

## Support the president's initiatives

### BUILDING PEACE THROUGH VIRTUAL EXCHANGES

Rotary has a long history of working for peace through personal connections, but the COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult to do that face-to-face. Inspired by what we've learned during this time, Gordon encourages districts to incorporate virtual components into more of their programmes, events, and activities.



By using innovative technologies to make connections, we give more people the opportunity to experience Rotary's global community while laying the foundation for peacebuilding through improved intercultural dialogue, awareness, and understanding.

Adding or maintaining these components in our exchange programmes like Rotary Youth Exchanges and Rotary Friendship Exchanges will:

Give members and participants new ways to experience other cultures, make new friends, and broaden their global awareness.

Make membership more accessible to people with time, health, or financial considerations.

Build stronger intercultural communication and understanding, and ultimately foster more stable and peaceful communities.

[For more information, please visit My Rotary.](#)

## Support the president's initiatives



**Each year, Rotary awards fully funded fellowships for dedicated leaders from around the world to study at one of our peace centers.**

Through academic training, practice, and global networking opportunities, the Rotary Peace Centers program develops the capacity of peace and development professionals to become effective catalysts for peace. The fellowships cover tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation, and internship and field-study expenses.

Since the program began in 2002, the Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,600 fellows who now work in over 140 countries. Many serve as leaders in governments; NGOs; education and research institutions; peacekeeping and law enforcement agencies; and international organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank.

### Our fellowships

The Rotary Peace Fellowship is designed for leaders with work experience in peace and development. Our fellows are committed to community and international service and the pursuit of peace. Each year, The Rotary Foundation awards up to 50 fellowships for master's degrees and up to 40 for certificate studies at premier universities.

For more information, please visit  
<https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/peace-fellowships>

# Presidential Message

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*The World Health Organization designates 10 October as World Mental Health Day, and with Rotary placing a special focus on mental health this year, I would like to help answer the question posed to me most often when I travel to meet members: How can my club get started?*

*There are some wonderful examples of Rotary members taking action already. In the Philippines, the Rotary Club of Tiaong-Hiyas held a 12-week health challenge for mothers in the community to promote some baseline health screenings and coaching on a healthier lifestyle.*

*By the end of the challenge, the mothers had a special bond and decided to form a Rotary Community Corps called Ilaw ng Tahanan (“one who lights up the home”) with the goal of involving more mothers in health education and wellness support — and later youth services, teen pregnancy prevention, and help with unhealthy substance use. Almost a year later, the RCC is preparing to open its own health center where mothers can come for peer-to-peer support.*

*Another strong example is in Colorado. In the fall of 2021, a small group of stakeholders from the Rotary Club of Highlands Ranch formed the Rotary Clubs of Colorado Endowed Fellowship for Pediatric Mental Health, which enhances the ability of Children’s Hospital Colorado to recruit and train pediatric psychiatry providers and allows the hospital network to make additional appointments. This increases access to mental health care for children and decreases provider shortages.*

*Since then, the project has brought on new supporters and is now fully funded with a \$500,000 endowment. Investment income from this endowment will support a fellow — a psychologist or psychiatrist — at Children’s Hospital. A new fellow will be named every one to two years, beginning spring of 2024. Over time this will create a cohort to bolster the mental health workforce, treating kids from all 64 Colorado counties and neighboring states.*

*There are many more great mental health project stories on Rotary Showcase, and I invite you to share your experiences as you begin your own projects. Also, please reach out to [mindhealth@rotary.org](mailto:mindhealth@rotary.org) with any thoughts or ideas you would like to share about mental health in the Rotary world.*



**Gordon McNally**  
**Rotary International President**  
**RY 2023-2024**

# Presidential Message

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*From P2...*

*On 10 October, I will host a Facebook Live event when we will recognize World Mental Health Day and further explore how Rotary members can begin this journey. But I would like to leave you with one way every Rotary member can make a difference.*

*Right now, there is someone you know in the Rotary world — in your club, from a project you've worked on, in a Rotary Fellowship or Rotary Action Group — who could use a little more of your time and attention. Rotary is this great gift of global friendship, and that also means being there for each other.*

*Discovering the human connections that bind us is what we do through our membership every day. It's what Rotary has always been about, and we can build on it by helping each other find peace at home.*

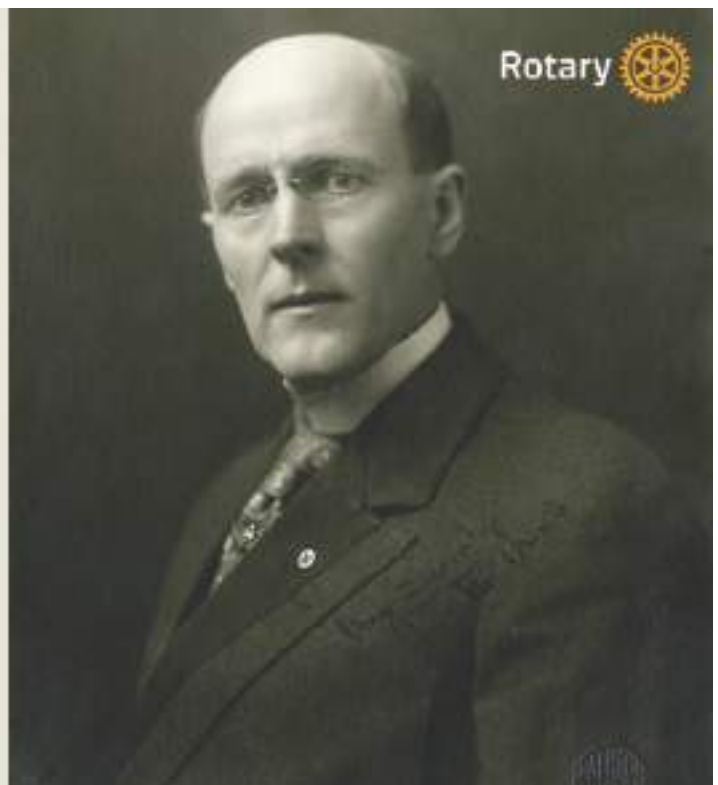
*We need to learn how to ask not just "How are you?" but also "How are you really?" By doing so, Rotary can continue to Create Hope in the World.*



**"I have no hesitation in saying that world peace could be achieved and made permanent if reared on Rotary's firm foundation of friendliness, tolerance, and usefulness."**

**Paul Harris**

*Founder of Rotary International  
1940 Convention*





## Zone 21B Rotary Public Image Coordinator Message

*As you all know, October 24 is Polio Day for us Rotarians, and over than 540 Rotary Districts and nearly 36,000 Rotary Clubs in 200 different geographic areas around the world organize various events to explain our fight on this issue.*

*In order to raise this awareness in 2023, Rotarian Bashar Asfour, perhaps the world's Polio holder, embarked on an amazing journey that reminds us once again that Rotary is a global power. You will find all the details of this journey, which contributed more than \$244,000 to the Rotary Foundation's Polio Fund, on the inside pages of this issue, written by Tanya Georgieva.*

*Between 16-19 October, in Bucharest as I mentioned in the article I shared with you last month, training seminars were held for the DGEs and DGNs who will serve for the next two years in Rotary Zone 21. At the end of the training seminars, the Rotary Institute was held, this time open to all Rotarians in Zone 21. You can read news about the Rotary Institute on the inside pages, written by Rtc.Nisa Ildız Çelebioğlu.*

*As we all know, in November, we Rotarians celebrate the Rotary Foundation and its services and share their success with the whole world. I know and believe that in November 2023, we will tell the world about the humanitarian projects that the Rotary Foundation has produced since its founding in 1917, and we will once again share the power of goodness with all humanity, whether Rotarians or non-Rotarians.*

*After October, where we experienced Rotary to the fullest, I am sure that we will share very special news with you in November. In my opinion, the most important of these news will be the news about the event that we, are planning for this Rotary year under the title of "Menthel Health & Peace Forum" as Magic Team.*

*I would like to end this month's article with a quote from Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founding leader of my country, which I always keep in mind to end this conflicting state of the world.*

*PEACE at WORLD, PEACE at HOME*

*See you next month,*

*CREATE HOPE in the WORLD*

*Rtn. N.Altan Arslan*

*PP 05-06 Ankara Kızılay RC*

*PDG 18-19 D.2430*

*RPIC 23-26 Zone 21B*



**N. Altan Arslan**

**PP 2005-2006 Ankara Kızılay RC**

**PDG 2018-2019 D2430**

**RPIC 2023-2026 Zone 21B**

# October is Economic and Community Development Month

Community Economic Development is vital in creating resilient communities to help address the needs of individuals, families and children



*"If we can make a difference in the life of one person in a community, it is a small yet significant step to empowering a whole community."*  
Loshini Naidoo

**COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MONTH**

*Economic and Community Development is one such area of focus that Rotary has asked all clubs to focus on , especially in October. What is your club doing?*

*Unemployment, underemployment, lack of economic opportunity, lack of appropriate training, and the absence of social safety nets lie at the core of poverty.*

*For the poor, labor is often the only asset available to improve well-being. Creating productive employment opportunities is essential for reducing poverty achieving sustainable economic and social development, and for providing income security and especially for women, people with disabilities, youth, and the extremely poor.*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:**

**<https://my.rotary.org/en/Node/180961>**



**Prof. Dr Branislav Randjelovic**  
**Rotary Coordinator, Region 25**

**Rotary Coordinator**  
**Prof. Dr Branislav Randjelovic**  
**on...**

**Goodbye Bucharest!! Hello Belgrade!!**

*And what should we do in the meantime?*

*Rotary Zone 21 Institute in Bucharest, Romania ([www.institutebucharest.com](http://www.institutebucharest.com)), is finished. The largest gathering of Rotarians of our zone was held in beautiful Bucharest, in the presence of almost 400 attendees. We can say that this was one of the most interesting and most successfully organized institutes. Institute Chair RIDE Daniel*

*Tanase and his team made our stay in Bucharest exciting and fruitful. During Institute sessions, but also during Rotary Foundation seminar and Regional update seminar, we have had the opportunity to see and hear about many good results of our clubs and Districts, in previous period. Attendees have had possibility to see, to hear and speak (and to take a photo or a selfie) with RIP Gordon McNally, RID Patrick D. Chisanga, RF Trustee Aziz Memon, RIPN Mario Cesar Martins de Camargo, RF Trustee Geeta Manek, General Secretary John Hewko, Past RI Vice-presidents, Past RI Directors, Rotary regional coordinators and leaders and many other distinguished guests. This Institute was preceded by GETS/GNTS preparatory seminar/training for incoming and nominated Governors of all Districts in our big, beautiful, multinational, multi-confessional and multilingual Zone 21.*





## Rotary Coordinator Prof. Dr Branislav Randjelovic on...

### Goodbye Bucharest!! Hello Belgrade!!

*And what should we do in the meantime?*

From PG...



Until the beginning of the next Rotary Zone 21 Institute, that will be held on **September 26-29, 2024**, in Belgrade, Serbia ([www.RotaryInstituteBelgrade2024.org](http://www.RotaryInstituteBelgrade2024.org)) we have less than 11 months! We can be sure that host District 2483 and Organizing committee led by Institute Chair **RC Bane Randjelovic** will try to achieve the same or even higher level of organization, than in Bucharest, for sure. Having in mind very good geographical position, highway and air connections, traditional Serbian hospitality combined with good food and good music, wide touristic offer and sightseeing possibilities of Belgrade and surrounding area, and a very strong leadership team in this District, next Institute could be even bigger than Bucharest, with possibility to be the largest Rotarian gathering in Europe in 2024.

But... what will be presented to Rotarians and other guests in capitol of Serbia? Will our organization have some good results in membership, good projects work with Rotary Foundation and a better public image? Rotarians will not come to Zone Institute just for fun and joy, but they would probably want to hear and to be proud of some good results, and to learn something new. In order to achieve that, we cannot wait, **we must act NOW!**



Membership is one of the most important components of our organization. If we do not have stable and increasing membership in our Clubs and Districts, we could fall into the situation that there will not be enough Rotarians who will support our Rotary Foundation! Insufficient support to the foundation will lead to a decreased number of grants supported, and that means that we will not have enough possibilities to present our work in our local communities, states and economies. So, the importance of membership is crucial for the future of our organization. Let's focus on membership.



## Rotary Coordinator Prof. Dr Branislav Randjelovic on...

### Goodbye Bucharest!! Hello Belgrade!!

*And what should we do in the meantime?*

*When our clubs and districts plan our activities in this field, they should be focused on 3 groups of possible activities:*

- *nurturing and retaining existing membership,*
- *attracting and accepting new members and*
- *keeping and involving Rotaract members.*

*The retaining of existing members is very, very important. We must be aware that in our zone we have one big problem regarding this. A large percentage of Rotarians leave our organization in its first or second year of membership! This might mean that club meetings are not sufficiently interesting, or that the club failed to involve new Rotarians. In both ways... this is a huge problem. We must involve members in projects, we should take care of them and their needs. In order to keep them in Rotary, our club meetings must be interesting. Club meeting should be some kind of learning environment, that leads to personal improvement and vocational satisfaction of each Rotarian.*



*Attracting and accepting new members is a very important activity. The selection process must result in good prospective candidates, that are aware of the large spectrum and various possibilities that our organization offers, for everybody who wants to give. They should also be aware of the sacrifice, giving and devotion that each member should put into the organization. During the recruitment process, they will see, of course, the best side of our organization, they will be optimistic and ready and willing to work. From the moment they become prospective members, other club members should be polite and gentle to newcomers, they should select and denote them mentors, who will take care of them and introduce them deeper in Rotary. The continual learning process is very important. Experienced Rotarians should use each opportunity to reveal the best side of our organization, and new members should be led by their good example. Our clubs should be flexible with*

From P7



## Rotary Coordinator Prof. Dr Branislav Randjelovic on...

### Goodbye Bucharest!! Hello Belgrade!!

*And what should we do in the meantime?*

*rules and procedures, to not push to much, but to make a good and friendly atmosphere. The process of introduction of new members is slow and long-lasting. But this is only guarantee that we will not lose those new members after first few years.*

*Nurturing and involving Rotaractors in Rotary clubs and activities is very important for the future of our organization. Rotaractors are already here, they are in*

From P8



*try to achieve the goals. Let the next Rotary Institute in Belgrade be the place where we will all show our organization to ourselves and to distinguished guests, in the best possible manner. Let us all be proud of our Rotary!!! **Goodbye Bucharest - Hello Belgrade!!***

*Rotaract clubs, and those clubs are now “equal” to Rotary Clubs. They are already inside our organization, and some of them are completely educated and prepared for serious Rotary work. We should involve them more and support the work of Rotaract clubs, including engagement of Rotaractors in District activities. We should support our Rotaract clubs to implement Global grants. Additionally, there is a large number of Rotaractors that would like to “elevate” their membership and to transfer to some Rotary club. In one way or another, we should keep them inside the organization and not lose them. We should not allow the worst scenario to lose any good Rotaractor.*

*Finally, we could conclude that we must immediately start and push work regarding membership. Let’s plan and predict a possible membership increase, set the goals and*



**Welcome to Belgrade!!! September 26th-29th 2024**  
[www.rotaryinstitutebelgrade2024.org](http://www.rotaryinstitutebelgrade2024.org)



**Mert Korur**  
**District 2440 Governor Elect**

## Zone 21 GETS-GNTS & Institute Bucharest 2023

### Thoughts and observations....

Once you are elected as District Governor Nominee in your district you start to learn more about the internationality of Rotary. Past, present, and future district governors, as well as RI Presidents, Directors, Trustees, and Regional Leaders attend Rotary institutes, which are held every year through September to October in each Zone, Region of Rotary International. Although being a Rotarian is the only restriction to attend the Rotary institutes, mostly incoming

district and senior leaders attend the Rotary institutes to share information, build connections, and exchange ideas about their Districts, Zones and the International Rotary. The institutes usually happen just after the Governors Elect and Governors Nominee Training Seminars (GETS/GNTS) and goes on for approximately for three to four days. The program includes:

An update on The Rotary Foundation and its programs; A report on our polio eradication efforts ; A five-year forecast presented by a director or other Board representative; An open forum where participants can make recommendations to the Board; Local and international speakers sharing information on relevant topics.

This October; I have attended the Zone 21 GETS in Bucharest as well as the Zone 21 Institute. These international meetings gives District Leaders a chance to network, meet their classmates, and reconnect with old friends. Training sessions are opportunities to get inspiration for continuing your service and leadership in your community and district. Motivates you; to learn more....As you listening to other leaders experiences, highlights and inside stories you get a chance to restructure your term. Either in administration or your districts committees, your – what I call the “A Team”. Now I feel ready. I had strategies, leadership continuity development is essential as well but learned that we have to be cautious on how we can apply conflict management strategies...

In Bucharest we had the chance to review the Action Plan of Rotary better which encouraged every participant to think about Rotary in a different way then usual. Stuff we reviewed helped me to re organize my priorities and objectives to help achieve the specific goals we wished for our terms.

I have seen how I will motivate club and district leaders by developing specific strategies in our learning events like Presidents-elect training seminar (PETS) and the District training assembly (DTA). Engaging, innovating, and inclusiveness will help us to perform better leadership skills. I have decided to make a special “District Vibrant Club Workshop” to smaller Clubs to motivate the Presidents, the board and committee members, as well as the club members.



## Zone 21 GETS-GNTS & Institute Bucharest 2023

### Thoughts and observations....

*From P10...*

All participants had a chance to forecast their term in means of Club visits, District conference, fundraising events and local service projects. I am sure every DG understands the importance of working with Club and Districts Support Staff (CDS) and the Regional Experts much better after these sessions in the GETS. We learned how to apply best practices for

district responsibilities we have and operations as well as how we can address issues specific to our district.

Communication is an important aspect of our Success. We can now distinguish better how our messaging should be. Firstly internal communication for between our A Team, Rotary club members, Rotaract club members, and the externality to the public... So that won't be disturbing but will be appreciated...

We now know better how we can understand the program and goals of the International Assembly as well and are preparing for the IA in Orlando 7-12 Jan 2024.

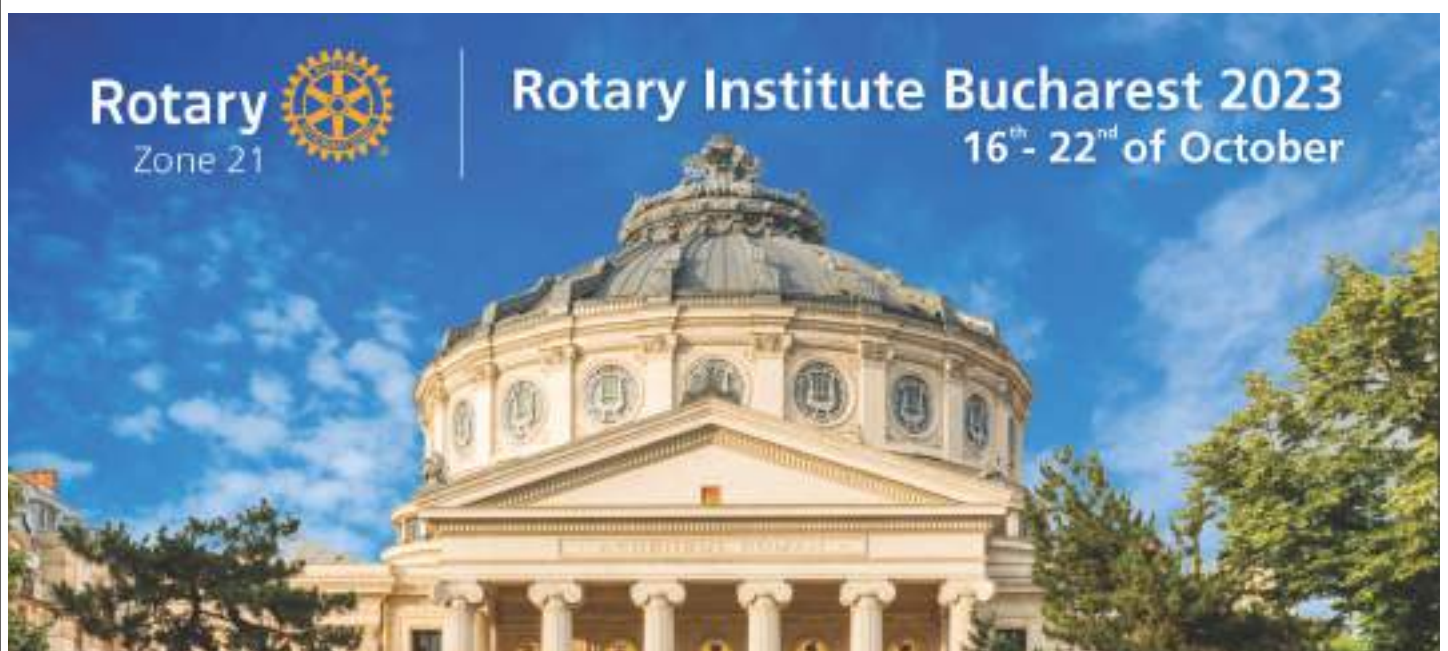
I feel most acknowledged and had a great time in Bucharest as well. Entertainment and social outings helped us to get to know each other better. Not just as being DGEs but as a person; what our professions are, how our families are and significant insides about each characters.

I do sincerely advise all district leaders to attend the international meetings of our Districts, Zones as well as The Rotary International Convention ... This year will be held in Singapore between 25-29 May at Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre with general sessions at National Stadium where all Rotarians around the world will join together in Sharing Hope with the World...

Yours

Mert Korur

DGE 2440





**ARPIC Alaeddin Demircioğlu**  
**District 2420/2430/2440**

## ARPIC Alaeddin Demircioğlu on...

### The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

#### DISTRICT 2420, 2430 & 2440 for Rotary Polio fund

Bashar Asfour was first welcomed in Izmir, District 2440 on September 25 in 2440 within the scope of "My Journey to end polio". Visiting all 3 regions District 2420, District 2430 and District 2440 in Turkey, Bashar Asfour talked about Rotary's commitment to the world and its efforts to eradicate polio from the world, in meetings with local press. About the campaign the financial donations collected were transferred to the Rotary Polio fund.





# ARPIC Alaeddin Demircioğlu on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P12...

DISTRICT 2420, 2430 & 2440 for Rotary Polio fund





ARPIC  
Alaeddin Demircioğlu on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P13...

DISTRICT 2420, 2430 & 2440 for Rotary Polio fund





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Alaeddin Demircioğlu on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

### ROTARY Club of KaradenizEreğli hosting a Long Term Exchange Student in KaradenizEreğli / TURKIYE

Ashley Melissa Campos Salomon from Torreon Centenario RC of MEXICO will be our guest for a year. She will be educating Alapli Bahcesehir College. We welcome her with all of our club members & families.





ARPIC

Alaeddin Demircioğlu on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P15..

### ROTARY Club of Karadeniz Ereğli hosting a Long Term Exchange Student in Karadeniz Ereğli / TÜRKİYE

Ashley met with all Club Members, Rotaracts, Rotakids & hosting families. We made a tour for her to met her school. Club members & families took care of her. We took her to sightseeing tours & showed her local culturel & historical places. She attended to our activities & organisations.





# ARPIC Alaeddin Demircioğlu on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P16...

ROTARY Club of KaradenizEreğli hosting  
a Long Term Exchange Student in Karad-  
enizEreğli / TÜRKİYE



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Alaeddin Demircioğlu on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

### ROTARY Club of Toros-D2430 : Ambulance Donation

The Toros Rotary Club,D2430 has donated one patient transfer ambulance to the Mersin Tarsus

Organized Industrial Zone as part of the "Patient Transfer Ambulance" project.

After the earthquake on February 6, 2023,

the increasing population of Mersin has made immediate access to healthcare services for the city and the local people even more critical. Ambulance services, which provide the first response in emergency healthcare situations and urgently transport patients to the hospital, are a crucial component of the public healthcare system. Every minute counts when it comes to getting patients to the hospital. With this in mind, the "Patient Transfer Ambulance" project was initiated by the Toros Rotary Club to address the needs of the industrial zone.





## ARPIC Alaeddin Demircioğlu on...

### The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P16...

#### ROTARY Club of Toros-D2430 : Ambulance Donation

As part of the matched donation project, a budget was allocated and the ambulance was purchased.

It was formally handed over to the authorities in a ceremony.



#### ROTARY Club of Kdz.EREĞLİ-D2430

As Kdz.EREĞLİ ROTARY CLUB, Atatürk Cultural Center within the Karadeniz Ereğli Municipality

2 matinees for children using the Central Theater Hall, "Masha and the Big Bear, The Power of

Friendship" theater game was performed.

A total of 218 students and 36 pre-school age children and their parents in 2 sessions.(476 people in total) were hosted.

Before and after the theater, by using the hall entrances and foyer area, within the scope of "END POLIO NOW", awareness-raising visuals were used and brochures were distributed.





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Alaeddin Demircioğlu on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P19...

### ROTARY Club of Kdz.EREĞLİ-D2430

Beforehand, in the theater hall, participating parents were given general information about Rotary and specific information about "End Polio". Within the scope of the event, by support of Karadeniz Ereğli Municipality and Rotary Club of Karadeniz Ereğli, D.2430, 16 children of earthquake victim families 50 children residing in rural areas were able to watch

Theater free of charge. Event was also shared on social media.



### Rotary Club of Karadeniz Ereğli carry out MOTHER Camp; FATHER Camp; CHILDREN CAMP

As 2023-2024 district mission for Rotary Club of Karadeniz Ereğli, camp was organised & accomplished perfectly. Club has been organising these camps annually till 2019. In the traditional format, the camp was carry out in a natural camping area. 22 families attended.





## ARPIC Alaeddin Demircioğlu on...

### The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P18...

#### Rotary Club of Karadeniz Ereğli carry out Mother & Father & Children Camp

Children & their parents raced with each others & had fun with the guidance of local sport educators whole 2 days. Families hiked in the forest with professional nature guides. Kids have fun around the camp fire during the night & closed the night with open air kids disco & cinema. All the attendees stayed in tents at night.





## ARPIC Alaeddin Demircioğlu on...

### The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P21..

#### Rotary Club of Karadeniz Ereğli carry out Mother & Father & Children Camp

All the Club members of Karadeniz Ereğli, ROTARACTS, ROTAKIDS & their families attend the camp during the daytime activities.





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Alaeddin Demircioğlu on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

### ROTAKIDS of Karadeniz Ereğli Rotary Club running for oportinuties

ROTAKIDS raising funds. During the MOTHER&FATHER&CHILDREN CAMP organisation by Rotary Club of Karadeniz-Eregli, ROTAKIDS opened a stand & sold waffles to the attendees of the camp organisation. They inform their peers about ROTAKIDS & also raise funds for their in term activities.



## ARPIC Alaeddin Demircioğlu on...

### The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P23...

#### ROTAKIDS of Karadeniz Ereğli Rotary Club running for oportinuties

ROTAKIDS back to school. They run to their principal & talk about collective opportunities with her. They agreed on realizing common activities that will both support ROTAKIDS & their school.





ARPIC

Alaeddin Demircioğlu on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P24...

### ROTAKIDS of Karadeniz Ereğli Rotary Club running for oportunities

ROTAKIDS in action. ROTAKIDS & their mothers produced handmade strawberry key chains from wool. On a theatre day, ROTAKIDS opened a stand & sold them to reserve money to help their peers that are going to school on country side. They are aming to buy school stationaries to them that in need.



*Bu çilekli anahtarlığı  
annelerimiz ile birlikte yaptık.  
Siz de bu güzel anahtarlıklardan  
alarak köydeki kardeşlerimizin  
eğitimine destek olmamıza  
yardımcı oldunuz.  
Desteğiniz için teşekkür ederiz.*

**Kdz.Ereğli  
Rotakids Kulübü**

Karadeniz Ereğli  
**Rotary**  
Kulübü



## ARPIC Alaeddin Demircioğlu on...

### The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

#### Rotary Club of Göztepe,D.2440: International Women's Water Polo Tournament

Rotary Club of Göztepe,D.2440 has organized 20th International Women's Water Polo Tournament on the 100th anniversary of our Republic and was successfully completed. A total of 5 teams from two different countries participated in the competition.





ARPIC  
Alaeddin Demircioğlu on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

### International Exchange Students Summer farewell party

Rotary Club of Cesme,D2440 hosted a summer farewell party with the participation of Rotary Exchange students



## But just what is Rotary? **AND WHY DOES ROTARY CARE?**

*We work hard to give back.*

We want to create a better future and make a difference. We know we can't do it alone, so we get our support and strength from other Rotarians both in our community and across the world.





**Rtc. Nisa Ildız Çelebioğlu**  
**ARPIC for Rotaract**  
**Districts 2420/2430/2440**

**ARPIC**

**Nisa Ildız Çelebioğlu on...**

## **The Journey in Doing Service Above Self**

We left behind an unforgettable Rotary Institute between 16-22 October. The Institute, which had a special importance for me as it was the first international Rotary organization I attended, was a great opportunity for me to meet my friends from far away places and to get more detailed information about the events held in other regions and districts. Rotary should be the only place where people are greeted

with hugs as if they were friends for fifty years when they meet face to face with people they met in Zoom meetings!

The Institute, which started by concretely demonstrating the power of the Rotary Foundation in numbers with the Rotary Foundation Seminar, continued with the Regional Update, which offered all participants the opportunity to exchange ideas and convey what is happening in their regions. The presentations of wonderful speakers must have inspired us, and as we came together with Rotarians and Rotaractors from different regions, wonderful projects began to emerge. The sincere answers to the questions posed to past RI Presidents in the panel held on the last day of the institute were priceless.





ARPIC

Nisa Ildız Çelebioğlu on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P28..



The concept of peace, one of the most important issues to focus on globally, was right in the middle of the Institute with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. As a result of the exchange of ideas at the institute, the idea of a Peace and Mental Health Forum in Belgrade, Serbia emerged! I have no doubt that the Peace and Mental Health Forum, born from our efforts at the Institute, scheduled for February 12, 2024, in Belgrade, is an event no one will want to overlook.

After the highly productive Bucharest Institute, we will continue our work on the Rotary's 7 Areas of Focus with all our strength, even more motivated. Endless thanks to all our Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors in Bucharest who worked effortlessly with their clubs to create such an amazing experience!

Hope to see you next month.

Rtc. Nisa Ildız Çelebioğlu

ARPIC Zone 21B 23-24

D2420 D2430 D2440

ARPIC

Nisa Ildız Çelebioğlu on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

### CULTURE NIGHTS ROTARACT CLUBS– D2440

Culture Nights is a culture and art project organized by District 2440 Rotaract Representative in partnership with District 2440 Rotary and Rotaract Clubs. During the all-day event on October 7, 2023, our Rotaract and Rotary clubs introduced the food, clothes, music and cultures of 10 different

countries and distributed brochures informing about Rotary, Rotaract and Interact Clubs to all participants.

The participant profile of the event included children, young people and adults of all ages. Our booths attracted a lot of attention, with delicious traditional food prepared by our clubs, enjoyable activities and entertaining music and dance shows.

Rotary Club of İzmir Karabağlar Çalığı, Rotary Club of İzmir Ege , Rotary Club of İzmir Çiğli , Rotary Club of İzmir, Rotary Club of Phokaia, Rotaract Club of İzmir, Rotaract Club of Agora, Rotaract Club of İzmir Ekonomi, Rotaract Club of Ege, Rotaract Club of Güzelbahçe, Rotaract Club of Kordon, Rotaract Club of Bornova, Rotaract Club of Çiğli and Rotaract Club of Bostanlı contributed to the preparation and working process carried out by Rotaract District 2440 Culture, Arts and Hobby Groups Coordinatorship. Rotary Exchange students in Izmir also accompanied the event process.





ARPIC

Nisa Ildız Çelebioğlu on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P30...

### CULTURE NIGHTS ROTARACT CLUBS- D2440

The Culture Nights event was also organized in cooperation with the Alumni Day event. Thus, retired members came together with club members and guest members and had a very colorful event. Our past District Rotaract Representatives Burak Terlemez, Mehmet Simşek and Can Sezici also participated in the event.

Rotary 2440th District Governor Ayda Özeren attended the event and visited the stands of the countries.





**ARPIC Sertaç Gümüş**  
**District 2452**

**ARPIC**  
**Sertaç Gümüş on...**

## **The Journey in Doing Service Above Self**

**LEADERSHIP TRAINING SEMINAR (RYLA) WAS HELD  
ROTARY CLUB KYRENIA LIMAN FROM D2452 GOT  
TOGETHER WITH THEIR TWIN CLUB ISTANBUL  
BARBAROS FROM D2420**

Rotary Clubs came together with friendship and acquaintanceship to organise an Applied Professional Enrichment Training at Karpaz Vocational High School with the priority they give to young people and vocational training.

In line with the importance and priority that Rotary attaches to education and young people, Kyrenia Liman Rotary Club from Rotary International district 2452 got together with their twin club Istanbul Barbaros Rotary Club from district 2420 Region and Istanbul Barbaros Metropolitan Rotary Club from the 2420th Region, organised a Rotary's Youth Programme, RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) Seminar/Leadership Training at Karpaz Vocational High School on September 22.

Additionally, a special 2-day practical and applied training on cake making took place at the same school's Food, Beverage, Front Office and Accommodation (Tourism) Department with the Chefs of Manolya Patisserie, one of Istanbul's leading pastry shops, for the Culinary Practices Course.



**Rotary**   **CREATE HOPE in the WORLD** **RYLA**

**Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Seminar**

**RYLA Trainers, D-2420**  
Dr. Yildiz ÖZALP & Dr. Semra BAYSAI

**Karpaz Meslek Lisesi/ Cyprus**

**22 September 2023**

**09:00 - 17:00**

**Kyrenia Liman Rotary Club, D-2452**  **Barbaros Metropolitan Rotary Club, D-2420** 



ARPIC

Sertaç Gümüş on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P30

**LEADERSHIP TRAINING SEMINAR (RYLA) WAS HELD  
ROTARY CLUB KYRENIA LIMAN FROM D2452 GOT  
TOGETHER WITH THEIR TWIN CLUB ISTANBUL  
BARBAROS FROM D2420**

RYLA Seminar, which was held for the second time this year at Karpaz Vocational High School, was held as a one-day training by with the participation of 20 senior high

school students under the leadership of Dr. Semra Baysan and Dr. Yildiz Özalp. These trainings were carried out within the framework of the protocol signed with the Ministry of Education Vocational Technical Education Department as the joint project between the twin Rotary Clubs.

The owner of Manolya Patisseries, Mr. Serdar Kantarcı provided this training at Karpaz Vocational High School together with the pastry chef of the institution.

The student scholarship, which has been carried out within the framework of the protocol that has been going on for the past two years, the RYLA training and the contributions made to the Tourism Department Culinary Applied Courses for the first time this year,

The student scholarship, which has been carried out within the framework of the protocol that has been going on for two years, the RYLA training and the contributions made to the Tourism Department Culinary Applied Courses for the first time this year, are planned to be continued at the opening of the 2023-24 Academic Year, and with an enjoyable training program, students will be inspired and encouraged to become leaders and successful individuals of the future. It was aimed to give them strength and motivation to enter the new academic year.



ARPIC

Sertaç Gümüş on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

### END POLIO EVENT IN CYPRUS - D2452

Four Rotary Clubs in North part of Cyprus; Rotary Club of Kyrenia Liman 2021 Rotary Club of Kyrenia-St. Hilarion Rotary Club of Nicosia Sarayonu and Rotary Club of Kyrenia Cosmopolitan organized a polio event on 14 October 2023 at Suna's Beach Club to raise funds to end Polio disease.





ARPIC

Sertaç Gümüş on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P35

### END POLIO EVENT IN CYPRUS - D2452

A swimming activity for sponsoring was held as well as other activities and a raffle draw for this meaningful cause.

We would like to thank our DDG Tashtan Altuner, our AG's Sertac Gumus, Hakki Muf-tuzade and Demetris Pantazis, all Rotarians, friends and guests for attending and supporting our event as we are "this close" to ending the polio disease once and for all.



ARPIC

Sertaç Gümüş on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

### THE ROTARACT CLUB OF MUHARRAQ PARTICIPATED IN THE BREAST CANCER EXHIBITION - D2452

The Rotaract Club of Muharraaq participated in the Breast Cancer Exhibition organized by the Rotary Club of Salmaniya and the CSR Society at the Royal University of Women on October 18, 2023. The booth was sponsored by the Rotary club of Salmaniya which aimed to raise awareness about breast cancer, educate visitors about the meaning of the pink ribbon, and emphasize the importance of regular screenings.

Also providing comprehensive information on breast cancer, including its prevalence and impact. The symbolic meaning of the pink ribbon was explained, highlighting its role in fostering support and hope for breast cancer patients and survivors. The significance of regular screenings in detecting breast cancer early and improving treatment outcomes was emphasized.





ARPIC

Sertaç Gümüş on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P38

### THE ROTARACT CLUB OF MUHARRAQ PARTICIPATED IN THE BREAST CANCER EXHIBITION - D2452

Visitors were encouraged to engage with local support groups and initiatives that provide assistance to those affected by breast cancer.

The booth aimed to empower visitors to take action by spreading awareness, promoting healthy lifestyle choices, and encouraging loved ones to undergo screenings.

@rotaractmuharraq

#rotaract #rotaractors #rotaryinternational #create-hopeintheworld



The best way to find yourself  
is to lose yourself in the  
*service of others.*



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD

ARPIC

Sertaç Gümüş on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

### ROTARACT CLUB OF MUHARRAQ ORGANIZED A SESSION ON INTRODUCTION OF REAL ESTATE AND FINANCIAL PLANNING - D2452

The Rotaract Club of Muharraaq organized a talk on October 14, 2023, as part of Rotary International's theme of the month, "Community Economic and Development Month." The guest speaker Mr. Mounir Kallel, CEO of Black Swan Real Estate Services delivered an enlightening introduction to real estate and its significance in financial planning.



@rotaractmuharraaq

#rotaract #rotaractors  
#rotaryinternational  
#createhopeintheworld





ARPIC

Sertaç Gümüş on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

### RC NICOSIA LEFKOTHEA END POLIO NOW AWARENESS CAMPAIGN BILLBOARD - D2452

On the occasion of the Polio Day that took place on October 24 th and the Rotary ;End Polio Now; awareness campaign, the Rotary Club of Nicosia Lefkothea worked on an awareness billboard. The big sized billboard (height 3m x width 3.8m) that includes our club's Rotary logo was on display from

October 7 th till Nov 3rd to guarantee maximum awareness about Polio and Rotary. The billboard was located on a prime location in Nicosia (Av Ifigenias / Armenia Street traffic light).

Members of the Rotary Club of Nicosia Lefkothea took a group picture next to the Billboard on October 24th holding End Polio Now signs.

A special thanks to Rotarian Panayiota Georgiou who thanks to her efforts managed to provide the billboard free of charge and to TRF committee chair Iacovos for the guidance to design the billboard



**SERVICE ABOVE SELF**



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**

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Sertaç Gümüş on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

**WORLD  
POLIO DAY**  
24 OCTOBER

Rotary  
Club Nicosia Lefkothea,  
District 2452



From P41

### RC NICOSIA LEFKOTHEA AND APOEL FOOTBALL CLUB: END POLIO NOW AWARENESS CAMPAIGN - D2452

The Rotary Club of Nicosia Lefkothea and the APOEL FC joined forces on World Polio Day. During the Cyprus Cup match between APOEL FC and PEYIA 2014, both football teams and referees entered the football stadium wearing Rotary and END POLIO NOW T-Shirts. This event was covered by numerous Media channels including national TV and cable coverage and the sports teams' web-sites.



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CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD



## ARPIC Sertaç Gümüş on...

### The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P42

#### RC NICOSIA LEFKOTHEA AND APOEL FOOTBALL CLUB: END POLIO NOW AWARENESS CAMPAIGN - D2452


A big thank you to IPP Yiannis Tomasides who thanks to his efforts requested and received all approvals to achieve this successful event



#### RC LIMASSOL KOURION-WORLDPOLIODAY -CYPRUS- D2452

#WorldPolioDay

In an attempt to raise awareness for Polio as well as Rotary, our Rotary Club of Limassol Kourion is displaying for the 23rd and 24th of October the #EndPolioNow awareness banner at Fairways Traffic Lights, on the junction of Makarios Avenue and Nikou Pattichi Street in Limassol. We chose this high traffic junction and this bright screen to play in a ten second loop, the message to #End Polio.



**DELHAZE Ltd**



*Dream It, Wish It, Do It*

You don't find will power, you create it


**Evi Manoli**  
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A big Thank you to the private company that owns the sign and the building, Piperaris, which is one of the biggest companies for Security Alarm Systems, in Cyprus, for their cooperation.



## ARPIC Maria Mastora on...

### The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

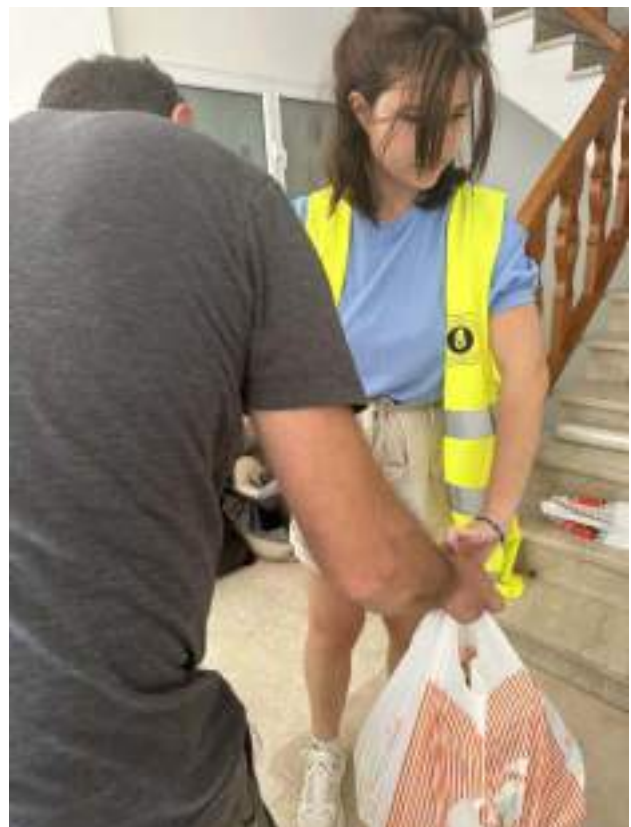
**ARPIC Maria Mastora  
District 2475- Rotary & Rotaract**

#### RC IRAKLEION EL GRECO



RID 2475 - RC IRAKLEION EL GRECO supports the flood victims of Thessalia (Central Greece) by offering necessities, long life food, sanitary items, baby pants etc of a total weight of 1,5 tons.

We thank the transportation company "Kouratoras" for transporting above items free of charge. Items were delivered to RC Larissa East, for the distribution to flood victims of Thessalia.





## ARPIC Maria Mastora on...

### The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

#### RID 2475 - RC NESTOS

RID 2475 - RC NESTOS participated to the event organised, on October 1st, by Retirement Home "Poulidio" in Kavala, for celebrating its 5 decades of existence. The celebration took place in the premises of the Retirement Home in presence of the town Authorities and large number of people.

Speeches were followed by live music offered by RC Nestos with the participation of rotarians. Perfect organisation and big fun and dance of the elderly people.



Congratulation to all who contributed to the success of this event.

#### RID 2475 - RC DIONYSOS

RID 2475 - RC DIONYSOS in collaboration with restaurants of the community, placed a special construction of "heart" in order to collect the plastic cups.

The collection of a certain amount of plastic cups is exchanged with wheel chair.

The "heart" is placed in a central place of the community of Dionysos, near schools and bus station, easily accessible. We thank the members of RC Dionysos Board for their contribution.



## ARPIC Maria Mastora on...

### The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

#### RID 2475 - RC THESSALONIKI

Thanks recognition letter from the Hellenic Red Cross to RC Thessaloniki, for the Humanitarian aid, to the flood victims in Thessalia.

The sensitivity that distinguishes Red Cross, Rotary and the Rotary Club of Thessaloniki, shows for one more time, Support, Love and Hope, to all those in need.

We serve our fellow persons with dignity and respect!

	<b>ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΕΡΥΘΡΟΣ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ</b> Τμήμα Θεσσαλονίκης	N. Κουντουριώτου 10 546 25 Θεσσαλονίκη τηλ. : 2310 531 534
ΑΠΟΘΗΚΗ ΥΛΙΚΟΥ Σ/Π ΥΠΕΥΘΥΝΟΣ: Εμμανουήλ Πρώμος Τηλ 2310 531 534 εσωτ 5 & 2310 547 190		Θεσσαλονίκη 2-10-2023 Αριθ. Πρωτ.:.....859.....
 Προς τον Ομίλο ROTARY ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ την Πρόεδρο κυρία Λένα Χατζηδήμου και τα μέλη του Δ.Σ <a href="mailto:rotaryclubthess@gmail.com">rotaryclubthess@gmail.com</a>		
 Σας εκφράζουμε τις θερμότερες ευχαριστίες του Ελληνικού Ερυθρού Σταυρού, καθώς και τις προσωπικές μας, για την δωρεά διαφόρων ειδών, που προσφέρατε υπέρ της ενισχύσεως του έργου του Ε.Ε.Σ.		
Η συνεχής αρωγή σας, στο ήδη σπουδαίο επιτελούμενο ανθρωπιστικό μας έργο, μας δίνει τη δυνατότητα να επεκτείνουμε την παρουσία μας σε καταστάσεις κρίσης και συγκεκριμένα στην ανακούφιση των πληττόμενων κατοίκων από τις καταστροφικές πλημμύρες στη Θεσσαλία		
Σας ευχόμαστε υγεία, προσωπική και επαγγελματική επιτυχία.		
 Με εκτίμηση  Η Διευθύντρια  Δέσποινα Φιλλιπιδάκη		



**ARPIC**  
**Maria Mastora on...**

## **The Journey in Doing Service Above Self**



### **RID 2475 - ROTARACT CLUB ATHINAI LYCAVITTOS & AGIA PARASKEVI**

The Rotaract Clubs Athens - Lykavittos and Agia Paraskevi immediately responding to the needs for food and basic necessities to help our fellow citizens affected by the floods in Thessalia, offered to the SELECT GROUP OF SPECIAL MISSIONS

GREECE a pallet of rice, pulses, tomatoes, water, toilet paper, bleach and cleaning agents. The products will be distributed by the team to the families according to their needs. Our thoughts are with Thessalia victims.



### **RID 2475 - ROTARACT AGIA PARASKEVI**

RID 2475 - ROTARACT AGIA PARASKEVI. On Saturday, September 30, Rotaract Club . Agia Paraskevi participated once again in an open tree planting, which was organized by the Non-Profit Environmental Organization WE 4 ALL, , and was carried out in collaboration with the Athens Chamber of Commerce and the Municipality of Ilio.





ARPIC

Maria Mastora on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

### RID 2475 - RC ATHINAI - LYCAVITTOS

With 50 members, RC Athinai-Lycavittos participated in the Race for Cure 2023. With our participation, we spread the message of breast cancer prevention and contributed 500 euro to the project of the Panhellenic Association of Women with Breast Cancer "Alma Zois"

For the psychosocial support and information of women with breast cancer:

- To promote life - saving disease prevention and early diagnosis
- To improve the quality of life
- To claim quality care and care for breast cancer patients.





ARPIC  
Maria Mastora on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

### RID 2475 - RC IRAKLEIO CANDIA

Members Anna Petromichelaki President , Yiannis Giavridis Secretary, Elena Kountouraki Public Relations President, Maria Antonakaki - Giavridis Dean, offered to Heraleion Crete Red Cross Committee and to Mrs. Kalliopi Tzirakis of Heraleion Labor Center, on September 29, 2023, five pallets of Selinari water 1.50 lt, in order to be forwarded to Thessalia for the flood victims. This action was sponsored by members of the club as well as Vothylia SA.



## ARPIC Maria Mastora on...

### The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

#### RID 2475 - RC VOULA PANORAMA

RC Voula Panorama has always chosen and implements actions having to do with children. In this context, on September 15th, we handed over two wheelchairs to the director of the Rehabilitation Branch for Children with Disabilities of Voula, for covering needs of Rehabilitation Center. And we go on ...



On Saturday, September 28th, RC Voula - Panorama delivered sweets and juices to be shared to the children hosted in the Rehabilitation Branch for Children with Disabilities of Voula.





**ARPIC**  
**Maria Mastora on...**

## **The Journey in Doing Service Above Self**

### **RID 2475 - RC PIRAEUS EAST**

RID 2475 - RC Piraeus East participated in the Race for the Cure 2023, which aims to the breast cancer prevention.

Race for the cure 2023!!!



**ARPIC**  
**Maria Mastora on...**

## **The Journey in Doing Service Above Self**

### **RID 2475- RC KOROPi**

RID 2475- RC KOROPi donated several furniture and other electrical appliances and book collection to RETO rehabilitation center in Koropi. RETO is a non profit organisation that provides help to drug addicts by selling at affordable prices furniture as well as various items that receives as donations.





ARPIC  
Maria Mastora on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

### RID 2475 - RC KOMOTINI & KOMOTINI RODOPI

RID 2475 - RC Komotini and Komotini Rodopi collected and send to RC Larissa East long life food and necessities for the flood victims of Thessalia. The transfer was offered free of charge by Bus Company of Komotini.



## ARPIC Maria Mastora on...

### The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

#### RID 2475 - RID 2475 - RC PATRA

World Mental Health Day

Mental Health is a universal human right.

1 out of 8 persons worldwide live with a mental health problem, with women and young people disproportionately affected.

3 out of 4 sufferers receive inadequate treatment or no care at all.

Many of them face stigma and discrimination.



Please don't bottle it up - please ask for help.

[#dontbottleitup](#)

[#WorldMental-HealthDay](#)

[#worldmentalhealth-day2023](#) Ροτάριανός  
Ήμιλος Πάτρα Rotary  
International President Rotarians 4  
Mental Health World  
Mental Health Day  
2023 Live





## ARPIC Maria Mastora on...

### The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

#### RID 2475 - RC ATHIANI-LYCAVITTOS

RID 2475 - RC Athinai-Lycavittos boosted Theodore's Miracle which supports the treatment of Theodore from Batten disease. He is the only child (28 years old) in the world with this disease, who has succeeded and is attending courses at the University, defying all medical predictions and those statistics, which report a much shorter life expectancy.





ARPIC

Maria Mastora on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

### RID 2475 - RC HERAKLIO-EL GRECO

RIID 2475 - RC Heraklio-El Greco .

During the Rotary Institute Zone 21 in Bucharest, took place the Award Ceremony for the "Power of Goodness Video Competition", which was organized by the Rotary Public Image Team Zone 21. The first place award was granted, once more, to RC Heraklio -El Greco. Congratulations to RC Heraklio -El Greco for their video! The award was given to D-2475 Governor Dimitrios Bekos.





**ARPIC**

**Maria Mastora on...**

## **The Journey in Doing Service Above Self**

### **RID 2475 - RC MARATHONAS-NEA MAKRI**

In a warm atmosphere, full of smiles and emotion, our club awarded the excellent high school graduates of our area, in the Marathon Road Museum. During the event, speeches of the well known authors Athina Primikiri - member of our RC, and Georgios Stamatis, took place. Books of Athina Primikiri were offered as prize. Congratulations to the graduates and their parents. We wish them success in their lives.



ARPIC

Maria Mastora on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

#CreateHopeInTheWorld #WeAreRotary #Proud-Rotary #rotaryinternational #ServiceAboveSelf #PeopleOfAction #rcmarathoneamakri



### RID 2475 - RC MARATHOINAS-NEA MAKRI

A sweet offer with all our love to the ten children with autism, staying at the hostel "AGGELIA"!!

The "AGGELIA" hostel is located in Rafina and belongs to the General State Hospital of Athens. It hosts children and teenagers with autism.



### RID 2475 - RC VOULA-PANORAMA

RC Voula Panorama has always chosen and implements actions having to do with children. In this context, members of RC Voula-Panorama offered sweets and fruit juices for the children of the Rehabilitation Branch for Children with Disabilities of Voula.





## ARPIC Maria Mastora on...

### The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

#### RID 2475 - RC PENTELI

On Saturday October 21, took place an excursion to Mycenae, organized by RC Penteli. The guidance, under a perfect weather, was made by archeology Professor and President of the Mycenaean Foundation, Mr. Maggidis. At noon, always accompanied by Professor Maggidis and his wife, we had lunch near the beach of Nafplion. We would like to thank Olga Flesoura, President of RC Athens Omonia , and PP and ADG Charalampos Tiginagas of RC Athinai and his wife, as well as our friends, who made our excursion a success.





## ARPIC Maria Mastora on...

### The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

#### RID 2475 - PARTICIPATION IN BUCHAREST INSTITUTE

RID 2475 - Rotary International Zone 21  
Institute in Bucharest : The rotarians from  
Greece.

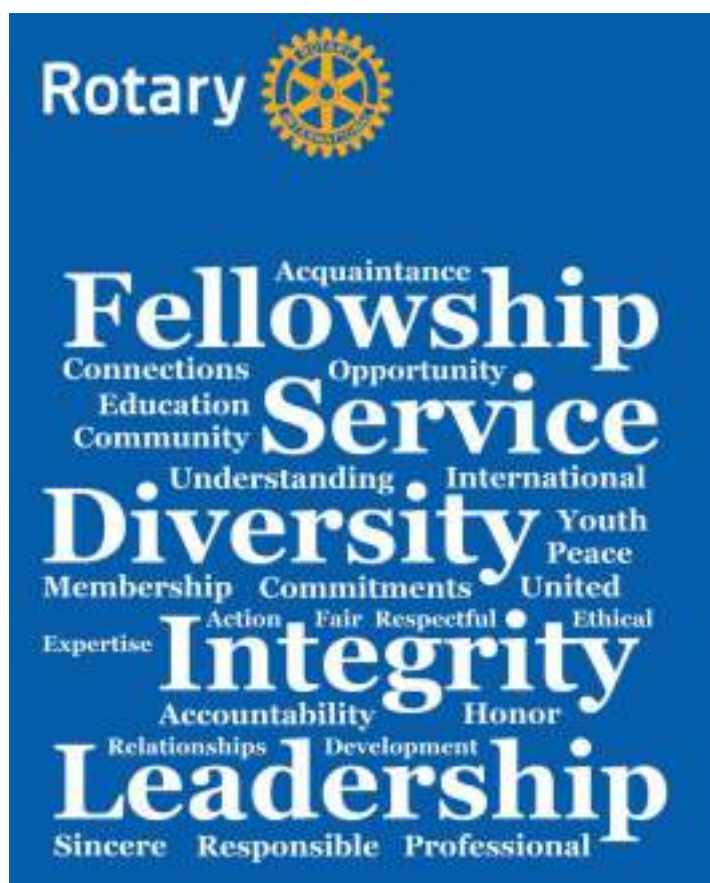




ARPIC  
Maria Mastora on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

RID 2475 - PARTICIPATION IN  
BUCHAREST INSTITUTE



ARPIC

Maria Mastora on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

### RID 2475 - DG'S LETTER ON POLIO

Dear Members of District 2475,

October 24th is World Polio Day and presents an opportunity for all of us Rotarians to demonstrate our commitment to our cause, which is to eradicate this disease from our planet, once and for all.

At the same time, it is a unique opportunity to save the lives of many children.

The "Save the life of 5 children" campaign, carried out by Rotary International Zone 21, to which we belong, involves a donation of a minimum of USD 10 (€9.40) to the Rotary Foundation, specifically the POLIO Fund, from EVERY Rotarian in our District. This is a minimum amount that can be achieved by everyone and as a Governor, I urge you to participate.

The Rotary Foundation and thousands of children around the world rely on you, and I sincerely thank you in advance for your participation, hoping for a significant outcome

With warm rotarian greetings,

Dimitris Bekos

RID 2475 Governor







**ARPIC Tanya Georgieva**  
**District 2482**

## ARPIC Tanya Georgieva on...

### The Journey in Doing Service Above Self


#### 85 YEARS ANNIVERSARY WITH A CAUSE

##### TRANSFORMATION OF THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT OF THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL IN VELIKO TARNOVO-D2482

Rotary club Veliko Tarnovo has a long history. Being one of the first Rotary clubs in Bulgaria, currently it is the largest one.

In honour of the great anniversary the members of the club started a project that inspired many volunteers

from the Veliko Tarnovo region to enthusiastically participate in the repair of the children's department of "Dr. STEPHAN CHERKEZOV" Regional Hospital.



**Rotary** | **Veliko Tarnovo**


# INVITATION

to celebrate

# 85

## YEARS

### OF SERVICE TO SOCIETY



ROTARY CLUB  
VELIKO TARNOVO

*Dear friends,*  
we invite you to

Attraction "Kaloyanova krepost",  
village of Arbanasi


11

7:00 P.M. **NOVEMBER** SATURDAY  
2023

to share together the eighty-fifth birthday  
of Rotary club - Veliko Tarnovo!

Charitable cause of the event:  
**Full reconstruction of the  
pediatric ward**  
"Dr. Stefan Cherkezov" Hospital

Register here:  
[www.rotaryvt.org/register/en](http://www.rotaryvt.org/register/en)



Admission fee  
**120 BGN.**

Please register and confirm your reservation  
until **31.10.2023**. For more information contact  
Lora Stefanova - treasurer of RC Veliko Tarnovo  
by phone 0888 401 335

ARPIC

Tanya Georgieva on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P62

### 85 YEARS ANNIVERSARY WITH A CAUSE

#### TRANSFORMATION OF THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT OF THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL IN VELIKO TARNOVO-D2482

Over half a million BGN are the investments in the repair, provided entirely by donations by now. Many of the country's large chain stores, banking institutions, enterprises, and companies were also attracted to the cause.

The benefactors are convinced that in the new environment the children will overcome the stress and trauma of the stay in the hospital and will manage to completely overcome the feeling of fear and pain.

The members of Rotary club Veliko Tarnovo are inviting you to join the anniversary and be part of the project.



We invite you to take part in the fundraising campaign of Rotary Club Veliko Tarnovo.

The goal is 400 000 BGN for transformation of the space in the pediatric department at Dr. Stefan Cherkezov Regional Hospital. The large-scale project will transform the rooms in the sectors for infants, children, and adolescents, to create a friendly environment that will support the treatment process.

Additional modern medical equipment will be provided. Isolators - for infectious diseases, and activity corners are essential part of the project.

*Rotary club Veliko Tarnovo*

*IBAN: BG47FINV91501017353128*

*BIC: FINVBGSF*

*Bank: First Investment Bank AD*

*Payment details: Donation for reconstruction of the children hospital department in Veliko Tarnovo*



Link to project and fundraising page:

<https://rotaryvt.org/charity/rekonstruktsiya-na-detskoto-otdelenie-vav-veliko-tarnovo>



ARPIC

Tanya Georgieva on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

### SOCCER WITH HEART

#### SEVEN TEAMS PARTICIPATED IN THE CHARITY SOCCER TOURNAMENT OF ROTARY CLUB OF GABROVO - D2482

The 23rd edition of the traditional soccer tournament of Rotary Club Gabrovo was full of positive emotions. This year's motto was "Soccer with Heart". The cause was to support teams of children in different sports in the city.

We should mention some milestones: a female team took part for the first time this year, the fastest goal was achieved, the largest amount of money was raised.

Let's start with the emotion. The teams were eager to start their warm-up exercises. The members of Interact Club Gabrovo were responsible for collecting the donations.



Anyone who has missed the soccer matches organized by Rotary Club Gabrovo can hardly imagine or feel the energy that has accumulated in the air, waiting for the first referee's signal to be unleashed.

Seven teams registered for the tournament.

Anton Georgiev, member of Rotary Club Svishtov, was the veteran player - with 23 appearances in 23 tournaments, 23 years. Anton received several awards: for the fastest goal – in the 45th second of the game, for the oldest player and participant with the most played matches in the tournament.

ARPIC

Tanya Georgieva on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P64

### SOCCER WITH HEART

**SEVEN TEAMS PARTICIPATED IN THE CHARITY SOCCER  
TOURNAMENT OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF GABROVO-  
D2482**

The average age of the players was about 18. The top scorer, Andrean Hristov, 24 years old.

The final for first and second place was played by the teams of FC КИПД and FC Yantra, with the former winning 3-1.

During the tournament, the girls had the most fun. They were just a small step away from qualifying for first place. The girls from FC “Everyone for Gabrovo” received the applause of the audience.



**SERVICE ABOVE SELF**



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**



ARPIC

Tanya Georgieva on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

Friends from the Rotary Club Sofia International, led by Ani Hristova, financially supported the cause. The same was done by a fellow from the Rotary Club Nova Zagora, who missed this tournament for the first time.



From P65

### SOCCER WITH HEART

**SEVEN TEAMS PARTICIPATED IN THE CHARITY SOCCER TOURNAMENT OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF GABROVO-D2482**

The winners of the tournament donated their prize and became the largest benefactor for the cause.



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**

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**Tanya Georgieva on...**

## **The Journey in Doing Service Above Self**

### **ROTARY CLUB KAZANLAK DONATED 400 COLORING BOOKS TO CHILDREN IN THE CITY- D2482**

Rotary Club Kazanlak donated 400 coloring books and 50 puzzles to children in the city. The funds were provided by Ivan Gitev, the club president, with the support of Phoenix Pharma.



The gifts for the children included an individual coloring book for each child in the nursery groups and the groups of 3-4 years old kids in three kindergartens: "Pchelica", "Edelweiss" and "Slaveiche". Such a gift was also received by each of the children from the Day Center for Child Care.



With this initiative, the club's president, Ivan Gitev, continues the work of his announced program, which is focused on healthcare, education and social activities.



The donations were presented by Ivan Gitev and PP Ibrahim Kachan.



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Tanya Georgieva on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

### DONATE BLOOD - SAVE A LIFE

BLOOD DONATION CAMPAIGN BY ROTARY  
CLUB KAZANLAK-D2482

Important blood donation campaign was initiated in Dr. Christo Stamboliyski Regional Hospital in Kazanlak by Rotary Club Kazanlak and Blood Center - Stara Zagora.



A total of 31 volunteers donated blood. They gave a chance for life to many people in need. 500 Bulgarians need blood every day. Each blood donor received a gift and a thank-you certificate for participating.

The campaign is a continuation of the initiatives in the field of healthcare, organized by Rotary Club Kazanlak.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgWV8aUVUkU>

**В КРЪВТА ТИ Е ДА СПАСЯВАШ ЖИВОТИ**

Съвместна кампания за безвъзмездно  
кръводаряване на Ротари клуб Казанлък  
и РЦТХ - Стара Загора

11.10.2023 (сряда) между 08:30 и 11:30 часа  
в МБАЛ "Д-р Христо Стамболски"

**Аз дарих кръв**



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**Tanya Georgieva on...**

## **The Journey in Doing Service Above Self**

**NOVA ZAGORAA, RADNEVO, MOMCHIL-  
GRAD- D2482**

Rotarians from RC Nova Zagora, RC Radnevo, and RC Momchilgrad visited Rotary Foundation seminar in the city of Chorlu, District 2420.

The meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere with useful discussions.



Marin Dimov, major donor, presented the PHF recognition to Alev Ayan, president of Rotary Club Chorlu in honour of respect and fellowship.





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**Tanya Georgieva on...**

## **The Journey in Doing Service Above Self**

### **ROTARY CLUB NOVA ZAGORA HONORS TALENTED STUDENTS- D2482**

Traditionally on Petkovden, the city's holiday, Rotary Club Nova Zagora awarded diplomas and scholarships to gifted students.

This year, the scholarships have been presented personally by the club president, Mr. Zravko Nikov. The awarded students are Ivan Petrov Mehremonov, a student in the 6th grade of SU "Hristo Botev", for the great success he achieved in the International Student Competition "Together in the 21st Century" - 2023, and Plamen Krasimirov Donchev, also from the 6th grade, for his placement in the national competition "Laboratory for Art".

The awards for the young talents were presented in a special ceremony during the traditional reception of the mayor of Nova Zagora municipality.





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Tanya Georgieva on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

### CITY SPORT CELEBRATION BY ROTARY AND INTERACT CLUB SEVLIEVO -D2482

The initiative "Sevlievo Runs" by Rotary Club and Interact Club Sevlievo has been in the minds of the Rotarians from Sevlievo for a long time and has been waiting for implementation. Now it is a fact.



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Tanya Georgieva on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P71

### CITY SPORT CELEBRATION BY ROTARY AND INTERACT CLUB SEVLIEVO -D2482

There were more than 300 participants in the Rotary race!

The initiative of Rotary and Interact Club Sevlievo, supported by the Municipality

of Sevlievo, was a huge success and popularity. The Rotarians are extremely proud that they attracted large part of the citizens to participate in the unique race.





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Tanya Georgieva on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P72

### CITY SPORT CELEBRATION BY ROTARY AND INTERACT CLUB SEVLIEVO -D2482

Fruits and water were provided for each participant. The youngest participants received special gifts from Ideal Standard - Vidima. The club expressed enormous

gratitude to the Municipality of Sevlievo and the sponsors Ideal Standard - Vidima, Hitachi Energy, Nuts "Detelina", Grocery stores "2+2", printing house and bookstore "M-Press".

We are looking forward to seeing you at the next race!





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**Tanya Georgieva on...**

## **The Journey in Doing Service Above Self**

### **ROTARY CLUB SILISTRA LAUNCHES NEW PROJECT TO PREVENT SPINAL CURVATURES AMONG STUDENTS- D2482**

A new project by Rotary Club Silistra to prevent spinal curvatures has started with the screening of 52 students. The project is being conducted by a professional rehabilitation specialist in all schools in Silistra in the middle school classes.

The project is following the club strategy for better health through prevention. Project for eye examinations was implemented last year among all students from first to fourth grade in the regional town.



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Tanya Georgieva on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

### ACTIVE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES- D2482

In early October, Dimitar Todorov, President of Rotary Club Silistra, was the chairman of a jury that evaluated business projects by students from secondary schools in Silistra region. Daniela Kostova, a member of the club, was among the mentors. The children are participants in an Innovation Camp on the theme:

"Active for the development of our communities".

During the camp, the young people were trained in writing business projects, specially designed for secondary school students from Danube Dobruja region.

The organizers of the Innovation Camp are the Municipality of Silistra, the Regional Directorate of Education - Silistra, and the NGO "Parallel - Silistra".



"Perhaps dreaming is not so bad if  
one dreams good dreams and makes  
them come true."

Rotary 

— Paul Harris,  
*My Road to Rotary*



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**Tanya Georgieva on...**

## **The Journey in Doing Service Above Self**

**#FORTHEHEALTHOFOURKIDS- D2482**

**THE CAUSE OF ROTARY CLUB SOFIA TRIADITSA  
NOW IN HASKOVO**

Another donation #ForTheHealthOfOurKids has been delivered. The cause is supported by the funds raised at the Spring Charity Ball 2023 of Rotary Club Triaditsa.

The Children's Department of Haskovo Hospital received a professional aspirator, inhaler, and perfusion device.

The members of Rotary club Sofia Triaditsa would like to thank to Dr. Kamberova, Head of the Pediatrics Department for the hospitality and great partnership!



### **TOYS FROM ROTARY CLUB SOFIA TRIADITSA BRING JOY TO YOUNG PATIENTS IN DIMITROVGRAD- D2482**

Rotary Club Sofia Triaditsa visited the Children's Department of "Sveta Ekaterina " Regional Hospital in Dimitrovgrad in October. This time, the club's donation was different. The doctors who care for the sick children asked for ... toys for their young patients.

The club members were happy to bring joy! The doctors and nurses at the hospital were grateful for the donation, which they said would bring joy to the young patients.

We thank Dr. Roman Rizov and our fellows from Rotary Club Dimitrovgrad, Bulgaria for the warm welcome and support!

The Rotarians from Sofia Triaditsa were pleased to be able to help the children. They said they hoped that their donation would make a positive difference in the lives of the young patients.



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**Tanya Georgieva on...**

## **The Journey in Doing Service Above Self**

**THREE REGIONAL MEETINGS OF DGE  
PROF. MARGARITA BOGDANOVA  
WITH THE ELECT PRESIDENTS FROM  
D2482 WERE HELD IN SEPTEMBER  
AND OCTOBER. -D2482**

The events took place in Pomorie – on the Black Sea coast, Sofia – the capital, and Ruse – on Danube River. They were

attended by future club presidents, district and club officers, Rotarians.

The fact that a new generation of elect presidents is coming, aged between 35 and 45, former members of Rotaract since 2003-2004, created an extremely pleasant feeling. This is an expectation of good knowledge of Rotary, leadership skills, and continuity. Being part of Rotarian processes has generated skills such as adaptability, innovative approach, and traditionalism in values.



Pomorie



Pomorie



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Tanya Georgieva on...

## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

*From P75*

**THREE REGIONAL MEETINGS OF DGE PROF. MARGARITA BOGDANOVA WITH THE ELECT PRESIDENTS FROM D2482 WERE HELD IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER. -D2482**

The meetings also had a training part - lectures and discussion. Each meeting started with a quiz

- a survey on key topics in the RI strategic plan. It gave an overview of the knowledge and goals for the year of service of the elect presidents.

The elect presidents demonstrated skills and good knowledge of the matter. The main gaps were related to the new place of Rotaract in the structure of Rotary International. This is natural, due to the rapid changes that have occurred recently.

Presentations were prepared on the main topics, adapted for each individual seminar.

The discussion, which took place with great activity of all rotarians in the meetings, was especially valuable for all participants. Challenges faced by the clubs were shared. Common problems were identified. Solutions were given.



Prof Margarina Bogdanova, DGE



Ruse

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## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P78

**THREE REGIONAL MEETINGS OF DGE  
PROF. MARGARITA BOGDANOVA WITH  
THE ELECT PRESIDENTS FROM D2482  
WERE HELD IN SEPTEMBER AND  
OCTOBER. -D2482**



Sofia



The Assistant zone coordinators

New fellowships and new partnerships - these are the most valuable results that everyone obtained.

Free discussion concerning the most important aspects of membership development was highly appreciated by the participants in all three meetings.

Fellows, we are looking forward to our next meetings with you!

PS. Participants in Pomorie received special support by the team of ARC, ARFC, ARPIC for District 2482.



# SERVICE ABOVE SELF





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## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

### JOINT INITIATIVE TO PREVENT AMBLYOPIA IN CHILDREN IN SOFIA -D2482

A joint initiative of the Department of Ophthalmology at University Hospital Lozenets and Rotary Club Sofia Triaditsa to prevent amblyopia (lazy eye) in pre-school children was held in the kindergartens of the Izgrev district of the capital.

The flyer is for a campaign titled "ПРЕВЕНЦИЯ НА АМБЛИОПИЯТА" (Prevention of Amblyopia). It features logos for Rotary Club of Sofia Triaditsa, the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", and the Izgrev district. The text in Bulgarian states: "Безплатен очен неинвазивен преглед" (Free non-invasive eye examination) and "Прегледите ще се проведат на: 23-31.10" (Examinations will be held on: 23-31.10). At the bottom, it explains that this is part of a campaign by the Rotary Club of Sofia Triaditsa, the Faculty of Medicine and Physical Education at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", and the Izgrev district, which is conducting a free non-invasive eye examination with a specialized mobile device for children's diagnosis, performed by a medical team of experienced specialists in pediatric ophthalmology. It also notes that the examination is free of charge, carries no risks to the children's health, and is completely safe and non-contact.





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## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P80

### JOINT INITIATIVE TO PREVENT AMBLYOPIA IN CHILDREN IN SOFIA -D2482

Over 1,000 children were screened for free in October. Eye screenings started on October 23 and covered all seven kindergartens in the district.



The campaign of Rotary Club Sofia Triaditsa and the Department of Ophthalmology at University Hospital Lozenets also involved students and lecturers from the "Optometry" specialization at the Faculty of Physics of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Rotarians have many years of experience in screening for amblyopia - reduced vision (so-called lazy eye).



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## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P82

### JOINT INITIATIVE TO PREVENT AMBLYOPIA IN CHILDREN IN SOFIA -D2482

State policy does not provide for screening for this neurological disorder and transfers the responsibility entirely to an ophthalmologist.

However, parents are often unaware of this and children are diagnosed too late.



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## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

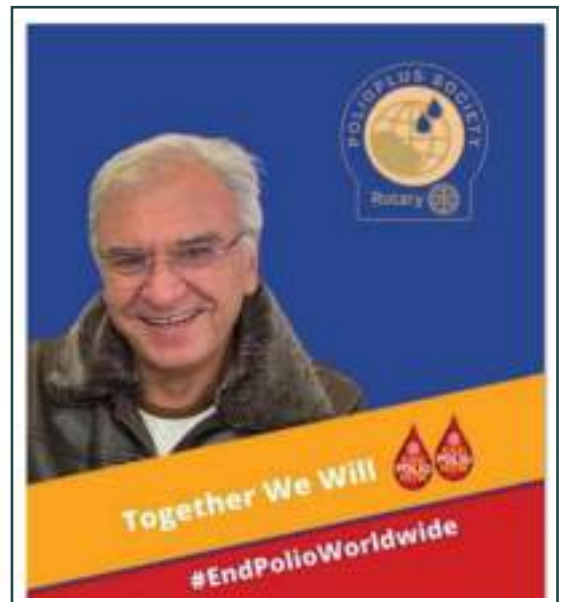
### A ROTARY CLUB MEMBER'S JOURNEY AROUND EUROPE TO END POLIO

A personal cause united thousands of Rotarians in Europe. The cause is that of Bashar Asfour. He was born in Amman, dedicated Rotarian belonging to RC Tbilisi Ambassador. He planned a tour of 16 countries to support the fundraising for the implementation of the Rotary International's highest external project "End Polio Now" to eradicate poliomyelitis in the world.

At the age of 10 months, Bashar Asfour met the polio virus. For almost 20 years, he was in a hard battle with the disease. His parents did everything they could to save him from the indescribable pain and suffering that the disease causes. Bashar run through a series of operations. He spent his youth years in hospitals, recovery facilities and institutions. Thanks to the efforts of doctors and the achievements of medicine, Bashar is currently happy. He feels good that he can walk, meet fellows and enjoy life.

He has erased the scars that the disease has left on him. He won the battle with the disease because of his strong believe he will recover to live.

Few of us would dare to start a long journey like this. Bashar Asfour decided to face a challenge, which he calls "My Journey to End Polio". He strongly believes that more children around the world will receive their vaccines against polio. 



In early September, Bashar Asfour set off in his specially branded car from Germany. In less than 65 days, he covered nearly 12,346 kilometers. He crossed Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Austria, and the Czech Republic.

No doubt, this is an exhausting journey. Still, the pictures from different parts of Europe, demonstrate the smiles of Bashar Asfour and dozens of Rotarians. Time flies and the hours are marked by numerous friendly and cordial meetings with representatives from 30 Districts on the continent. Every kilometer passed, every visit to the Rotary clubs along the way, brought Bashar Asfour closer to achieving his main goal, to attract \$250,000 in donations for the Rotary International's "End Polio Now" program.

Update: Bashar Asfour should be proud - he has almost achieved his goal, with nearly \$245,000 already raised.

For us, the Rotarians, this is not just a number or a bill, but a sign that hundreds of children around the world will have access to polio vaccines.

Bashar's appeal for donations to Rotary International to implement the "End Polio Now" program has touched many Rotarians.



### The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

From P84

#### A ROTARY CLUB MEMBER'S JOURNEY AROUND EUROPE TO END POLIO

For almost 40 years, Rotary International has been fighting polio, making progress in reducing cases by over 99.9% through its partnership with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. However, recent data on the presence of polio virus in London sewage after nearly four decades, underline the ongoing importance of efforts to eradicate the disease. Currently, only two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan, remain endemic. In line with its commitment to the "End Polio Now" program, Rotary aims to raise 50 million dollars annually for the next three years.

In a global perspective, Rotary members have donated over \$2.1 billion and volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries from the paralyzing disease.

Bashar Asfour's journey ended before October 24, World Polio Day. However, the website through which each of us can make a donation to the cause will continue to operate for another 2 months, and the goal of Rotary International and, in particular, Bashar Asfour to eradicate poliomyelitis in the world will remain the number one goal for the entire Rotary community, until the disease is completely eliminated.



#### MORE INFORMATION:

- Official website of the project "MyJourneyToEndPolio":  
<https://myjourneytoendpolio.com/>
- Official website of Rotary International:  
[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)
- Rotary International "End Polio Now":  
<https://www.endpolio.org>
- Donations:  
[https://raise.rotary.org/d-jozic\\_myjourneytoendpolio/-fundraiser1](https://raise.rotary.org/d-jozic_myjourneytoendpolio/-fundraiser1)
- Photos and information from Bashar Asfur's journey:  
<https://www.instagram.com/my-journeytoendpolio/>



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## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self



A ROTARY CLUB MEMBER'S JOURNEY  
AROUND EUROPE TO END POLIO

### SALZBURG



Volkswagen Austria provided great support for #MyJourneyToEndPolio initiative of Bashar Asfour and Rotary. Bashar Asfour is going to travel for 2 months across Europe in an electrical ID.Buzz inspiring donations. The vehicle handover took place in Salzburg and brought joy despite the rain. We are proud to announce that the ID. Buzz is Volkswagen's first fully electric bus. Read more on: <https://www.volkswagen.at/id-buzz>

Thank you VW Austria!

You are essential part of our team!

Vehicle pick-up in Salzburg. Miriam Walz – Brand Manager VW Austria.

Links:

<https://www.myjourneytoendpolio.com/>

<https://www.volkswagen.at/id-buzz>



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## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

### BERLIN

Bashar Asfour started #MyJourney-toEndPolio through Europe in Berlin.

Listen to a great professional interview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSabKr8igCQ>



### HAMBURG

A successful event for #MyJourneyToEndPolio with Rotary District 1890 in Hamburg!

Thanks to everyone who made the date very special!

Bashar met people active in the fight against polio directly at the Elbphilharmonie - Rotarians from several clubs, together with governor elect Mariam Ipektchi.

Bashar told about the tragedy of polio diseases, which are currently occurring in a few cases only in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In the evening, members of Rotary clubs from Hamburg and the surrounding area listened to a polio expert from the Bernhard Nocht Institute and heard Bashar's moving life story. Donations received during Bashar's tour are being collected in a special RDG account.

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## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self



### A ROTARY CLUB MEMBER'S JOURNEY AROUND EUROPE TO END POLIO

#### BREMEN

Bashar met Rotarians and citizens of Bremen. Members of Rotary clubs arranged the alternative location and invited the passers-by to join.

Bashar, is an extremely charming gentleman full of energy though the long and painful course of treatment took too much of his and his family life. He knows what he talks about when he talks about END POLIO his speech motivates.

Bashar and Bremen Rotarians are grateful to Atlantic Hotel for the spontaneous Hospitality and the friendly supply of drinks by the team.

In addition to a number of Rotarians from Oldenburg and Bremen clubs also met some extremely helpful Rotaractors to support Bashar.

District Governor Frank Garrelts was enthusiastic and welcomed the guest to Bremen in the evening.

Thank You District 1850!





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**Tanya Georgieva on...**

## **The Journey in Doing Service Above Self**



**A ROTARY CLUB MEMBER'S JOURNEY  
AROUND EUROPE TO END POLIO**

**GRONINGEN**



Ot the 4th September Bashar met Rotarians of District 1590 in Netherlands. Beautiful moments along the road. Have you ever been to Groningen stad en provincie, Netherlands? Plan a visit and you will be excited!

Bashar Asfour and fellow Rotarians from Rotary Groningen-West at city hall garden area where #Endpolio Tulips will be planted with city hall members next week meeting. Tulips and Dutch people simply belong to each other. And Dutch Rotarians have made tulip bulbs a hallmark of Rotarian ENDPOLIO efforts. It is clear that Bashar Asfour also received a package of tulip bulbs immediately after his arrival. These bulbs will continue to be sold with a donation surcharge to help the great Rotary battle.

At an evening event Bashar was able to tell the impressive story of his life. He urged Rotarians not to let up in the fight against polio. Polio has already been eradicated by 99 percent. But that one missing percentage could cause another massive outbreak of the disease, leaving hundreds of children paralyzed, Bashar warned.

My Journey to EndPolio stop in Netherlands created hope for children all over the world

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## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self



A ROTARY CLUB MEMBER'S JOURNEY  
AROUND EUROPE TO END POLIO

### AMSTERDAM



Hello, Amsterdam! Hello, District 1580!

So now some boxes of the new harvest of EndPolio tulip bulbs are traveling on with Bashar.

On September 5, 2023, Bashar Asfour was in Amsterdam. On the occasion of his arrival there was a mini symposium. The place of business was Camping Vliegenbos in Amsterdam. After a BBQ, Prof. Frans Nollet, rehabilitation physician and researcher at the post-polio expertise center Amsterdam and member of RC Amsterdam Westertoren, gave us background on the global approach to polio, how and why it is still urgently necessary.

Bashar then told his story and explained why he started this campaign. He is also concerned about money, so we raised money on the spot by selling EndPolio tulips. To conclude, district governor Hans Ruck presented Bashar with a check for € 4,000, the funds that we have collected in the meantime from the District and from the clubs.



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## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self



A ROTARY CLUB MEMBER'S JOURNEY  
AROUND EUROPE TO END POLIO

### BELGIUM

A warm welcome also awaited Bashar Asfour in District 2150 (Belgium, Luxembourg). Governor Brigitte Niset and a delegation from the Foundation Committee, together with PDG Emmanuelle Groenen (End Polio Now Coordinator), welcomed Bashar Asfour to the exchange.

A warm welcome also awaited Bashar Asfour in District 2150 (Belgium, Luxembourg). Governor Brigitte Niset and a delegation from the Foundation Committee, together with PDG Emmanuelle Groenen (End Polio Now Coordinator), welcomed Bashar Asfour to the exchange.



The exchange students were also interested in the topic.

Later, more than 80 representatives from various clubs met to hear first-hand news about the disease.

Overall: A sunny tour stop for the “Journey to End Polio” across Europe. The signal from Belgium: “Let us continue to fight together to eradicate polio!”



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## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self



**A ROTARY CLUB MEMBER'S JOURNEY  
AROUND EUROPE TO END POLIO**

### KASSEL

Kassel is the next stop on our JourneyToEndPolio, District 1820. Local media paid attention and The newspaper there published an interview with Bashar on the topic of "Rotary's fight against polio."

When our Bashar landed in Kassel, an intercity meeting with Hessian clubs awaited for him. Governor Heidemarie Krüger, the polio commissioner in D1820, Yogesh Shah, as well as the RC Kaufungen-Lossetal and Kassel clubs did not miss the opportunity to hear Bashar Asfour's story. Also present was the city's mayor, Dr. Sven Schoeller, who praised Rotary's fight against polio.

Rotarians had previously appealed to passers-by for support in the eradication of polio and informed them on the Opernplatz in Kassel.

This stop raised 19000 USD added to the Fund.  
Thank you D1820.





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## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

### STUTTGART

Stuttgart, Germany, Rotary International District 1830. This was ThePoint when we reached 83,309 USD equal to 33% of #MyJourneyToEndPolio. Great and promising achievement.

GREAT support from DISTRICT 1830.

A donation of 25400 EUR has been submitted to Bashar Asfour . Thank you Rotarians! The Rotary Club Ebingen- Zollernalb contributed 17,500 EUR additionally.

It was a great reception for Bashar on his European tour at the Stuttgart wine village with 20 friends from almost all Stuttgart clubs, organized by the RC Stuttgart. The drinks was sponsored by the Currle family and Bashar celebrated the great achievement!

Let's tell you more about that Special Rotary club! The fight against polio is Rotary's largest project and Rotary Club Ebingen- Zollernalb supports this goal sustainably and efficiently.



### A ROTARY CLUB MEMBER'S JOURNEY AROUND EUROPE TO END POLIO



“We must not stop drawing attention to this situation right now, as we reach the home stretch! Every support gives children in Afghanistan and Pakistan a chance for happiness and health,” says polio coordinator Hans Pfarr.

The Rotary Club Ebingen- Zollernalb launched a strong and unusual campaign in 2019: on the initiative of the former mayor of Albstadt, Hans Pfarr, POLIO stamps were brought onto the market. An idea that is paying off, especially due to Hans Pfarr's enormous, long-term commitment: a total of 56,000 pieces have been sold since 2019.

On August 28, 2023, the acting club president Britta Bienstein handed over a donation check worth €17,000 to the governor of District 1830, Hans-Hinrich Kruse. With the help of this sum of €17,000 from the POLIO stamp campaign, 51,000 children in Pakistan and Afghanistan can be vaccinated thanks to the increase by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The stamps worth €0.85 or €1.60 can be purchased in full sheets at [www.polio-briefmarke.de](http://www.polio-briefmarke.de). The donation value per sheet is €9.

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## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self



### A ROTARY CLUB MEMBER'S JOURNEY AROUND EUROPE TO END POLIO

#### ZURICH

On 12th September Bashar Asfour, on his way from Stuttgart to Zurich, he stopped at the Rotary Club (RC) Singen on August-Ruf-Straße. He was in his eye-catching VW ID.Buzz, drawing attention to the fact that polio vaccination for children is still urgently needed, stopped in Singen. Welcomed by the President of RC Singen (Hohentwiel), Wilfried Trah, and the polio chair for District 1930, Wilfried Jud, he explained to Rotarian friends and interested citizens in the pedestrian zone why it is still necessary to keep the vaccination rate high.

Even though polio appears to have been almost eradicated, apart from isolated outbreaks of polio in Pakistan and Afghanistan, the vaccination rate must continue to be kept high, as Bashar Asfour explains. By the way, with a donation of 21,000 euros in 2022 for the polio campaign, the RC Singen is in the top of the donor list of German clubs.

<https://www.suedkurier.de/region/kreis-konstanz/singen/er-war-selbst-erkrankt-und-wirbt-jetzt-fuer-polio-impfung-bashar-asfour-bereist-dafuer-16-laender;art372458,11718738>





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## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self



**A ROTARY CLUB MEMBER'S JOURNEY  
AROUND EUROPE TO END POLIO**

### ZURICH

Zurich, District 2000 was the next stop of Bashar.

Rotarians planned a benefit dinner in honour of MyJourneyToEndPolio and Bashar Asfour was guest of honor. Rotarians were invited to the event at Circle Zurich Airport. Aidan O'Leary, Director of Polio at the WHO attended the meeting. O'Leary has extensive experience in eradicating polio in countries where wild poliovirus is still endemic. He was the head of polio eradication in Pakistan for UNICEF from 2015 to 2017 and the office chief for the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Afghanistan from 2011 to 2014.

A new initiative to combat polio was also presented: the Rotary Lounge at Zurich Airport, the proceeds of which will go to the fight against Polio.



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## The Journey in Doing Service Above Self



### A ROTARY CLUB MEMBER'S JOURNEY AROUND EUROPE TO END POLIO

#### MONZA



Rotarians from District 2042 have joined the “My Journey to End Polio” initiative, promoted by Bashar Asfour, whose goal is to support the global eradication of Polio. September 13, 2023 - My Journey to End Polio in Monza “A step towards a world without polio,” is how Bashar Asfour wants his tour #MyJourneyToEndPolio to be understood. The six Rotary Clubs in Monza also really wanted to support him. Rotary Club Monza Rotary Club Monza Est Rotary Club Monza Ovest Rotary Club Monza Brianza Rotary Club Monza Villa Reale Rotary Club Monza Nord Lissone

At a meeting, the Italian #Rotarians were able to listen to Bashar Asfour’s story, who reported first-hand as a polio sufferer and therefore affected person. “It’s about raising awareness of polio - and raising funds to defeat the disease; said the club.

#### ROME

Bashar Asfour at Rotary Institute Rome 2023 promoting Rotary and EndPolio Cause.





# ARPIC

## Tanya Georgieva on...

### The Journey in Doing Service Above Self

A meeting to remember: passing through Italy Bashar Asfour met Rotary Club "Roma Giulio Cesare", Rotary International - Distretto 2080, to raise End Polio Now awareness and importance of giving. Waiting for your contribution for Polio Eradication, dear Rotary fellows!



18th September Great meeting in Napoli. Bashar attended the meeting, part of an initiative of District 2101. Enjoyed the speech of RI President Gordon McInnaly. Mayor Gaetano Manfredi received the President of Rotary International Gordon R. McInnaly at Palazzo San Giacomo who presented the social initiatives implemented by the clubs involved in the area, particularly after the pandemic.

The meeting is part of a series of initiatives promoted by the 2101 District of Campania.

McInnaly was accompanied by District 2101 Governor Ugo Oliviero and the Governors of other Italian Rotary Districts.



From P96

ROME



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### MILAN

15 sept 2023 – Great meeting in Milan



### THESSALONIKI

On 21 September Bashar Asfour met THESSALONIKI Rotarians!

Thank You Rotary Club of Panorama. We read the valuable and friendly words, the club members published, together with wonderful picture!

The first city of Greece and Rotary District 2475 - Greece to visit is Thessaloniki, on Thursday, September 21, and the reception was entrusted with the Rotary Club of Panorama .





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#### ATHENS

22 sept 2023 – great meeting in Athens with Lorentzos Chazapis, Maria Mastora, Maria Delivoria, Dora Kemou Bitsa, Katerina Kotsali-Papadimitriou



Thanks to all our Greek Followers, Greek Fens. Greek Fellows and Greek Friend!  
Thank you Greek [#RotaryFamily!](#)



#### CESME

25 Sept 2023 We painted Çeşme, İzmir, Balıkesir and Bursa red for these 3 days. In order to eradicate polio from the world, we wanted to give unforgettable memories to our beloved Başar, who has polio, at the [@rotary2440](#) [@rotaract2440](#) [@interact2440](#) stop.



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### IZMIR

From Cesme to Izmir. Old follows, new smiles. Thank You guys! Great support!



### BURSA

Impressive #EndPolioNow event the participation of Bursa Bademli Rotary Club and Bursa clubs. At Podium Park we raised awareness against Polio.





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### ESKİŞEHİR

On his way to Ankara Bashar stopped for a great meeting in Eskişehir.



### ANKARA

Unforgettable moments in Ankara. Fellows from Ankara Rotary clubs.  
[#MyJourneyToEndPolio](#) is 5000 USD ahead!

Thank You Rotary 2430 Bölge / RI District 2430



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### BOLU



We have great meeting  
with Rotary club Bolu  
near the highway  
between Ankara and  
Izmit.

Thank you for supporting  
the cause dear fellow!



### IZMIT

29 Sept 2023 Bashar met great fellows and supporters in Izmit.  
Every minute is valuable during the discussions.





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ISTANBUL



EDİRNE





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### SVILENGRAD

Members of Rotary club Svilengrad, Bulgaria, met Bashar at the very border of the country a few meters from Turkish border.

The official custom escort demonstrated the great respect of Bulgarian Rotarians to Bashar and his great project.



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### STARA ZAGORA

On 4 October 2023 Bashar stop was in Stara Zagora Beroe. Meeting rotarians from Rotary club Stara Zagora and Rotary Club Stara Zagora Beroe , members of Interact Bulgaria and Rotaract Bulgaria .





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### STARA ZAGORA

Great moments of telling the Story at Bulgarian Telegraf Agency studio.



### SHIPKA

On 5 October #MyJourneytoEndPolio stop was at Shipka, Bulgaria. Bashar Asfour met rotarians from Rotary Club Gabrovo and Ротари Клуб Казанлък Rotary Kazanlak . 10 years ago the same place hosted the meeting between Bulgarian and Greek Rotarians along the RideForPolio motorace.



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#### RUSE

The president of the Ruse-Danube Rotary Club, Viktor Slavov, presented Bashar Asfour with a club flag. After the meeting with the members of the Ruse-Danube Rotary Club, Bashar Asfur headed to Bucharest. His journey will end on October 24 - World Polio Day.



#### BUCHAREST



On 5 October 2023 Rotary Clubs of Bucharest had the opportunity to organize, thanks to Rotary District 2241 România și Republica Moldova, an event in the series of My Journey to EndPolio conferences held by Rotarian Bashar Asfour.

Over 50 participants - Rotarians, Rotarians, Interactions and Community Corps - learned the stage of Rotary International Polio, new forms of resilience, responses to new challenges and ways to support the financial effort.



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### CRAIOVA

7 October 2023. #MyJourneyToEndPolio stop in Craiova. Bashar Asfour met great fellows and the great Ovidiu Constantin Bunget, the District Governor of Rotary District 2241 România și Republica Moldova Thank you for the warm meeting and support of our great cause.



[#MyJourneyToEndPolio stop in Craiova.](#)

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### BELGRAD

In the last days of My Journey to EndPolio by our Bashar Asfour we are presenting some remarkable moment we have missed. And here we come! A Meeting in Belgrad with Rotarians and Rotaractors.



### BUDAPEST

Bashar arrived in Budapest on 10 October 2023 at the invitation of Governor of Rotary Hungary, Gila Elizabeth.





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**ZAGREB**

Meeting the first 100% PolioPlusGiving club is great honor.

On 11 October, together with friends from Rotary club Zagreb Alpha Rotary Club Zagreb Ilica , Bashar Asfour and Rotary club Zagreb International, Rotary Club Zagreb Metropolitan, Croatia. My Journey to EndPolio is a fundraiser started by Bashar to raise awareness of all of us that our work is not done yet, as long as there is one sick person.

Let's move forward, #EndPolioNow!



### LJUBLJANA

Following the #MyJourneytoEndPolio we remind the meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 12 Oct 2023, with devoted Rotarians in District 1912, <https://rotaryslovenija.org/>. The Speech of Bashar Asfour was inspiring. Thank you fellows from Slovenia, for your efforts!



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### MUNICH

Meeting District 1842 in Munich was one of the peaks in the Journey.

It is an absolute pleasure to offer a glimpse of an exquisite and inspiring event where everyone delighted to find himself among distinguished Rotarians.





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From P110

### MUNICH

Joint contribution to one of the world's most acute humanitarian challenges #Polio.

Bashar felt honoured to serve the community he is part of, "My journey to end Polio" marks also the beginning of his new life journey. [@Rotary Distrikt 1842](#)



### SALZBURG

Another great meeting back to Salzburg on 14 October 2023. Great jazz concert and another 1000 EUR to the fundraising! Thank you District 1920!.

District Governor Thomas Gredler is a great cause to support this campaign, the district contribution to this fundraising tour is USD 10,000,--, which was presented on the occasion of the Jazz Brunch of the Rotary Clubs of Salzburg at Hotel Bristol Salzburg.



The Salzburg State Councilor for Health, Daniela Gutschi from the RC Salzburg St. Rupert stresses the importance of raising awareness that children still suffer from polio and welcomes Bashar Asfour to Salzburg.



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### **SALZBURG**

Thanks to all participants who made this event to welcome Bashar Asfour possible: RC Salzburg-Land, RC Salzburg Residence, RC Salzberg St. Rupert, RC Golling-Tennengau, Rotary Club Gmunden, Rotary Club Gastein and PDG Walter Ebner, Rotary Jazzfellowship Austria.



### **VIENNA**

Remarkable moments in Vienna - EndPolioNow Ambassador Bashar Asfour at St. Stephen's Cathedral with Toni Faber. Warm meeting and greay support to the Cause! Thank you district 1910.





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VIENNA



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NOW

MAKE  
HISTORY  
TODAY



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LEARN ➞ [ENDPOLIONOW.ORG](https://endpolionow.org)

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### BRATISLAVA

On 17 October Bashar met fellows in Bratislava.  
We are so close to our final goal!

### CHEMNITZ

Chemnitz – the final stop of our Journey.  
The success is huge: Not only that Bashar Asfour - himself suffering from polio - was in hundreds of clubs and forums for the fight against polio and, together with the clubs on his tour route, made the Rotary campaign better known.



He campaigned for vaccinations against the disease with his strikingly designed car over almost 12,346 km. Because polio has not yet been defeated. Every single case can mean a new polio outbreak.



### A ROTARY CLUB MEMBER'S JOURNEY AROUND EUROPE TO END POLIO





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CHEMNITZ



Read all about the meeting:

<https://rotary.de/gesundheit/grosses-polio-event-in-chemnitz-a-22702.html>

