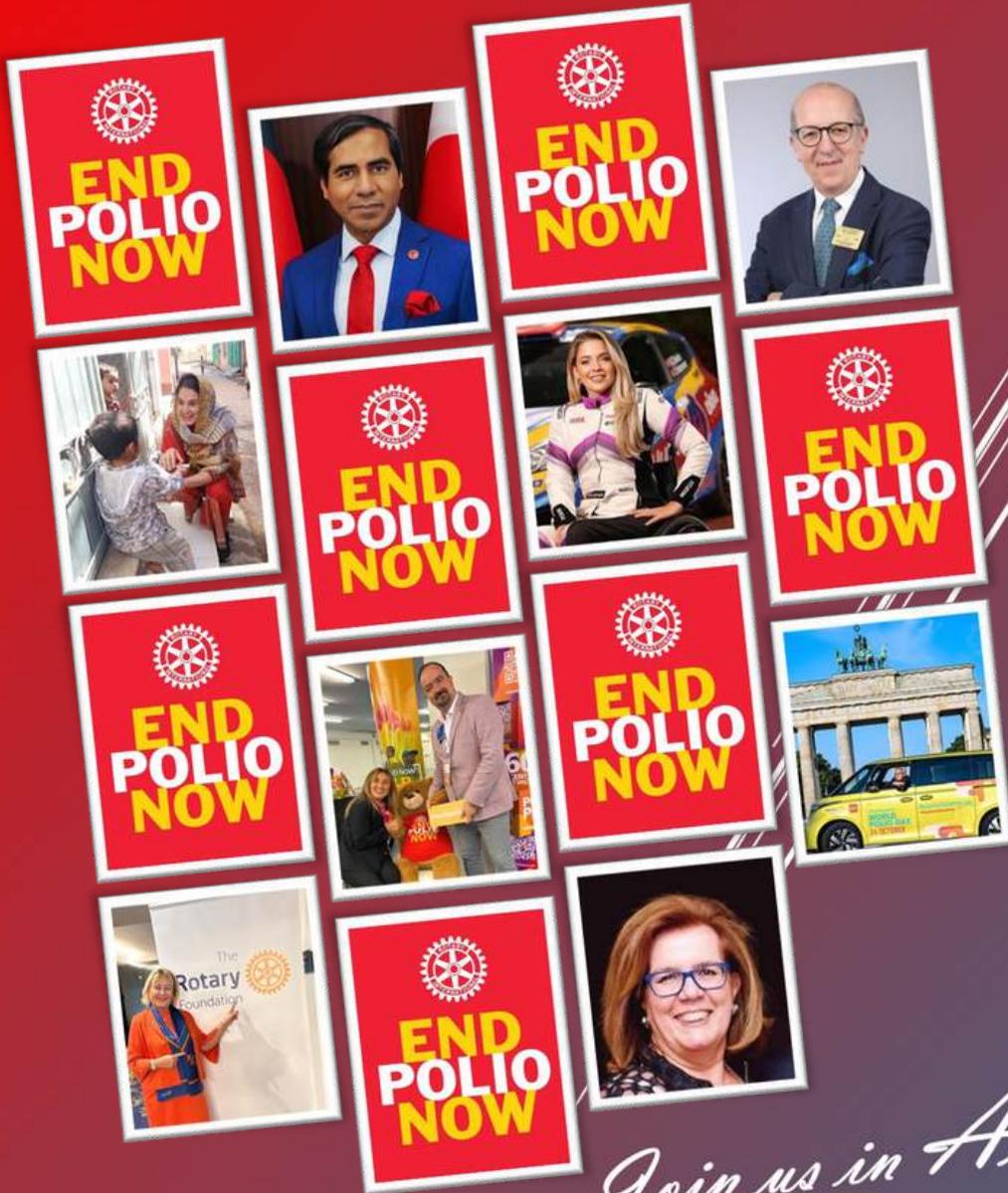
PDG 18-19 D.2430

RPIC 23-26 Region 25

Rotary
Zone 21



Public Image & Polio Awareness Summit
12-15 March 2026, Adana
HOPE . ACTION . IMPACT



Join us in Adana
Go Beyond Your Expectations

Rotary

Zone 21



Building Peace, Inspiring Progress

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Power of Goodness
Video Competition



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



Power of Goodness
Video Competition



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

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Polio Eradication: When a Global Mission Becomes Personal



**H.E. M. AMANUL HAQ,
AMBASSADOR OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH TO
THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE**

When Rotary speaks about polio eradication, it often speaks in numbers—cases reduced by 99.9 percent, millions of volunteers, billions of doses of vaccine delivered. These numbers matter. But for many of us, polio is not just a statistic. It is a lived experience. For me, the fight against polio is deeply personal.

My younger sister was born in Bangladesh in 1975. When she was just three years old, she fell ill. At that time, awareness about polio in Bangladesh was extremely limited, and the disease was not immediately diagnosed. By the time the reality became clear, the damage had already been done. Polio left a permanent mark on her life—and on ours as a family.

She lives with me now. Given the cultural and social make up of Bangladesh societies, it is difficult for a polio patient to think about a life of her own. This fact has given me the realization that behind every polio case, there is a life, which could have been developed otherwise. The world has come a long way since 1975. However, we must continue our efforts to take it further. As a brother, I have seen what happens when it comes too late. Polio eradication lies at the intersection of these two realities—policy and compassion, strategy and humanity.

As a diplomat, I have seen how international cooperation can change destinies. We need sustained global cooperation to eradicate polio and Rotary's unwavering commitment stands as one of the powerful examples in this regard. A believer of 'international cooperation as an effective tool' to deal with cases such as polio, which affects the humanity as a whole, I feel honored to be invited to join the Zone 21 Public Image & Polio Awareness Summit in Adana, from 12 to 15 March 2026, as a Guest of Honor.

Zero Polio is our goal, which is yet to be achieved. However, we all know that the task is not easy. Most important is the last stride towards touching that cherished goal of ours. Knowing the pattern of work of Rotarians, I do believe that they would keep pushing ahead with their campaign to keep polio eradication high on the agenda through advocacy, awareness building, fundraising and partnerships with national and international entities.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Polio Eradication: When a Global Mission Becomes Personal

Let me take this opportunity to convey my special thanks to Adana Çukurova Rotary Club under the auspices of President Bülent Yalman and its members along with their spouses for their kind efforts to make this event a success. I would be amiss not to express my sincere appreciation to Rtn. Ayşegül Atak Yücel, Chair of the Polio Committee of International Rotary District 243, and Rtn. Bekir Turgut, whose dedication and leadership continue to inspire collective action toward a polio-free world.

If my sister had been born a few years later, her story might have been different. Because of Rotary and its partners, millions of children today do have that different story. Now is the time to finish what we started.

Together, we can end polio. Forever.

Rotary  **END POLIO NOW**

*Honorable Guest and Speaker
H.E. M. Amanul Haq,
Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
to the Republic of Türkiye*

*Join us in Adana
Go Beyond Your Expectations*

Rotary  **Zone 21**

**Public Image & Polio Awareness Summit
12-15 March 2026, Adana
HOPE . ACTION . IMPACT**

<https://rotaryadanasummit2026.com> 

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

THE ROTARY FAMILY GATHERING IN ORLANDO AND THE JOURNEY TO CREATING LASTING IMPACT

DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECT DISTRICT 2420 ERDEN GÖKMEN

Excluding the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Rotary International stands out as the world's largest and most widespread NGO. Rotary's global influence is further reinforced by the annual International Assembly held in Orlando, where the Rotary family comes together. At this important gathering, over 500 District Governors, dedicated to service to the community, filled with compassion and impartiality, meet to work towards shared goals. The coming together of such a large community highlights the importance of common purposes and shared values.

From January 11-16, 2026, we, as District 2420, proudly participated in the Assembly in Orlando alongside the Governors of Districts 2430 and 2440, representing our district. The excitement of this large event, attended by approximately 1000 people, deeply affected us. Despite the special emotions we had experienced previously on the occasion of the opening of the Peace Center in our country, this gathering had a different and powerful atmosphere. All participants were united by the enthusiasm that comes from moving towards the same goal and being in solidarity.

Two general sessions were held daily, offering participants the opportunity to listen to valuable speakers and benefit from their experiences. Carefully designed learning programs, case studies, and the sharing of diverse perspectives and problems from other district governors fostered both personal and community development. One of the most significant achievements was the formation of new friendships. Special events such as Polio Night and Culture Night created unforgettable and meaningful moments.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

THE ROTARY FAMILY GATHERING IN ORLANDO AND THE JOURNEY TO CREATING LASTING IMPACT

DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECT DISTRICT 2420 ERDEN GÖKMEN

The spouses of the participants also had a busy schedule during the event. While there's a misconception that they only participated in sightseeing, they, like the Rotarians, followed a full-day program filled with learning and case studies. This once again demonstrates the breadth and strength of the Rotary family. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the spouses for their contributions.

the 1.2 million Rotarians around the world who unite for good and aim to create a lasting impact, embracing communities with the same feeling and mindset, is a great source of pride. Opportunities are being created for new members, we are meeting with donors on shared goals, and we are receiving the necessary training for more peaceful societies, educated individuals, a clean environment, and healthy people. In this regard, preparations are underway to ensure the uninterrupted continuation of Rotary services on July 1, 2026, through the sharing of thoughts and ideas.

I wish success to the new governors and all Rotarian friends. As always, creating a lasting impact is in our hands. For this, it is enough for every Rotarian to work wholeheartedly and with all their might, to be willing, participatory, and inclusive. May we all have a bright future.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

THE ROTARY FAMILY GATHERING IN ORLANDO AND THE JOURNEY TO CREATING LASTING IMPACT

DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECT DISTRICT 2420 ERDEN GÖKMEN



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ORLANDO, JANUARY 11-15
DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECT DISTRICT 2430 ORHAN ULUDAĞ**

As Rotarians who have participated in numerous Rotary meetings at both national and international levels over many years, the International Assembly we were about to attend this time held a very special meaning for us. As the Governors of the three Turkish districts participating in the Assembly, we had completed our preparations days in advance and were eagerly awaiting the moment when we would meet the Governors-elect from all around the world. Beyond the excitement of coming together with all Governors who will serve in the coming Rotary year, the messages to be delivered and the goals to be set for the 2026–2027 term were a matter of great curiosity for all of us.

This Assembly was not merely a meeting where we received information or shared experiences; it was a journey in which we touched the very essence of leadership and deeply felt both the weight and the honor of responsibility. We once again had the opportunity to realize that the role we will carry on our shoulders is not just a title, but a responsibility to guide the efforts, dreams, and expectations of thousands of people. Throughout the Assembly, being under the same roof with hundreds of Rotary leaders from all around the world, and witnessing different languages, cultures, and stories converge around a single common purpose, reminded me once again of this truth: Rotary is far more than an organization. Rotary is the global language of hope.



In his opening address, Rotary International President-elect Olayinka Hakeem Babalola discussed what needs to be done for Rotary to be more effective worldwide, more visible within communities, and stronger in terms of membership profile. During this speech, he also announced his presidential message for the coming year. By declaring “Create Lasting Impact,” he clearly emphasized that the only way to achieve Rotary’s future goals is by touching communities through our projects and services.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ORLANDO, JANUARY 11-15
DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECT DISTRICT 2430 ORHAN ULUDAĞ**

Throughout the Assembly, every session and every shared experience carried a common message: Creating impact requires courage. It requires questioning habits, stepping out of comfort zones, and sometimes making difficult decisions. Yet this is precisely what Rotary leadership is about—not waiting for change but initiating it; enabling our clubs, our members, and our communities to once again ask the question “why.” It is difficult to put into words how excited I felt while listening to these messages. Hearing the similar thoughts and feelings that I have shared with my fellow Rotarians in recent years, regarding Rotary’s role in society and things to be done gave me even greater motivation to turn my plans into action.

The International Assembly also showed me that we are not alone. Every Governor-elect seated around me carried similar excitement, similar concerns, and the same hope for their respective districts. This sense of global solidarity became my greatest source of confidence for the coming year. By learning from one another and supporting each other, we clearly see that we can achieve far greater things together. As I returned to my country and my district from the Assembly, carrying a renewed sense of belief in my heart, along with notes, refreshed plans, and clear goals in mind, my faith in Rotary’s transformative power grew even stronger. My confidence in the potential of our members, the energy of our youth, and the boundless creativity of the Rotary family has deepened.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY ORLANDO, JANUARY 11-15

DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECT DISTRICT 2430 ORHAN ULUDAĞ

The coming year will demand intense effort and, at the same time, great responsibility from all of us. I firmly believe that if we share our vision, think together, and act together, we will not only produce projects but also leave lasting marks that touch lives and create real value within our communities. Making the best use of this unique leadership opportunity offered to us by Rotary and leaving a stronger Rotary community for those who will follow us is our greatest responsibility.

With the inspiration I gained from the International Assembly, I can confidently say this: We are ready. We are courageous. And together, we have the power to turn the impact we envision into reality—to Create Lasting Impact.



IMPRESIONS FROM ORLANDO OF DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECT AYLIN OLUT ÖTKEN DISTRICT 2440 TURKIYE

The International Assembly was an organization that strengthened the friendships of 2026-27 District Governors, allowed us to make new friends and provided an opportunity to meet fellow Governors from all over the world.

The International Assembly began with great excitement. Receiving the Presidential message of RIP Olayinka Babalola and the announcement of the goals was extremely exciting and motivating for all of us.

The International Assembly provided the opportunity to meet with PRIPs, directors and trustees, while also offering training opportunities to help us prepare for the term and learn from each other. Throughout the assembly, Advancing our Action Plan, Reimagining Rotary, Impact of our service, Connect to create lasting change, Doing good in the world, Encouraging positive Club experience, Leadership, Expanding our reach, Regional support from CDS and Our years ahead breakout sessions provided the opportunity to listen to practices in RIDs on these topics, learn from each other and evaluate.

Breakout sessions helped us establish clear goals and action steps that will guide our work throughout our term. I truly appreciated the opportunity to exchange insights and ideas, and I found the discussions both inspiring and insightful.

The Cultural Exchange and Polio Night at the International Assembly were joyful and unforgettable events, and they also provided an opportunity to learn about different cultures. It offered a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the bonds within our Rotary family.

The International Assembly ended with unforgettable memories and lasting friendships for all of us.



**ARPIC ALEKSANDAR RADOJICIC ON.....
THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

**IMPRESIONS FROM ORLANDO OF DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECT
AYLIN OLUT ÖTKEN DISTRICT 2440 TURKIYE**



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Impressions from Orlando of DGE May Monla Chmaitilly. (1/2)



May Monla Chmaitilly

District 2452 Governor Elect

Rotary Year 2025-2026

Mobile: +961 3 613838

Email: maydg.26.27@gmail.com

Rotary Club of Tripoli-Maarad

My fellow Rotarians

The Rotary International Assembly in Orlando was an inspiring and energizing experience, reinforcing the power of unity and shared purpose across Rotary's global family.

Learning alongside leaders from around the world strengthened my commitment to uniting and energizing Rotarians across our nine-country District2452.

As I prepare to serve as District Governor for the 2026–2027 Rotary year, I am grateful for the insights gained in strategic planning, youth leadership, meaningful service, Rotary Foundation support, and public image—elements that will guide us as we empower our clubs to grow, lead, and **'Create Lasting Impact'**.

With warm Rotary regards,

May Monla Chmaitilly

District Governor Elect 2026–2027

Rotary International District 2452



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

IMPRESSIONS FROM ORLANDO OF DGE MAY MONLA CHMAITILLY. (1/2)



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

IMPRESSIONS FROM ORLANDO OF DGE CHARALAMBOS TINGINAGKAS(1/2)

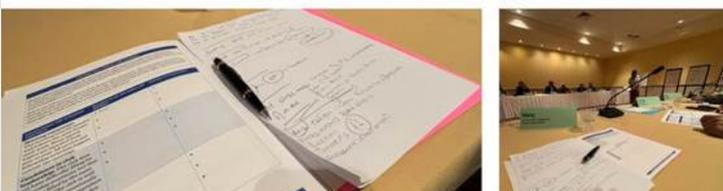
Five days at the Rotary International Assembly were an inspiring and deeply meaningful journey, centered on strengthening unity among nations and leaders from around the world. Guided by Rotary's enduring values of peace, friendship, and service, the experience highlighted the power of collaboration and reaffirmed the importance of helping people in need live with dignity and hope. It also reinforced our shared responsibility to lead with purpose and to create lasting impact within our communities and beyond. I am profoundly grateful to Rotary for this remarkable journey and for the opportunity to contribute to such a noble and transformative mission.



ARPIC MARIA MASTORA ON.....

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

IMPRESSIONS FROM ORLANDO OF DGE CHARALAMBOS TINGINAGKAS (2/2)



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ORLANDO 2026: WHERE ROTARY IS HEADING AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR DISTRICT 2482

BY ALEXANDER PETROV, DISTRICT GOVERNOR-ELECT, DISTRICT 2482



The Rotary International Assembly in Orlando, 2026 was not merely a training programme for future District Governors. It represented a strategic moment of clarity regarding the direction in which Rotary is moving globally, and our responsibility as leaders to translate that direction into tangible action at home.

Hundreds of future District Governors, leaders and trainers from across the world came together to work around one core message:



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ORLANDO 2026: WHERE ROTARY IS HEADING AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR DISTRICT 2482

BY ALEXANDER PETROV, DISTRICT GOVERNOR-ELECT, DISTRICT 2482

CREATE LASTING IMPACT. This is not only the message of Rotary International President-elect Olayinka Babalola for the coming Rotary year. It is an invitation to change the way we think, plan and act.



The four priorities that will guide our year:

At the heart of everything lies Rotary's Action Plan, built around its four priorities:

Increase our impact – increasing our impact

Expand our reach – expanding our reach

Enhance participant engagement – enhancing engagement

Increase our ability to adapt – increasing our ability to adapt

In Orlando, we experienced these priorities firsthand, working on them through real-life case studies, practical models and discussions with fellow Governors from different countries. The conclusion we can draw is clear: successful districts are not those that carry out the greatest number of activities, but those that make their actions more meaningful, with measurable results and long-term impact.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ORLANDO 2026: WHERE ROTARY IS HEADING AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR DISTRICT 2482

BY ALEXANDER PETROV, DISTRICT GOVERNOR-ELECT, DISTRICT 2482

From action to impact

One of the strongest themes was the focus on measurable impact.

Rotary is no longer looking only at how many projects we have delivered, how much money we have raised, or how many people have been involved.

Rotary is beginning to ask different questions: **what has actually changed in the community, what sustainable results have we achieved, and what will still remain five years from now?**

This approach will also be a guiding principle for District 2482.

I will encourage clubs to carry out better assessments of community needs, to plan projects with clear objectives and indicators, and to tell their stories not as “reports”, but as evidence of real change.



Innovation: not revolution, but evolution

The session “Reimagining Rotary” was dedicated to innovation.

One key message stood out:

“Innovation does not mean crossing out our traditions.

It means making them relevant to today’s world.”

For us, this means:

- greater flexibility in club meeting formats
- new types of clubs (cause-based, hybrid, alumni, corporate)
- more space for experimentation and pilot projects, less fear of “failure”, and a stronger culture of learning.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ORLANDO 2026: WHERE ROTARY IS HEADING AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR DISTRICT 2482

BY ALEXANDER PETROV, DISTRICT GOVERNOR-ELECT, DISTRICT 2482



The club experience is the key

A very strong emphasis was placed on the club experience as the most important factor in member retention.

The five core elements are:

- enjoyment and satisfaction from meetings
- trust in leadership
- opportunities for personal growth
- genuine connections between people
- meaningful service

This means that in District 2482 we will not be working simply towards “more members”, but towards a better experience for our existing ones.

Clubs that are more engaging, inclusive and flexible will grow naturally.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ORLANDO 2026: WHERE ROTARY IS HEADING AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR DISTRICT 2482

BY ALEXANDER PETROV, DISTRICT GOVERNOR-ELECT, DISTRICT 2482

Leadership: more people, more opportunities

Another key focus was leadership development.

Rotary made it clear that:

- we cannot rely on the same people forever
- we must open pathways for younger members
- we need to provide opportunities for leadership development
- we must strengthen practices for smooth and transparent transitions between teams at both district and club level

For District 2482, this means more shared leadership, more mentoring, and more opportunities for new people to step forward.



Rotary in the world: The Rotary Foundation, PolioPlus Programme, global impact

The session “Doing Good in the World” emphasised that The Rotary Foundation is not just a fundraising pot; it is a strategic instrument for impact.

The message was clear:

- PolioPlus remains a global priority
- grants are an underutilised resource in many districts
- giving should be connected to real stories and tangible results

We will work towards clearer communication about how donations are transformed into impact, and how every member can be part of that journey.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ORLANDO 2026: WHERE ROTARY IS HEADING AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR DISTRICT 2482

BY ALEXANDER PETROV, DISTRICT GOVERNOR-ELECT, DISTRICT 2482



What comes next for District 2482?

I left Orlando motivated and with a clear framework for our year ahead:

- long-term, sustainable priorities focused on impact
- less formalism
- greater focus on people
- purpose behind every action
- strong coordination between clubs and the district team
- greater courage to embrace change

My personal goal as Governor-elect is a simple one:

to make Rotary in Bulgaria even more visible, more relevant and more meaningful—both for the people who are already engaged, and for those we want to attract.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ORLANDO 2026: WHERE ROTARY IS HEADING AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR DISTRICT 2482

BY ALEXANDER PETROV, DISTRICT GOVERNOR-ELECT, DISTRICT 2482

The challenge for our clubs

The year ahead will not be “one-way”.

It will be a year of dialogue.

I challenge clubs to:

- share ideas
- experiment
- propose new formats
- think boldly about their future
- work together on larger causes

Because Rotary is not an organisation meant to be preserved in a museum.

It is a movement that must be alive, relevant and useful.



Conclusion

The International Assembly in Orlando gave me both the knowledge and the confidence that Rotary has a strong future—and that we have the courage to build it.

We leave a lasting impact not through messages alone, but through decisions.

Not by the number of activities, but by the depth of their meaning.

Not alone, but united.

I look forward to starting this journey together, as a strong team of visionaries.

IMPRESIONS FROM ORLANDO OF DGE DALIBORKA BRADIC (1/2)

The Rotary International Assembly held in Orlando in January 2026 was an incredible experience. The event was marked by excellent networking opportunities and a vibrant, positive atmosphere throughout the entire gathering. The highlight was undoubtedly the Cultural Exchange event, which fostered meaningful connections and cultural understanding among participants from around the world.

President Yinka Babalola's theme, "Creating Lasting Impact," resonated deeply with me, especially in my role as the District Governor for Serbia and Montenegro. It served as a powerful reminder of our collective responsibility to make a meaningful and sustainable difference in our communities through Rotary's initiatives. Overall, the assembly was an inspiring event that energized me to continue working towards creating a lasting impact in our region and beyond.

Daliborka Bradic
RD Serbia & Montenegro



ARPIC ALEKSANDAR RADOJICIC ON..... THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

IMPRESIONS FROM ORLANDO OF DGE DALIBORKA BRADIC (2/2)



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Archaeology-Themed Summer Camp!

Join Us for an Exciting Archaeology-Themed Summer Camp!

Are you passionate about history and adventure? We invite you to participate in an unforgettable STEP summer camp focused on archaeology, specifically designed for participants *aged 18 to 24.

Dates: July 4-11, 2026

Location: Beautiful Antalya, Turkey*

Experience the warmth of the Mediterranean sun as you immerse yourself in the fascinating world of archaeology. Discover the beauty of Antalya's stunning landscapes and rich cultural heritage. Our camp offers a unique opportunity to engage with the significance of archaeology, explore ancient sites, and learn from expert instructors.

Plus, enjoy the refreshing experience of swimming in the crystal-clear waters of the Mediterranean!

Don't miss out on this chance to make lifelong memories while expanding your knowledge. Join us this summer in beautiful Antalya for a mixture of learning, exploration, and fun!

Register now and be part of this incredible journey into the past!

Please send the AF to the following email address:

ozturkilkiz@gmail.com

Warm regards,
D2430 Turkey 🇹🇷



ARKEO-CAMP
2026
4-11 JULY

**MYRA &
ANDRIAKE
ST. NICHOLAS
PATARA
LIMYRA
TLOS
SİMENA**

CAMPING COST: 750
EURO

DATE : 4-11 JULY 2026
AGE : 18 - 24 YEAR

*HOSTING BY *ARKEO - CAMP*
**ALL FLIGHT TICKETS & HEALTH
INSURANCE BY ATENDEE

Camp Coordinator : İltiz Öztürk

Contact Details
☎ +90 534 899 84 45
✉ ozturkilkiz@gmail.com

Antalya Aspendos
Rotary
Kulübü

Antalya Kalliope
Rotary
Kulübü

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF
Archaeology-Themed Summer Camp!

DAY 1
ARRIVAL
VISITING ANTALYA OLD TOWN
DEPARTURE TO DEMRE

DAY 2
TRADITIONAL TURKISH
BREAKFAST
VISITING MYRA - ANDRIAKE
EXCAVATIONS

DAY 3
EXCAVATION HOUSE INTRODUCING
FIELD WORK PREPARATION
MYRA AND ANDRIAKE EXCAVATION
WORK
FREE TIME - SEA ACTIVITIES

DAY 4
ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH VISIT
ICONOGRAPHY ATELIER WORKSHOP
SIMENA SUNKEN CITY VISIT
FREE TIME

THE LIGHT
OF
LYCIA
INVITES YOU!

DAY 5
PATARA ANCIENT CITY
VISIT
FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY
WORKSHOP IN PATARA
RUINS

LEARNING ABOUT CARETTA
CARETTAS AND PREPARING
A SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
PROJECT

FREE TIME AT KAŞ
(STAYING AT KAŞ -
PATARA)

DAY 6
TLOS ANCIENT CITY VISIT
FIELD WORK IN TLOS
FREE TIME
(BACK TO DEMRE)

DAY 7
LIMYRA ANCIENT SITE VISIT
&
FAREWELL PARTY AT KEKOVA BOAT
TRIP

DAY 8
RETURN



BE A PART OF THE
REAL LIFE
ARCHAEOLOGY EXPERIENCE

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF



ARPIC SERTAÇ GÜMÜŞ
DISTRICT 2452

ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSES FOR ADULTS AT ROTARY LANGUAGE LABORATORY - RC KYRENIA LIMAN - CYPRUS D2452

The Rotary Language Laboratory, established at Karpaz Vocational High School which was inaugurated in November 2024, was implemented within the scope of a Global Grant Project by the Rotary Club of Kyrenia Liman and the project's international partner, District 2420 Istanbul Barbaros Metropolitan Rotary Club.

In addition to serving the students of Karpaz Vocational High School, one of the main objectives was to provide access to a wider community, enabling adults of all ages and professions to benefit from the laboratory facilities.

As a result of dedicated efforts in line with this goal, on 25 December 2025, the courses have OFFICIALLY COMMENCED, starting with the placement (level determination) examination as the first step.

Respectfully announced to all residents of the region.

Karpaz Vocational High School Administration

Contact: +90 542 850 8936 / +90 392 375 5793



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RC KYRENIA LIMAN HELD ITS 2129TH REGULAR MEETING WITHIN THE SCOPE OF VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH -CYPRUS D2452

RC Kyrenia Liman's 2129th regular meeting, attended by AG Panicos Nicolaides, was held on January 21st in a very pleasant atmosphere once again.

In addition to planning their new projects, an interactive exchange of ideas took place following the presentation on agriculture more about how pollination occurs by club member Professor Dr. Atilla Aşkın, Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Technologies at LAÜ, within the scope of "Vocational Service Month." The meeting concluded by joyfully celebrating Rtn. Atilla Aşkın's birthday.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

CYPRUS ROTARY DISTRICT LEARNING AND FELLOWSHIP EVENT CYPRUS D2452

On January 17, 2026, Cyprus Rotary brought Rotarians from across the island together in Limassol for a District Learning and Fellowship Event that combined learning, energy, and connection. Hosted at the Atlantica Miramare Hotel and followed by fellowship at the Syrian Restaurant, the event focused on two strategic pillars for today's clubs: Demystifying Global Grants and Branding for Impact. Presentations by PDG Christina Covotsou-Patroclou, PP Adib Mounla, and DDG Yiannos Pissourios offered clarity, inspiration, and practical tools to strengthen club projects and visibility.

****Demystifying Global Grants****

PDG Christina Covotsou-Patroclou opened the sessions with a clear overview of what it takes to build strong and sustainable Rotary grant projects. She emphasized starting with meaningful community assessments, ethical collaboration with local leaders, and strict compliance with Rotary International and district requirements. Financial stewardship featured prominently, with a focus on realistic budgeting, transparency, dedicated bank accounts, and proper documentation. PDG Christina also highlighted the importance of continuous monitoring and evaluation to maintain impact and adapt projects when needed, reinforcing stewardship as a core Rotary value.

Building on this foundation, D2452 District Grants Subcommittee Chair and Cyprus Country TRF Officer PP Adib Mounla guided participants through the Global Grant lifecycle in a practical, step-by-step session. His live walkthrough of the online application process helped transform complex procedures into clear, manageable actions, empowering clubs to move confidently from idea to implementation.

****Branding for Impact****

DDG Yiannos Pissourios delivered an engaging presentation on Branding for Impact, reminding participants that branding is far more than a logo. It is the identity, reputation, and expectations a club creates in its community. He stressed that every club already has a brand, intentional or accidental, and that clarity, consistency, and storytelling are essential to making Rotary's impact visible and memorable. His message was clear: doing good matters, but being seen doing good multiplies that impact.

****Fellowship and Tradition****

The event concluded with fellowship lunch and the traditional Vasilopitta cake cutting, with the lucky coin awarded to incoming DDG Michalis Avraam. Thirty-five Rotarians from across Cyprus participated, making the day both meaningful and memorable.

ARPIC SERTAÇ GÜMÜŞ ON.....

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

CYPRUS ROTARY DISTRICT LEARNING AND FELLOWSHIP EVENT CYPRUS D2452



NEW YEAR DINNER EVENT BY RC NICOSIA SARAYÖNÜ- D2452 CYPRUS

Nicosia Sarayönü Rotary Club has hosted a New Year dinner in Nicosia Niyazi's Miraj Restaurant in the evening of 20 January . The dinner welcomed many Rotary Clubs on the island including; RC Kyrenia St. Hilarion, RC Kyrenia Liman, RC Nicosia Aspelia and RC Nicosia Lefkothea. RC Nicosia Sarayönü had the pleasure to host the club presidents and fellow rotarians of the stated clubs in their event.

Incoming DDG Michael Avraam pinned the new Rotarian member Aydin Soyer in the event.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

DDG YIANNOS PISSOURIOS VISIT TO RC NICOSIA SARAYÖNÜ 27TH JANUARY 2026 - CYPRUS D2452

The meeting was arranged at the Celsus Business Center, where the Rotary Club of Nicosia Sarayönü meet twice a month, on Tuesdays. Three clubs from Kyrenia, namely RC Kyrenia Liman, RC Kyrenia St.Hilarion and RC Kyrenia Cosmopolitan oined the meeting. DDG Yiannos was accompanied by Country Secretary Robina Demetriou and members of RC Limassol Kourion, DDG Yiannos's club. Assistant Governors Panicos Nicolaides and Nairy Merheje were also in attendance. Turnout was good with twenty-eight Rotarians attending.

The meeting was opened by PDDG Dinçer Çağın, with a short introduction of our Deputy Governor Yiannos, the two Assistant Governors and Club Presidents in attendance.

DDG Yiannos took the floor, expressing his happiness to be with so many Rotarians, and enthusing on the value of networking among Rotarians. He gave a thirty-five minute presentation on what it means to be a Rotarian, titled "Discover Rotary" .

DDG Yiannos made his presentation interactive, encouraging the Rotarians to participate. He talked about his own experiences. The importance of carrying out meaningful projects. The importance of using friendships forged at Rotary International Conventions and Institutes to help fund Global Grant projects. After the presentation there was a twenty-five minutes of questions and discussion among the Rotarians present. At the end of the meeting President Hakkı presented the RC Nicosia Sarayönü banner to DDG Yiannos. All in attendance were in agreement that he meeting had been a success.

The visit was finalised with dinner at the restaurant at the ground level of the Celsus Business Centre



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF



ARPIC MARIA MASTORA
DISTRICT 2475

MESSAGE OF RID 2475
DG STEFANOS ANASTASOPOULOS

JANUARY 2026

Dear members of our large Rotary family,

As we enter the new year, I would like to wish you a happy and productive year, filled with health, strength, optimism, and personal peace. A year in which we will remain united, with a common vision and direction, so that we can continue to produce meaningful Rotary work, tangibly improving the lives of our fellow human beings and strengthening Rotary's social footprint in every corner of our homeland.

January is a month of special significance for Rotary. It is Vocational Service Month — the month that reminds us of who we are and where we started from. Rotary was born as an association of professionals. Not just people with professional activities, but people with value, ethics, and leadership in their fields. Rotary's founder, Paul Harris, conceived a brilliant idea: to bring together professionals from different fields, each distinguished in their field, so that their leadership qualities could be combined and transformed into a collective force for the benefit of society

This choice was not accidental. Paul Harris deeply believed that people who have distinguished themselves professionally possess not only knowledge and experience, but also responsibility. The responsibility to give back. to society a part of what it has offered them. And this is precisely the essence of Vocational Service.

Rotary's distinguished professionals can contribute to the common good in unique and invaluable ways:

- by sharing their knowledge and expertise,
- by creating opportunities for young people,
- guiding, inspiring, and empowering,
- designing sustainable projects that respond to real needs.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Professional service is not charity. It is strategic social intervention with duration, quality, and impact. It is the moment when success becomes meaningful when shared. It is the moment when the profession becomes a tool for service and change.

Within this framework of values and vision, we are moving forward dynamically in our major meetings.

From April 17 to 19, on the historic island of the Knights, Rhodes, the Panhellenic Rotary Conference will take place, a celebration of ideas, fellowship, and inspiration.

Preparations are at an excellent level. The conference website is already up and running, offering comprehensive information and the possibility to register, participate, and access all the information. We are planning a unique conference, with significant international participation, rich content, and high symbolism.

I invite all Rotarians, both in Greece and abroad, to attend. This conference is being organized with passion and dedication by the highly active Rotary Clubs of Rhodes, and aims to be a highlight of our year.

The RYLA program, which will take place in May in Rhodes, is also part of this philosophy of investing in people and the future. It is a program dedicated to young people, with the aim of developing their leadership, professional, and social skills. This is where established Rotary professionals meet the leaders of tomorrow. Here, experience becomes guidance and knowledge becomes inspiration. I once again call on Rotarians from all over Greece and abroad to support and actively participate in this great initiative.

I am delighted to announce that this year's New Year's Vasilopita celebration for our District will take place at a beautiful, festive gala in our beloved Thessaloniki, organized by five active Rotary Clubs in the city and artistically curated by the Rotary Club of Chrysoupoli-Nestos. Thessaloniki, a city with a rich history and a dynamic Rotary presence, is a constant pillar of Rotary in Northern Greece. This event is a celebration of fellowship and unity, highlighting the value of cooperation and the pulse of the region. Rotarians from all over Greece will meet at this special event to start the new year together with optimism, smiles, and the Rotary spirit.

Dear friends, the new year lies ahead of us, full of challenges but also great opportunities. Let us move forward with unity, integrity, and vision.

Let us use our professional skills for the common good. Let us prove, once again, what it means to be Rotarians.

Guided by the message of the year, Unite for Good,
I wish you a happy Rotary year and a creative January.

With appreciation and deep Rotary love,

DG Stefanos Anastasopoulos
RID 2475



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - CONTINUOUS LEARNING SEMINAR IN RHODOS (1/2)

On December 14, the 6th Continuous Rotary Learning Seminar for this Rotary year was held with great success in the island of Rhodes.

Our District, with consistency and vision, invests in education, because we deeply believe that a useful Rotarian is an informed Rotarian.

Knowledge brings us closer to the Rotary system, connects us with its procedures, allows us to make the most of all the tools, programs, and capabilities of the organization, and, above all, brings us closer together, strengthening the camaraderie and spirit of cooperation we all desire.

For all these reasons, the District has placed—and continues to place—special emphasis on training this year. As usual, the seminar was conducted by a combination of experienced trainers and new speakers, with the aim not only of transferring knowledge but also of creating a new generation of trainers. Through fresh perspectives and new insights, Rotary's themes are renewed, enriched, and given a contemporary dynamic.

The seminar was a success, with an attendance of more than 50 Rotarians from RC's of Rhodes, Kos, and Kastellorizo clubs. The event was also honored by the presence of Rotarians from other clubs, such as Heraklion, Athens-Lycabettus, Halandri, Marathon-Nea Makri, and others.

The atmosphere was excellent, the quality of the speeches was very high, and the organization was exemplary. Special mention should be made to RC Rhodes, which undertook the organization and carried it out with complete success, as well as the Club's President, Beatrice Kalliopi Servou, for her impeccable preparation. The hospitality at the Mediterranean Hotel, in the city center, contributed significantly to the overall quality of the event.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - CONTINUOUS LEARNING SEMINAR IN RHODOS (2/2)

At the same time, the seminar was an excellent opportunity for Rhodes to showcase its potential, in view of the upcoming large and particularly ambitious annual District conference being prepared on the island of the Knights – a conference that is already generating high expectations.

Warm congratulations to the organizing club, the president, all the speakers – both those who traveled and the local trainers – as well as to all the participating Rotarians, who with their attitude and presence confirm that education is not an obligation, but a power, an inspiration, and an investment in the future of Rotary.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - "GIVE THE GIFT OF ACCESS 2.0" PROGRAM:

"GIVE THE GIFT OF ACCESS 2.0" PROGRAM:

DELIVERY OF A WHEELCHAIR TO THE ANCIENT ROMAN ODEON OF PATRAS

Another wheelchair was delivered on December 19, by representatives of the "Gift the Gift of Access 2.0" Program to the restored Ancient Roman Odeon of Patras.

With this delivery, the Program's initiative to donate wheelchairs is extended beyond museums and archaeological sites to also include the ancient theaters of our country.

The delivery ceremony was attended by Rotarians, representatives of the Clubs participating in the Program, as well as representatives of the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Regional Unit of Achaia, led by its Director, Ms. Anastasia Koumoussi.

This donation to the Ancient Roman Odeon of Patras complements last year's donation of wheelchairs to the Archaeological Museums of Patras and Aigio.

In this way, the Program's work in the Regional Unit of Achaia is now complete, as all major archaeological destinations in the wider area are equipped with wheelchairs.

Visitors to the museums and the theater can now enjoy equal access to the cultural spaces of our country.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475

ROTARY E-CLUB GREECE AND RC PATRAS “KOSTIS PALAMAS” – CREATION OF A NEW LENDING LIBRARY AT THE DAY CARE UNIT FOR ONCOLOGY PATIENTS OF RIO HOSPITAL

In yet another joint initiative, the Rotary E-Club Greece and RC Patras “Kostis Palamas” proceeded with the creation of a new lending library at the Day Care Unit (Chemotherapy Unit) of the Oncology Department of Rio Hospital.

The donation was made following a request by the Head of the Unit, Ms. Anna Vicha, in response to the need to expand the existing lending library, which had been a previous project RC Patras South — a Rotary Club that no longer exists — and whose former members are now part of the Rotary E-Club of Greece.

On Monday, December 22, members of both Rotary Clubs visited the Unit and delivered a brand-new library fully stocked with new books for use by the patients to the Hospital Administration and the Unit’s staff. In turn, they expressed their gratitude to the Club representatives for their immediate response, as well as for their long-standing support of the Unit.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

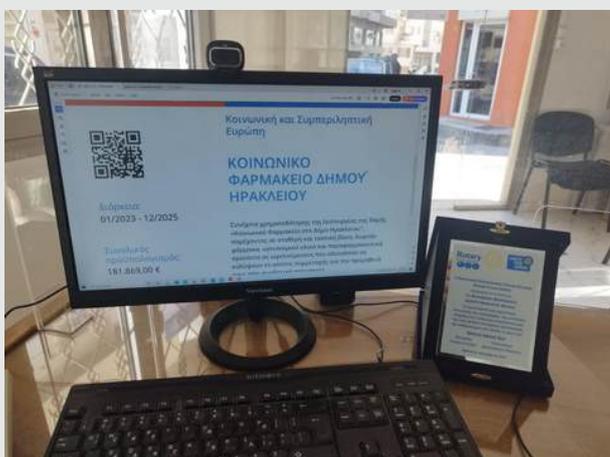
RID 2475 - ROTARY e-CLUB GREECE

AWARD FOR THE SOCIAL PHARMACY OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF HERAKLION BY THE ROTARY E-CLUB OF GREECE

As part of the activities of the Rotary eClub of Greece, on December 23rd, in a modest online ceremony, marking four years of continuous cooperation and collaboration, the Social Pharmacy of the Municipality of Heraklion was awarded in recognition of its valuable contribution to the local community, its ongoing contribution to the promotion of social solidarity, its consistent support for our vulnerable fellow citizens, and the high spirit of solidarity and humanity that governs its work.

In addition to Rotary leaders and members, the event was attended by the Deputy Mayor for Social Welfare, Mr. George Tsagarakis, who analyzed the overall social program of the Municipality of Heraklion, Ms. Maria Prinarakis, Social Worker, who presented the operation of the social pharmacy, and the responsible pharmacist, Ms. Kalli Skoula.

The purpose of the pharmacy is to meet the needs of vulnerable social groups with free medicines, baby food, parapharmaceutical items, and consumables for vulnerable social groups, who, after verification of the required supporting documents by social services, are included in the list of beneficiaries. In addition to the financially disadvantaged, foreigners are also included among the beneficiaries. The social pharmacy of the municipality of Heraklion, as the only certified body in Crete, covers the permanent needs of its citizens, as well as the emergency needs of neighboring municipalities, always after a relevant referral. The medicines and consumables come from donations from individuals, pharmacists, and drugstores.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS

RC Rhodos was awarded for its tree planting efforts in the burned areas of the island. The award was given to tourism businesses and organizations on the island that implement exemplary environmental practices and serve as role models examples for local communities to follow.

RC Rhodos, in line with the objectives of RID2475, through its Environment Committee and as part of the nationwide "Plant our Future" program currently, was awarded for the tree planting it carries out in collaboration with the "For Nature" Organization in burned forest areas for which there is already an approved reforestation study.

RC Rhodos goal is to complete tree planting covering an area of 100 acres over the next eight years. This initiative began in 2023 and continues to be implemented in full compliance with the legislation governing tree planting and under the guidance of the organization "For Nature."

It should be noted that RC Rhodos foresee tree planting for the coming period, continuing its commitment to the protection and restoration of the island's natural environment.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS KOLOSSOS

For the fifth consecutive year RC Rhodos-Kolossos is actively supporting the Shelter for Abused Women in Rhodes, bringing smiles and hope to the women and children who stay there.

Until now, the Club has provided equipment, food, festive meals, and gifts for the women and children at the shelter.

This year, our donation is even more joyful: toys for the children, a beautiful playhouse, and a seesaw for the garden, creating a space for play and joy for all the children.

The donation was made at the Town Hall of Rhodes, in presence of Mayor, Mr. Alexandros Koliadis, RC President rtn Spyros Dalianis, and rotarians, exchanging ideas and concerns about the needs of the local community.

The Mayor congratulated the RC for its efforts and emphasized that such initiatives set a shining example for society.

We warmly thank him for the valuable information and thoughts he shared with us, which will help us continue with even greater effectiveness.

We warmly congratulate the Head of Social Policy and Health of the Municipality, Ms. Christina Karagianni, as well as the employees of the hostel for the great work they do every day.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC DIONYSOS

RC Dionysos delivered a donation to the MITERA Infant Foundation. Twenty-two pairs of sneakers and chocolates for the smiling little ones who welcomed us with great joy, touching spontaneity, and lots of hugs. The donation was received on behalf of the Foundation by the Administrative Secretary, Ms. Vasiliki Galanis, who is always there with love and care for the children. The delivery on behalf of our Club was made by President Kalliopi Oikonomakou, Vice President Aspasia Kallierou, and President for the year 2027-28 Maria Paradeisi Zerde. We would like to thank all our members for their continued support, and in particular the President for 2026-27, Ms. Eleni Vachari, the Dean, Elta Flega, and the members of the BOD Potoula Maravegia, Ioannis Haniotis, Lakafosi Gioula, the members of our Club Nikolakakos Leonidas, Maria Antonopoulou, Alberto Sasson, Efthymiopoulou Maria, Iris Athanasiadou, Despoina Georgiadis Thessalonikeos, Irini Kitsara, and our friends Marina Davalos and Maria Kallierou for their contributions. Happy holidays to all and a happy new year filled with vision and generosity.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KERKYRA KAPODISTRIAS

Donation of an air conditioning unit by RC Kerkyra Kapodistrias, covering the immediate needs of the employees and patients of the Corfu Health Center.

We thank all the staff for the services for what they have provided for so many years to all the residents of the island. We will always support your work.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC KIFISSIA POLITIA

Some days of the year have a special significance, leaving a different mark on our minds and hearts.

Thus, on December 29, members of RC Kifissia-Politia BOD, on behalf of the RC, visited the "Agia Sofia" Children's Hospital to deliver clothing items for children in the hospital who are in need. We were warmly welcomed by the Director, Anastasios Michas, and the Deputy Director, Anastasia Kanellou, along with members of the hospital staff, who work tirelessly and with great dedication for the health of our children.

We thank them warmly for the joy of giving and promise that we will always stand by their side.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC RHODOS

RC Rhodos carried out an important act of social contribution and solidarity on December 22, 2025, delivering personal hygiene items and Christmas sweets to the Rhodes Children's Chronic Disease Clinic "Agios Andreas" as well as food and Christmas sweets to five families supported by the Women's Counseling Center of the Municipality of Rhodes, as part of a series of actions by RC Rhodos towards our fellow citizens in need, which are carried out throughout the year.

This initiative would not have been possible without the valuable support of local business owners: Emmanouil Panagiotas (SM Panagiotas Vasileios S.A.), Michalis and Dimitris Tsimiris (Tsissimoris SM), and Fotini Spanou (Kritikos SM), who generously donated personal hygiene items and food. Warm thanks also to Mary and Antonis Kampourakis (Mediterranean Hotel) and Dina Tsalmidi (Tsalmidis Patisserie) for their immediate response and donation of Xmas sweets. Special mention should be made to businessman Paris Todoulakis, whose contribution was crucial in realising this initiative.

RC Rhodos would like to express its warmest thanks to all those who contributed to the success of this initiative.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC ATHINAI

Social Action in Support of the Community by RC Athinai & Donation of Vests to the Vendors of the Street Magazine “Shedia”

On January 12th, RC Athinai carried out an act of social solidarity in central Athens, supporting the vendors of the street magazine “Shedia” with the donation of vests and chocolates as a symbol of both practical assistance and human warmth, affirming respect, acceptance, and recognition of their daily struggle for dignity and social reintegration; the initiative was attended by RC Athinai President rtn Anastassios Ballas, and Board member rtn Ioannis Kampanis, while “Shedia” was represented by vendor Michalis Samolis and its Founder and Editor-in-Chief, Christos Alefantis. “Shedia” is Greece’s street magazine, sold by people experiencing homelessness or social exclusion as a means of earning a dignified income through their own work.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC ANOXI-SEMELI

Christmas Fellowship Event

On the evening of December 19, RC Anoxia-Semeli, which consistently focuses on quality and creating unique experiences for its members and friends, organized its festive Christmas event at the hall of the Philological Society “Parnassos” in Athens.

The evening was truly magical, as soprano Sonia Theodoridou, together with her orchestra and choir — of which the Treasurer of our Club Anna Kafkala is also a member — took us on a musical journey. Their expressive melodies filled everyone with festive joy and created a warm holiday atmosphere.

The event was a great success and concluded with a special moment, when the choir descended into the audience area and invited the guests to dance a waltz to the sounds of the orchestra. It was a truly memorable evening that fully justified the title “Magical Christmas.”

Finally, a small group had the pleasure of meeting Sonia Theodoridou for commemorative photographs, capturing the unique experience that we all shared together.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

**RID 2475 - RC ANOIXI SEMELI
XMAS BAZAR**

RC Anoixi-Semeli participated in the Christmas Bazaar organized by the non-profit organization "PANOS and CRESSIDA– HELP FOR CHILDREN ", with the support of the above mentioned Rotary Club .

The event provides a unique opportunity for members and friends to contribute through hands-on work and creativity, supporting children in need.

Members of our Club dedicated time, care, and active participation both in preparing and running the bazaar, while also contributing by purchasing items to support the event. In this way, the Club's involvement became a joyful, festive experience, highlighting the value of collaboration and active engagement within the community.

The accompanying photograph shows Club members during the event, capturing the vibrancy and festive spirit that accompanies every initiative we undertake.

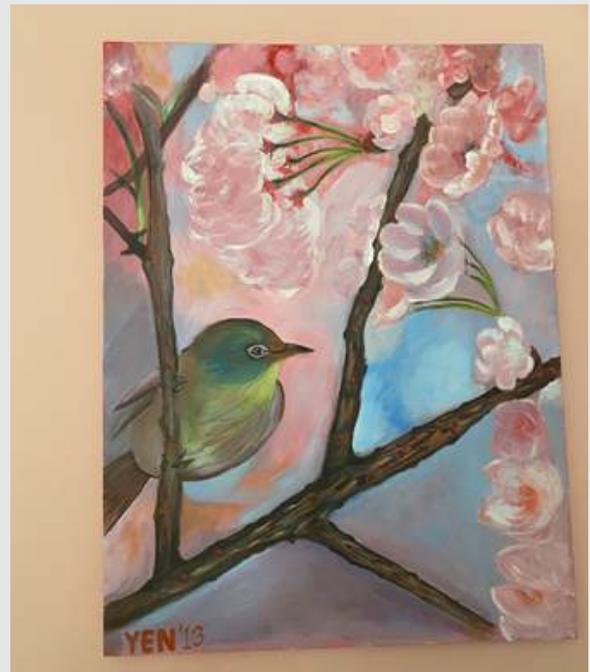


THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - RC VOULIAGMENI

With respect and love, in memory of our Rotarian and beloved colleague Liana Chalambalaki, RC Vouliagmeni offered a significant quantity of hygiene paper products, olive oil and fresh oranges to the Girls Shelter "Agios Alexandros" in Paleo Faliro.

The shelter provides care and accommodation to girls placed by order of the Public Prosecutor. RC Vouliagmeni continues to transform solidarity into action, demonstrating that every gesture small or large can bring hope and smiles to those in need.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475

“GIVE THE GIFT OF ACCESS 2.0” PROGRAM: DELIVERY OF WHEELCHAIRS TO THE ANCIENT THEATRE OF EPIDAUROS AND THE MYCENAE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

With the delivery of two additional wheelchairs to the Ephorate of Antiquities of Argolis, the “Give the Gift of Access 2.0” Program continues its journey across Greece.

On January 14, representatives of the participating Rotary Clubs - rtn Vicky Peziri (RC Agia Paraskevi) and rtn Elena Fiotaki (RC Preveza)—delivered two more wheelchairs to the Ephorate of Antiquities of Argolis in Nafplio. The wheelchairs are intended for use at the Mycenae Archaeological Site and the Ancient Theatre of Epidaurus.

The handover ceremony took place in a pleasant atmosphere at the offices of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Argolis in Nafplio, where the Club representatives were warmly welcomed by the entire staff. Dr. Grigorakakis acknowledged the Program’s substantial contribution to supporting individuals with mobility difficulties, as it facilitates their access to archaeological sites and museums throughout the country.

All unique, all equal, all together!



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475 - DISTRICT GRANT of RC Alexandroupolis, Rhodes, Voula, Panorama, and Komotini
Delivery of equipment to Samothraki High School through District Grant RID 2475, on 19.01.2026

Two air conditioning units, a laptop, and an automated external defibrillator (AED) were successfully delivered to Samothraki High School as part of the implementation of District Grant of RID 2475.

This significant donation was made possible through the collaboration of the Rotary Clubs of Alexandroupolis, Rhodes, Voula, Panorama, and Komotini, with RC Alexandroupolis being responsible for coordinating and implementing the program.

The equipment delivered to the school contributes significantly to improving the educational and safety conditions for students and teaching staff, enhancing both the educational process and emergency health incidents

School representatives expressed their warm thanks to Rotary International and all the Rotary clubs that contributed to the donation, emphasizing the importance of cooperation and social contribution to the local educational community.

RC Alexandroupolis continues to actively support initiatives that promote education, health, and social solidarity, especially in remote areas of the country.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RID 2475

PROGRAM "GIVE THE GIFT OF ACCESS 2.0" - ARTICLE - TRIBUTE BY THE NEWSPAPER "TA NEA" TO THE PROGRAM

The Coordinators and representatives of the Rotary Clubs involved in the "Give the Gift of Access" Program warmly thank the printed newspaper TA NEA and the journalist specializing in cultural issues, Mr. Ioannis Zoumboulakis, for the extensive reportage regarding our Program through the Tabula Rasa column in the January 7, 2026 issue.

This publication is yet another confirmation that this action has a great impact on society and is important for our fellow human beings, making the culture of our country accessible to an even greater number of people that would not have been possible under the pre-existing conditions.



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 January



Dear Rotary friends, Rotaractors and Interactors,

In these early days of the new year, we are filled with hope – for a better world, for more meaning in what we do, and for communities in which our efforts bring peace and quiet yet genuine change. I wish you and your families good health, inner strength, and the courage to turn your aspirations into reality.

January in the Rotary calendar is **Vocational Service Month**. It is a theme that brings us back to our roots – to the reason why **Paul Harris** gathered **professionals** from different fields around a shared idea. It reminds us that in **Rotary** we are both volunteers and people of profession, experience and responsibility, united by common values.

Rotary International President **Francesco Arezzo** reminds us that **integrity** lies at the heart of everything we do. It is not an abstract word – it is the alignment of our knowledge, skills and actions. In mathematics and technical sciences, **integrity** is understood as **wholeness, unity and resilience** – the quality through which individual elements form a Whole and together possess greater strength than any of them on their own. Just as young people in California rebuild classic cars to find a new path in life, so too can we in **Bulgaria** use our **professional capacity** to show young people that their future can be found here – in our own communities.

I often reflect on why I became an **engineer**. It began with the example set by my father and grandfather – both craftsmen in their trades. As a child, I wanted to understand how the world worked. I saw it as a **puzzle** to be deciphered – through small “inventions” and constant experiments. This curiosity directed me towards **engineering**. My profession has taught me something essential: to be useful, one must learn and improve every single day.

Each of us has a similar story – a person, a moment or a choice that inspired us. And every one of our clubs is like a **book of stories** about vocation, purpose and meaning.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Plamen Tsvetkov District Governor 2025-2026

Rotary International District 2482 - Bulgaria Monthly Message - January

So I ask myself: how can we mark this month in our clubs in a fresh and meaningful way?

Let us speak about our **professions** – not only about visible achievements, but about the **ethical decisions** we have faced, and how **Rotary values** have guided us through difficult choices in business or along our professional paths.

Let us share our **experience**. Each of us is a **leader** in our field. Let us offer our communities not only financial contributions but also **knowledge and time** – an architect offering expert advice, an accountant assisting a start-up, a doctor addressing an important health topic at school. We all have something to give. This is **Rotary in Action**.

Let us open our doors to **young people**. Invite **Interactors and Rotaractors** into our offices, workshops or clinics – not simply for a visit, but for genuine conversation. Let us explain why we love our professions, what challenges they bring, and how one earns a reputation built on **trust**.

Let us reflect on our businesses and decisions through the lens of the **Four-Way Test**. Choose a current issue in our community and apply it. Seek a solution that is fair and honest for all. This is the best way to demonstrate that the Four-Way Test remains a living tool.

Friends, we are entering the **second half of the Rotary year**. It is the moment to complete our projects and measure their **real impact**. Let us remember that every contribution to **The Rotary Foundation** strengthens its role as a **global force for change**. As **Holger Knaack** emphasises, our strength lies in the ability to transform **generosity into lasting transformation**.

This year, only in the first six months, contributions to the **PolioPlus Fund** in our district have exceeded those of entire years over the past five. Let us do the same with the **Annual Fund!**

Friends, I invite you to celebrate our achievements together at the **District Conference in Burgas**, which will take place from **15 to 17 May 2026**. Registration **will** open after **7 January 2026**. We look forward to welcoming you!

Alongside our larger goals, I would like to remind you of our current **administrative responsibilities**: the names of board members **elected in December for 2026–27** and **Presidents-Nominee for 2027–28** should be entered into My Rotary in due time. The process for nominating **District Governor 2028–2029** is also under way, with its first stage **closing at 23:59 on 25 January 2026**.

I shall close with the words of one of our leaders, **Yinka Babalola, RI President 2026–27**: “Let our actions define who we are.” Let us use our **professionalism to create lasting impact in our communities**.

With respect and friendship,

Plamen Tsvetkov

Governor 2025–2026

Rotary International – District 2482

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Talent and Patriotism: 82 Young Artists Took Part in the “Free Nova Zagora” Contest - Rotary club Nova Zagora

On January 14 – the day marking the liberation of the town – in an uplifting atmosphere, participants in the traditional “Free Nova Zagora” drawing contest, organized by the Rotary Club of Nova Zagora with the support of the Municipality of Nova Zagora, were awarded. The event gathered dozens of children, teachers and parents in the lobby of the Library at the “D. P. Sivkov – 1870” Community Center, turning into a heartfelt expression of gratitude to history and love for the homeland.

The ceremony was opened by the Mayor of Nova Zagora Municipality, Galya Zaharieva. In her address, she expressed gratitude to all participants for their dedication and patriotic spirit.

“I would like to thank the Rotary Club for once again bringing this wonderful initiative to life, as well as many others that benefit education in our municipality. I thank the children for their beautiful drawings and their teachers for inspiring them to create,” noted Mrs. Zaharieva.

This year’s contest stood out with impressive participation. A total of 82 students submitted works, and for the first time schools from smaller settlements in the municipality joined the initiative. This made the competition even more vibrant and proved that talent knows no boundaries.

Mayor Galya Zaharieva and the President of the Rotary Club of Nova Zagora, Dencho Petkov, presented the awards to the young talents. The young artists received certificates from the Municipality of Nova Zagora and the Rotary Club. They were also delighted with material prizes provided by the organizers.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club Pomorie

“Early Care – Big Smiles!”

As part of the project “Early Care – Big Smiles!” implemented by Rotary Club Pomorie, the first dental and orthodontic screenings were carried out among 8- and 9-year-old students from the schools in the town of Pomorie.

The examinations were conducted by Dr. Strezova, while the children were accompanied by members of Rotary Club Pomorie, who actively assisted with organization and logistics — transportation, coordination with the schools, and ensuring a calm and safe environment for the students.

The project combines prevention, education, and personal Rotarian engagement, aiming to cover at least 80% of children in the target age group and to help establish lasting oral hygiene habits.

Rotary — when we serve by personal example



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club Nesebar Supported Preventive Screenings for Spinal Curvature in Students

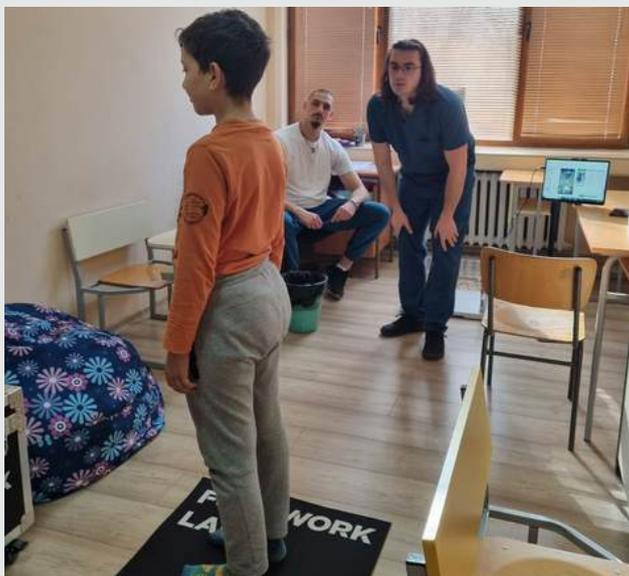
Rotary Club Nesebar, in cooperation with “Dr. Staikovi” Medical Center, conducted free preventive screenings for spinal curvature. The examinations covered 5th-grade students at “L. Karavelov” Secondary School in the town.

Children in this age group were chosen for the campaign because posture abnormalities are more noticeable at this stage. At this age they are at the onset of puberty, while having already carried heavy schoolbags for several years. The use of electronic devices and the associated poor posture also play a significant role. If measures are taken early, even existing deviations can be positively corrected.

Parents received the examination results directly on their mobile phones, allowing them to review the findings for their child and consider next steps if needed.

During the campaign, a total of 109 children underwent examinations. Unfortunately, very few were completely within the normal range. Mild scoliosis was detected in nearly 48 children. The causes are multifactorial and well known — heavy backpacks, poor posture at school desks, and significant time spent on electronic devices. Doctors reassured parents that there is nothing alarming at this stage, provided action is taken promptly. The good news in these statistics is that only one child was found to have a more serious condition requiring treatment. Another positive finding was that almost no children were overweight. Nearly all examined students participate in some form of sport, which is a very encouraging trend.

The campaign also sparked increased interest from parents.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club Bourgas

Support for the “Day Center for Children and/or Adults with Severe Multiple Disabilities”

The first phase of the project focused on the Day Center for children and/or adults with severe multiple disabilities, where daily care is provided for children and young people with special needs.

To support rehabilitation activities, motor development, and sensory stimulation, Rotary Club Burgas provided the following equipment:

- Trampoline with safety net, diameter 240 cm – 1 unit
- Foam steps (blue) – 8 units
- Sensory balance pathway (blue) – 1 unit
- Treadmill NEBILIN 13080 (black) – 1 unit

The equipment enables more effective and diverse therapy, encouraging movement, coordination, and confidence among the center’s users.

The official handover of the equipment coincided with the children’s holiday celebration held in the days around Christmas. The event was attended by parents, the center’s staff, and Rotarians from the club. As a gesture of appreciation, a Certificate of Gratitude was presented to the President of Rotary Club Burgas, Vesela Petkova.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club Bourgas

Care and Support for Seniors with Dementia – “Grizhovnik”

The second phase of the project was implemented in support of the “Grizhovnik” Social Garden for seniors with dementia – a place that provides a safe environment, meaningful activity, and humane care for elderly people.

To encourage fine motor skills, social interaction, and emotional wellbeing, the following items were delivered:

- Pottery wheel and clay – for creative therapy and artistic expression
- Outdoor benches – for rest and shared moments in the courtyard
- Musical equipment – for music therapy and emotional stimulation

This equipment contributes to a more fulfilling daily environment in which elderly people can remain active and connected, preserving dignity and a sense of engagement with the world around them.

The initiative is yet another example of Rotary Club Burgas’ commitment to causes with long-term social impact. For us, “Service Above Self” is not a slogan, but a daily responsibility — to stand beside those who need support, attention, and respect.

We express our sincere gratitude to Kristin Daguell for her trust and involvement, as well as to the teams of both social services for their partnership and dedicated work.

Together, we continue building a more caring and humane community.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

New Rotaract Club in Karnobat An Active Youth Vision

A new Rotaract club was officially chartered in the town of Karnobat, bringing together 13 young people. Elif Sabri, Past District Interact Representative, was elected President of the club.

The club's composition highlights the continuity between Interact and Rotaract. Seven of the members are former Interactors, while the rest are their peers and supporters. The focus of the young Rotaractors is active community engagement and the development of volunteerism.



Interest in Rotary service continues to grow. During the chartering ceremony of the new Rotaract club, two new Rotarians were welcomed into Rotary Club Karnobat, while seven students became members of Interact Karnobat — a true celebration within the Rotary family.

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Interact Club Kardzhali

Kardzhali Showed Heart – A Successful Finale to the “Buy and Donate” Campaign

With great gratitude and satisfaction, we share the successful completion of the charitable campaign “Buy and Donate”, held on December 13, 2025. Once again, Kardzhali demonstrated empathy and care for those in need, proving that kindness and solidarity can bring a community together in the most beautiful way.

Thanks to the generosity of local citizens, 1,325 kg of food products were collected, with a total value of BGN 7,367.56. These are not just numbers — they represent hundreds of acts of humanity and hope.

Our heartfelt thanks go to every person who supported the cause, contributing time, resources, and attention. Every product placed in the donation carts was a sign of compassion and willingness to help.

The campaign was also made possible through the cooperation of local businesses. Special thanks to the “Perfect” 3 and 4 stores, “Istanbul Market,” “Zornitsa,” “Shenel,” “Paradise,” as well as “Lina Market” in the town of Kirkovo, all of which participated actively — including through additional donations during the event itself.

All collected products have already been delivered to the Bulgarian Red Cross, which will distribute them to those for whom this support matters most.

The campaign reminded us that together we can achieve more, and that even the smallest gesture can make a big difference in someone’s day — or in their life. Our sincere thanks to everyone who helped make “Buy and Donate” yet another successful initiative for good.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Rotary Club Samokov Organizes a Screening of the Film “One Gram of Life” for Students

Fully funded by Rotary Club Samokov, under the leadership of President Evgeni Gyunkin, a screening of the film “One Gram of Life” was held for students from grades 9 to 12 in the town’s schools.

The film presents real human stories and compellingly addresses the issue of drug use among young people, as well as the serious consequences for the users themselves, their families, and society. The screening prompted reflection and discussions among the students, emphasizing the importance of personal choice and timely support in difficult life situations.

Rotary Club Samokov, with President Evgeni Gyunkin, continues to pursue its mission of working for the youth in the community, believing that prevention and dialogue today will contribute to a better tomorrow.





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DISTRICT 2483

THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RC BUDVA: LADIES NIGHT

On Friday, December 5, 2025, the ceremony "Ladies' Night" of the Rotary Club of Budva was successfully held. About 120 Rotarians from Montenegro, District 2483 and abroad, their friends, business associates and family members gathered in the "Splendid" hotel, and this time gathered on the occasion of a large global grant from Montenegrin clubs for the purchase of teaching materials and aids for the education of children with special educational needs. On this occasion, €13,000 was collected, which will be directed to the given goal.

In addition to the host, members of RC Budva, the ceremony was attended by representatives of RC Podgorica, RC Bar, RC Kotor, RC Ulcinj-Ulqin, RC Pljevlja, E-club Montenegro, RCT Budva, RCT Podgorica, RC Belgrade Skadarlija, RC Belgrade Stari grad, RC Belgrade Avala, RC Pančevo "Mihajlo Pupin", RC Zrenjanin, RC Kragujevac, RC Šabac and RC Belgrade Centar.

President Milijana Vukotić greeted the gathering on behalf of the hosts, welcoming the guests and reminding them of the idea of continuous action of selfless service in Rotary, even when that action is out of public view. At the same time, the president presented the global grant project to those present, to which all humanitarian activities of the Club in the current year are directed. Veliša Stamatović, governor of District 2483, also a member of RC Budva, greeted the gathering via video link, wishing the guests good fellowship and service in the spirit of Rotary. During the evening, a new member of RC Budva, Dr. Nikoleta Mušura Vujović, was promoted, and a certificate of appreciation was awarded to the previous treasurer, Luka Đonović.

In the cultural and entertainment part of the program, the dance couple of the dance studio "Budvadance Club", Dimitrija Uškova, performed, who helped the members to do their choreographic point and the ensemble "Mila Nikić & Band", and the contribution was made by prof. Ana Nikezić Martinović, guest of the evening. RC Budva greeted the guests, now traditionally, with the performance of the song "How good it is to see you again" under the leadership of Željko Vasović, as well as choreography specially prepared for this occasion.

RC BUDVA: LADIES NIGHT

The evening was hosted by Jovanka Ilić and Aleksandar Jovanović, with the dedicated assistance of Igor Gluščević, and Nikola Jelenković, DDR 2483, member of RCT Beograd Centar, contributed in the organizational part. In addition to personal donations and guests' donations, the successful evening was also contributed by the funds collected during the humanitarian lottery and the painting auction, which was donated to the Club for this noble cause by Đorđije Bato Boljević, an academic painter from Budva.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RC KOTOR: PARTICIPATION IN THE HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMATIC BAZAAR

The Kotor Rotary Club participated in the Humanitarian Diplomatic Bazaar this year, which was held on Saturday, December 6, organized by the International Women's Club of Montenegro and in cooperation with the diplomatic missions in Montenegro. Club members presented traditional Bokelje and Montenegrin products at their stand, prepared by RC Kotor members, their families and friends, including Kotor krempitas, Njegu prosciutto, homemade juices, jams, sweets, dunjada, olives and other specialties. The sale of products raised 613 euros, which were directed to the humanitarian projects of the International Women's Club of Montenegro. As part of this year's campaign, primary schools "Mirko Srzentić" in Petrovac and "Džafer Nikočević" in Gusinje were also supported.



RTC BELGRADE ČUKARICA AND RC BELGRADE ČUKARICA: HUMANITARIAN PERFORMANCE "MEN AND OTHER PROBLEMS"

Rotary club Belgrade Čukarica and Rotaract club Belgrade Čukarica organized a joint charter celebration on December 7, 2025 in the theater "Akademija 28". In the presence of over three hundred Rotarians, Rotaractors and friends, the theater play "Men and Other Problems" was played for the 10th anniversary, written, directed and acted by our former and current Rotaractors led by Emilia Vuković and Sava Manojlović. All proceeds will be directed to the purchase of pellets and other necessary items for the Center "Zvezda" and equipment for the Center for Children and Youth "Jefimija" in Kruševac.



THE JOURNEY IN DOING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RC BELGRADE INTERNATIONAL: PARTICIPATION IN THE TREE PLANTING ACTION ORGANIZED BY THE JEDAN POSTO FOUNDATION

Rotary Club Belgrade International participated in the action of planting trees in cooperation with the 1% Foundation. As part of this initiative, a total of 195 tree seedlings were planted over two days (December 12 in Kalemegdan and December 13 in New Belgrade), which made a significant contribution to the improvement of green areas in the city of Belgrade. On this occasion, the club presented the city with four new trees: two black pines planted in Kalemegdan, as well as one ash and one chestnut in New Belgrade. Members of the Belgrade International Rotary Club actively participated in the planting, with special pleasure that the youngest joined the action, reminding us all of the responsibility we have towards future generations. This is a sincere and concrete contribution to the community and the environment, in the spirit of the Rotary principle of Service Above Self and a shared commitment to the idea of Unite for Good, through actions that leave a lasting mark and legacy.



RC BELGRADE SAVA: DONATION OF BOOKS TO THE LIBRARY OF THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE STUDENT CITY

Our traditional cooperation with the library of the Student City Cultural Center continued this year as well, with the donation of necessary books for student education. We are grateful for the cooperation of the library team headed by manager Nataša Papić with the support of acting director. director Dubravka Tomić.



**RC SREMSKA MITROVICA: TRADITIONAL MANIFESTATION AT ZASAVICA
GIFTS OF MANGO**

The traditional event of the Rotary Club of Sremska Mitrovica "Gifts of mangosteens" was held on December 13, 2025 in the Special Nature Reserve "Zasavica". The event was attended by over 100 guests from 25 Rotary clubs from five districts, and the entire meeting took place in the spirit of Rotary fellowship, friendship and service to the community. A special dynamic and cheerful atmosphere was brought by the sausage-making competition, which brought together club members in the spirit of healthy competition and good energy. The first place was won by RC Pljevlja, the second place went to RC Bitola, while the third place was taken by RC Zgornji Brnik. Three special awards were also given to the clubs RC Avala, RC Kula and RC Skadarlija, in recognition of their special contribution, creativity and enthusiasm.

Thanks to the great response and the willingness of all participants to do good through socializing, funds in the amount of over 450,000 dinars were collected, intended for the purchase of New Year's packages for children without parental care in the territory of Sremska Mitrovica and Šid. In a warm, almost family atmosphere, the "Gifts of Mangulica" once again showed that Rotary connects people with big hearts, who through smiles, conversation and joint efforts leave a mark of kindness that can be seen most beautifully where it is most needed



RC ULCINJ: DONOR'S EVENING ON THE OCCASION OF THE 22ND YEAR OF THE HUMANITARIAN ACTION "SHOEBOX"

On December 13, 2025, at the Sapore di Mare restaurant in Ulcinj, Rotary Club Ulcinj organized a donor evening dedicated to supporting the construction of the Day Center for children with special needs in Ulcinj. The event was attended by representatives of Rotary Club Podgorica, Rotary Club Pljevlja, Rotary Club Budva, Rotary Club Kotor, Rotary Club Bar and Rotary E-Club Montenegro, as well as the Secretary General of the Red Cross of Montenegro and the Ambassador of Bulgaria to Montenegro. Support in the form of a personal donation was given by Siniša Pandurov from RC Zrenjanin. The evening was dedicated to marking 22 years of the "Shoebox" humanitarian action, and on that occasion the Rotary Club of Ulcinj presented certificates of thanks to Rotarians and partners who were involved in the implementation of this initiative from the very beginning. As part of the program, a humanitarian lottery was organized, as well as an auction of paintings by the artist from Ulcinj and member of RC Ulcinj, Mersiha Resulbegović Mavić, whose income was directed to humanitarian purposes.

The humanitarian action "Shoebox" has been implemented for 22 years as a result of long-term cooperation between Rotarians from Montenegro and Great Britain. The action was initiated by Gani Resulbegović, then a member of the Rotary Club Budva, later Rotary Club Ulcinj, and Peter Manuer, then a member of the Rotary Club Southampton South, who from the very beginning made a key contribution to the establishment and continuity of this international humanitarian project. Thanks to their initiative and long-term personal involvement, as well as the continuous support of Rotary Club Ulcinj as the project holder in Montenegro, the action is successfully implemented year after year. As part of the project, children from the south of England prepare New Year's packages for their peers in Montenegro, while the distribution is realized with the support of Montenegrin Rotary Clubs and the Red Cross of Montenegro. During the 22 years of the action, about 235,000 packages were handed out to children all over Montenegro, making "Shoebox" one of the longest-running and most recognizable humanitarian initiatives within the Rotary activities in the country.



RC BAR: AFFORESTATION OF THE BARE HILL IN BAR

The Rotary Club of Bar joined the afforestation action within the BORANKA initiative, which is carried out by the Union of Scouts of Montenegro, at the Golo brdo site in Bar, an area that suffered significant damage during the summer fires. As part of this action, which represents one of the larger afforestation activities in this area in recent years, more than 10,000 black pine seedlings were planted on Goli Brdo, thus making a concrete contribution to the restoration of the forest stock and environmental protection.

Members of the Rotary Club of Bar participated in this activity together with their families and children, and upon their invitation, the action was supported by the Rotary Club Budva and the Rotary Club Kotor. Joint participation in tree planting confirmed the commitment of Rotary clubs to nature conservation and responsible action in the interest of the local community and future generations.



INTERACT CLUB ZRENJANIN: HUMANITARIAN LECTURE "ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - OPPORTUNITY OR RISK"

Interact Club Zrenjanin organized a humanitarian lecture entitled "Artificial intelligence - opportunity or risk", on December 14, 2025 in the Cultural Center Zrenjanin. The lecture was given by professor Dušan D. Nešić

RC Belgrade Old Town: Donation to the Special Hospital for Lung Diseases "Ozren" in Sokobanja

On December 15, 2025, the Rotary Club of Belgrade - Stari Grad donated a vein detector to the Special Hospital for Lung Diseases "Ozren" in Sokobanja, making a concrete contribution to improving the quality of health care and patient safety. This modern medical device enables precise projection of the patient's veins in real time onto the surface of the skin, thereby facilitating medical procedures and raising the level of healthcare.

The special importance of this donation is reflected in helping patients who, due to their health condition, find it difficult or almost impossible to find a vein for the application of therapy, which is especially pronounced in oncology patients. The use of vein detectors enables faster and safer application of therapy, reducing additional stress and discomfort for patients, but also facilitating the work of medical personnel in urgent and demanding situations.

On this occasion, we would like to draw attention to the importance of institutions such as the Special Hospital for Lung Diseases "Ozren" in Sokobanja, which play a key role in the treatment of patients with chronic and severe lung diseases, including those suffering from tuberculosis. Such health institutions take care of a significant number of patients from all over Serbia every day and represent an important pillar of the public health system, which is why they deserve greater visibility and continuous support from the community.



RC PANČEVO: COFFEE WITH SANTA CLAUS

The Pancevo Rotary Club implemented the "Coffee with Santa Claus" campaign by awarding New Year's packets to the students of the "Mara Mandić" special school from Pancevo. 110 New Year's packages were collected and distributed. Santa Claus was up to the task, as can be seen from the attached photos, and of course the children - there is no end to the happiness. The President of RC Pnačevo would like to especially thank RC Čukarica, RC Kalemegdan and RC Tehnology, who helped the campaign with their donations.



RC NOVI SAD DUNAV: DONATION OF INHALATION SYSTEMS FOR CHILDREN

Members of the Novi Sad - Danube Rotary Club delivered 23.12.25. five inhalation systems for children being treated at the Children's Hospital in Novi Sad, which were purchased from donations at the Traditional Humanitarian Karaoke. December is the month of giving, but also the month in the Rotary calendar dedicated to the prevention and treatment of diseases, as well as the support of medical institutions. It is in this spirit, thanks to the wholehearted support of the community, that funds were collected that will contribute to the work of the Children's Hospital in Novi Sad and help the youngest patients in their recovery.



RC BELGRADE SINGIDUNUM: CHARITY NEW YEAR'S CONCERT AND COCKTAIL

The Belgrade-Singidunum Rotary Club organized a humanitarian New Year's concert and cocktail with the aim of collecting donations for the renovation and modernization of the "Svetozar Marković" University Library, one of the most important cultural and educational institutions in Serbia, founded in 1926. In a festive atmosphere, the guests had the opportunity to enjoy the performances of two string ensembles from the School for Musical Talents from Ćuprije, with works by Beethoven and Mozart. The program was opened with a welcome speech by the president of the club, and the event was further enriched by an address from the manager of the University Library "Svetozar Marković". With this action, the initiative to support the long-term project of library renovation was started, with the aim that it will remain a modern center of knowledge, culture and academic life in the coming decades.

RC Sombor: Campaign to collect New Year's packages

On December 23, 2025, the Rotary Club of Sombor realized the traditional action of collecting New Year's packets, which was held in the surroundings of Dida Hornjak's farm. The activity brought together club members, friends and guests, with the aim of collecting packets intended for children who need extra attention and support during the holiday period. The friendly Rotary Clubs of Osijek, Baja, Pečuj and Senta, as well as representatives of associations and organizations that contributed to its success, participated in the realization of the action. The collected New Year's packets will be distributed to children in the coming days, thus continuing the long-standing humanitarian practice of the Rotary Club of Sombor focused on solidarity and joint action in the local community.



RC BELGRADE AVALA: DONATION OF NEW YEAR'S PACKAGES

On December 23, 2025, the Belgrade Avala Rotary Club donated New Year's packets intended for developmentally disabled people gathered at the RODE Association, as well as for children in the oncology department. Packages were handed to children who, due to the difficulty of treatment and recovery, were not able to spend the holidays with their families. With this humanitarian activity, the Belgrade Avala Rotary Club continued the practice of providing support to the most vulnerable groups, with the aim of giving them attention and a sign of solidarity during the holiday period.



RC VRANJE BORA STANKOVIĆ AND RC VRANJE: NEW YEAR'S PACKAGES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Rotary Club Vranje "Bora Stanković" and Rotary Club Vranje jointly organized the distribution of New Year's packages for 130 children with special needs of different ages in the area of Vranje. The packets were given to the students of the "Vula Antić" Special School, as well as to the children from the "Maštolenđ" Association. With this activity, the two Rotary Clubs of Vranje provided symbolic support to children and their families, continuing their joint action aimed at solidarity, inclusion and support for the most sensitive members of the local community.



RC ULCINJ: DISTRIBUTION OF SHUEBOX PACKETS

As in previous years, Rotary Club Ulcinj organized the distribution of around 700 "Shoebox" New Year's packages to children in educational institutions and children from the records of the Center for Social Welfare in the Ulcinj area. The packets were given to students of lower grades of primary schools, as well as to children with special needs, thus continuing the long-standing practice of providing support to the youngest and affirming the values of solidarity, humanity and international friendship. In addition, about 500 packets were distributed with the support of the long-standing partner Red Cross of Montenegro, while about 250 packets were distributed to children from the Konik settlement in Podgorica, which included a larger number of children from socially sensitive areas.



30.12.2025 - RC SOMBOR: DONATION OF NEW YEAR'S PACKAGES

New Year's packages, collected on December 23 at Dida Horanjak's farm, were distributed to children in Čonoplja, Stanišić and Svetozar Miletić. Part of the package was also handed over to the students of the "Bratstvo Jedinstvo" Primary School, which included a larger number of children in the local communities.



The distribution of packets in Čonoplja was carried out by members of the Rotary Club of Sombor, Aleksandar Dimitrijević and Rafael Juhas, with the support of the organization. In Stanišić, club members Milena Ferenčević Stijelja and Tatjana Milošev Vrdoljak handed out packages, while in Svetozar Miletić club members Sonja Romić Švec and Maria Reffle took part in the distribution, in cooperation with the "Oaza 1873" association. The activity was realized with the joint engagement of club members and partners, with the aim of providing attention and support to children before the holidays

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